

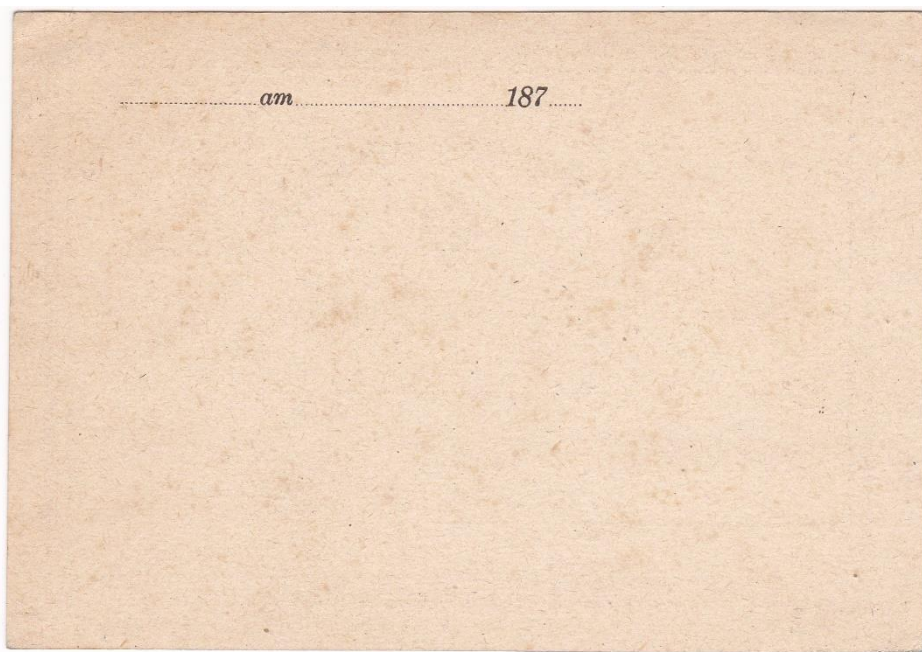
# The first Austrian postal cards – a critical analysis of their types and subtypes

## Part 2 – Postal card n° 2

This article is a continuation of the article treating the very first Austrian postal cards issued on 1 October 1869, which was published in *Postal Stationery* (vol. 62, n° 5, 251-265). An updated version is available on the website of the FIP Postal Stationery (<http://www.postalstationery.org/pdf/first%20austrian%20card.pdf>).

My initial motivation to write a series on the first Austrian postal cards (the “Gelblinge”) was the recent publication of Breitwieser (2018), in which many new types were recognised for these cards. As explained in the first article, my aims were: 1) to consider these new types critically, 2) to better understand the particularities of the printing process that caused these types, and 3) to propose a classification based on the different stages of the printing process. The principles I adopted for my classification are extensively explained in the first article. In my classification, as far as possible, different types are thought to represent typeset originals, subtypes are thought to correspond to different master copies of the typeset original, whereas individual clichés on the plate are treated as varieties. Finally, unlike the classification adopted by Breitwieser (2018), I decided to follow a strictly chronological order, as almost all earlier authors.

In this second article, I will treat the second Austrian postal card. Like for the first card, the text on this second card is entirely in German. The second card stands out by the fact that the word “An” on the front has been replaced by “Adresse” and that the user instruction on the back has been deleted. On the back, there is only a line to date the cards, for this second card on the left side.



*Back of the German card n° 2, characterised by a line to date the card above left.*

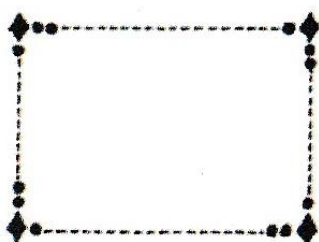
For the description of the various details, I will use exactly the same system as in the first article. I will distinguish between 1) the inner frame, with its succession of dots (P, point) and diamonds (D), 2) the middle frame (dotted line) and 3) the outer frame (succession of arches). The position of anomalies will be indicated by referring to the closest diamonds and dots of the inner frame. These are always counted from left to right and from top to bottom. The starting (corner) diamond of each horizontal or vertical line is not counted. I will further indicate the upper (A, above), left (L), right (R) and lower (B, below) frames, dots and diamonds by their first letters. For instance, PB37 is the 37<sup>th</sup> dot from the left on the lower inner frame.

## Card n° 2 – earliest recorded postmark (ERP) 16 June 1871

The second Austrian postal card, with the text entirely in German, is further characterised by:

- the word “Adresse” before the first line of the address
- the absence of an explanatory note on the back
- a short line to date the card on the back, on the upper left part
- the inner frame consisting of 47 x 31 diamonds (all corner diamonds included), compared to 48 x 32 diamonds in card 1. The size of the inner frame is approximately 102-103 x 66-67 mm, compared to 104-105 x 68-69 mm for card 1 (fide L.O. Nilsson).

Traditionally, two different types are distinguished in card n° 2. **Card 2, type I** is characterised by the following corner characteristics:



Card 2, type I

The position of the double dots is exactly the same as in card 1, type III, but the fact that the inner frame now consists of 47 x 31 diamonds, instead of 48 x 32 in card 1, type III, shows that the inner frame has nevertheless been renewed.



Card 2, type II

In card 2, type II, the corner characteristics are more complex. For the first time, we see double dots (bottom left and right), that are not immediately next to the corner diamonds. As we will see later, Ascher (1925) unfortunately gave a wrong description of this type, which led to a lot of subsequent confusion, which lasted until the present day.

Breitwieser (2018) described three more types for this card. As I will show later, none of these new types corresponds to a new typeset original, so that in my classification they are not considered as individual types.



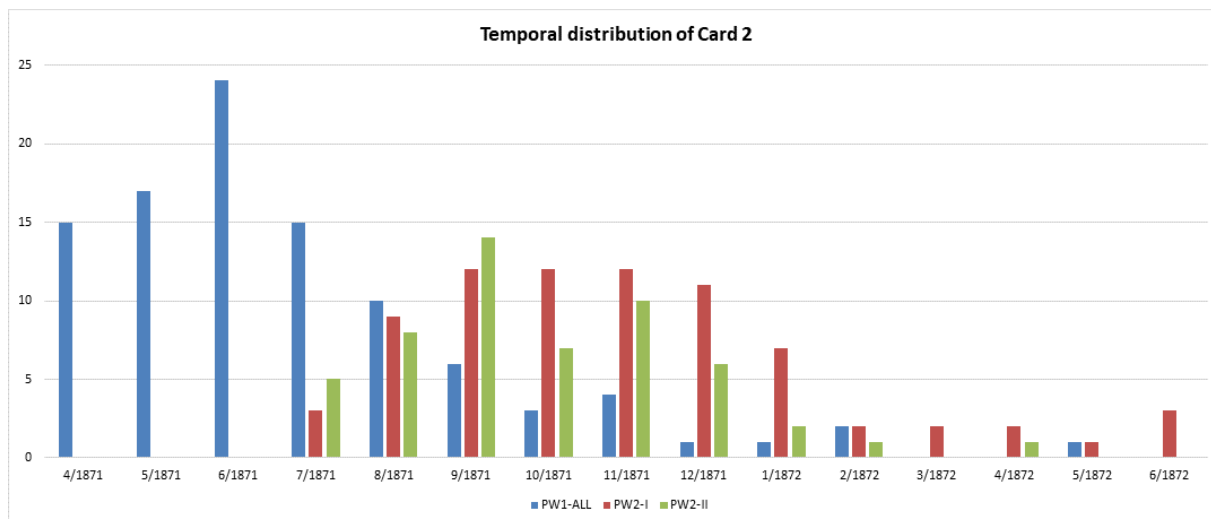
Card 2, type I, 16 June 1871 (ERP), collection Lars-Olof Nilsson

At present, the oldest recorded postmark (ERP) of card 2 (type I) is found on a card dated **16 June 1871**, sent locally in Vienna (collection Lars-Olof Nilsson). This is much older than the first date of 30 July 1871 given by Ascher (1913) or 6 July 1871 given by Frech (2015).



Card 2, type II, 25 June 1871 (ERP), collection Lars-Olof Nilsson

The present ERP of card 2, type II is dated 25 June 1871. Ascher (1913) mentioned an ERP of 10 November 1871 for this type.



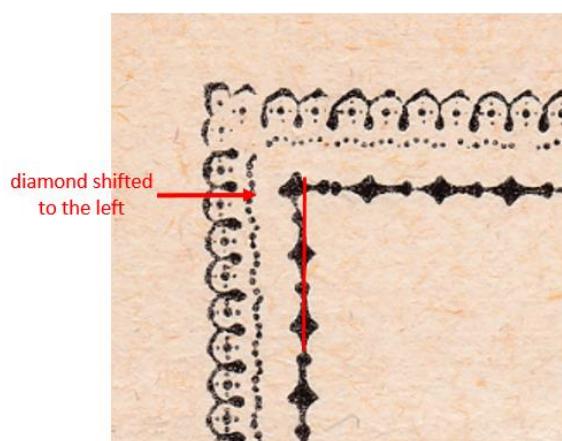
**Chronological distribution of cards 1 (blue), 2-I (brown) and 2-II (green)**

The chronological distribution of cards 2-I and 2-II (based on the 210 cards in my collection) shows that after these cards were issued in the second half of June 1871, by September 1871 they had largely replaced card 1. They were probably sold until December 1871, when they were progressively replaced by card 8. Types I and II were sold in about equal quantities throughout this period. However, type II seems to disappear somewhat earlier than type I.

**Detailed description of the main types of card 2**

**Card N° 2, type I, ERP 16 June 1871**

Ascher (1913), who gives an accurate description of the corner characteristics of this card, indicates that the left inner frame line shows a typical leftward shift in its upper part. This is indeed the case in about half of my cards of type 1. The reason for this is that the horizontal top inner frame line extends somewhat to the left of the vertical left inner frame line.



A closer observation of the 121 cards of **type I** in my collection shows that there are very persistent minor errors, which allowed me to distinguish **three main subtypes**. These subtypes can most easily be recognised by several empty spaces between the ornamental arches of the outer frame, which are positioned at different places for the three subtypes:

**Card 2, type I, subtype a** – This subtype is most easily distinguished by the **large empty space between the two arches above PA36, just left of the upper left corner of the indicium (the stamp)**. Other large empty spaces are present between the arches above PA24, below PB41, and left of PL27.

The empty spaces are at the same positions in all cards of subtype a. **Earliest recorded postmark 16 June 1871.**

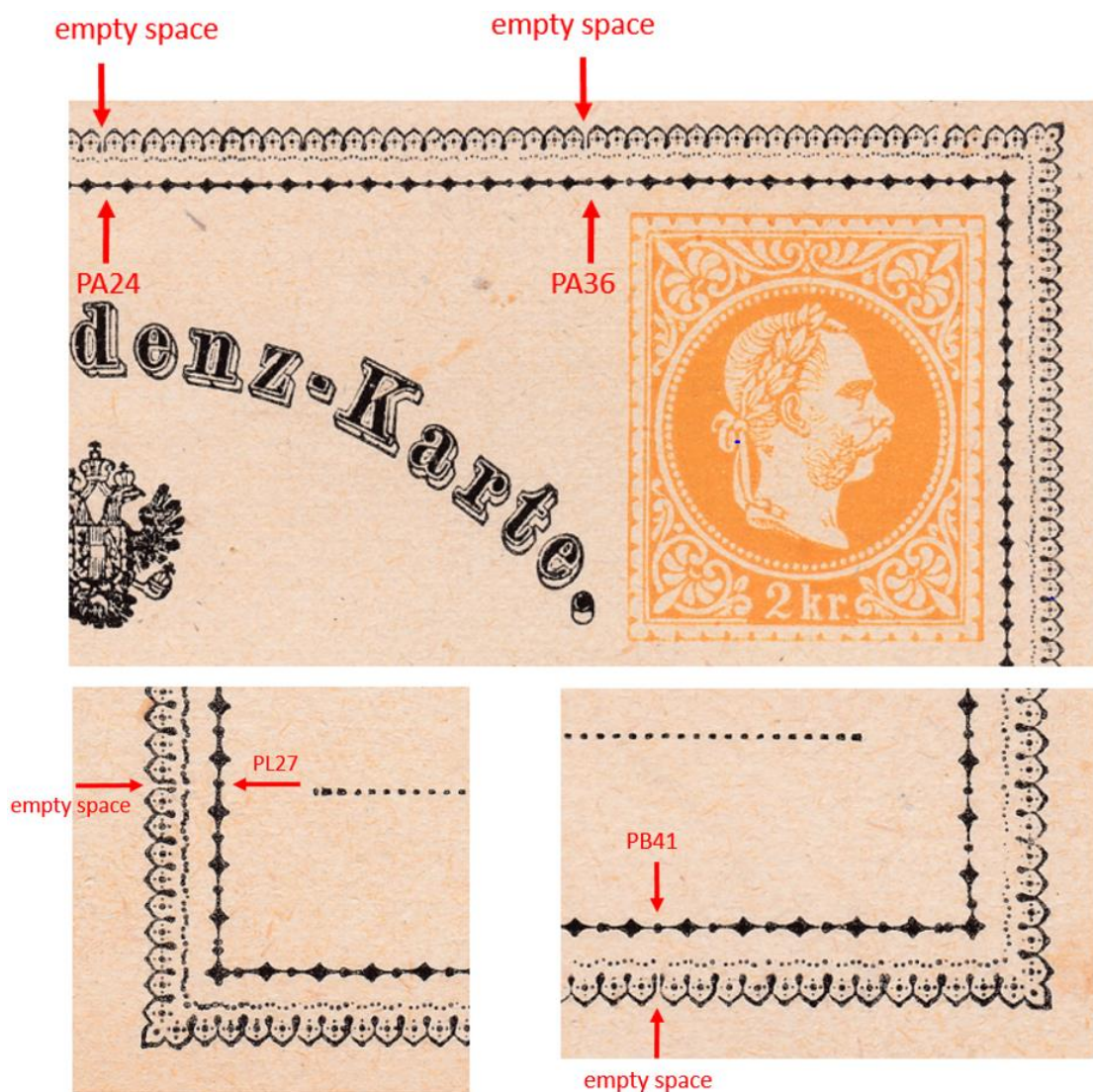
**Card 2, type I, subtype b** – This subtype is most easily distinguished by the presence of a **large empty space between the two arches above PA38, immediately right of the upper left corner of the stamp.** There is no empty space above PA36. Other large empty spaces are present above PA22, right of PR8 and PR17, and below PB26. **Earliest recorded postmark 4 October 1871.**

**Card 2, type I, subtype c** – This subtype is most easily recognised by the **large vertical shift in the bottom left corner, between PB01 and DB01,** as well as by dot **PB12, which always lacks the lower half.** Like in subtype b, there is an **empty space** between two arches immediately right of the upper left corner of the stamp, but here **above PA39** (instead of above PA38 as in subtype b). Additional empty spaces are present above PA16 and below PB16. **Earliest recorded postmark 13 October 1871.**

### Card N° 2, type I, subtype a, ERP 16 June 1871

The general characteristics of subtype a are:

- Well printed, with regular successions of dots and diamonds in the inner frame, the middle frame is mostly continuous throughout
- In the outer frame, a **large empty space between the ornamental arches above PA36, left of the upper left corner of the stamp.**
- Additional empty spaces above PA24, below PB41, and left of PL27



In the 79 cards of subtype a in my collection, **three main groups** can be observed:

Card 2, **type I, subtype a1** has, contrary to the other two subtypes, a clean arch left of the empty space above PA36; the central main dot and the 4 auxiliary dots in the arch are well developed. The upper part of the left inner frame is only very slightly shifted to the left between DL01 and PL01.



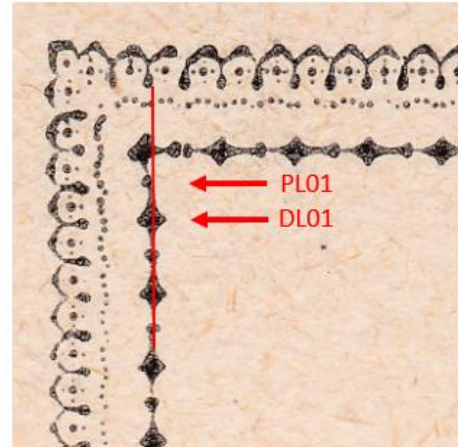
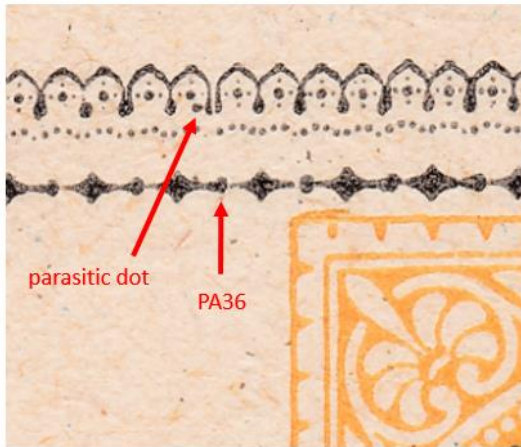
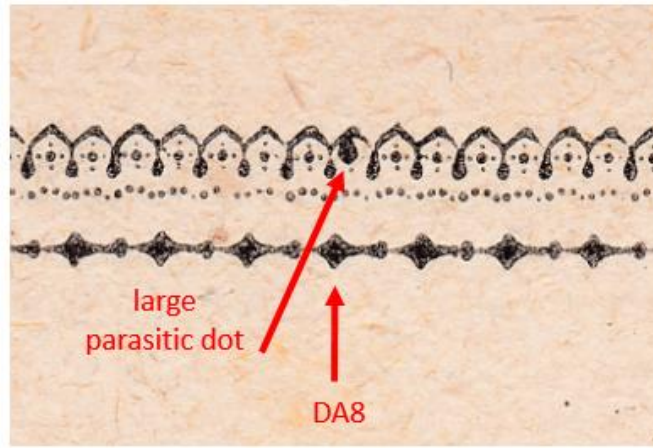
This concerns 21 of the 79 cards of type 1 in my collection. The oldest date I observed is **11 July 1871**.

Card 2, **type I, subtype a2** is characterised by a **large parasitic dot in the lower right part of the arch immediately left of the empty space above PA36**. The leftward shift of the upper part of the left inner frame is more prominent.



This concerns 38 of the 79 cards of type 1 my collection. Earliest recorded postmark: **16 June 1871** (collection Lars-Olof Nilsson).

Finally, card 2, **type I, subtype a3** has the **same parasitic dot in the arch above DA35-PA36**, but **additionally has a large parasitic dot above DA8**. The leftward shift of the upper part of the left inner frame is smaller than in subtype a2, but still considerable. This concerns 20 of the 79 cards of subtype a in my collection. The oldest observed card dates from **7 August 1871**.



A very **spectacular plate error** was observed in a single cliché of card 2, **type I, subtype a1**. This plate error exceptionally concerns the indicium (the stamp), which has its lower frame strongly damaged at the right. This error was observed on cards from 28 August and 19 September 1871:

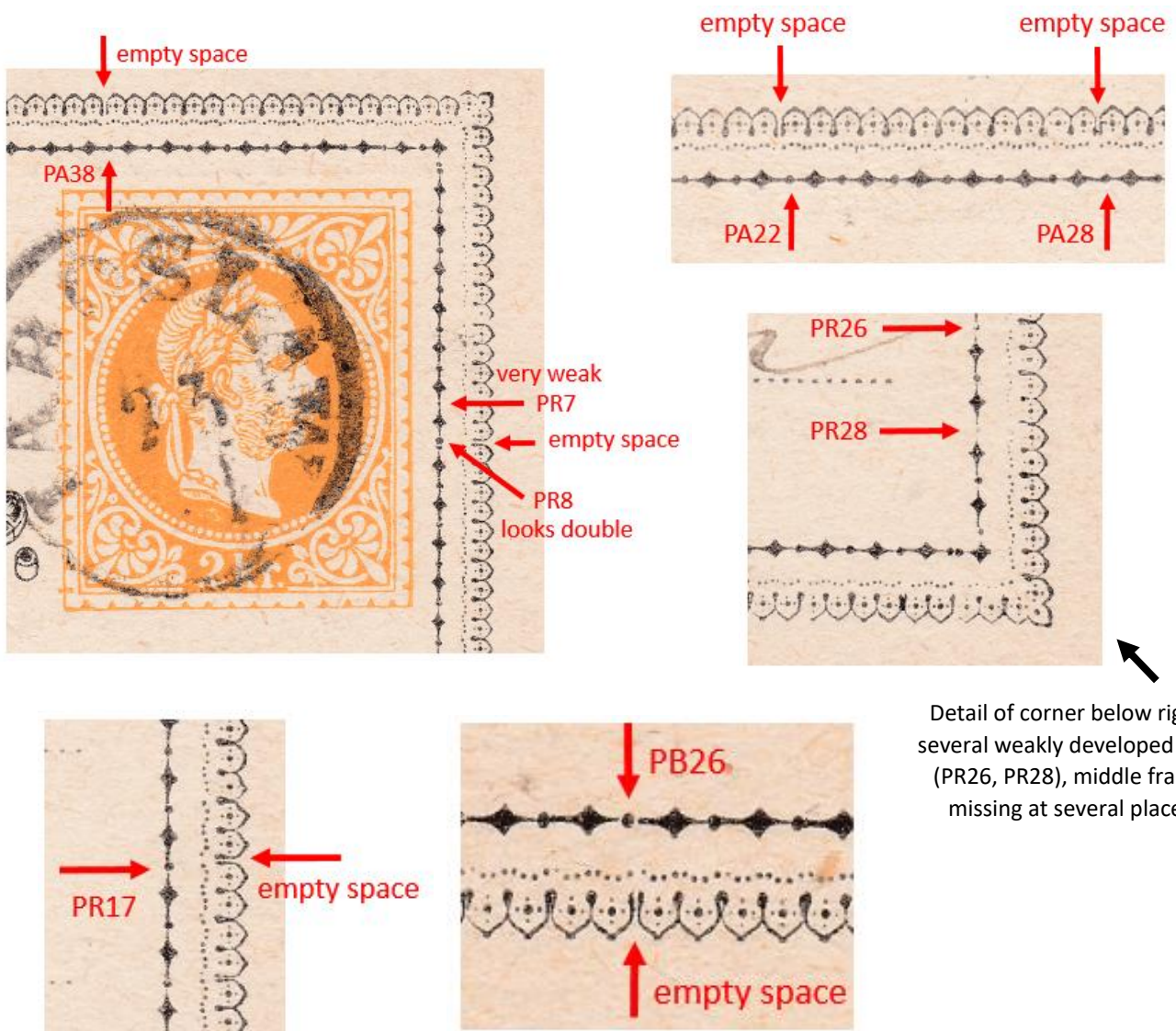


Same plate error on a card of 19 September 1871

## Card N° 2, type I, subtype b, ERP 4 October 1871 (Fide Breitwieser)

The general characteristics of card 2, type I, subtype b are:

- Often very lightly printed, especially on the right side, often with several weakly printed or even absent dots and missing connecting lines between dots and diamonds. The middle frame may be absent over large lengths, especially at the right side.
- In the outer frame, a **large empty space** between the ornamental arches **above PA38**, **right of the upper left corner of the stamp**.
- Additional empty spaces between the arches above PA22 and PA28, right of PR8 and PR17, and below PB26.
- **PR7 absent or strongly reduced**, PR8 and, to a lesser degree, PA14 often look like double dots.



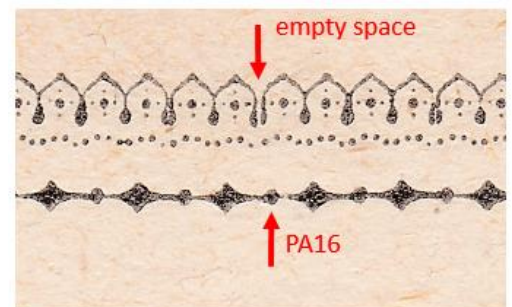
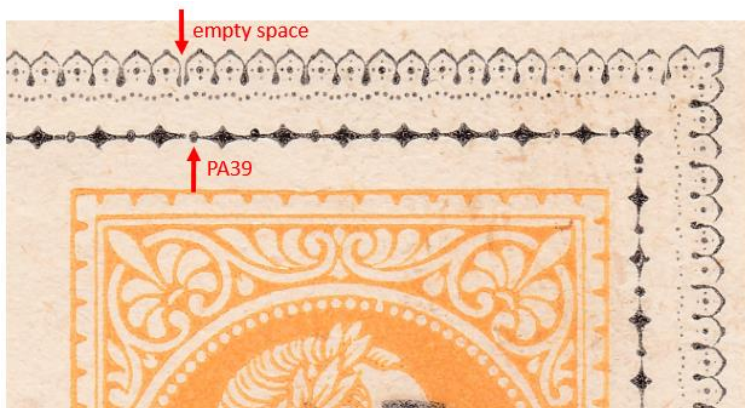
Card 2, type I, subtype b corresponds to cards FB2-III and FB2-IV of Breitwieser (2018). This will be further explained in the discussion.



## Card N° 2, type I, subtype c, ERP 13 October 1871

The general characteristics of card 2, type I, subtype c are:

- Like subtype b, subtype c is often very lightly printed, and is characterised by very weak or even absent dots, missing connecting lines between dots and diamonds, and a missing middle frame over large lengths.
- There is always a **large vertical shift below left, between PB01 and DB01**
- **Dot PB12 always misses the lower half**
- In the outer frame, an **empty space** between the ornamental arches **above PA39, right of the upper left corner of the stamp.**
- Additional empty spaces between the arches above PA16 and below PB16.



## Card N° 2, type II, ERP 25 June 1871

Card 1, type II can easily be recognised by the following corner characteristics:



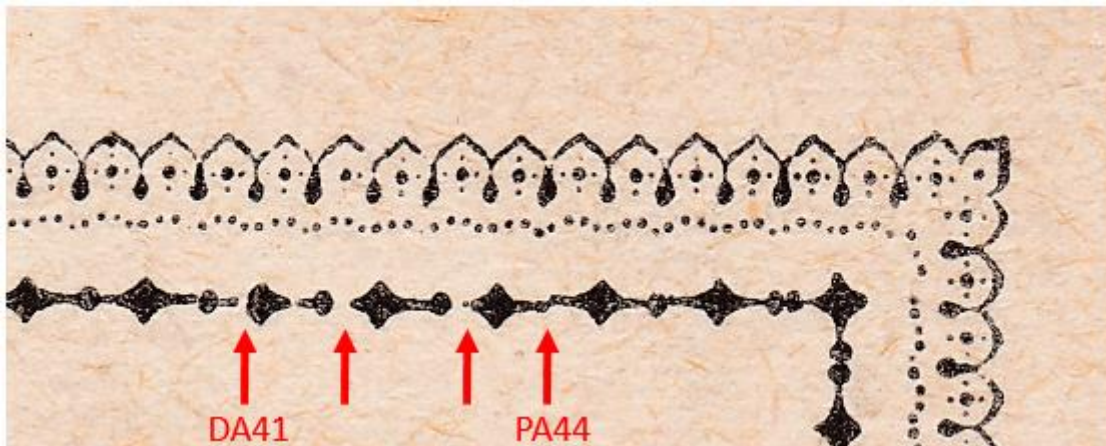
Additionally, dots **PA44**, **PB03** and **PB12** are missing, whereas **PB11** is double. Unfortunately, after giving a correct description of this subtype in his publication of 1913, Ascher gave a wrong description of this card in his *Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog* of 1925; with "dgl." (or desgleichen), he erroneously indicated that card 2b (type II) had the same corner characteristics as card 2a (type I). This means that the single dot PB46 (below right) is implicitly described as a double dot (as in type I):

2. 2 Kr. gelb, (deutsch)

a)	•• •• •• ••	2 50 — 10
b) dgl., fehlende Punkte oben	44, unten 3 u. 12, doppelte	
	Punkte unten 2 u. 11	3 — — 25

Description of cards 2-I and 2-II in Ascher (1925)

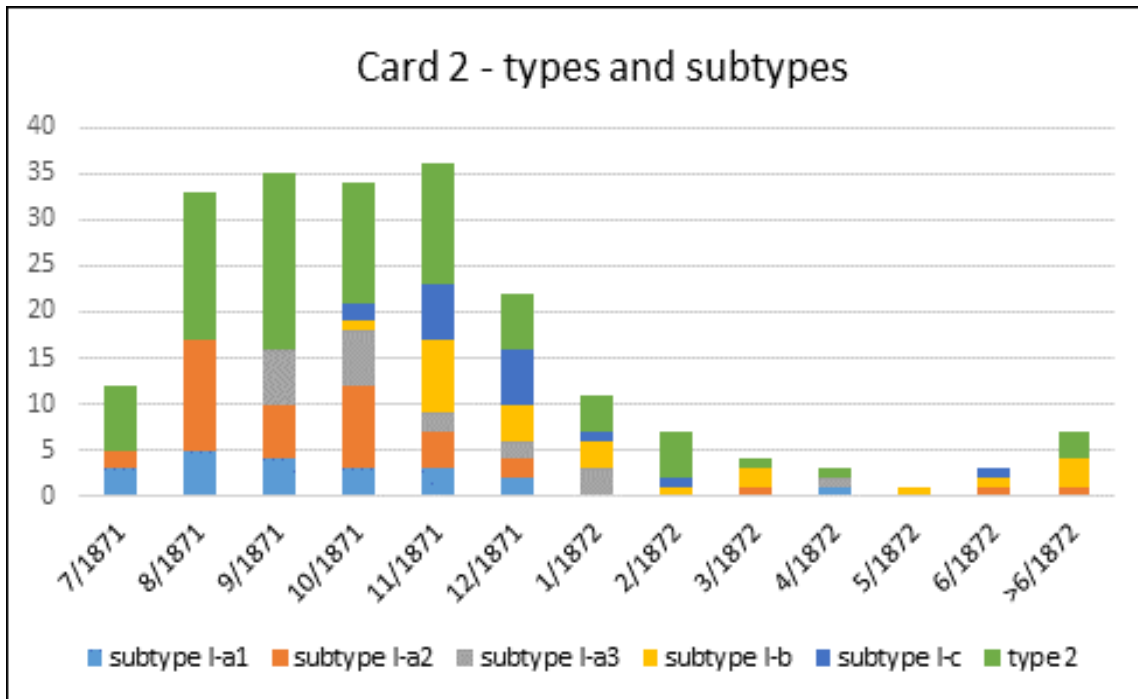
A closer observation of the 89 cards of **type II** shows a remarkable homogeneity. Unlike for type I, no subtypes can distinguished. Only a group of eight cards stands out by the fact that diamond DA41 is damaged on the left side, and by the missing connecting lines PA42-DA42 and PA43-DA43. Note also the missing PA44, typical for card 2-II. However, these eight cards show many differences between them, and apparently represent at least six different clichés.



## Discussion

### A. The production process.

The question is how to explain the presence of these three subtypes in card 2, type I, and the presence of three distinct variants in subtype I-a. This situation strongly contrasts with that in card 2, type II, in which no subtypes could be recognised, with the exception of one variant, represented by only eight cards. A look on the chronological distribution of the 210 cards in my collection may shed some light on these questions.



It appears that subtypes I-a1, I-a2 (of type I) and type II have occurred simultaneously in the middle of June 1871. Subtype I-a3 seems to appear two months later, but this apparent delay may be due to the relative scarcity of this subtype. A much earlier date of issue is suggested by a card seen on eBay, with a postmark of 7 August 1871.

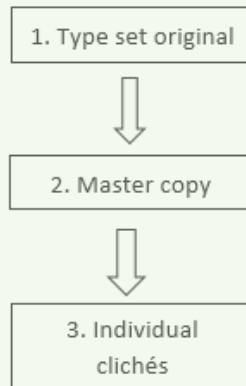
Subtypes I-b and I-c appear together in the first half of October 1871, more than three months after the first issue of card 2. From this point on, there is a rapid diminution of subtypes I-a1, I-a2 and I-a3, whereas subtypes I-b and I-c are, together with type II, found in fair numbers until January 1872.

It seems therefore that when card 2 has first been produced, two types were present (I and II), probably representing **two distinct printing plates for the black elements on the front of the card**. Subtypes I-a1, I-a2 and I-a3 have all the same characteristics defining subtype I-a. In my opinion, this clearly shows that they were produced with **a single typeset original**, of which at this moment (in June 1871) **a single master copy** was prepared.

All initial clichés of type I have probably been produced almost simultaneously with this single master copy. The presence of subtypes I-a1, I-a2 and I-a3 is in my opinion explained by **progressive wear of this master copy during the production of the 64 clichés** (if type I corresponds to a complete plate). If this is correct, subtype a1 would correspond to the oldest produced clichés. The parasitic dot on the arch left of PA36 (in subtypes I-a2 and I-a3) is the consequence of slight damage of the master copy, which occurred after production of the last clichés of subtype a1, and subtype a2 should therefore correspond to the clichés produced next. Finally, the additional parasitic dot above DA8, observed in subtype a3, indicates further wear of the master copy, showing that the clichés of this subtype were produced last.

### The origin of small anomalies observed on the cards

When interpreting the meaning of minor anomalies on postal cards, it is important to realise that such anomalies can have several origins. In our case, three successive stages can be recognised in the printing process, and during each of these stages, errors may occur:



1) The anomalies may correspond to errors in the type set original which were there from the very beginning. In this case, the same errors are visible in all clichés. These are termed “constant errors”.

2) The anomalies may have occurred in the type set original between the making of several master copies. In this case, all clichés made with the same master copy show the same errors. Lateral shifts in typeset elements, due to their mobility in the type set original, are another reason for small differences between clichés produced with different master copies made with the same typeset original.

3) The anomalies have arisen during the production of the clichés with a master copy. There are two possibilities:

a) The master copy is progressively degraded, and small errors progressively appear (and accumulate) on the produced clichés. All clichés produced after the master copy is damaged show this error. In this way, later clichés may accumulate several errors, which have been occurred progressively on the master copy.

b) Every cliché is an imperfect copy of the master copy, and has a number of imperfections that allow us to recognise the cards printed with it.

4) The individual clichés wear while being used, and may progressively accumulate several errors. Such errors due to wear of the cliché can be recognised, because they occur on cards which share the anomalies which characterise the cliché. Because of such additional errors, several states can sometimes be recognised for the same cliché.

In practise, it is often complicated to distinguish between these types of anomalies.

In my collection, among the 79 cards of subtype I-a, I could recognise 48 individual clichés (13 for I-a1, 22 for I-a2 and 13 for I-a3). In the 89 cards of type II, I could distinguish 44 distinct clichés. In view of these numbers, it looks very possible that subtypes a1, a2 and a3 together formed the 64 clichés of a complete printing plate, whereas the cards of type II formed a second printing plate. Both plates were apparently used simultaneously.

Subtypes I-b and I-c did not occur until the first half of October 1871, almost 4 months after the first emission of card 2. Their appearance coincides with a strong decline of subtypes I-a1, I-a2 and I-a3. I could distinguish 24 clichés for these two subtypes, 11 for I-b and 13 for I-c, respectively. In view of these fairly low numbers, **it seems improbable that a complete new printing plate was produced.** It seems rather that **subtypes I-b and I-c have replaced a number of worn clichés of type I, subtype 1a, and possibly also of type II.**

Subtypes I-b and I-c stand out by the inferior quality of the clichés, with missing or broken dots, missing connecting lines between dots and diamonds and the absence of the middle frame at various places, sometimes over large lengths. Since the succession of diamonds and dots seems basically unchanged (compared to subtype I-a; I consider PR8 of subtype b, which looks double, rather as a broken dot), it appears that **the type-set original of card 2, type I, has been used a second time to produce 2 new master copies, for subtypes I-b and I-c, respectively.**

The almost 4 months long storage of the type-set original may perhaps explain the poor to very poor quality of the newly produced clichés. In any case, once the master copy was taken out of its storage place, some elements appear to have slightly moved. This concerns especially the ornamental arches of the outer frame, which now show empty spaces at other positions than on the cards of subtype I-a. It must be kept in mind that the typeset elements of the original remain slightly mobile, which is one of the main reasons to use a master copy to produce the individual clichés, so that they are more similar.

The fact that the empty spaces in the outer frame are found at different places in subtypes I-b and I-c, clearly shows that **2 different master copies were produced, which were then used to produce a number of new clichés,** or, in my opinion less probably, a whole new plate.

The very poor quality of the cards of subtypes I-b and I-c may have been the reason for the rapid cessation of their production, and the production of a new typeset original, for card n° 8, which was already issued in the beginning of November 1871, only one month after the first appearance of subtypes b and c.

## B. The Breitwieser (2018) classification

Card 2 has suffered from quite some confusion. In the publications of Kropf (1902, 1908) and Ascher (1913), the two main types (I and II) are correctly described. Unfortunately, in Ascher's Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog from 1925, a wrong description is given of type II, which is said to have the same configuration in the 4 corners as type I (with a double dot at position PB46). The double dot at position PB45 is not mentioned.



*Card 2, correct representation of the corner characteristics of types I (left) and II (right), in Frech (2015)*

	Text	
2.	2 Kr. gelb, (deutsch)	
a)	•• •• •• ••	2 50 — 10
b)	dgl., fehlende Punkte oben 44, unten 3 u. 12, doppelte Punkte unten 2 u. 11	3 — — 25

*Card 2, description of types I (2a) and II (2b) in Ascher (1925); "dgl." means that both cards have the same corner characteristics*

This mistake has been copied by Frech (1991) but has been corrected in the second version (2015) of his Postkarten-Handbuch.

**Breitwieser (2018) presents five different types for card n° 2:**

- Card **FB2-I** corresponds to our **card 2, type II**
- Card **FB2-II** corresponds to our **card 2, type I, subtypes a and c.**

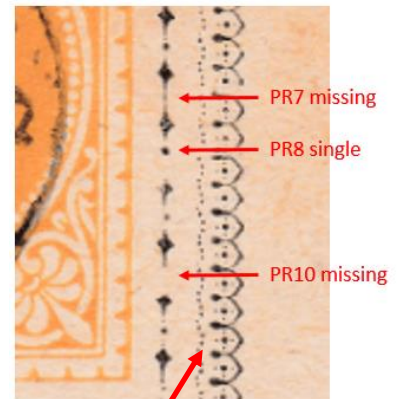
Very unfortunately, the author has inversed the numbering which has been used by all previous authors.

- For card **FB2-V**, Breitwieser (2018) writes that it has the same corner characteristics as card FB2-II (our type I). The provided picture suggests that this is an error, because the corner characteristics are the same as in his FB2-I (our type II). In fact, Breitwieser's card **FB2-I is identical to our type II**

(lacking dots PA44, PB03 and PB12, double dots PB02 and PB11), **except for the double dot PB46, which is not mentioned in his description.**

It appears that Breitwieser has inadvertently copied the erroneous description of Card 2, type II, of Ascher (1925) and Frech (1991). **A card with such characteristics does simply not exist, and consequently, card FB2-V should be deleted.**

- Card **FB2-III** corresponds to the large majority of the cards of **our type I, subtype b**. It is described as having the same edge characteristics as card FB2-II (type I), from which it differs by a lacking point PR7, and double points PR8 and PA14.
- Card **FB2-IV** corresponds to two clichés, which I included in **type I, subtype b**. This card is very similar to card FB2-III, from which it differs by a further deterioration of the right frame, between positions 7 and 10: a second dot is missing at PR10, whereas the double dot PR8 is reduced to a single dot. The card illustrated here, sent from Neuberg on 8 November 1871 shows the typical features of card FB2-IV.

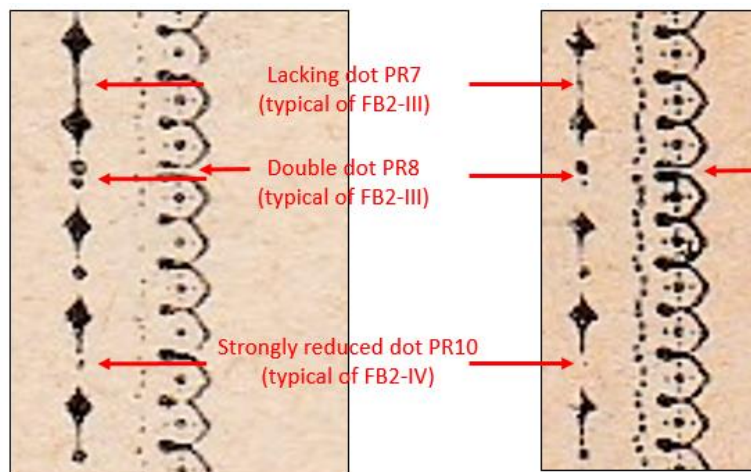


For these cards of my type I, subtype b, Breitwieser gives first dates of 4 October 1871 (FB2-IV) and 10 October 1871 (FB-III), about 3½ months after the first dates of card 2. My oldest date for type I, subtype b is 6 October 1871 (for a card corresponding to FB-III).

It is important to note that there are also cards with intermediate characteristics between FB2-III and FB2-IV. On two of my cards with an almost absent dot PR10 (characteristic for FB2-IV), there was also a double dot at position R8 (characteristic of FB2-III).



For instance, the card illustrated above, used in Vienna on 1 December 1873(!), shows characteristics intermediate between cards FB2-III and FB2-IV. The details of this card (the left one of the two pictures below) are compared with the details of a second card (on the right) intermediate between types FB2-III and FB2-IV, sent from Mirotitz on 2 May 1872:



Summarising, cards FB2-III and FB2-IV are both characterised by a defective right inner frame. **There are two main reasons, for which I grouped these cards in in a single subtype (I-b):**

- 1) **The outer frame shows enlarged spaces at exactly the same positions** (above PA38, but also above PA22 and PA28, right of PR8 and PR17 and below PB26).
- 2) There are **cards intermediate between FB2-III and FB2-IV, with a double PR8 and a strongly reduced PR10.**

Consequently, I think that the clichés of **cards FB2-III and FB2-IV were produced with the same master copy**, which progressively wore down during their fabrication, with the clichés of FB2-IV being produced last. In my 24 cards of subtype I-b, I could distinguish nine different clichés (21 cards) corresponding to card FB2-III (and cards intermediate between FB2-III and FB2-IV), but only two clichés (3 cards) with the characteristics of FB2-IV.

## Classification of the types, subtypes and varieties of card n° 2

In view of my observations, I propose the following classification of the types, subtypes and varieties of card 2, which largely follows the earlier classifications of Ascher (1913) and Frech (1991, 2015). As indicated before, all **types** are supposed to represent **independent printing plates**, **subtypes** are thought to correspond to **master copies**, whereas all **varieties** listed below are thought to correspond to **individual clichés**. The described anomalies have all been observed on at least two cards, so that we can be sure that they are indeed plate errors. The **descriptions below show only the most prominent anomalies** for each variety; careful inspection will show many other very small anomalies, which are identical in the cards printed with the same cliché.

The anomalies described above, which are thought to be typical for individual clichés, can have occurred during two different phases of the printing process:

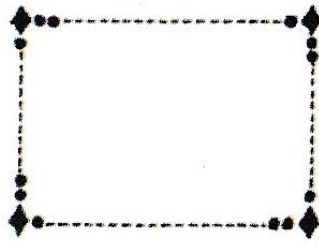
- 1) When the individual clichés were produced with the master copy. These anomalies should be present on all cards printed with the concerned cliché during the entire period it was used.
- 2) When the cliché was already in use, due to progressive wear. In such cases, the anomaly was not present in the first cards printed with the concerned cliché, and only appears on cards printed later.

The fact that additional anomalies may occur in the course of the usage period of a cliché explains why some anomalies are present on some cards printed with a certain cliché, whereas other cards printed with the same cliché do not show this particular anomaly. In such cases, the cliché has known two or more “states” (“état” in French), which succeed each other in time. A typical example is variety a3<sub>2</sub>, which will be treated hereafter. This cliché is characterised by four small, but persistent, anomalies. Other cards, which present a major additional anomaly, are considered to represent the second state of this cliché. See text block “the origin of small anomalies observed on the cards” for further explanation.

In the description of the address lines, AL1 and AL2 stand for address lines 1 and 2, whereas AL3L and AL3R indicate the third address lines left and right. AL1 counts 132 dots, AL2 has 150 dots whereas AL3L and AL3R have 68 dots each.



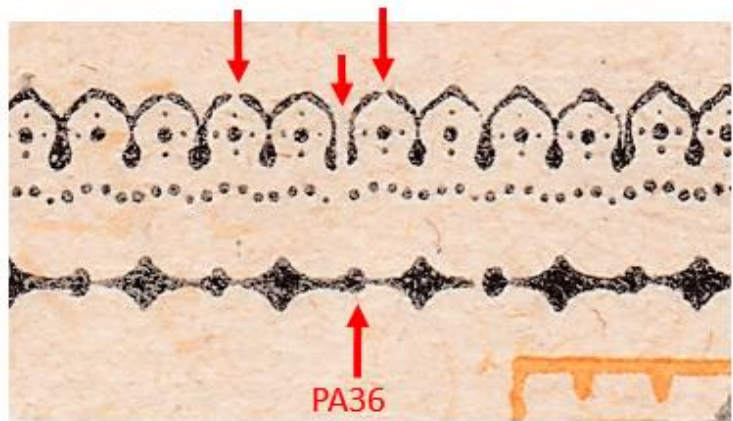
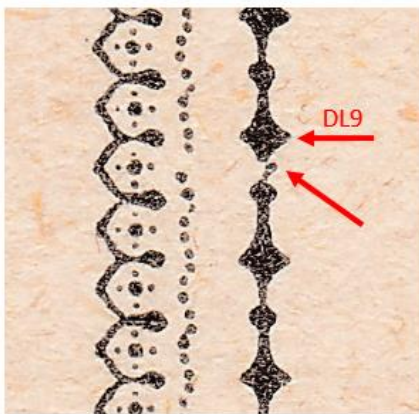
Card 2; type I – earliest recorded postmark (ERP) 16 June 1871



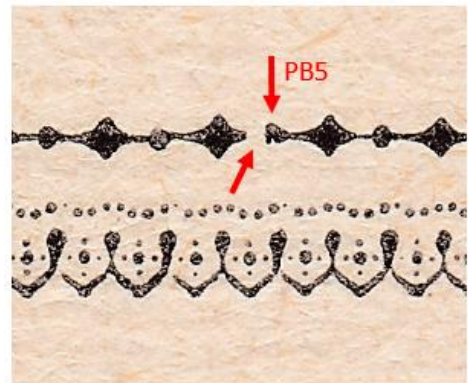
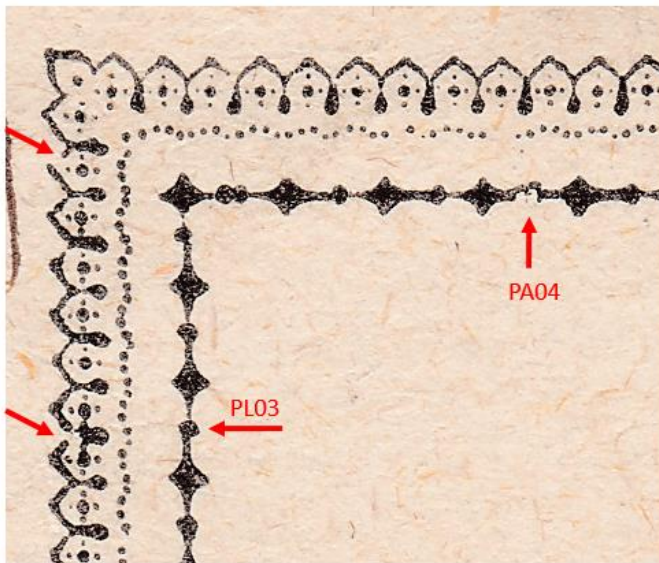
**Type I - Subtype a (subtypes a1 to a3)** - large empty space between the ornamental arches above PA36, left of the upper left corner of the stamp; additional empty spaces above PA24, below PB41, and left of PL27.

**Type I - Subtype a1** – no parasitic dot on the arch of the outer frame immediately left of the empty space above PA36 and above DA8.

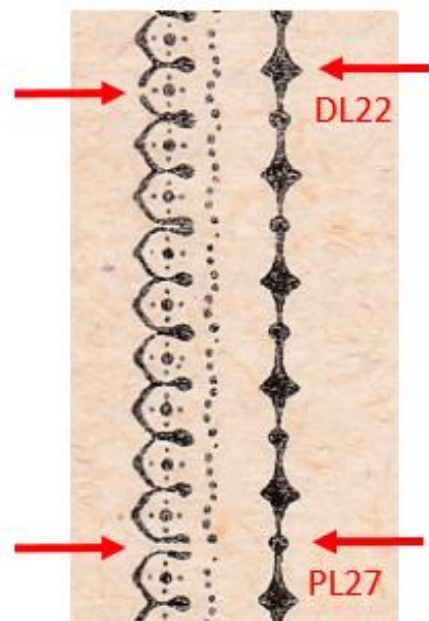
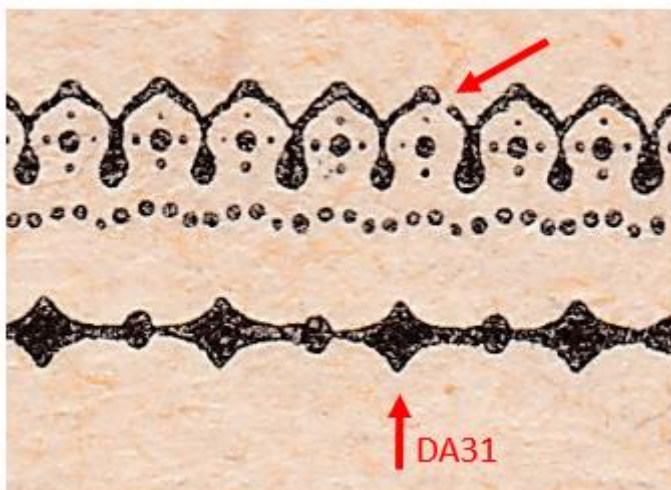
**Variety a1<sub>1</sub>** – DL9 damaged below, 2 broken arches above PA35 and PA36, note the open space between the 2 arches above PA36, typical of subtype a, and the absence of a parasitic dot on the arch left of the open space, typical of subtype a1. 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P22 and P37 largely missing. 15/7/1871 – 14/10/1871 (5 cards).



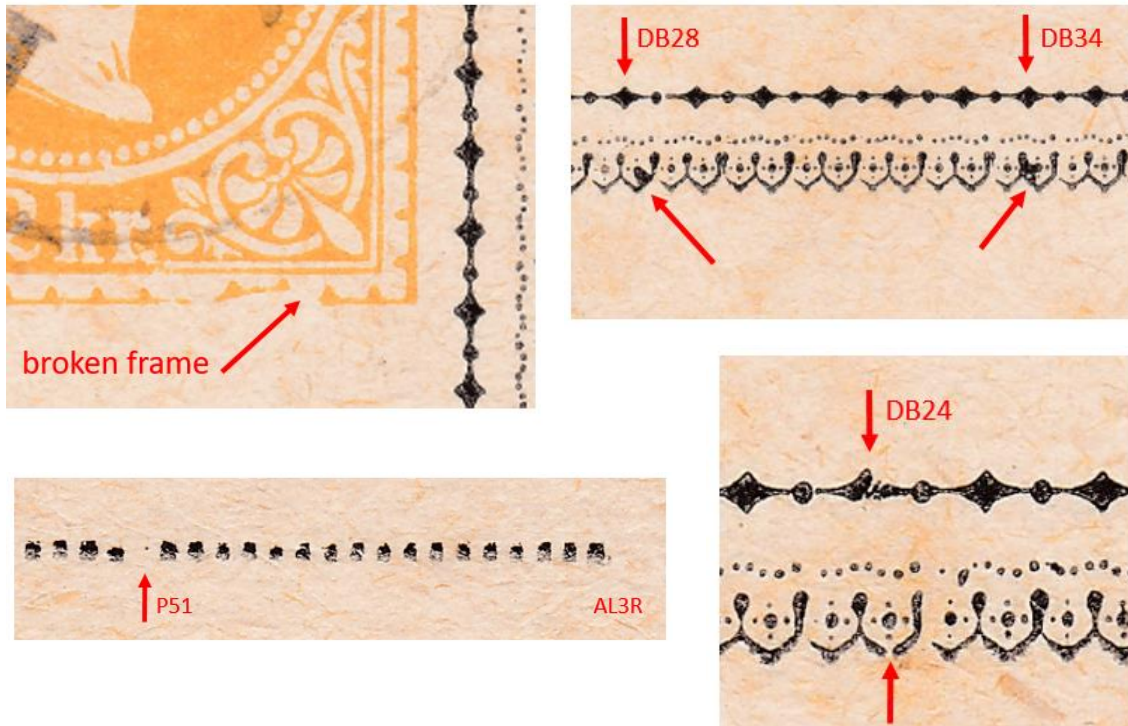
**Variety a<sub>12</sub>** – PA04 damaged below, PB5 truncated left, 1<sup>st</sup> arch left and 2 arches left of PL03 damaged. 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P118 to P120 irregular, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P65 missing. 4/8/1871 – 23/12/1871 (2 cards).



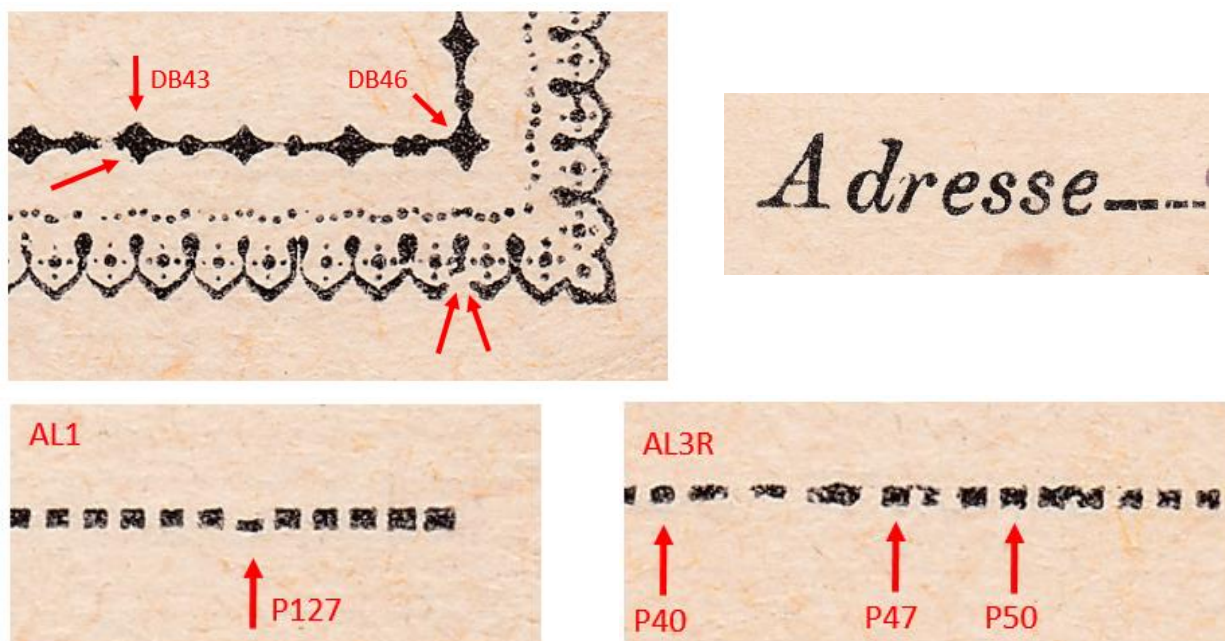
**Variety a<sub>13</sub>** – Broken arches above DA31-PA31 and left of DL22, upper part of “r” of “Adresse” partly missing. Note also the open space left of PL27, typical of subtype a1. 15/8/1871 – 3/10/1871 (2 cards).



**Variety a1<sub>4</sub>** – Stamp with damaged outer frame below right, DB24 damaged, broken arch below DB24-PB25, parasitic dots on arches below DB28 and DB34, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P51 missing. 28/8/1871 – 19/9/1871 (2 cards).

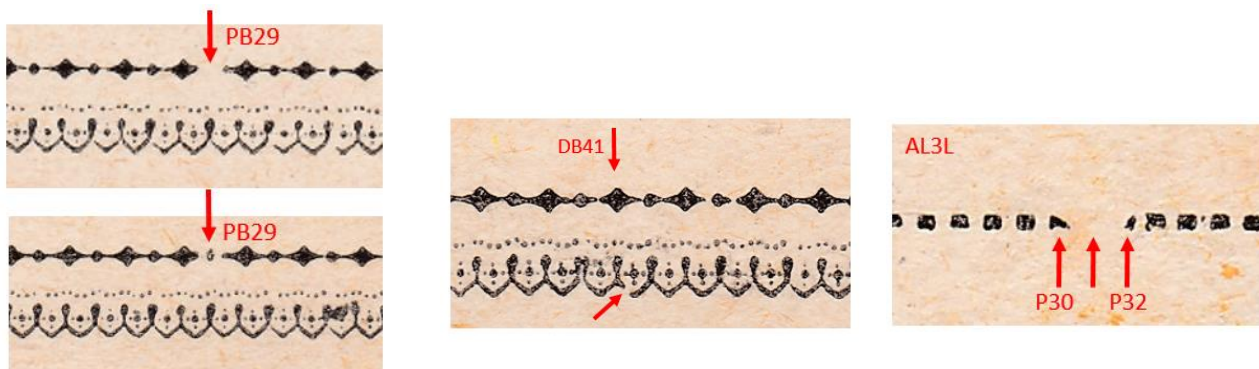


**Variety a1<sub>5</sub>** – DB43 damaged left, 2 arches under DB46 damaged, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P1-P3 merged, P127 lacks upper part, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P41-42, P43-44, P45-46 and P51-52 all merged. 18/11/1871 – 6/12/1871 (2 cards).



**Type I, Subtype a2** – parasitic dot in the lower right part of the arch immediately left of the empty space above PA36.

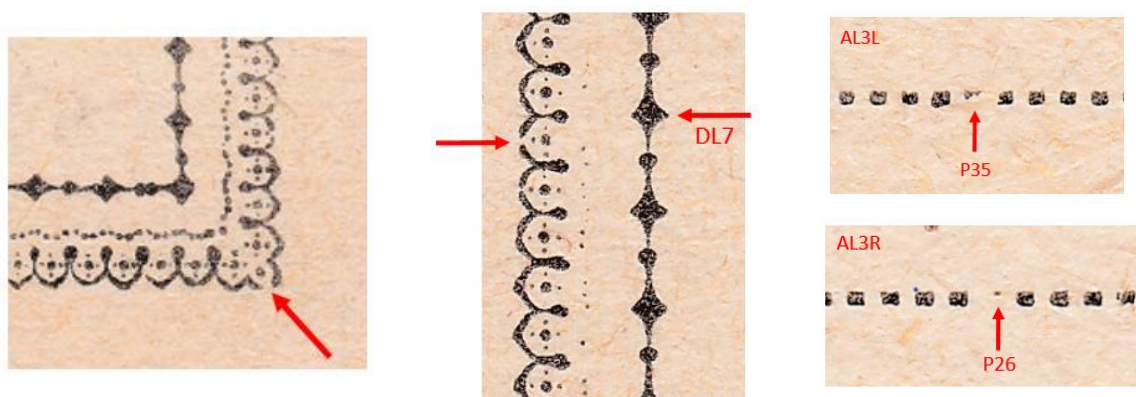
**Variety a2<sub>1</sub>** – PB29 absent or strongly reduced, broken arch under DB41-PB42. Third address line left (AL3L): P31 missing, P32 reduced. 6/8/1871 – 13/11/1871 (2 cards).



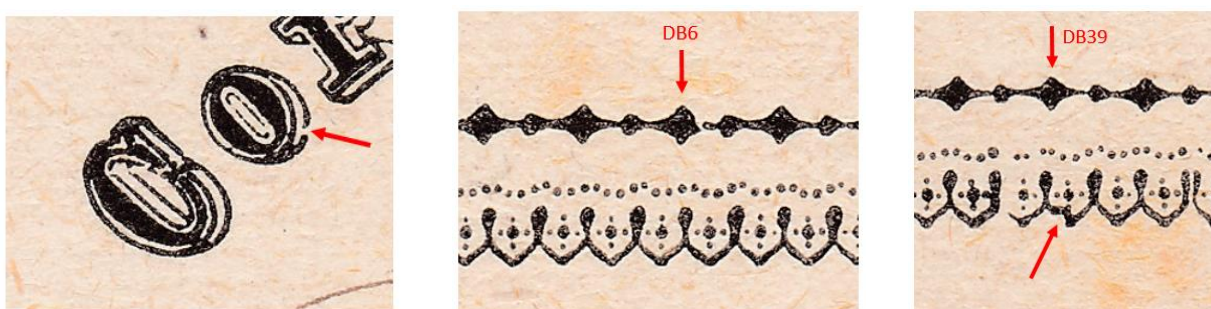
**Variety a2<sub>2</sub>** – 2 broken arches below DB14-PB15 and DB15-PB16. DB31 truncated right. 8/8/1871 – 14/8/1871 (2 cards).



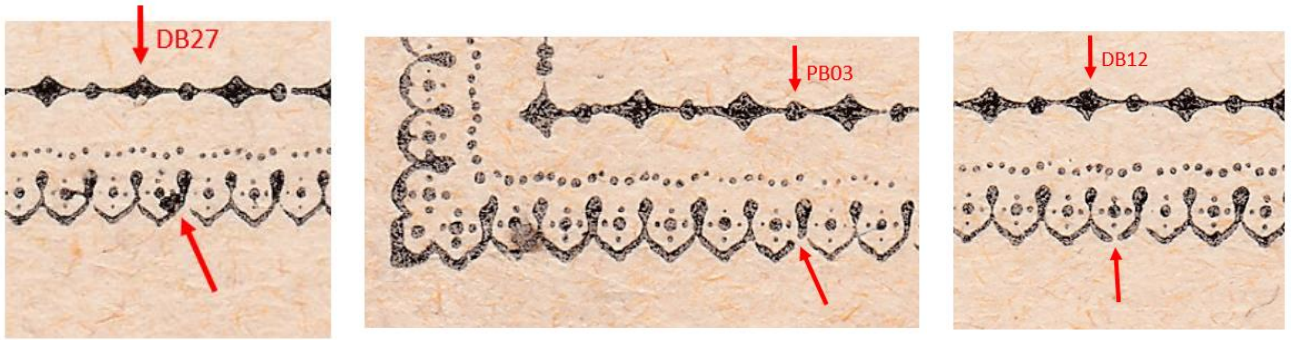
**Variety a2<sub>3</sub>** – Broken corner ornament below right, broken arch left of DL7-PL8, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P35 strongly reduced, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P26 missing. 8/8/1871 – 22/8/1872 (4 cards).



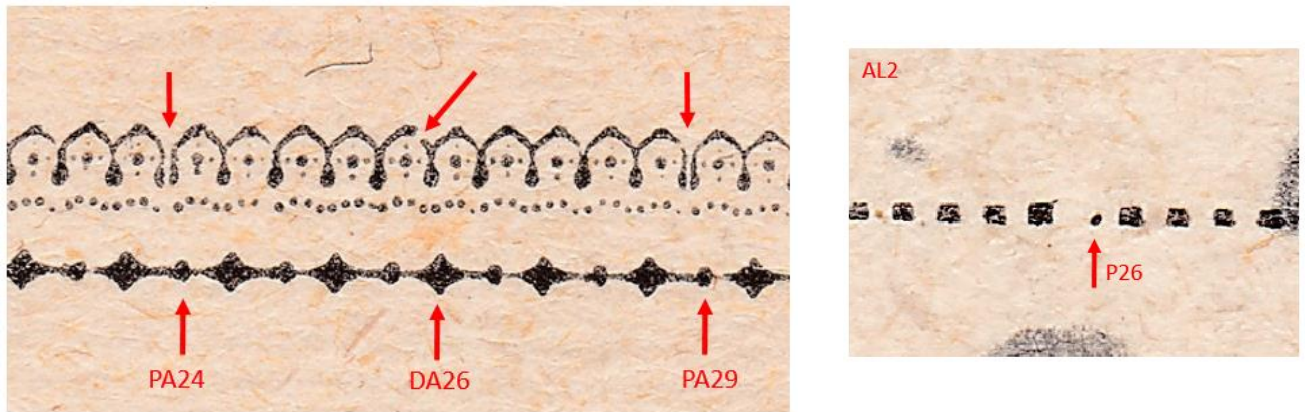
**Variety a2<sub>4</sub>** – “o” of Correspondenzkarte broken below right, DB6 broken right, damaged arch under DB39-PB39. 10/8/1871 – 12/9/1871 (2 cards).



**Variety a2<sub>5</sub>** – large parasitic dot on arch below DB27-PB28, arch under PB03 broken right, broken arch under DB12-PB13. 28/8/1871 – 27/3/1872 (2 cards).



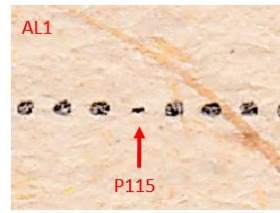
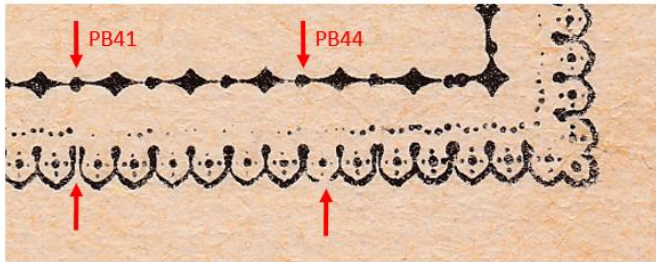
**Variety a2<sub>6</sub>** – broken arch above DA26, address line 2: P26 strongly reduced. Note also the enlarged spaces between the arches above PA24 (and above PA29) typical for subtype a. 28/8/1871 – 16/10/1871 (2 cards).



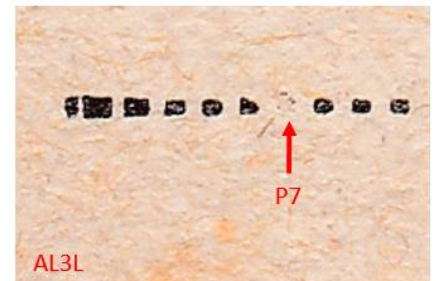
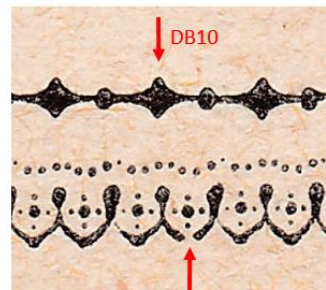
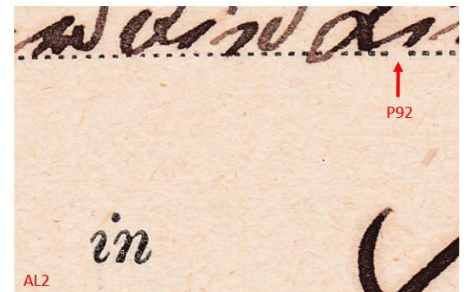
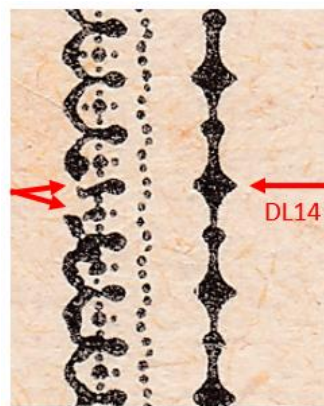
**Variety a2<sub>7</sub>** – “C” and “o” of Correspondenzkarte both broken below left, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: missing points P78 and P92, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P27 missing. 29/8/1871 – 22/11/1871 (3 cards).



**Variety a2<sub>8</sub>** – Two first dots of address line 1 are two heavy dashes, P115 partly missing, broken arch under PB44-DB44. Note also the enlarged space between the arches below PB41 typical for subtype a. 6/9/1871 – 23/9/1871 (2 cards).

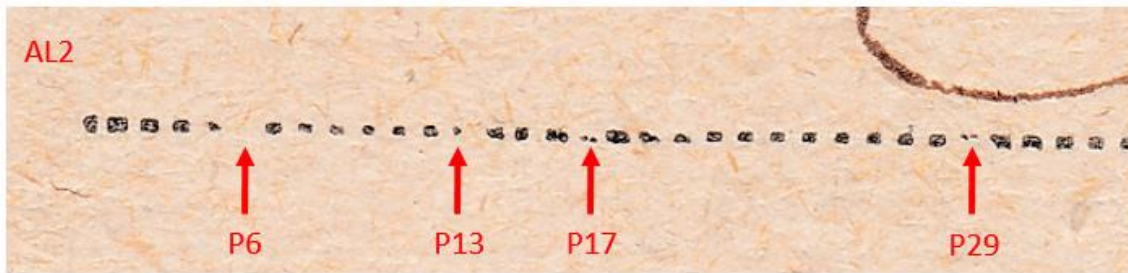
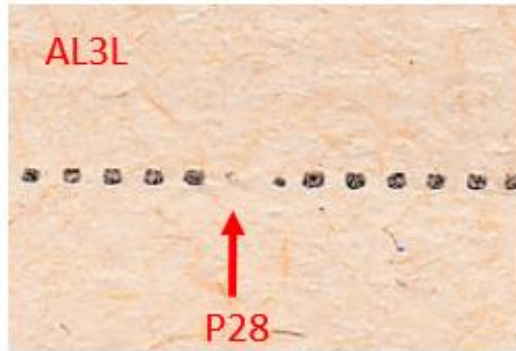
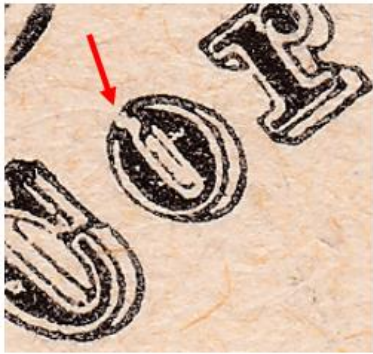


**Variety a2<sub>9</sub>** – PL26 heavily damaged, broken arch under DB10, two broken arches left of DL14, second “e” of Adresse broken below right, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P92 missing, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P7 missing. 20/9/1871 – 27/6/1872 (3 cards).

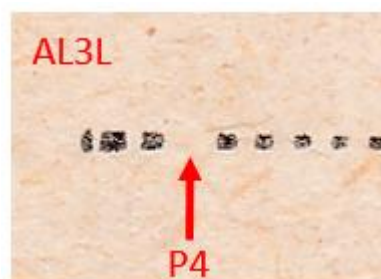
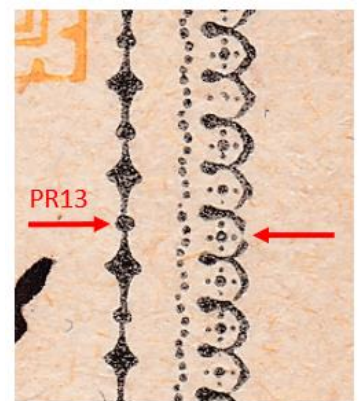
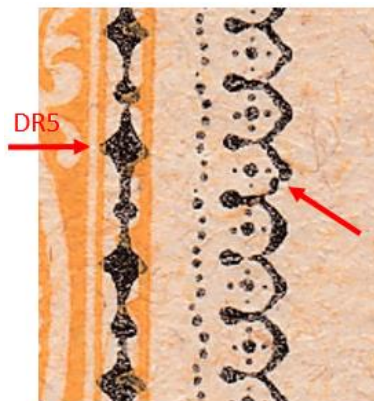
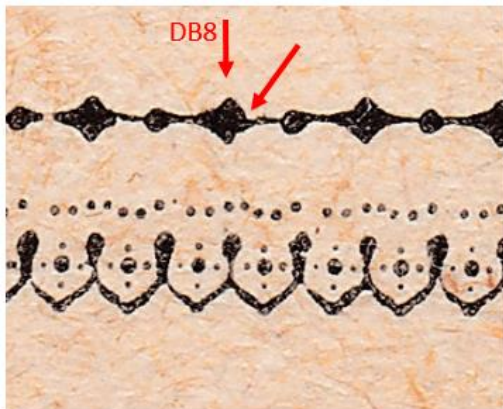


**Type I - Subtype a3** – parasitic dots in the arches above DA36-PA36 and above DA8.

**Variety a3<sub>1</sub>** – First “o” of “Correspondenz” broken at top, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P6 absent, P13, P17 and P29 partly absent, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P28 absent, P29 reduced. 1/9/1871 – 14/10/1871 (2 cards).



**Variety a3<sub>2a</sub>** – DB8 damaged above right, irregular arch right of DR5-PR6, broken arch right of PR13-DR13, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P4 absent. 10/9/1871 – 2/11/1871 (2 cards).

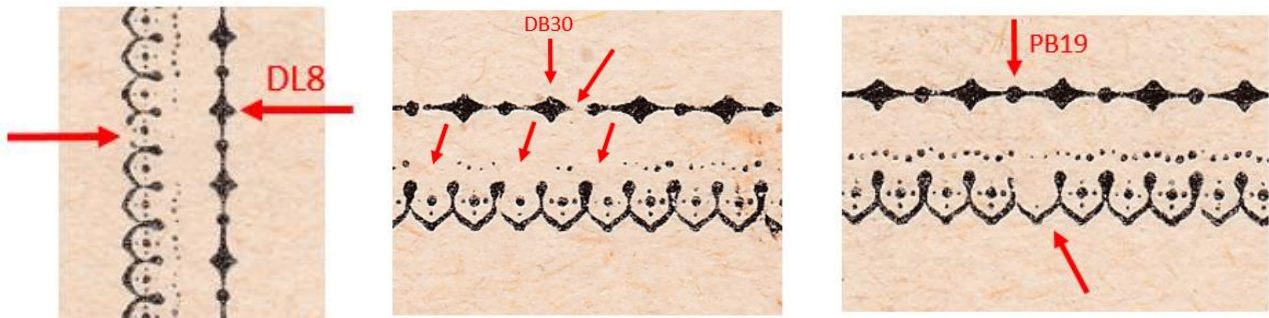


**Variety a3<sub>2b</sub>** – The same anomalies as variety a3<sub>2a</sub>, and additionally the second “e” of “Adresse” damaged above right. 18/10/1871 – 17/4/1872 (2 cards).

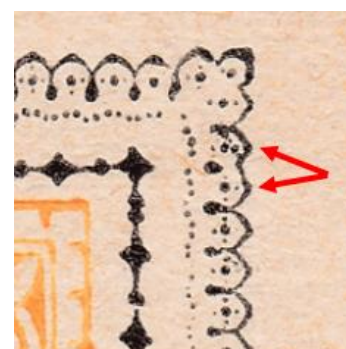
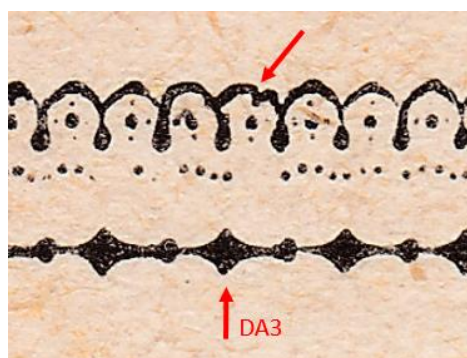
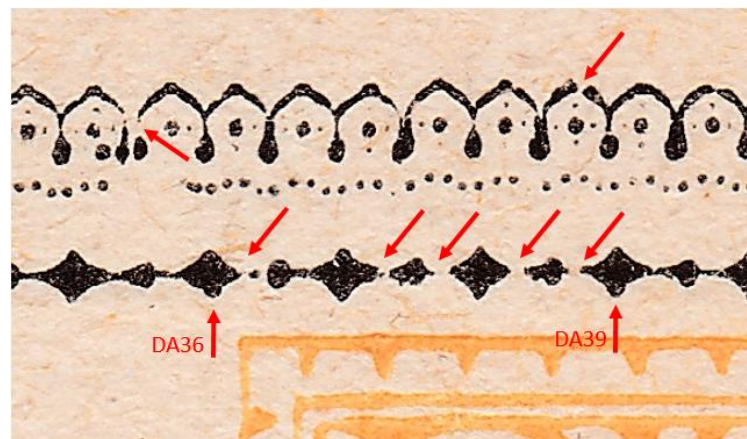


In view of the fact that there is a new anomaly added to the 4 irregularities characterising variety a3<sub>2</sub>, it appears that this is the second state of this cliché. The damage to the second e of Adresse must have occurred when the cliché had already been in use for some time.

**Variety a3<sub>3</sub>** – Broken arch left of DL8-PL9, no connecting line (CL) between DB30 and PB31, note also the great number of holes in the middle frame in this zone, this happens on many other places, especially in lightly printed cards. 18/9/1871 – 24/9/1871 (2 cards).

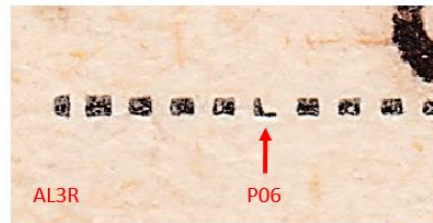


**Variety a3<sub>4</sub>** – Many anomalies between DA36 and DA39: PA37 broken left, DA37 broken right, PA38 and PA39 truncated right, broken arch above PA39-DA39, hole in middle frame above PA36. Deformed arch above DA3-PA4, upper two arches at the right side irregular. 6/10/1871 – 24/12/1871 (4 cards).

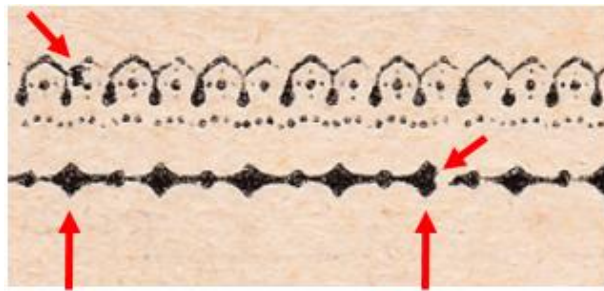




**Variety a3<sub>5</sub>** – P01 and P02 of AL1 are elongated dashes (instead of dots), which are positioned slightly lower than the following dots. P06 of AL3R is damaged above right. 17/10/1871 – 28/1/1872 (2 cards).

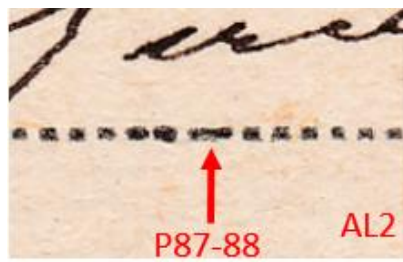
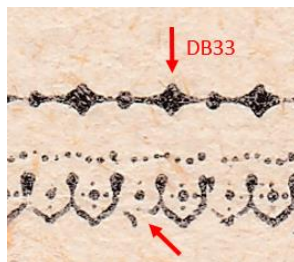
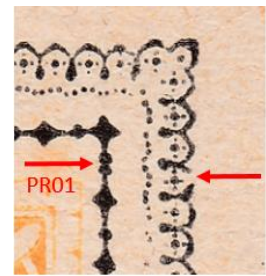


**Variety a3<sub>6</sub>** – DA12 damaged right. Also note the parasitic dot on the arch above DA8 typical of subtype a3. Top left corner ornament almost empty, broken arches right of PR01 and below PB33-DB33, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P87 and P88 merged. 19/10/1871 – 8/1/1872 (2 cards).



DA8

DA12

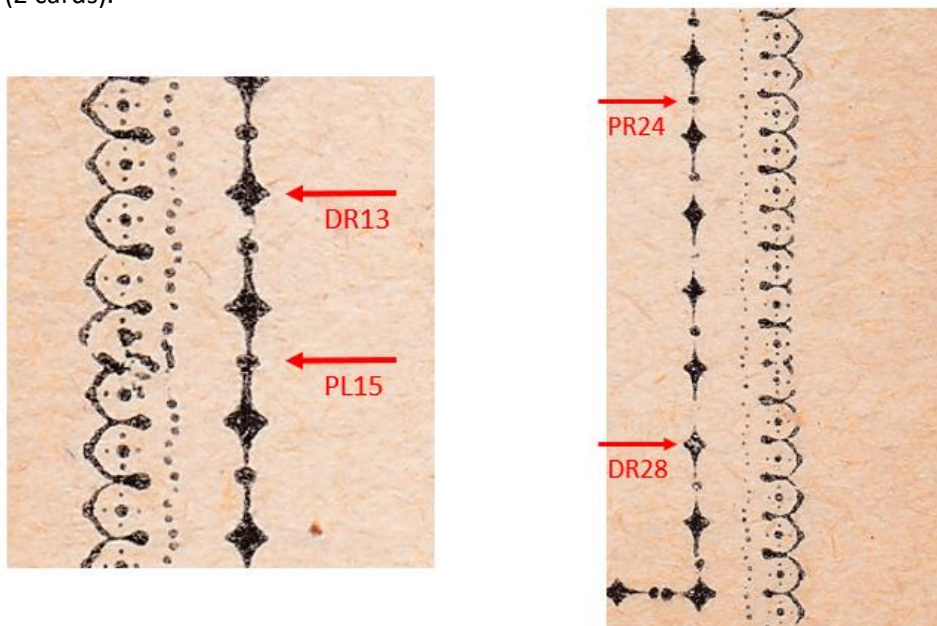


P87-88

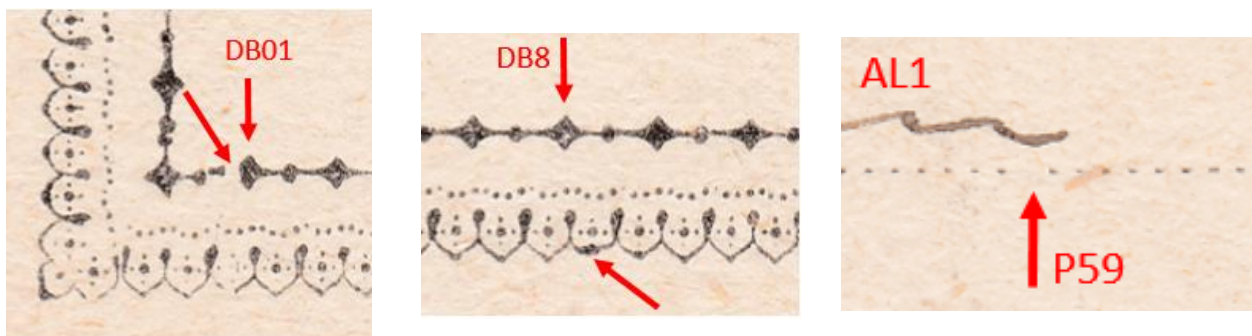
AL2

**Type I - Subtype b** - large empty space between the ornamental arches above PA38, right of the upper left corner of the stamp; additional empty spaces above PA22 and PA28, right of PR8 and PR17, and below PB26. PR7 absent or strongly reduced, PR8 and, to a lesser degree, PA14 often look like double dots. The right side often very weakly printed, with missing dots, missing connecting lines and missing middle frame over large lengths. Because of the often very defective printing, it is much harder to recognise individual clichés than in subtype a. All varieties except variety b<sub>4</sub> correspond to card 2-III of Breitwieser (2018); variety b<sub>4</sub> corresponds to his card 2-IV.

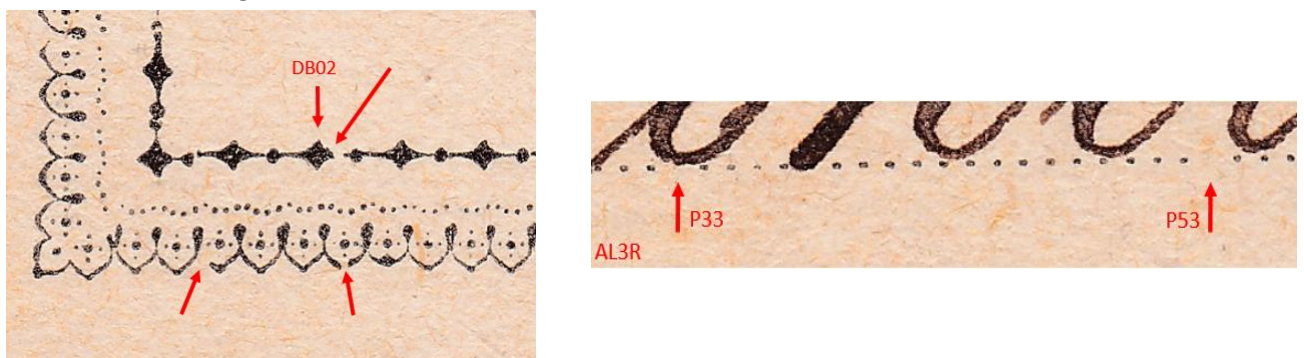
**Variety b<sub>1</sub>** – DR13 damaged below, two arches left of PL15 very irregular. All arches between PR24 and DR28 heavily damaged (missing roofs). Also note PR28, with is absent or very weak. 6/10/1871 – 21/11/1871 (2 cards).



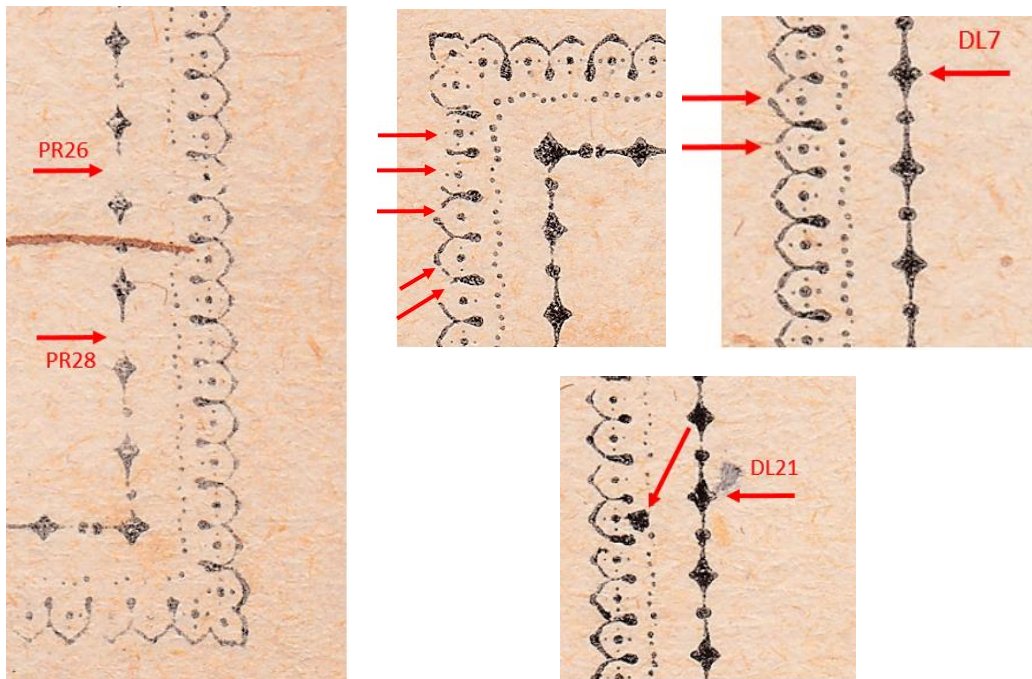
**Variety b<sub>2</sub>** – DB01 broken left, flattened arch under DB8-PB9, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P59 missing, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P132 reduced or missing. 23/11/1871 – 27/1/1872 (2 cards).



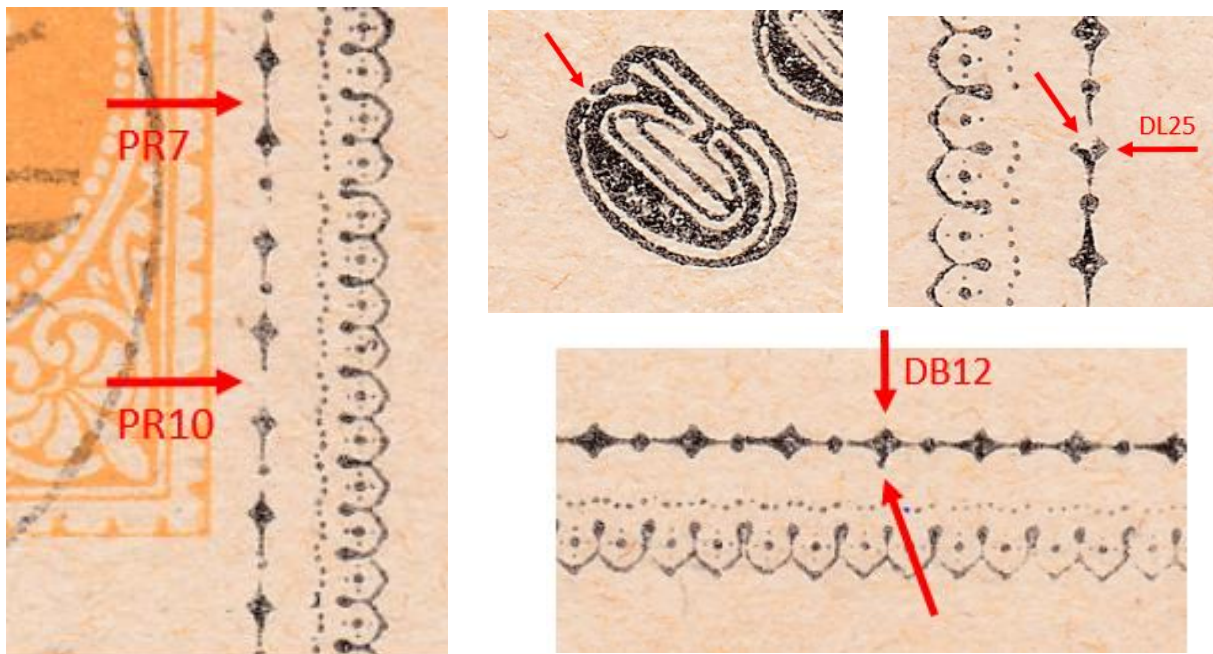
**Variety b<sub>3</sub>** – DB02 broken right, broken arch under DB02-PB03, arch under DB01 truncated left, AL3R: P33 and P53 missing. 29/11/1871 – 18/12/1871 (2 cards).



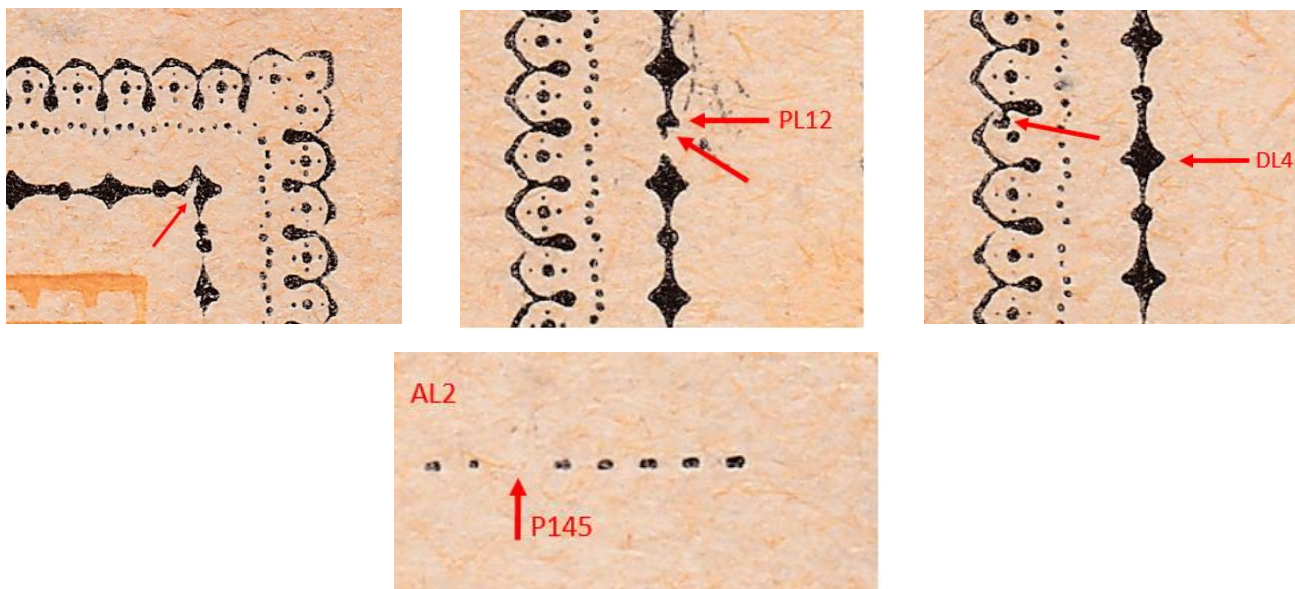
**Variety b<sub>4</sub>** – Right side very weakly printed, with PR26 and PR28 absent. Two first arches left without roof, next three arches broken, two broken arches left of DL7-DL8, large parasitic dot on arch left of DL21-PL22. 1st address line: P47 absent, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P41, P78, P81 absent and P123 absent, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P10, P52 and P55 absent. 10/12/1871 – 24/6/1872 (2 cards).



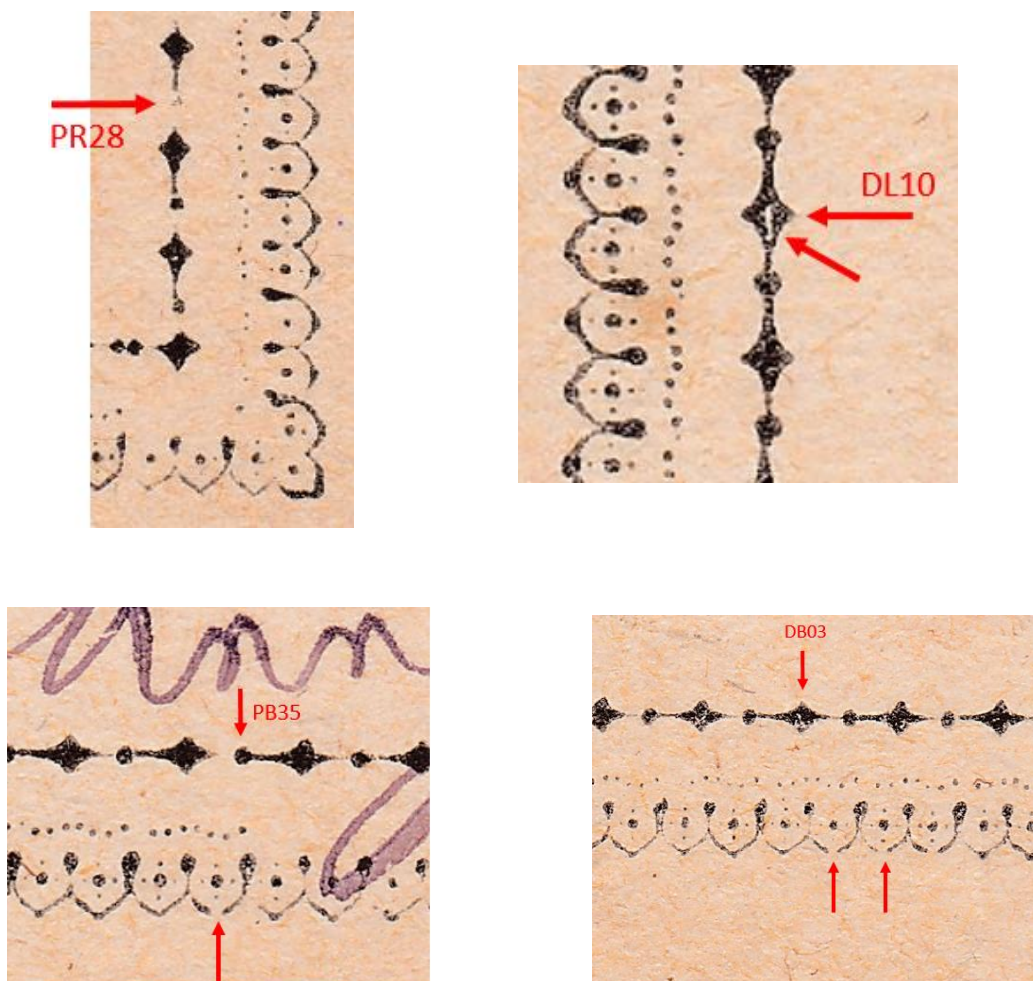
**Variety b<sub>5</sub>** – PR7 very weak or absent, PR10 absent, 2<sup>nd</sup> partial dot of PR8 absent or very weak. Note the opening between the two arches right of PR8, typical of subtype b. DB12 short extension below, white spot on DL25, “C” of “Correspondenz” broken at the top. AL3R: P40 missing. 29/12/1871 – 31/1/1872 (2 cards). **NB. This cliché corresponds to card 2-IV of Breitwieser (2020).**



**Variety b<sub>6</sub>** – Oblique white spot on corner ornament above right, PL12 damaged below, parasitic dot on arch left of PL4-DL4, AL1: P74 absent or strongly reduced, AL2: P145 absent or strongly reduced. 3/2/1872 – 2/5/1872 (2 cards).

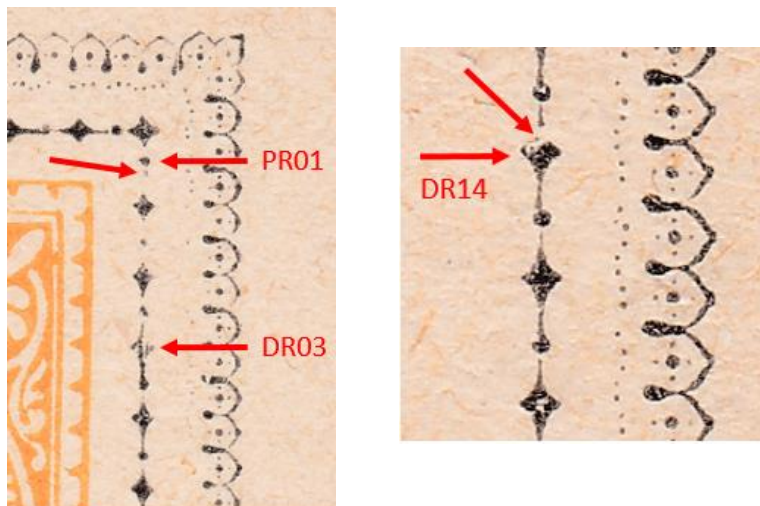


**Variety b<sub>7</sub>** – PR28 almost absent, vertical white dash on DL10, two broken arches under DB03-DB04, broken arch under DB34-PB35, AL1: P34, P49 and P53 missing, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P07 and P08 missing or very weak, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P47 missing. 21/3/1872 – 1/10/1872 (2 cards).

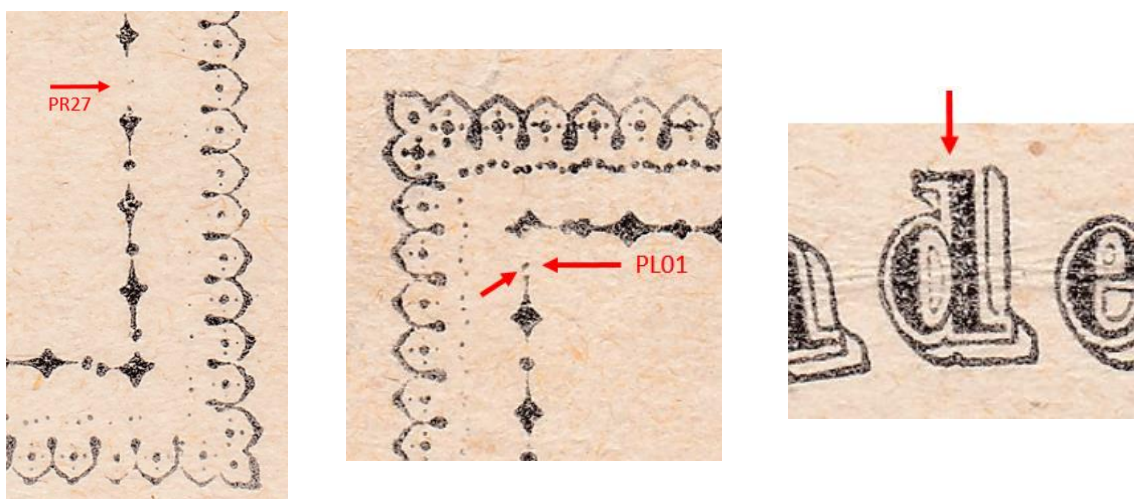


**Type I - Subtype c** – large vertical shift below left, between PB01 and DB01, PB12 always lacks lower half. Empty space between two arches immediately right of the upper left corner of the stamp, above PA39. Additional empty spaces above PA16 and below PB16.

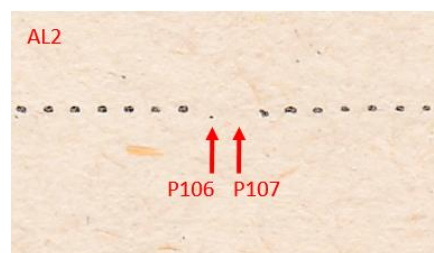
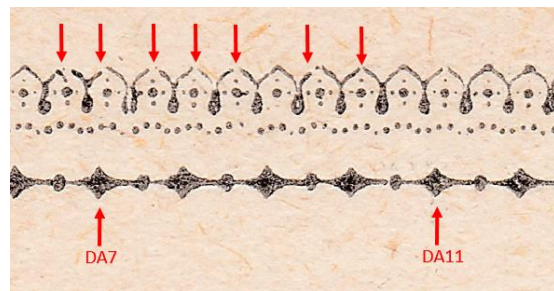
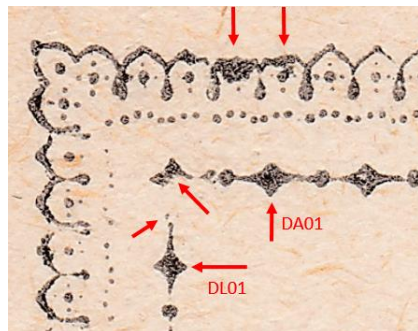
**Variety c<sub>1</sub>** – 2<sup>nd</sup> dot of double dot PR01 (= PR01b) very weak or absent, DR03 weak and/or irregular, DR14 damaged above, AL2: P134 missing, P142 very weak, AL3R: P34 missing. Note the almost total absence of the middle frame at the upper right. 8/11/1871 – 16/1/1872 (3 cards).



**Variety c<sub>2</sub>** – PR27 almost absent, PL01 strongly reduced, “d” of “Correspondenz” lacks upper frame line. Note the almost total absence of the middle frame below right. 12/11/1871 – 21/2/1872 (2 cards).



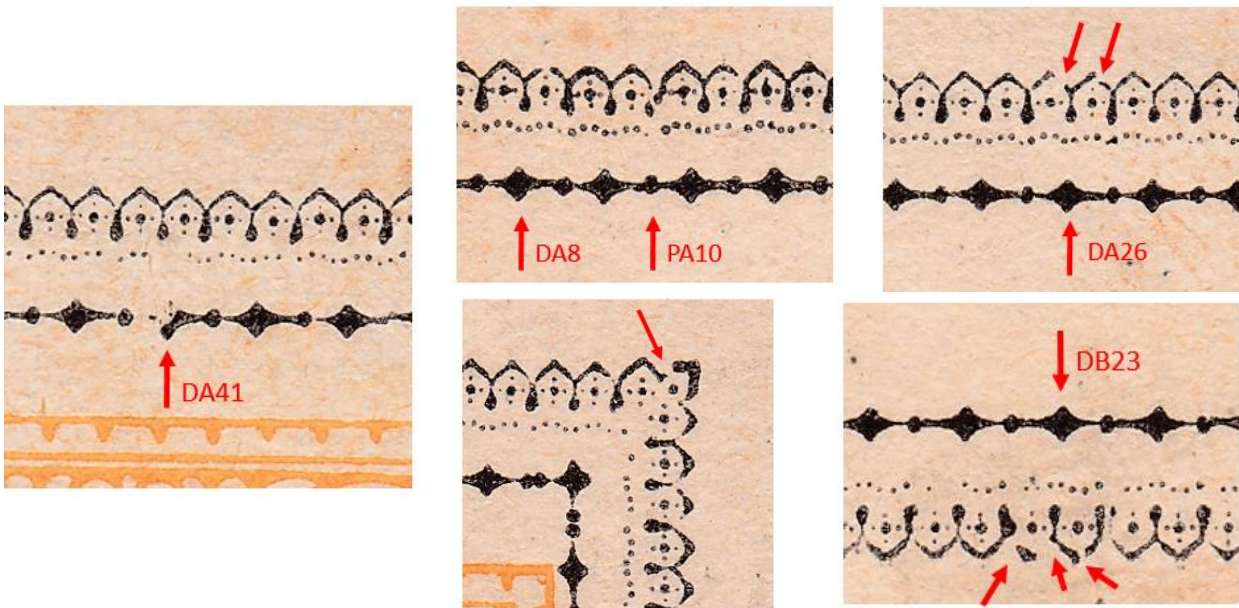
**Variety c<sub>3</sub>** – White spots on DR7 and DR11, inner frame corner diamond top left reduced, PL01 absent or strongly reduced, two arches above DA01 heavily damaged, between DA7 and DA11 almost all arches damaged, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P106-P107 absent. Note the almost total absence of the middle frame on the right. 1/2/1872 – 3/2/1872 (2 cards).



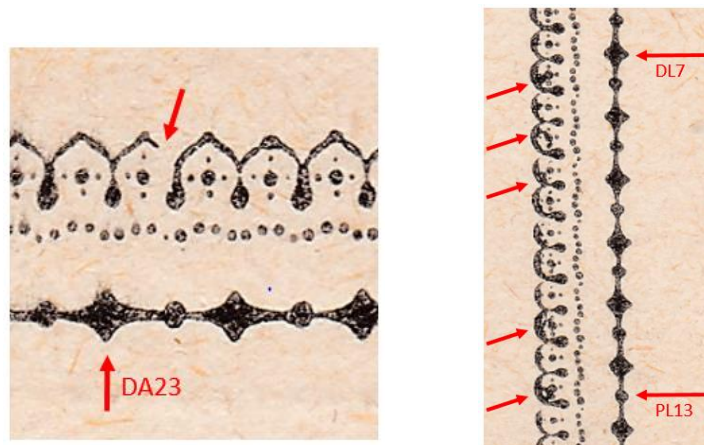
Card 2; type II – earliest recorded postmark (ERP) 25 June 1871



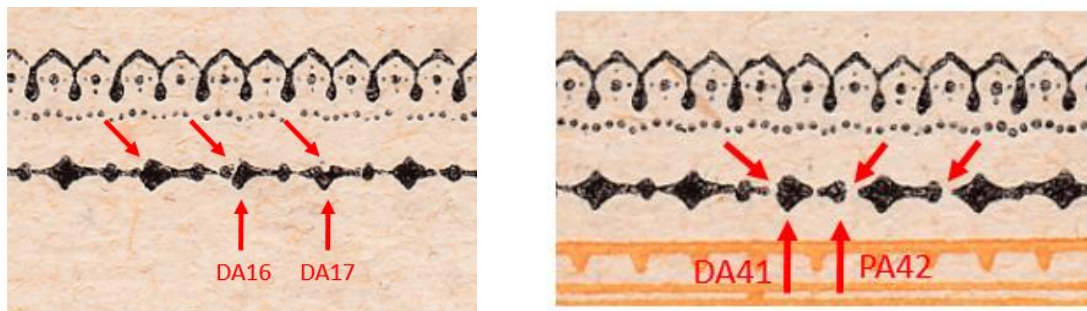
**Variety II<sub>1</sub>** – DA41 heavily damaged above left, above DA8-PA9 arch with broken roof (also note the irregular arch above PA10-DA10, typical for type II), above DA26 two arches broken, Corner ornament above right broken at the top, two broken arches under DB23, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P39 absent, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P63 reduced. 9/7/1871 - 17/10/1871 (3 cards).



**Variety II<sub>2</sub>** – arch above DA23-PA24 truncated right, parasitic dots on several arches of DL7 to PL13, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P58 slightly reduced, P113 damaged (wedge in the middle, above), 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P46 and/or P53 reduced. 12/7/1871 - 18/8/1871 (3 cards).



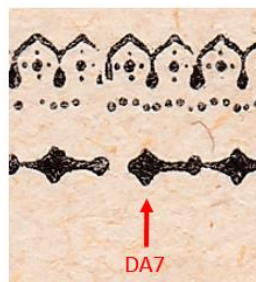
**Variety II<sub>3</sub>** – DA16 and DA17 damaged above left, DA41 damaged L, PA42 truncated right. These anomalies involve eight different cards, apparently representing six different clichés, probably produced successively with the same master copy. Only the two clichés for which two identical cards were found are represented here in detail, as varieties II<sub>3a</sub> and II<sub>3b</sub>, whereas the other four clichés are regrouped as variety II<sub>3c</sub>, for the time being.



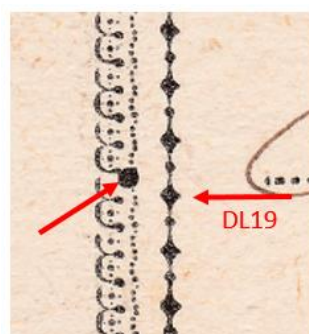
**Variety II<sub>3a</sub>** – All characteristics of variety II<sub>3</sub> (see images above), and in addition arch with broken roof above PA35-DA35, irregular arch right of DR4-PR5, broken arch under DB04-PB5, AL3R: P50 absent. 20/7/1871 - 23/8/1871 (2 cards).



**Variety II<sub>3b</sub>** – All characteristics of variety II<sub>3</sub> (see images above), and in addition DA7 truncated left, and in AL2 P127 absent or very strongly reduced. 26/8/1871 – 9/2/1875 (2 cards).



**Variety II<sub>3c</sub>** – All characteristics of variety II<sub>3</sub> (see images above), and in addition a big black dot left of PL19-DL19. This variety is found in at least four different clichés, which are differing by the absence/presence of a broken upper frame of the stamp, and by several missing dots (or not) in the second address line. 10/8/1871 – 29/10/1871 (4 cards of 4 different clichés).

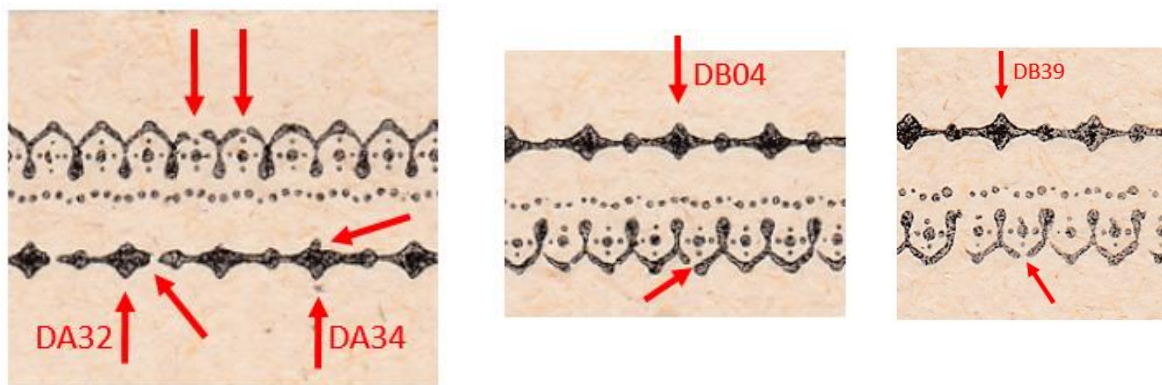




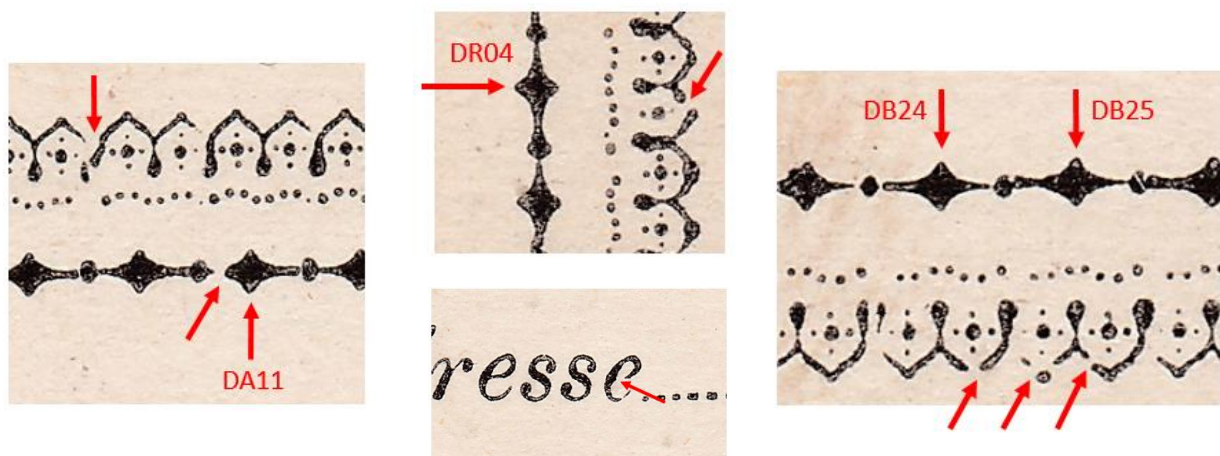
**Variety II<sub>4</sub>** – DL22 damaged above, DL21 irregular below, 2nd e of “Adresse” shortened right, s of “Correspondenz” broken below, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P39-P41 slightly damaged. This variety can be found in two different states. State 2 is characterised by the absence of P56 and P98 on the 1<sup>st</sup> address line; these dots are present in state 1. 26/7/1871 - 4/8/1871 (2 cards).



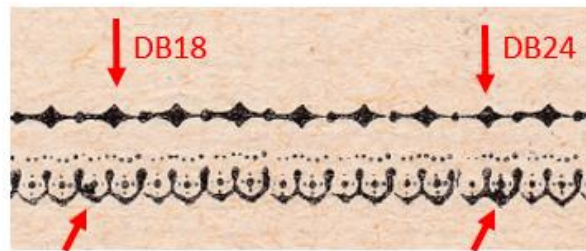
**Variety II<sub>5</sub>** – DA32 truncated right, DA34 slightly incised above right, 2 arches above DA33 roof broken, arches below DB04-PB5 and DB39-PB40 broken. 30/7/1871 – 6/11/1871 (3 cards).



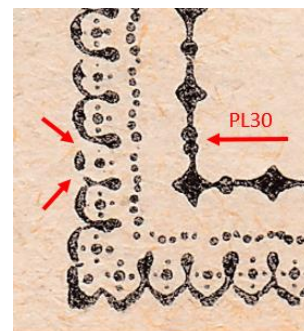
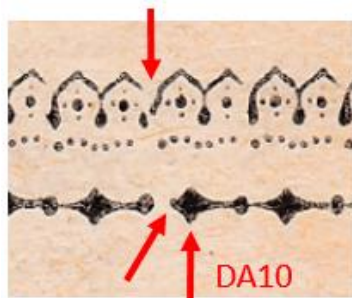
**Variety II<sub>6</sub>** – DA11 truncated left (also note the irregular arch above PA10-DA10, typical for type II), arch right of DR4-PR5 broken, under DB24-DB25 3 broken arches, second e of “Adresse” not closed. 31/7/1871 – 6/8/1871 (2 cards).



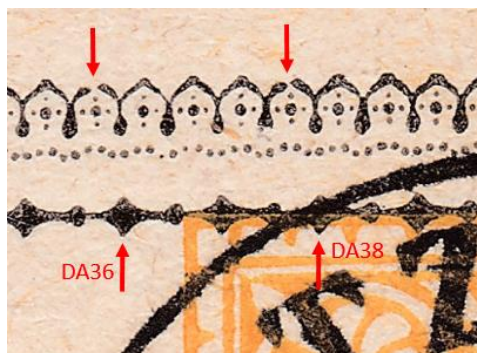
**Variety II<sub>7</sub>** – parasitic dots on arches under PB18-DB18 and DB24-PB25, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P03 reduced, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P75 and P80 missing, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P34, P37 and P60 absent or strongly reduced. 16/8/1871 – 12/11/1871 (3 cards).



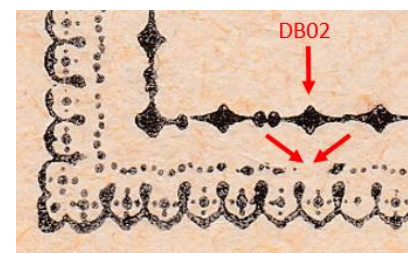
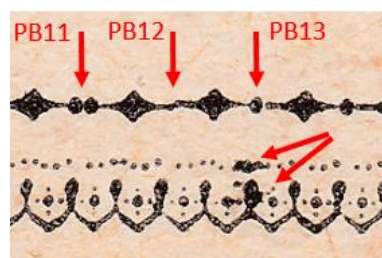
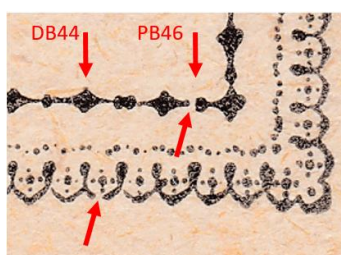
**Variety II<sub>8</sub>** – DA10 damaged left (also note the irregular arch above PA10-DA10, typical for type II), arch left of PL30 damaged, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line left: P23 truncated left. This variety appears with two states. In state 2, there are several (partly) missing dots in AL1 (between P56 and P60). 20/8/1871 – 26/4/1872 (4 cards).



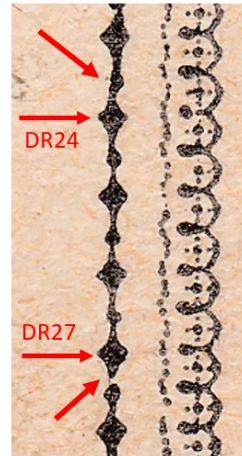
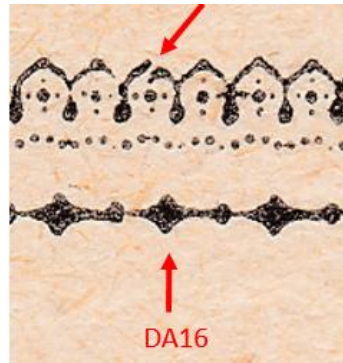
**Variety II<sub>9</sub>** – Two arches with broken roof, above PA36-DA36 and PA38-DA38. Corner ornament top left broken at left side. AL3L: P48 missing. 29/8/1871 – 18/10/1871 (3 cards).



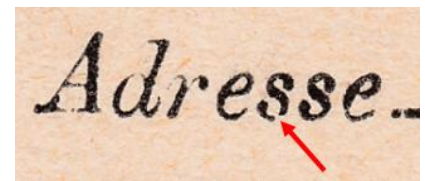
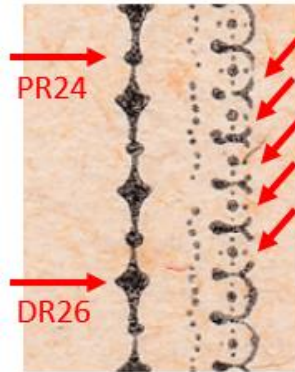
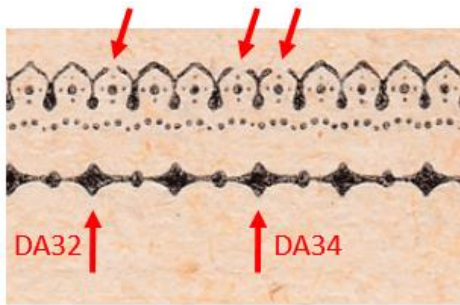
**Variety II<sub>10</sub>** – Arch below DB44-PB45 roof broken, PB46 truncated left, parasitic dots on middle and outer frame below PB13 (note the double PB11 and missing PB12 typical for type II), hole in the middle frame below DB02. 2/9/1871 – 27/10/1871 (2 cards).



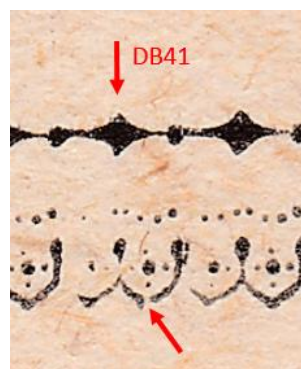
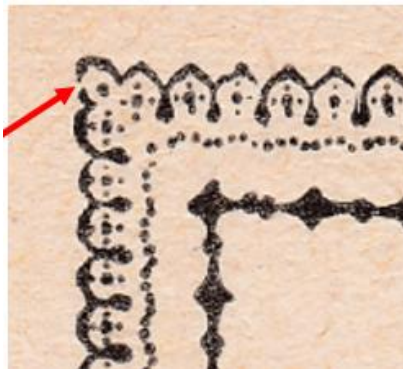
**Variety II<sub>11</sub>** – PR24 truncated left, DR27 truncated below, arch above PA16-DA16 damaged, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P38 reduced. 2/9/1871 – 16/10/1872 (4 cards).



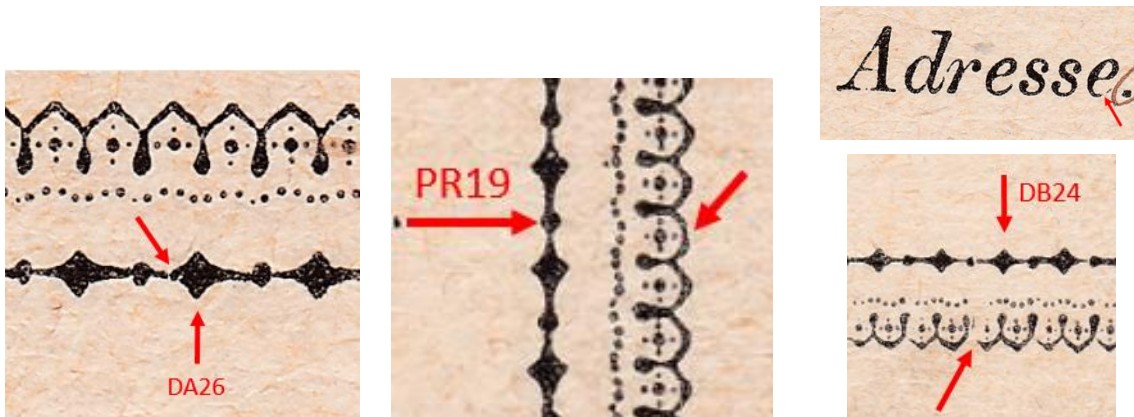
**Variety II<sub>12</sub>** – One arch with broken roof above DA32-PA33 and two above DA34, five damaged arches right of PR24 to DR26, first s of “Adresse” broken below, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P05 and P06 slightly reduced. 7/9/1871 – 15/11/1872 (4 cards).



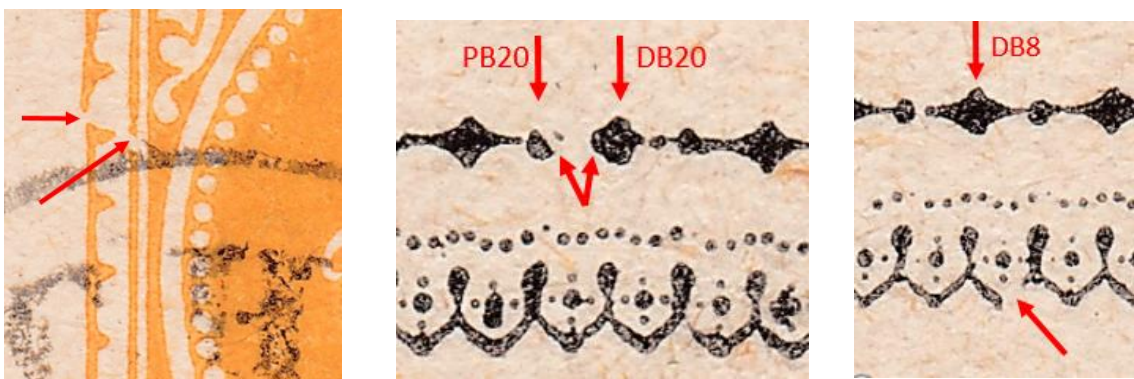
**Variety II<sub>13</sub>** – Corner ornament above left damaged left, broken arch below DB41-PB42, second s of “Adresse” damaged below. 13/9/1871 – 3/2/1872 (3 cards).



**Variety II<sub>14</sub>** – DA26 slightly damaged left, arch right of PR19-DR19 with roof somewhat flattened, not pointed, arch under PB24-DB24 very weakly printed, second e of “Adresse” broken below, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P05 and P07 slightly damaged. 18/9/1871 – 7/11/1871 (2 cards).



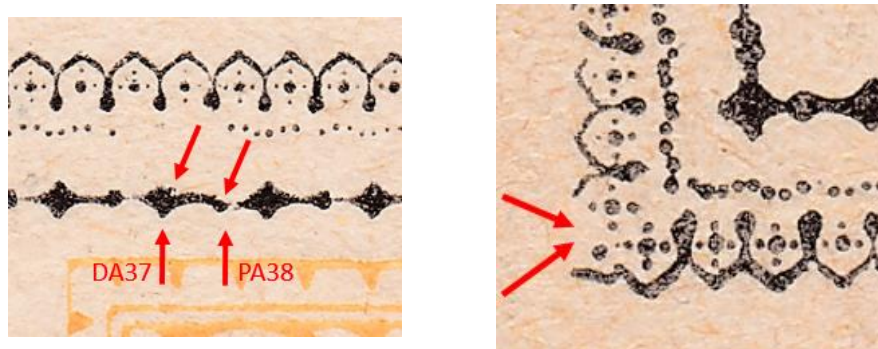
**Variety II<sub>15</sub>** – Outer and inner stamp frames broken left, DB20 and PB20 heavily damaged, arch below DB8-PB9 damaged right, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P93-P94 damaged. 21/9/1871 – 2/2/1872 (4 cards).



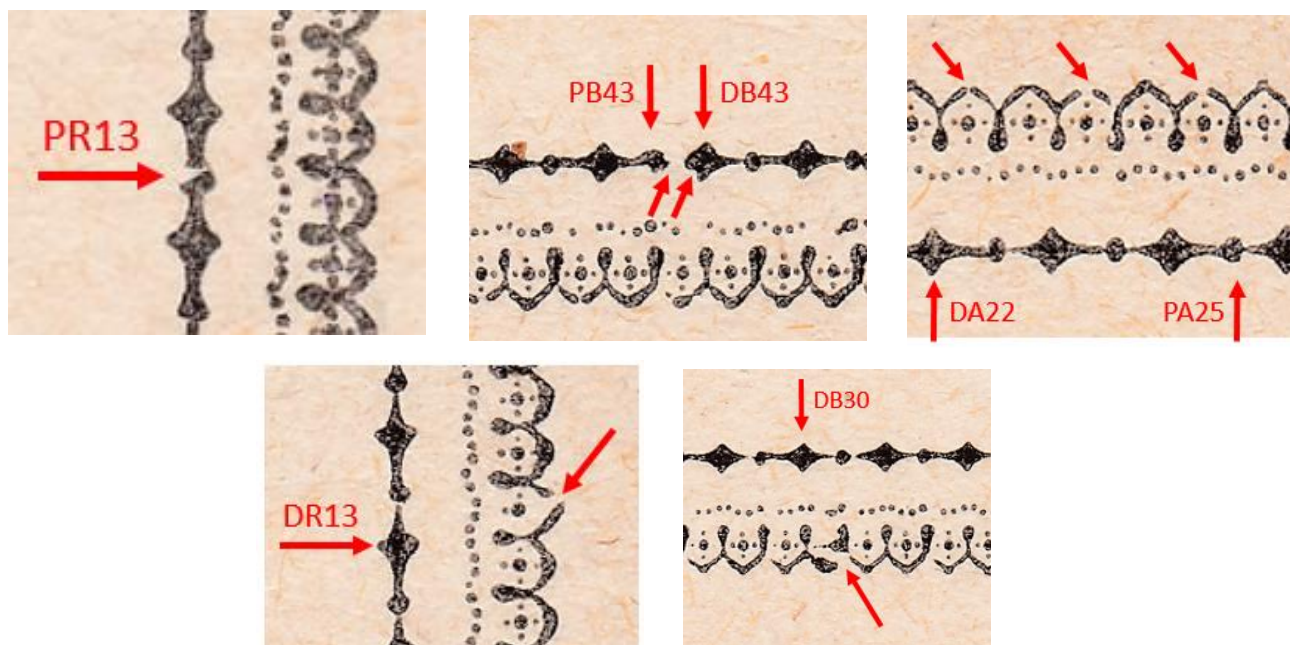
**Variety II<sub>16</sub>** – Small parasitic dots on arches left of DL02-PL03 and DL6-PL7, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: open space between P02 and P03, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P15 and P33 strongly reduced or absent. 22/9/1871 – 26/10/1871 (3 cards).



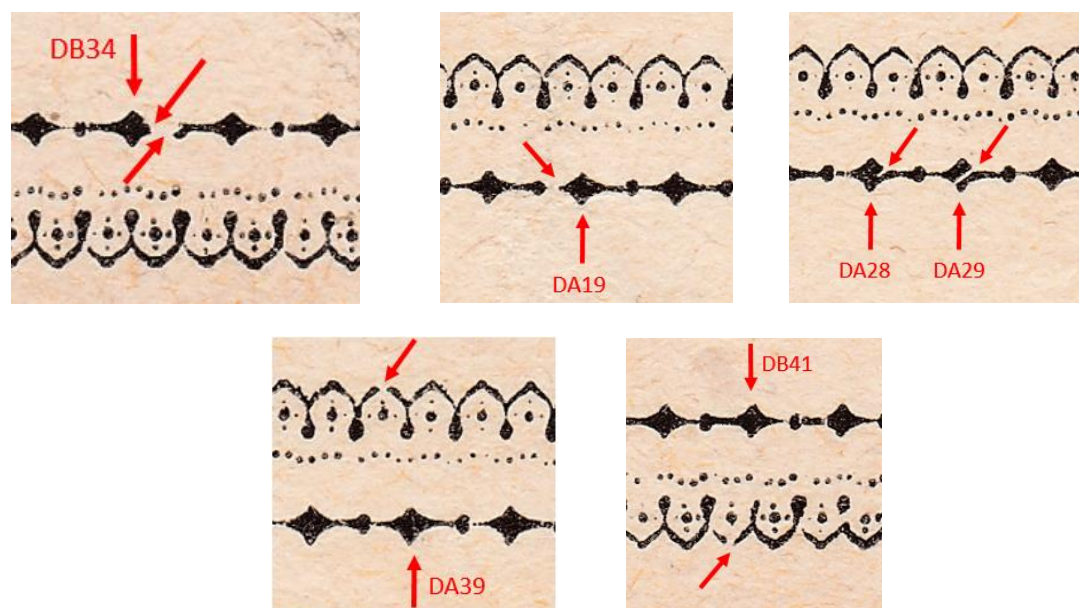
**Variety II<sub>17</sub>** – DA37 and PA38 damaged above, corner ornament below left heavily broken left, 3<sup>rd</sup> address line right: P36 reduced. 24/9/1871 – 3/1/1872 (2 cards).



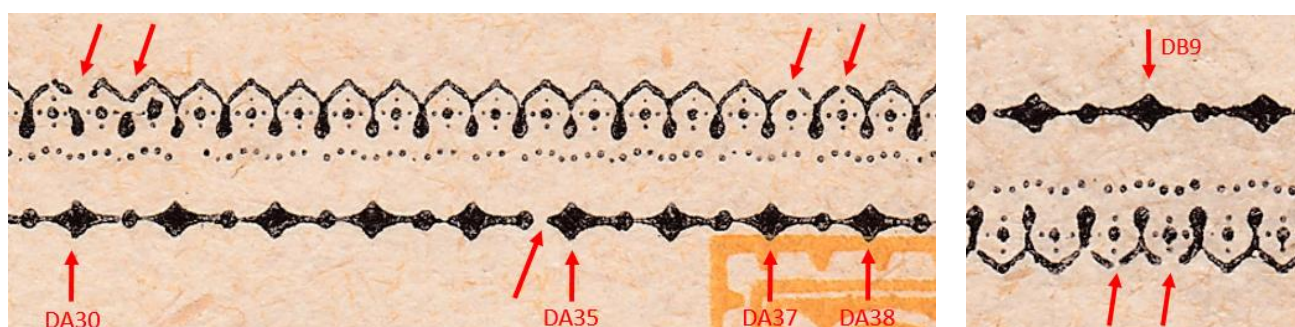
**Variety II<sub>18</sub>** – PR13 wedge-shaped incision left, PB43 damaged right, DB43 damaged left, DA22-PA25: 3 arches with broken roof, broken arch right of PR13-DR13, broken arch below DB30-PB31. 13/10/1871 – 12/11/1871 (2 cards).



**Variety II<sub>19</sub>** – DB34 damaged right, PB35 damaged left, DA19 truncated left, DA28 and DA29 with oblique white incisions, above PA39-DA39 and below PB41-DB41 arches with broken roof, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P79 and P80 merged. 27/10/1871 – 8/2/1872 (3 cards).



**Variety II<sub>20</sub>** – DA35 truncated left, two broken arches above DA30-PA31, two arches with broken roof above DA37-PA37-DA38, two arches with broken roof below DB9, 1<sup>st</sup> address line: P31 reduced, 2<sup>nd</sup> address line: P26 broken, P95 reduced. 20/11/1871 – 5/1/1872 (3 cards).



## **Acknowledgements**

I am very grateful for all positive reactions I received on the first article on the Austrian "Gelblinge". For this second article, I particularly thank Lars-Olof Nilsson, for putting scans of his cards at my disposal, and for allowing me to publish some of them here. I acknowledge the help of Wil Beskers, Hans van Dooremalen, Hanspeter Frech and Lars-Olof Nilsson, who carefully read an earlier version, which allowed me to improve the quality of the present article. I am grateful for Franz Breitwieser for our stimulating discussions.

Once again, I invite all readers to send me their comments, corrections, additions and other comments. I especially incite all collectors to check their cards for systematic errors, corresponding to individual clichés. Please inform me about all observations of additional anomalies.

This article will be followed in summer 2021 by a third article, which will treat the bilingual cards 3 to 7.

28 February 2021

Frans Jorissen

Saint Martin du Fouilloux (France)

Email: [jorissen@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jorissen@wanadoo.fr)