

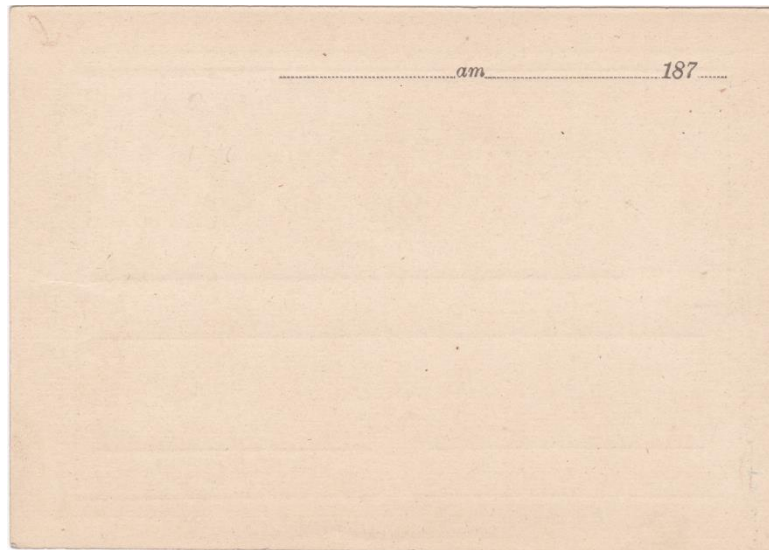
The first Austrian postal cards – a critical analysis of their types and subtypes

Part 4 – Postal card n° 8

Frans Jorissen & Lars-Olof Nilsson

This article is a continuation of the series of articles treating the first Austrian postal cards. All articles are available online on the website of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission (<https://postalstationery.f-i-p.ch/resources/articles/>).

In this fourth article, we will treat card n° 8. This card, with the text entirely in German, is the first card of the third series, on which the address line on the back of the cards is positioned on the upper right side, and not on the upper left side, like for cards n° 2 to 7.



Back of the German card n° 8, characterised by a line to date the card above right.

The fact that the back of the card is the only (easily visible) difference between cards n° 2 and 8 immediately leads to the question whether only the back was changed, and the same plate continued to be used to print the front, or whether new plates were produced both for the front and back of the cards. We will address this question in this article.

For the description of the various details of the cards, we will use the same system as in the first three articles. We will distinguish between:

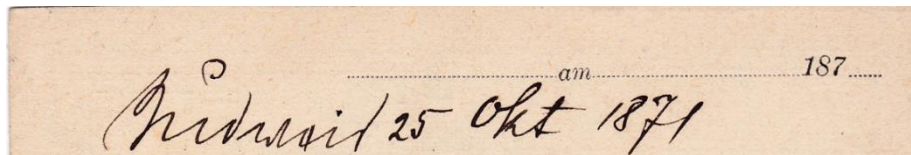
- 1) the inner frame, with its succession of dots (P, point) and diamonds (D),
- 2) the middle frame (dotted line) and
- 3) the outer frame (succession of arches).

The position of anomalies will be indicated by referring to the closest diamonds and dot positions 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 (indicated as “zero”, for instance DA0). We 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 37th dot from the left on the lower inner frame. All positions between two diamonds, where a dot is expected, are counted as one dot position, irrespective whether there is a single, double or absent dot. Finally, the three address lines will be called AL1, AL2, AL3L (left) and AL3R (right), and the dots on these lines are counted from the left to the right.

Card n° 8 – earliest recorded postmark (ERP) 26 October 1871



Card 8, type I, 26 October 1871 (ERP)

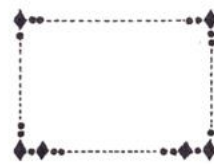


At first sight, the front of card n° 8 is identical to that of card n° 2, with an inner frame consisting of 47 x 31 diamonds (all corner diamonds included), compared to 48 x 32 diamonds in card 1. Also the size of the inner frame is similar to card 2: approximately 102-103 by 66-67 mm.

For the sake of convenience, we will follow the traditional classification, which was introduced by Ascher (1925), and also used by Frech (1991; 2015). This classification distinguishes three different types in card n° 8, mainly on the basis of the diamond-dot patterns in the corners:

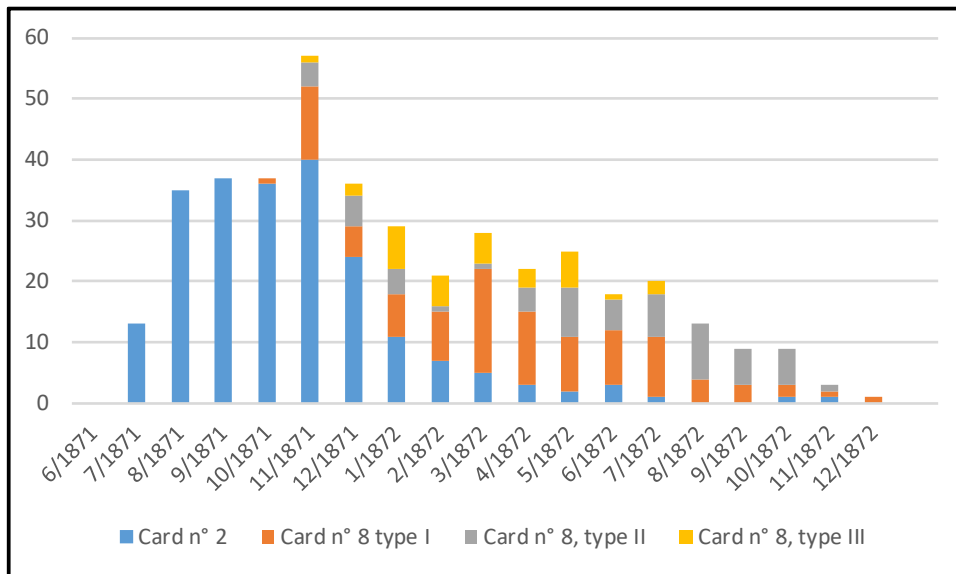


Card 8, types I and II



Card 8, type III

Type II differs from type I by the absence of PR7, a double PR8 and a double PA14.



Distribution through time of card n° 2 and the three main types of card n° 8

In the figure above, the distribution through time of cards n° 2 and 8 is shown, based on the 219 and 194 specimens of these cards in the collection of the first author. It can be seen that only four months after the introduction of card n° 2, the address line on the backside was shifted from the left to the right, and card n° 8 was issued. In November and December 1871 most post offices still sold their old stock of card n° 2, but from January 1872 on, card n° 2 progressively disappeared, and card n° 8 became dominant. The data shown above also suggest that the three main types of card n° 8 were issued simultaneously.

In the following paragraphs, we will give a detailed description of each of these three types. Next, we will compare our findings with the observations made on card n° 2 and discuss all differences and similarities.

Detailed description of the main types of card 8

Card N° 8, type I, ERP 26 October 1871



Card n° 8, type I is further characterised by:

- A frame consisting of **47 by 31 diamonds** (DA00 to DA46, DR00 to DR30, etc.).
- The **first address line (AL1)** counts **131 dots**, the **second one (AL2)** **150 dots**, whereas the **third address lines left (AL3L)** and **right (AL3R)** count **69** and **68 dots**, respectively.

In our 115 cards of type I, three main subtypes can be recognised:

In 46 cards, the **upper outer frame** shows a **large empty space left of the indicium, above PA36**. Additional empty spaces are present above PA24, below PB41, and left of PL27. We will call these cards **type I, subtype a**. This subtype corresponds to type I, subtype a of card n° 2.

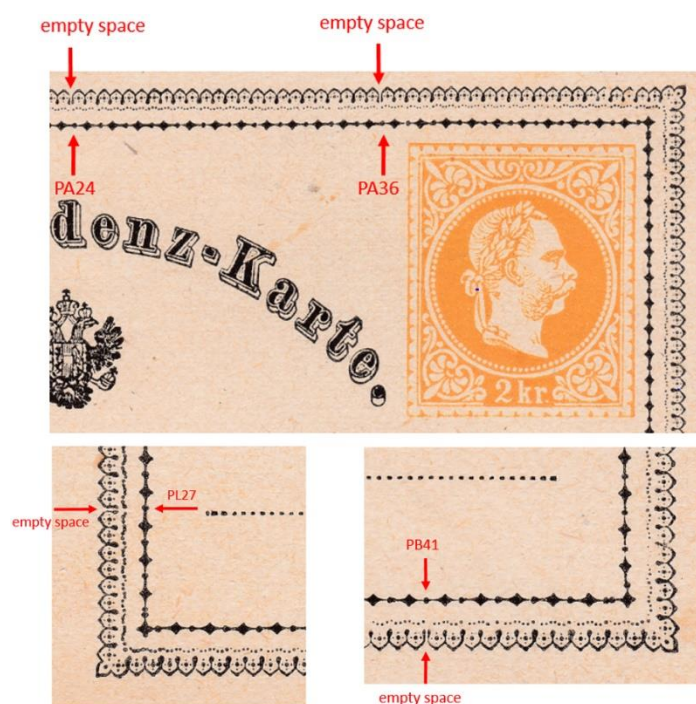
In 52 cards of type I, **the upper outer frame above has an empty space right of the indicium, above PA39**. Additional empty spaces are present between the arches above PA16 and below PB16. We will call these cards **type I, subtype b**. This subtype corresponds to type I, subtype c of card n° 2.

Finally, in the remaining 17 cards, there are **no such openings in the upper outer frame**. We will call these cards **type I, subtype c**. Such cards were not found for card n° 2.

Card N° 8, type I, subtype a, ERP 26 October 1871

Like for card n° 2, type I, subtype a, the general characteristics of subtype a are:

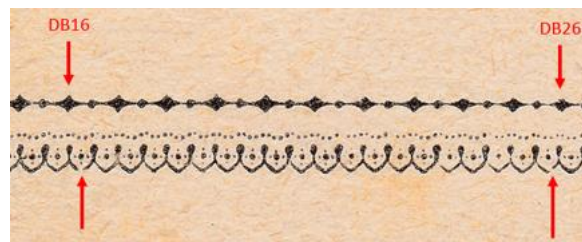
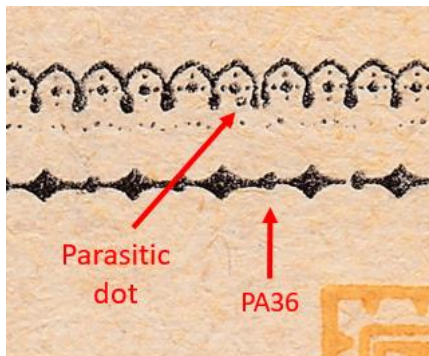
- Well printed, with regular successions of dots and diamonds in the inner frame, the middle frame is mostly continuous throughout
- In the outer frame, an **empty space** between the ornamental arches **above PA36, left of the upper left corner of the indicium**.
- Additional empty spaces above PA24,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



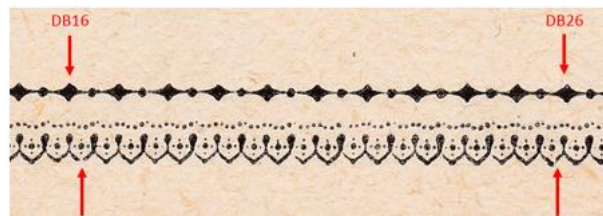
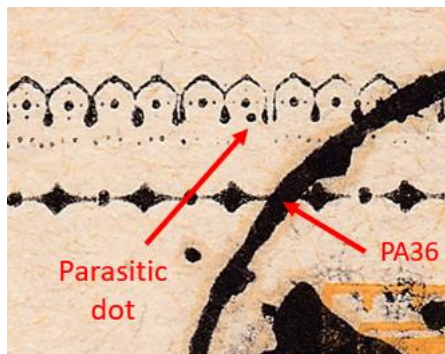
Within subtype a, 43 of the 46 cards, **termed subtype a1**, are similar to **subtype a1** of card n° 2, type I, that was distinguished by a clean ornamental arch left of the empty space above PA36. Conversely, in subtypes a2 and a3 of card n° 2, there was a large parasitic dot on this arch.

We distinguished **25 different clichés** in these 43 cards; 17 clichés were represented by a single card, two by two cards, four by three cards and two by five cards. Possibly, 32 different clichés existed. It is remarkable that **none of the 25 clichés recognised in our collection corresponded to one of the 15 clichés recognised in card 2, type I, subtype a1**. This means that a new plate has been produced, with a **complete set of new clichés of type I, subtype a1**. It appears that **not a single cliché of subtype a1 of card 2 has been re-used for card n° 8**.

The three remaining cards of subtype a, **termed subtype a2**, do have the parasitic dot characteristic of subtype a2 of card n° 2, but lack the additional dot above DA8 typical of subtype a3 of card n° 2, type I. One of these cards, of 22 April 1872, is further characterised by two broken arches, below DB16-PB17 and PB26-DB26.



Exactly the same anomalies are found in a card n° 2, type 1, subtype a2 of 13 July 1871:



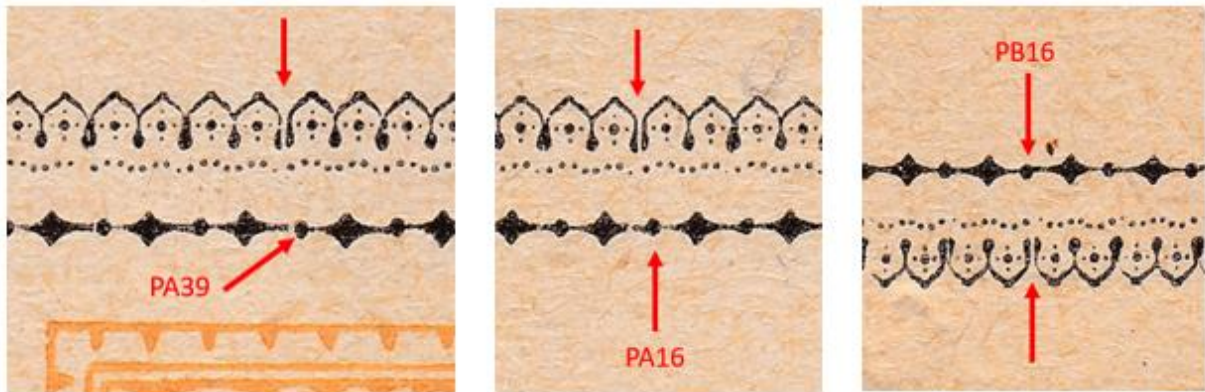
Other minor anomalies observed on both cards confirm that the front of these two cards (**one card n° 2**, with dating line on the back on the left, and **one card n° 8**, with dating line on the right) has been **printed with the same cliché**.

The other two cards of subtype a2 do not correspond to any of the 24 clichés recognised for subtype a2 of card 2, type I. These observations suggest that a **very small number (at least one) of clichés of the plate of card N° 2, type 1, subtype a2 have been used again to print card n° 8**.

Finally, **none of our 46 cards corresponded to subtype a3 of card n° 2, type I**, showing that no clichés of this subtype have been re-used to print card n° 8.

Card N° 8, type I, subtype b, ERP 10 November 1871

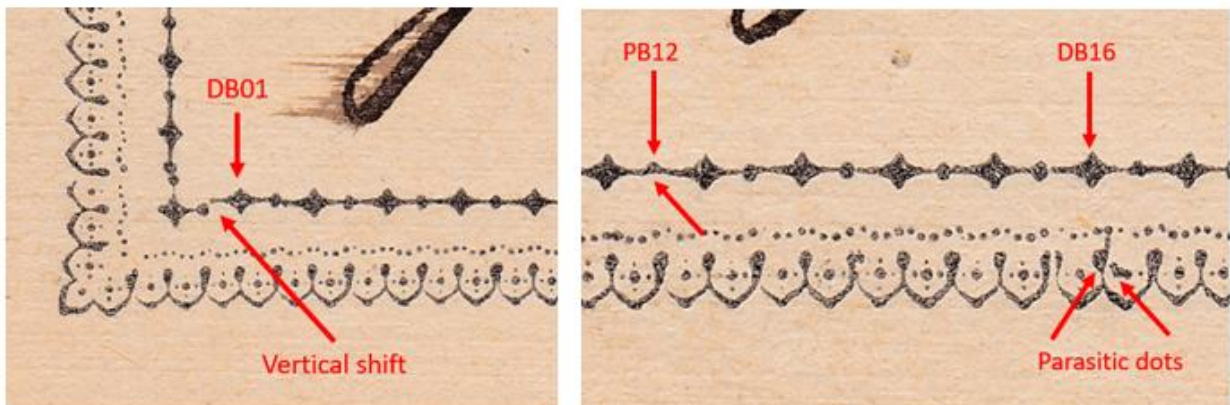
Card n° 8, type I, subtype b is characterised by an **empty space in the outer frame above PA39, right of the upper left corner of the indicium**. Additional empty spaces are present above PA16 and below PB16.



Further inspection allowed us to distinguish two groups for type I, subtype b.

Subtype b1 is further characterised by:

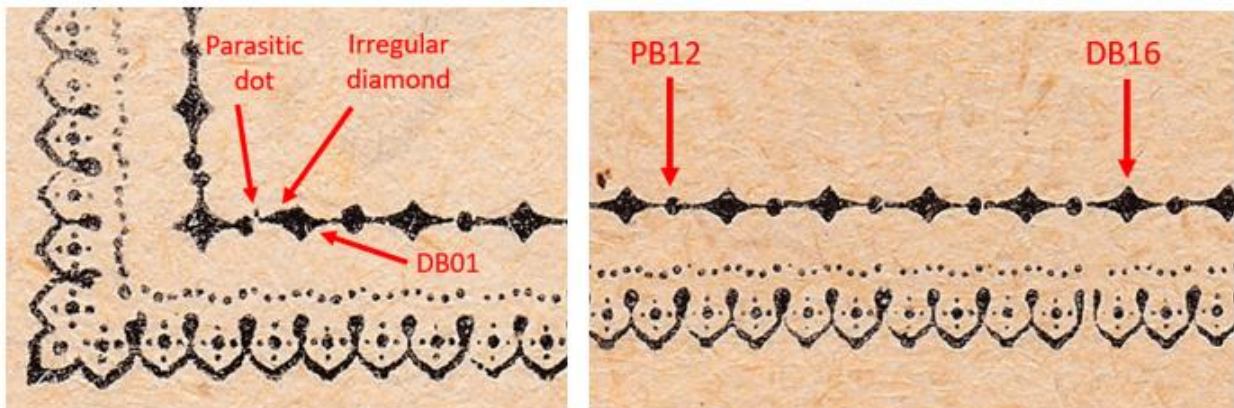
- **A large vertical shift between PB01 and DB01**, with the right part of the lower inner frame line considerably raised,
- **Two parasitic dots on the arches below DB16-PB17**,
- **Dot PB12 is missing the lower half**.



These cards are in all main aspects **similar to card 2, type I, subtype C**.

In **Subtype b2**, all distinctive treats allowing to recognise subtype b1 have disappeared:

- **The large vertical shift between PB01 and DB01 has disappeared**, the lower inner frame line is more or less straight now. On many cards, DB01 has an irregular shape, and a small parasitic dot is present between PB01 and DB01.
- **The two parasitic dots on the arches below DB16-PB17 are no longer present**, and,
- **Dot PB12 is no longer missing its lower half**.



However, the empty spaces in the outer frame typical for subtype b, above PA39, above PA16 and below PB16, are still present. Cards with these characteristics were never observed for card n° 2, type I.

In the 52 cards of our collections, 37 belong to subtype b1 and 15 to subtype b2. For **subtype b1**, the ERP (earliest reported cancel) is of **10 November 1871**, whereas the oldest card of **subtype b2** is only dated on **28 Mai 1872**.

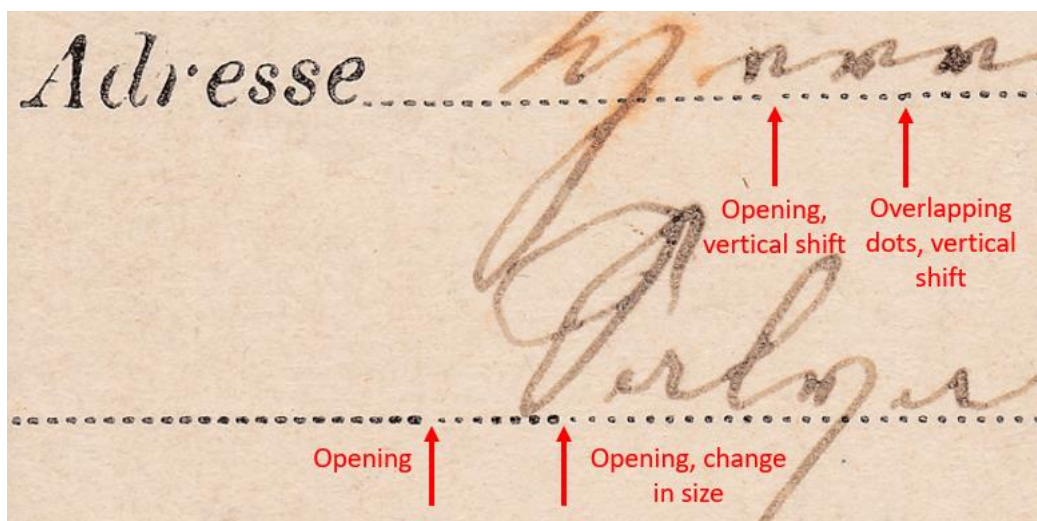
Among the 37 cards of subtype b1, seven clichés were represented with at least two cards: four with two cards, and three other clichés with three, five and seven cards, respectively. The 14 remaining cards each represented a single cliché, so that **in all, 21 clichés are represented by our cards of subtype b1**.

Like for subtype a1, none of the clichés of subtype b1 corresponded to any of the clichés of card 2. This means that **the clichés of card n° 2, type I, subtype c have not been re-used**, but that **new clichés have been produced for card n° 8**.

For the 15 cards of subtype b2, 10 different clichés were distinguished, of which one was represented by four cards, two by two cards each, whereas seven clichés were represented by a single card.

Card N° 8, type I, subtype c, ERP 5 November 1871

Card n° 8, type I, subtype c is characterised by **the total absence of openings between the arches in the outer frame**. At all places the ornamental arches are closely packed and show no widened spaces between them. Another remarkable trait of these cards is the form of the **address lines**, which show several **vertical offsets, openings, and almost overlapping dots**:



It appears that on the type-set original, that was at the origin of these cards, the dots of the address lines did not consist of individual dots, or of a single block ("comb"), spanning the whole length of the address lines » but rather of "combs" consisting of up to about 20 dots merged together. Where such blocks met, we can see wider or narrower spaces between them, small vertical shifts, or abrupt changes in the size of the dots.

It is remarkable that all three types of card n° 1 had such address lines, with the openings between the combs at exactly the same sites as on the cards of the cards of subtype Ic of card n° 8 treated here. On all other cards, the address lines seem to consist of either individual dots, or a single comb for the whole address line. It seems therefore evident that for the cards of Type I, subtype c, the address lines of an old typeset original of card n° 1 have been re-used.

The 17 cards of card n° 8, type I, subtype c, were all rather similar. Small anomalies, that allow us to recognise individual clichés, were rare. Consequently, we could only recognise one cliché

represented by two cards; all other 15 cards appeared to represent all different clichés. None of these clichés corresponded to clichés observed in card n° 1, types I, II or III.

Card n° 8, type I, subtype c has been used from November 1871 (ERP 5 November 1871) until July 1872.

Card N° 8, type II, ERP 2 November 1871



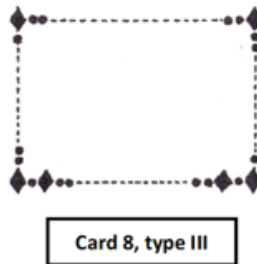
The pattern of diamonds and dots in the four corners is similar to Card n° 8, type I. The only difference is that **in card n° 8, type II, PR7 is absent, whereas DA14 and PR8 are both double.**

Type II is further characterised by:

- A frame consisting of **47 by 31 diamonds** (DA00 to DA46, DR00 to DR30, etc.).
- The **first address line (AL1)** counts **132 dots**, the **second one (AL2)** **150 dots**, whereas the **third address lines left (AL3L)** and **right (AL3R)** count **69** and **68 dots**, respectively.
- At several places, the outer frame shows **widened openings between the ornamental arches**. This is the case right of the double PR8, but also above PA22, PA28 and PA38, right of PR17 and below PB26 and PB45.

In our 68 specimens of card n° 8, type II, no subtypes could be differentiated. For 19 different clichés, we found at least two cards: one cliché was represented by six cards, two by five cards, five by four cards, two by three cards and nine by two cards. The remaining cards seem to represent nine more clichés, so that a total of 28 different clichés were present in our collections. These numbers strongly suggest that in total, 32 clichés existed for this subtype.

Card N° 8, type III, ERP 11 November 1871



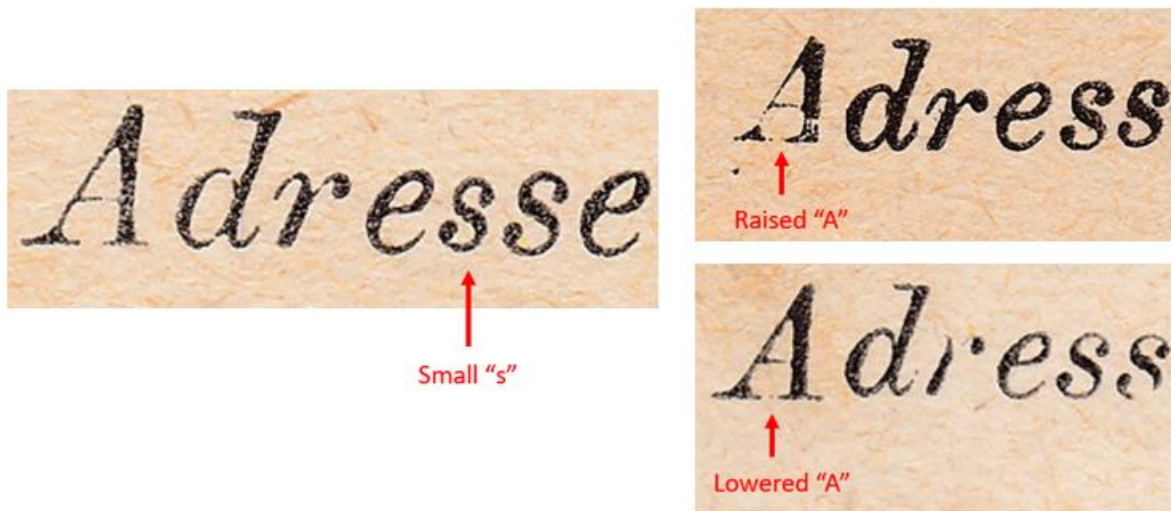
The pattern of diamonds and dots in the four corners is similar to card n° 2, type II. In card 8, type II, in addition to the double dots shown above, **PB03, PA44 and PB12 are absent, whereas PB11 is double.**

Type III is further characterised by:

- A frame consisting of **47 by 31 diamonds** (DA00 to DA46, DR00 to DR30, etc.).
- The **first address line (AL1)** counts **132 dots**, the **second one (AL2)** **150 dots**, whereas the **third address lines left (AL3L)** and **right (AL3R)** both count **68 dots**.
- **Widened openings** between the ornamental arches are present **above PA03, right of PR20 and below PB24.**

In our 38 specimens of card n° 8, type III, no subtypes could be differentiated. The cards are often very poorly printed, making the recognition of systematic anomalies particularly difficult. For 12 different clichés, we found at least two cards: four clichés were by three cards and eight by two cards. The remaining cards seem to represent ten more clichés, so that a total of 22 different clichés were present in our collections. These numbers again suggest that in total, 32 clichés may have existed for this subtype.

Some remarkable anomalies have been observed in several different clichés. This is for instance the case of a small first « s » in the word « Adresse », and also the position of the A of Adresse, that can either be raised, or lowered compared to the rest of the word. As far as we could see, no other systematic errors accompanied these lettering anomalies.



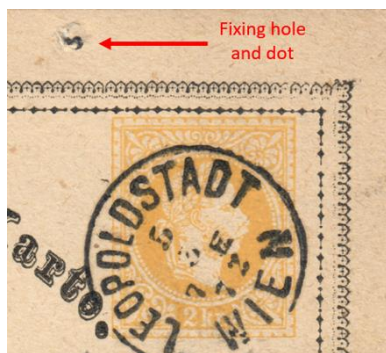
Observations of fixing holes/dots in Card n° 8

In our previous article, we showed that in several cards, small holes (« fixing holes ») were present in the corners of some of the cards, which always coincided with small printed black dots. Cards with holes at the same position always were printed with the same cliché, so that we could conclude that these holes were only present in specific places of the printed sheets. According to Tchernatsch (2019) the holes served to guide the paper sheets when they were inserted in the printing press. Similar printed dots (and accompanying holes) are present on complete sheets of Danish newspaper wrappers, and Engelbrecht (2021) indicates that these dots were used to position the printed sheets before they were cut into individual wrappers. We think that this explanation is probably also valid for the fixing holes and dots observed on our Austrian cards. Finally, we observed very similar holes and dots on the first French formular cards, issued in 1873, showing that the use of these fixing holes/dots was widespread.

In the 220 cards of card n° 8 in our collections, 21 had a fixing hole and black dot, or about 1 of every 10 cards. This ratio is probably too high, because we have acquired some cards just because they showed such a fixing hole/dot.

Fixing holes/dots were only found in cards of type I. They were found in 11 different clichés: in six clichés of subtype a1, two clichés of subtype b1, one of subtype b2 and two of subtype c. In four of these 11 clichés, the fixing hole was above left, in five clichés it was above right and in two clichés it was positioned below left.

The exact position of the fixing holes/dots was not the same for the different clichés. It was mostly positioned 0.8 or 1.3 cm from the left or right border (edge) of the card, but for one cliché it was positioned exactly in the corner of the card, and in another cliché it was positioned 3.5 cm left of the right border of the card. This is the only cliché we ever saw with the fixing hole/dot at such a very large distance from the border.



Fixing hole exceptionally placed at 3.5 cm left of the right border (edge) of the card. Note the black printed dot that has been used to fix the sheet (probably with a needle-like object). On this card, the remnant of the printed dot is particularly clear. Close inspection learns that such a printed dot is present under all fixing holes.

			Above Left	Above Right	Below Left	Distance from border	
8-l-a1	XX	unused card	XX			1,3 cm	cliché la1 ₃
8-l-a1	9/2/1872	Wien	XX			1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₃
8-l-a1	11/6/1872	Landskrongasse-Wien	XX			1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₃
8-l-a1	20/5/1872	Dobersberg	XX			1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₃
8-l-a1	8/6/1872	Graz Bahnhof	XX			0.8 cm	cliché 1a1 ND10
8-l-a1	18/1/1872	Linz		XX		1.3 cm	cliché 1a1 ND5
8-l-a1	22/4/1872	Neunkirchen		XX		1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₂
8-l-a1	27/4/1872	Neunkirchen		XX		1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₂
8-l-a1	1/7/1872	Wieden in Wien		XX		3.5 cm	cliché la1 ₇
8-l-a1	5/3/1872	Leopoldstadt-Wien		XX		3.5 cm	cliché la1 ₇
8-l-a1	3/10/1873	Wien		XX		3,5 cm	cliché la1 ₇
8-l-a1	XX	unused card			XX	1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₅
8-l-a1	XX	unused card			XX	1.3 cm	cliché la1 ₅
8-l-b1	9/12/1871	Linz	XX			0.8 cm	cliché lb1 ₁
8-l-b1	12/5/1872	Güntersdorf	XX			0.8 cm	cliché lb1 ₁
8-l-b1	7/3/1872	Göding	XX			0.8 cm	cliché lb1 ₁
8-l-b1	1/4/1872	Wieden in Wien		XX		1.3 cm	cliché lb1 ND11
8-l-b2	28/6/1872	Schottwien	XX			0 cm	cliché lb2 ₅
8-l-b2	22/8/1872	Reichraming	XX			0 cm	cliché lb2 ₅
8-l-c	24/11/1871	Tannwald		XX		1.3 cm	cliché 1c ND3
8-l-c	7/3/1872	Mondsee			XX	0.8 cm	cliché 1c ND5

Overview of our cards with fixing holes/dots. The last column refers to the description of individual clichés in the appendix of this article. The indication ND followed by a number means « not distinguished ». This concerns clichés for which only a single card was available in our collections, and that are therefore not described in the appendix. The other cliché numbers correspond to those used in the appendix.

Two cards used shortly after each other (on 22 and 27 April 1872) by the same sender in Neunkirchen, have probably been bought together at the post office. Many small anomalies (for instance the small breaks in the lower frame of the indicium) confirm that these two cards have been printed with the same cliché of card 8, type I, subtype a1. Under the two fixing holes, small remnants of the printed black dot can be observed.



The interest of this pair of cards printed with the same cliché is that the position of the stamp with respect to the frames is different in the two cards. In the card to the right, the indicium is closer to the upper frame lines and slightly farther away from the right frame lines. In our opinion, this clearly shows that the fixing holes have not been used when the sheets were inserted in the printing press (as suggested by Tchernatsch), because in that case, the position of the indicium compared to the frames should be the same. It confirms our conviction that these pin holes have served to fix the sheets prior to the cutting of the individual postal cards.

Discussion

1. Periods of use of the various types and subtypes

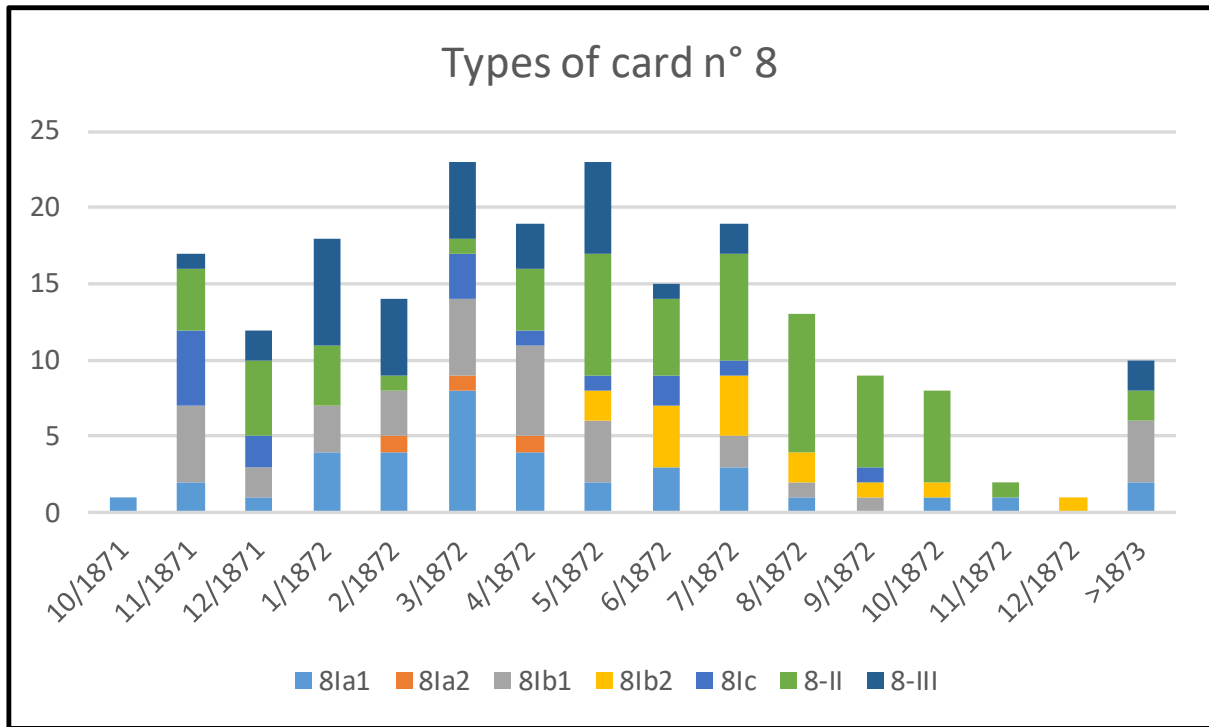


Figure showing the temporal distribution of the various types and subtypes of card n° 8, based on the 204 used cards in our collections.

In the figure above, the presence of both types I (subtypes a1 and b1), II and III in November 1871 suggest that they were all issued together at the end of October 1871. The three cards of type I, subtype a2 are dated in February, March and April 1872, but in view of the small number, no conclusions can be drawn as to their earliest appearance. Finally, type I, subtype b2 appeared only in May 1872, six months after the first specimens of card n° 8 were issued.

Type/subtype	8Ia1	8Ia2	8Ib1	8Ib2	8Ic	8-II	8-III
ERP	26/10/1871	11/2/1872	10/11/1871	28/5/1872	5/11/1871	2/11/1871	11/11/1871
N° of cards	43	3	37	15	17	68	38
N° of observed clichés	25	3	21	10	16	28	22
Estimated n° of clichés	32	?	32	?	?	32	32

2. Production process

As all earlier cards, also for card n° 8, there is no doubt that it has been printed by typography. In this printing technique, four main stages can be recognised in the printing material:

- a) The “**Type set original**” (**TSO**) refers to the very first stage, on which for each character and/or ornament, a metal element is selected. These elements are assembled on a wooden block (above on the picture below).



Example of type set compositions. Source : Musée de l’Imprimerie de Nantes.

Typeset text and ornaments can alternate with inserted engraved objects, such as the indicium or the coat of arms (example in the picture below, lowest row, 3rd object). When the composition is finished, the typeset “block” can be partly immobilized by putting a belt around it. However, the individual elements remain slightly mobile, on a millimetric scale! The typeset elements may move when you transport the block.



Example of typeset compositions. Source : Musée de l’Imprimerie de Nantes.

- b) With the TSO, a “**Master copy**” (**MC**) is produced. The MC is an intermediate stage, that is obtained from the types-set original by a galvanoplastic process. The MC’s are used to produce the number of clichés required to make an entire plate of 64 (or 32) cards. While producing the clichés, the MC will wear down, and progressively, small anomalies will occur. For that reason, when a large number of clichés is needed, several MC’s are produced from the same TSO. Since the Master copy consists of a single piece of metal, a metal mould, the individual elements are no longer mobile. Consequently, when several MC’s are made from the same TSO, they will all be slightly different, due to the mobility of the individual elements of the TSO.
- c) A **cliché** is a single copy of the Master Copy, produced to make part of the printing plate, that consists of 64 (or 32) such clichés. Since in this period, the reproduction process was not perfect,

all clichés produced with the same MC will be slightly different. These small differences can be used to identify the individual clichés and to count their number.

- d) The **printing plate** is the final product, used to print sheets with postal cards. According to most original sources, the printing plates of the early Austrian cards consisted of 64 clichés. However, Hungarian philatelists are convinced that the contemporaneous Hungarian cards were printed in sheets of 32 cards. It is not necessary that all clichés on a plate have been produced by the same MC or TSO. In our previous article, on the first bilingual cards, we could demonstrate that cards of different languages were printed with the same plate.

Our observations (and estimates) concerning the total number of clichés that have existed for each subtype are summarised in the scheme above. If for each of types/subtypes Ia1, Ib1, II and III, 32 clichés have existed, then these four types/subtypes would count for two entire plates of 64 cards. It is possible that we have over-estimated the number of clichés for one or more of these (sub)types, so that together with subtype Ic, there were 128 clichés in all, or two entire plates.

However, we observed 11 different clichés with fixing holes, one of them a type Ib2, that only appeared in May 1872. Although we cannot entirely exclude this, it seems unlikely that more than four fixing holes were present on a sheet. If true, the presence of 10 different clichés with fixing holes suggest that there were more than two plates. It may be that there was a third plate of 64 cards, or alternatively, these cards may have been printed in sheets of only 32 cards, as is thought by philatelists who studied the contemporaneous Hungarian cards.

3. Putative explanation of the various types and subtypes

In the next paragraphs, we will try to trace back the origins of each type/subtype. Because of the many different cases, this is a complicated matter. Things are even more complicated because the same types/subtypes sometimes are named differently in cards n° 2 and 8.

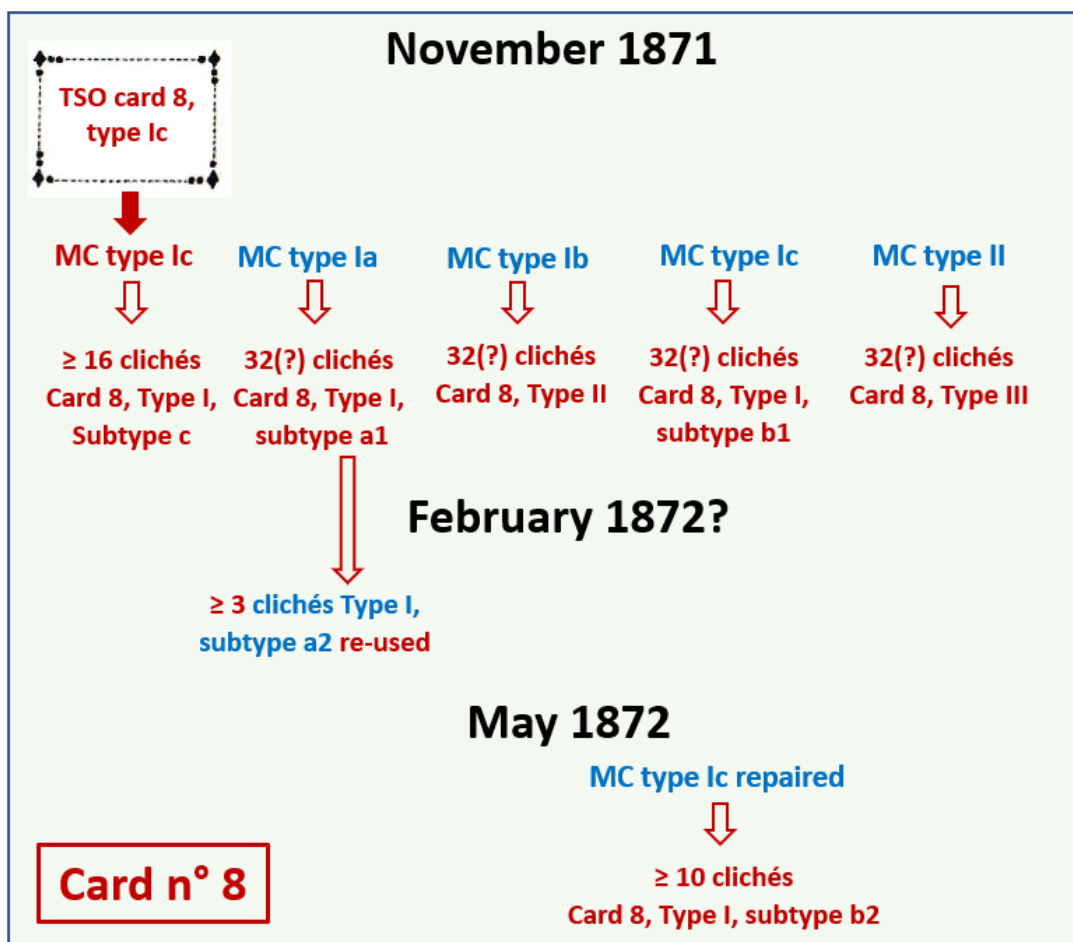
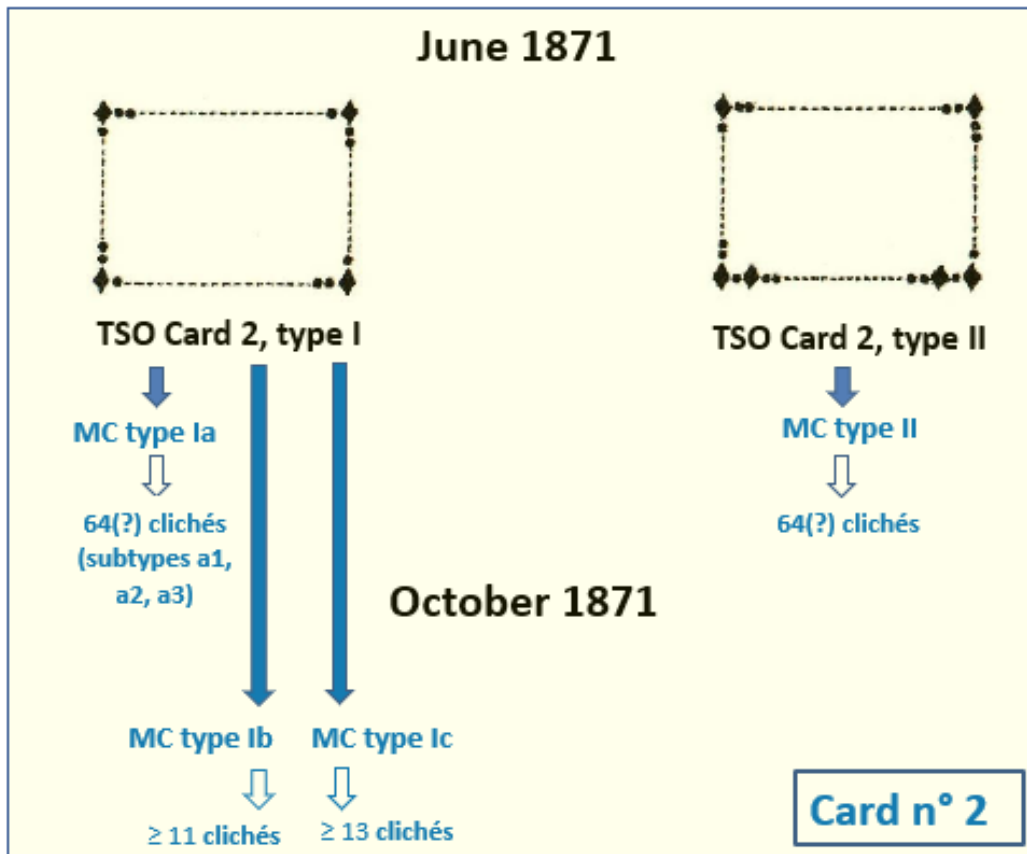
To clarify the situation, we will use the scheme on the next page. In this scheme as well as in the text, **all blue text refers to the numbers given to types and subtypes of card n° 2**, whereas **all brown text refers to numbers given to card n° 8**. The upper (yellow) panel refers to the different types and subtypes of card n° 2, whereas the lower (green) panel refers to card n° 8. A time-line, from June 1871 (the appearance of card n° 2) to May 1872 (the appearance of the last new type of card n° 8) is present in the centre of the schemes.

Card N° 8, type I has the same dot/diamond pattern as card n° 1, type III and card n° 2, type I. This strongly suggests that no new TSO has been produced for this card.

Card n° 8, Type I, subtype a (hereafter called **card 8 type Ia**) has the same characteristics as **card n° 2, type Ia**. It appears that no clichés of card n° 2 have been used again; all clichés used to print type Ia1 of card n° 8 have been newly produced. This very probably means that **with the MC of card 2, subtype Ia, 32 new clichés have been produced**. All these clichés are similar to subtype Ia1 of card n° 2, so that the suggestion of our 2nd article, that subtypes Ia2 and Ia3 were the result of progressive wear of the MC could be incorrect. Alternatively, it is also possible that the parasitic dots characteristic of subtypes a2 and a3 have been removed before the MC was used again to produce the clichés of card n° 8.

It is highly surprising that only 3 of the 211 cards in our collection correspond to type **Ia2 of card n° 2**. One of these cards appears to have been printed with exactly the same cliché as a copy of card n° 2. This suggests that **a small number of clichés of one of the old plates of card n° 2 have been re-inserted in a plate of card n° 2**. These three cards are dated in February, March and April 1872. The fact that we don't find such cards earlier could suggest that these clichés were not present when the plates of card n° 8 were produced, but that they were used to replace some damaged clichés at a later stage.

Card n° 8, type I, subtype b1, is very similar to **card n° 2, type Ic**. Again, all clichés seem to be newly produced, and no clichés of the plate of card n° 2 seem to have been re-used. It seems that also here, **the master copy of card n° 2, type Ic has been used to produce 32 (?) new clichés**.



Card n° 8, type II is the continuation of **card 2, type Ib**. Card n° 8, type II differs from type I by the absence of PR7 and the double DA14 and PR8. It is interesting to note that no cards show a missing PR10, that was observed for two of the clichés of card 2, type Ib. Since all clichés of card 8 are new, it appears that also here, **the old MC of card 2, type Ib** has been used to **produce 32 new clichés of card 8, type II**.

The procedure for the previous two types (**card 8, subtypes Ib1 and type II**) is somewhat surprising because the **MC's of card 2 (Ib and Ic)**, used to prepare the new clichés, were only produced in October 1871, whereas the new clichés for card 8 were produced in November 1871. It is impossible that these new clichés (of card n° 2) were already worn down too much. It is therefore difficult to understand why the (≥ 24) clichés produced for card 2 with these two MC's were not simply re-utilised for card n° 8. However, this was not the case; it appears that 64 new clichés were produced for card n° 8.

Next, **card n° 8, type III** is the continuation of **card n° 2, type II**. Also in this case, it appears that **the old MC of card n° 2 (MC type II)** has been used to produce 32 new clichés for **card n° 8, type III**. Also here, none of the old clichés of card n° 2 have been recycled.

The situation for **card 8, type I, subtype c (type Ic)** is more complex. As we have seen, the cards of this subtype are characterised by a type I diamond/dot pattern, and a **total absence of wider openings between some ornamental arches of the outer frame**, that are typical for the other subtypes of type I (in card n° 2 as well as card n° 8). Additionally, this subtype shows exactly the same address lines as the three types of card n° 1, with multiple combs of up to 20 dots. These address lines had not been used in any other card after card n° 1.

It appears therefore that an entirely new TSO original has been produced, in which the address lines of the TSO of card n° 1, that apparently was still available, have been re-utilised. It is probable that with this **new TSO (Type I, subtype c)**, a MC has been produced. With this MC, a limited number of new clichés have been produced (≥ 16 , as observed in our collections). It is not clear why a new TSO has been produced, and why less clichés have been produced with this new TSO/MC than with the other four MC, that were all used earlier to produce clichés of card n° 2.

Finally, **an important new subtype appears in May 1872**. This concerns **card n° 8, type I, subtype b2**. This subtype is basically **identical to type I, subtype b1**, but **the vertical offset between PB01 and DB01 has disappeared, as have two small parasitic dots on the arches below DB16-PB17**. It appears evident that **the old MC type Ic** (of card n° 2, used in November 1871 to produce the clichés of **card 8, type I, subtype b1**) has been retouched. With this repaired MC, **≥ 10 new clichés of card n° 8, type I, subtype b2 have been produced**. In view of the very late production date, these new clichés have probably served to replace a small number of broken clichés on the earlier plates.

Summarising, the material used for the printing of the plates of card n° 8 was highly varied. The large majority of the new clichés were produced with the four old MC of card n° 2, that were used again. To obtain the required number of clichés, one new MC was produced, apparently on the basis of a newly assembled TSO, using a very old set of address lines. Finally, when, some months later, the first broken clichés appeared, they may have been replaced by old clichés, taken from one of the plates of card n° 2. When, in May 1872, the number of broken clichés became larger, one of the old MC's was retouched, and a limited number of new clichés were produced. This overview shows that, as much as possible, the printers avoided to make new type-set originals and recycled old material.

4. Earlier classifications.

The earliest classifications of the postal cards with yellow 2 kreuzer stamp were by Kropf (1902, 1908) and Ascher (1913, 1925). Kropf introduced a classification with eight main numbers, which is still used by Ferchenbauer in his "Handbuch und Spezialkatalog" (2008). In these works, our card n° 8 is listed as card n° 2b (Kropf 1902, 1908) or 3B (Ferchenbauer, 2008).

Today, the majority of authors follows the classification of Ascher (1925) with 24 main numbers. For our card n° 8, Kropf already distinguished the three main types (I, II and III), that were, in the same order, also used by Ascher (1925) and Frech (1991, 2015). Unfortunately, Breitwieser (2018) changed the order of the three main types (type I became type II, type II became type III and type III became type I in his study), and this modified numbering has also been adopted by the later Michel catalogues. Evidently, this change of numbering leads to confusion. Here, we decided to use the original Ascher numbering, that has been used by a large majority of collectors for almost a century.

In the past, only Ascher (1913) has made an effort to recognise different subtypes. The detail of his observations is amazing, taking into account the optical tools at his disposal, and the fact that nobody realised such detailed observations in the century following his study.

In his earlier publication of 1913, Ascher presents six different cards that correspond to our card n° 8, that are listed as n° 17 to 22. Cards 17 to 19 correspond to type I, n° 22 corresponds to type II, whereas n° 20 and 21 correspond to type III.

For his **card n° 17**, Ascher indicates clear vertical shifts between PB01 and DB01 and between PB47 and DB47 as distinctive characteristics. These vertical shifts are typical for our **type I, subtype b1**. His **card n° 18**, that doesn't have such shifts, corresponds to our **type I, subtype a**. Finally, in his **card n° 19**, there is only a vertical shift between PB47 and DB47. This card corresponds to our **type I, subtype b2**, in which the vertical shift below left has been retouched. Ascher (1913) correctly observed that this last subtype appeared much later than the other ones.

As numbers 20 and 21, Ascher (1913) distinguishes two subtypes of type III. Whereas in his card n° 20, the double dots PA01 is almost perfectly aligned ("fast normal"), in his card n° 21, there is a clear vertical offset between the two dots of the double dot PA01. Ascher further indicates that in card n° 20, the address lines have the same length, whereas in card 21, the 3rd (lowest) address line is somewhat longer. We carefully examined our cards and observed that there is indeed a small vertical shift in PA01, that is slightly variable. Conversely, we didn't notice any differences in the length of the address lines. In our cards of type III, the third address lines were always slightly lower than the other two. Since we saw no other distinctive features, between cards with a larger or smaller offset in PA01, we decided that there was no sufficient reason to distinguish two subtypes.

Also Breitwieser (2018) recognizes the three main types of card n° 8. He mentions some anomalies for our type I, that he all explains as printing accidents:

- 1) A missing PR01b.
- 2) PR14 is missing, other dots are very weak
- 3) A weakly right inner frame line, with many apparently lacking dots.

In our material, we observed a single cliché of type Ia1 (only one card found; not described in the appendix) with an absent PR01b. Cards with very weakly printed right inner frame line, sometimes with several missing dots, are typical for our type III.

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Appendix

Classification of the types, subtypes and varieties of card n° 8

The following classification lists all types and subtypes as well as all the varieties of which we have **at least two copies**. The numbering of the main types follows the earlier classifications of Ascher (1913) and Frech (1991, 2015). Originally, **all types were supposed to represent independent printing plates**. In this article we explain that this is probably not the case. Our observations strongly suggest that **different types may have been printed together on a single plate**.

As before, **different subtypes** are thought to correspond to different **master copies made from the types-set original**. The **varieties** listed below are all 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 and not printing flaws. The **descriptions below show only the most prominent anomalies** for each variety; careful inspection will show other very small anomalies, which are identical in the cards printed with the same cliché.

The anomalies described below, 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 the 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 follow each other in time.

In the descriptions, **all diamonds and dot positions are numbered from left to right and from top to bottom**. In all cases **the diamonds in the corners at the beginning of the horizontal and vertical lines are not counted**, so that DA01 is the first diamond above, right of the diamond in the corner above left. AL1 and AL2 stand for address lines 1 and 2, whereas AL3L and AL3R indicate the third address lines left and right. Missing dots in the address lines are mostly not pictured in the descriptions below. The abbreviation CO stands for “Corner Ornament” (of the outer frame), whereas above left and right, below left and right are abbreviated as AL, AR, BL and BR, respectively.

Card N° 8, type I, ERP (earliest recorded postmark) 26 October 1871

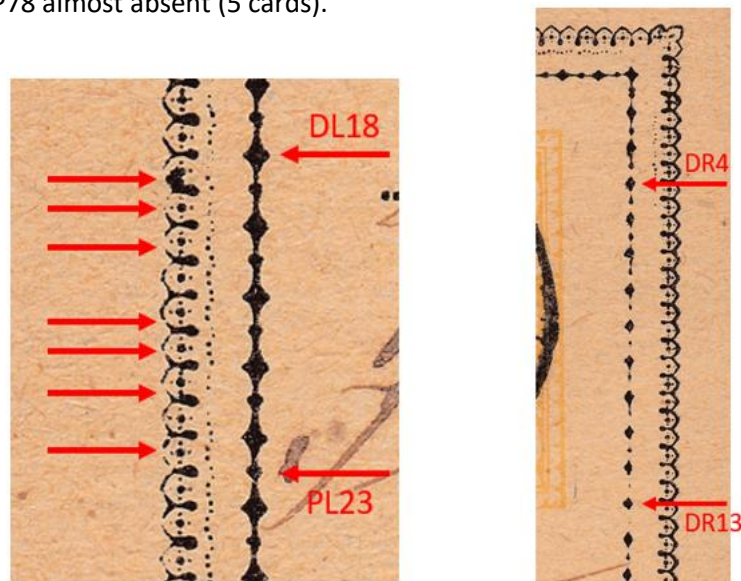


- Inner frame: 47 by 31 diamonds (DA00 to DA46, DL00 to DL30, etc).
- Address line (AL1): 131 dots; AL2: 150 dots, AL3L and AL3R: 69 and 68 dots, respectively

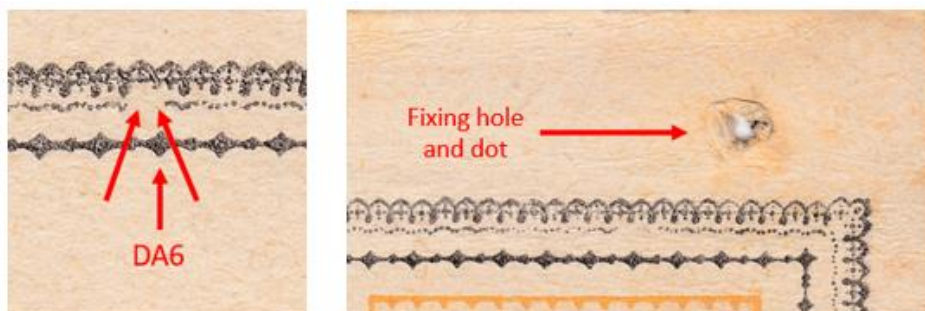
Type I - Subtype a – large empty space left of the stamp, above PA36. Additional empty spaces are above PA24, below PB41, and left of PL27.

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

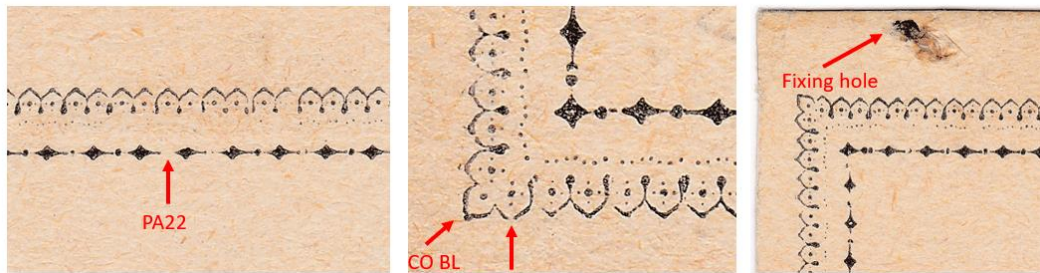
Variety 8-Ia1₁ – DR4 to DR13 all reduced and irregular, DL18-PL23 most arches broken, AL1: P57-P58 absent, AL2: P76-P77-P78 almost absent (5 cards).



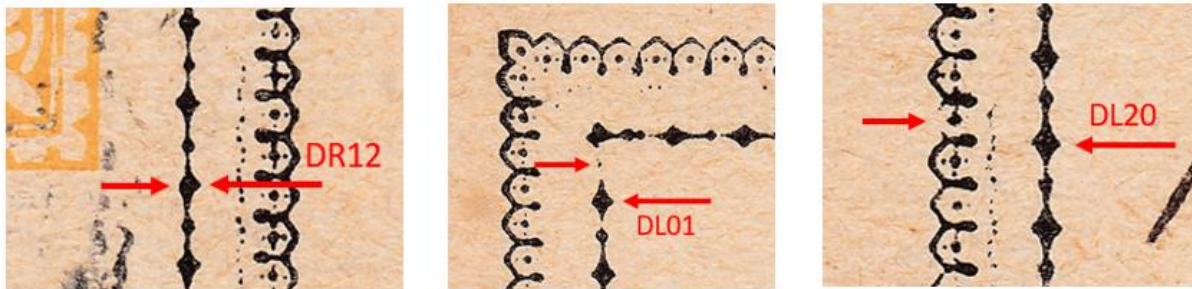
Variety 8-Ia1₂ – PA6-DA6 two arches damaged and hole in middle frame, AL1: first 10 and last 20 dots merged, AL2 same, AL3L: first 10 and AL3R: last 15 dots merged (3 cards). Fixing hole above right, 1.3 cm left of right border, in two of the three cards (see page 11, cards used in Neunhausen).



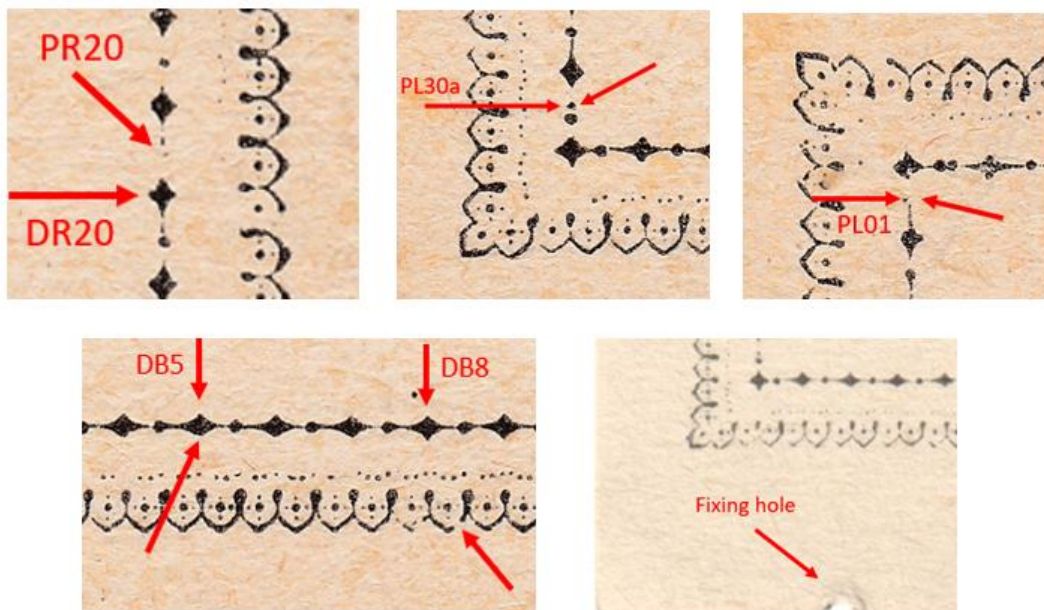
Variety 8-la1₃ – PA22 missing, PA23 reduced, CO BL broken below R, AL1: P19 missing, P65 missing, AL2: P73, P106 and P120 missing, AL3R: P66 absent. Fixing home above left, 1.3 cm right from the left border, in 4 of the 5 cards.



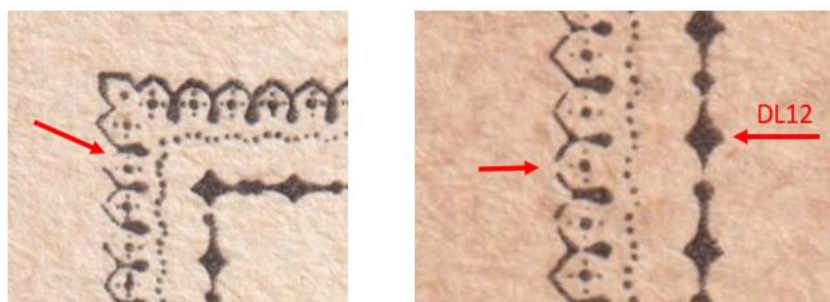
Variety 8-la1₄ – DR12 damaged L, PL01 nearly absent, PL20-DL20 arch broken (2 cards).



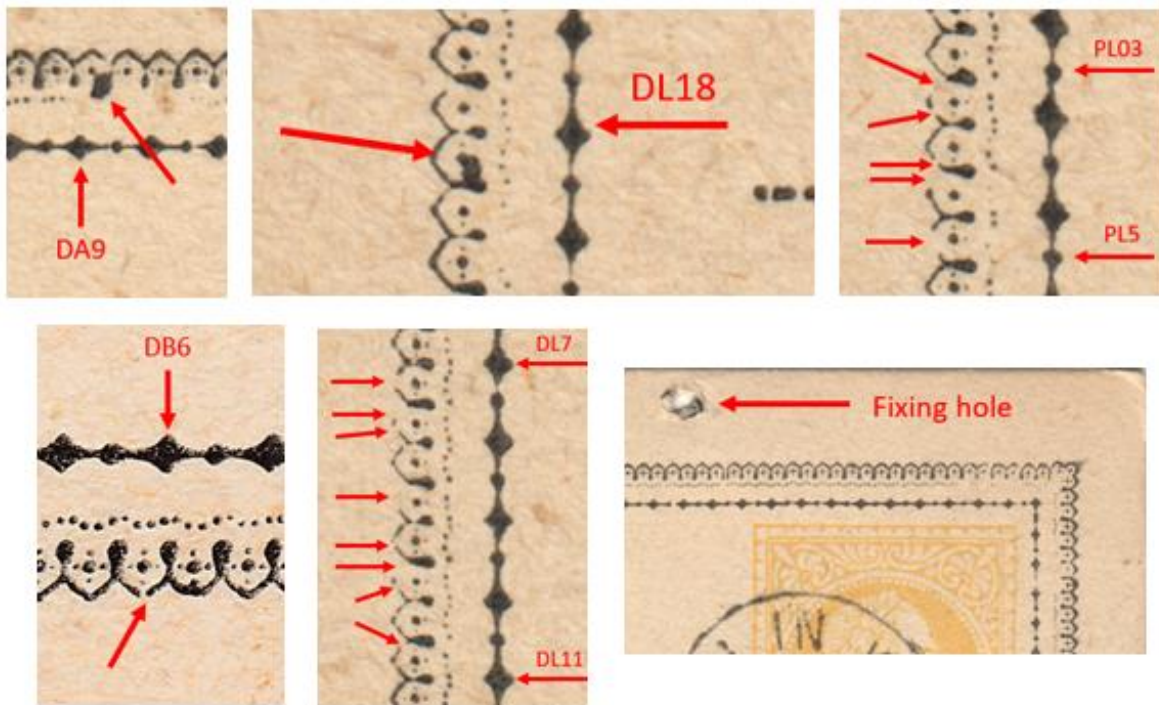
Variety 8-la1₅ – PR20 almost absent, DB5 shortened below, PL01 reduced, PL30a reduced, DB8-PB9 broken arch, AL1: P01-P03 elongated, P28 absent. Fixing hole below left, 1.3 cm right from the left border, in 2 of the 3 cards.



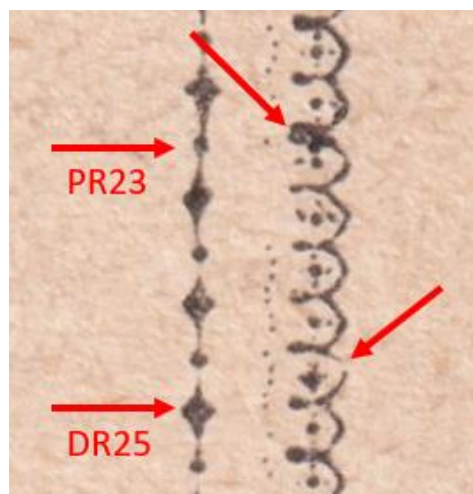
Variety 8-la1₆ – 1st arch left broken above, DL12-PR13 arch broken (3 cards).



Variety 8-1a₁ – DA9-PA10 arch heavily smeared, PB6-DB6 arch broken, PL03-PL05 4 arches broken, DL7-DL11 6 arches broken, DL18-PL19 arch smeared, AL1: P01-P05 very big, P20-P38 double, P116 reduced R, AL2: P44-P60 double. Fixing hole above R, 3 cm left from of right border in all 3 cards.



Variety 8-1a₁ – PR23 leg between 2 arches smeared, PR25-DR25 arch broken roof, AL1: P01-P04 very fat, AL2: P101 reduced/absent (2 cards).

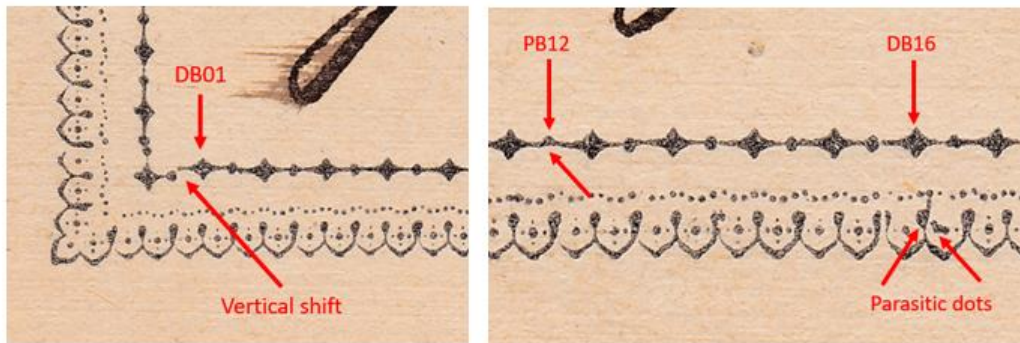


Type I - Subtype a₂ – with a **parasitic dot on the arch** of the **outer frame** immediately **left of** the empty space above **PA36**.

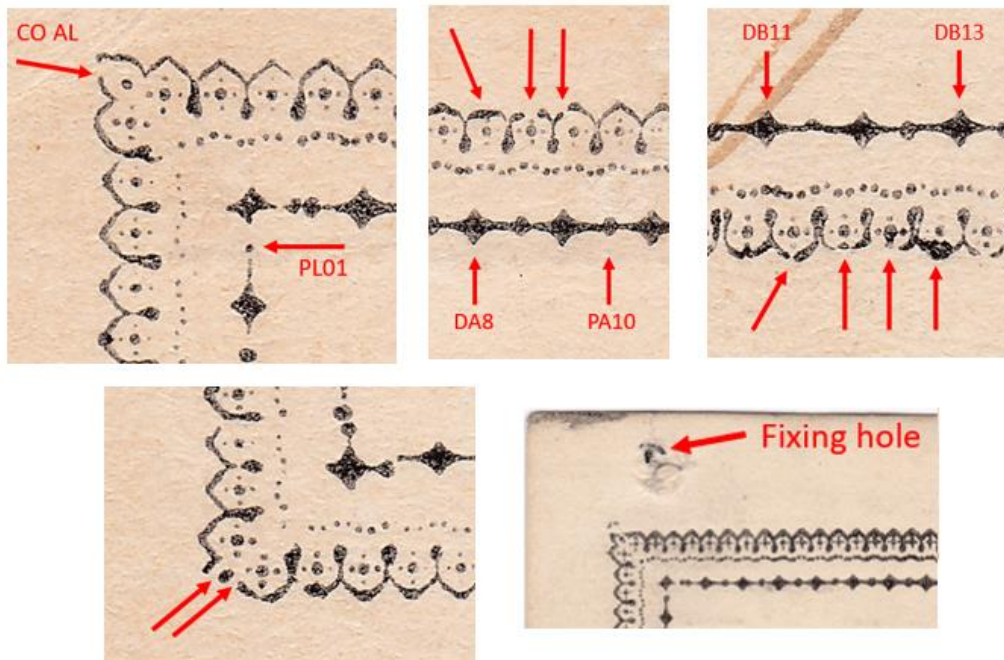
Only 3 cards have been found for this subtype, representing 3 different clichés.

Type I - Subtype b – empty space in the outer frame above PA39, right of the upper left corner of the indicium.

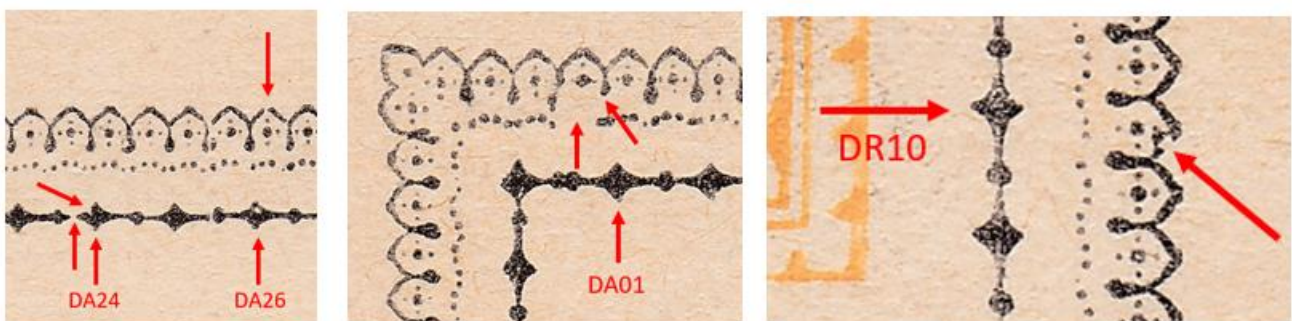
Type I - Subtype b1 – Large vertical shift between PB01 and DB01, PB12 misses lower half, 2 parasitic dots on the arches below DB16-PB17.



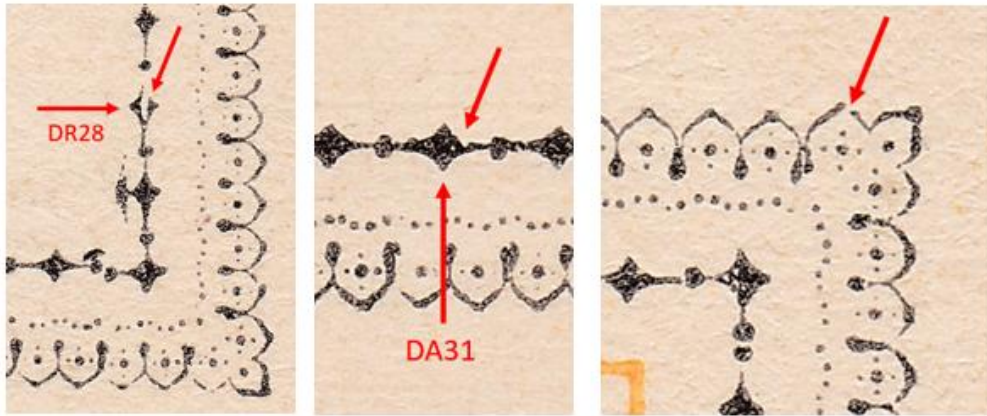
Variety 8-Ib1₁ – PL01 reduced, CO AL damaged above L, DA8-PA9-DA9-PA10 3 arches damaged, CO BL heavily damaged, DB11-DB13 4 arches heavily damaged, AL3R: P18 broken. 3 of the 7 cards have a fixing hole above left, about 0.8 cm right of the left border.



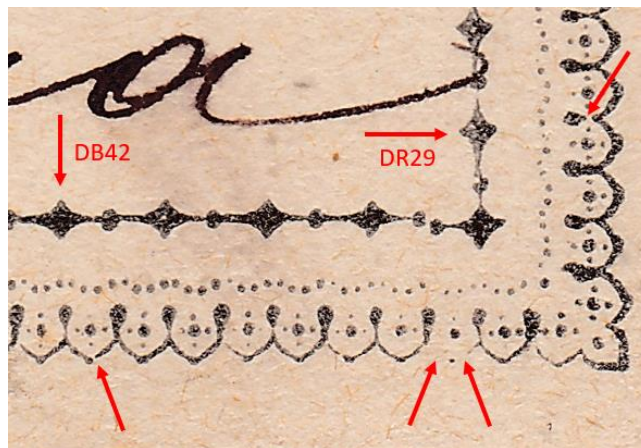
Variety 8-Ib1₂ – DA24 damaged above L, DA26-PA27 arch with broken roof, PA01-DA02 arch damaged below and middle frame absent, DR10-PR11 arch damaged below, AL1: P39 reduced above (state 2), P42-P43 very fat (state 1) or almost absent (state 2) (6 cards).



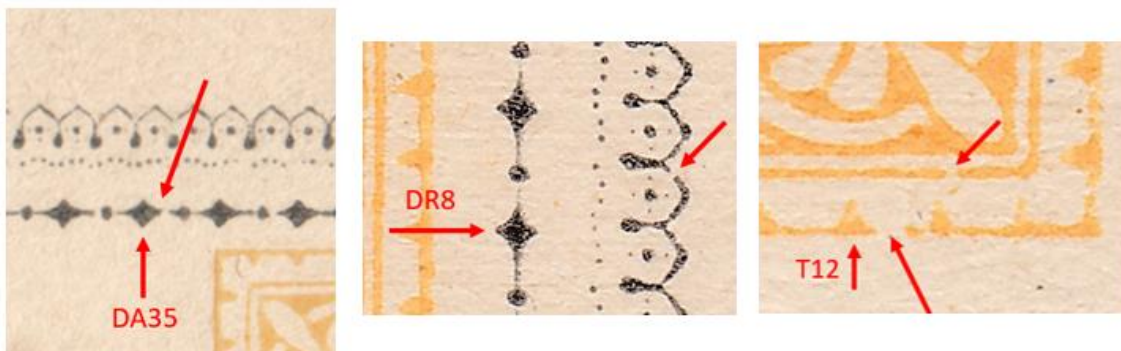
Variety 8-lb1₃ – DR28 large vertical white dash, DB31 incised above R, CO AR broken above L, AL3R: P01-P03 very fat (2 cards).



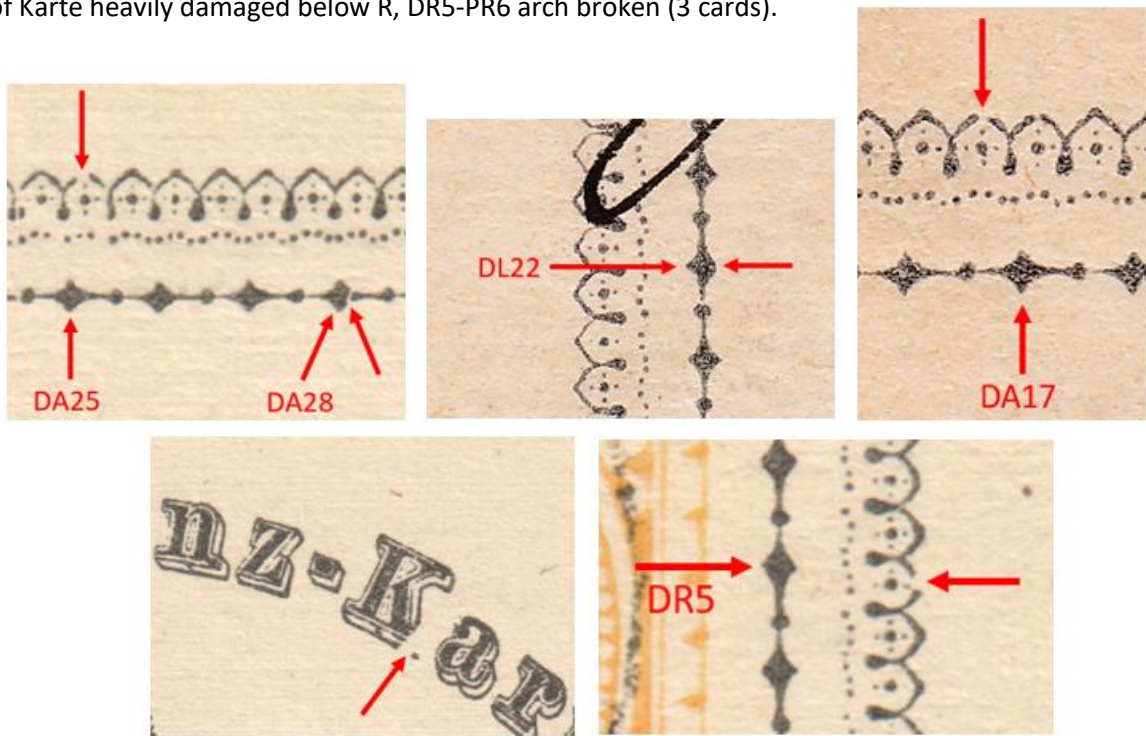
Variety Variety 8-lb1₄ – DR29 broken leg between 2 arches, DB42-PB43 arch broken, PB46-DB46 arch without roof, AL2: P61 reduced (State 1) or absent (state 2), P62 reduced (State 2) (2 cards).



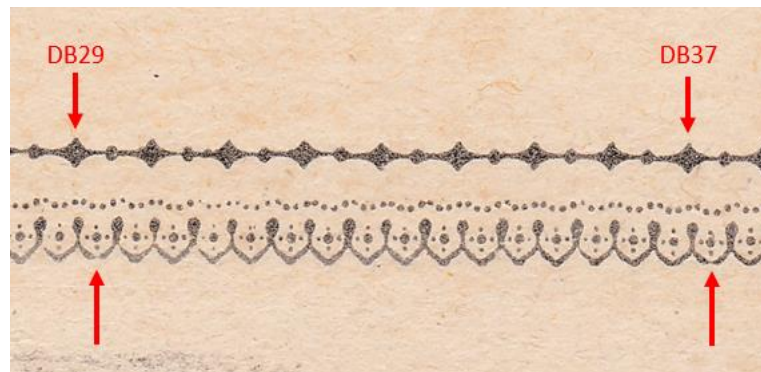
Variety 8-lb1₅ – DA35 truncated R, PR8-DR8 arch broken above, stamp frame broken below T12-T13, AL2: P06 missing, AL3R: P42 reduced (2 cards).



Variety 8-lb1₆ – DA29 broken R, DL22 truncated R, PA17-DA17 and DA26-PA27 arch broken. **State 2:**
K of Karte heavily damaged below R, DR5-PR6 arch broken (3 cards).

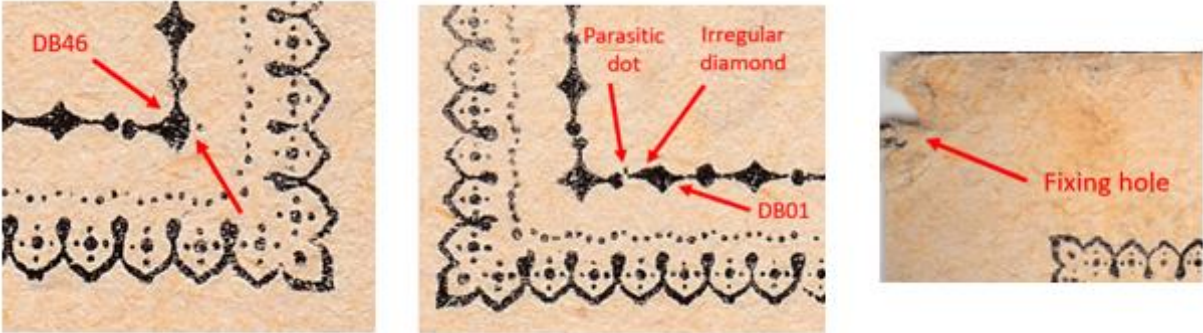


Variety 8-lb1₇ – DB29-PB30 and DB37-PB38 arches damaged, AL3L: P37 and P62 damaged (2 cards).

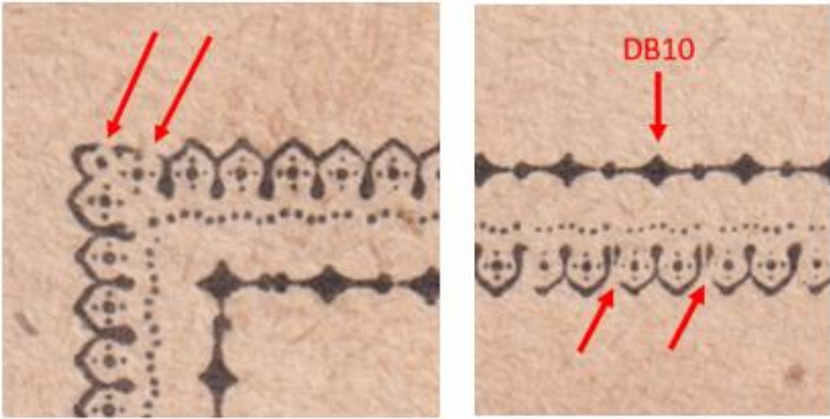


Type I - Subtype b2 – No large vertical shift between PB01 and DB01, PB12 entire, no parasitic dots on the arches below DB16-PB17.

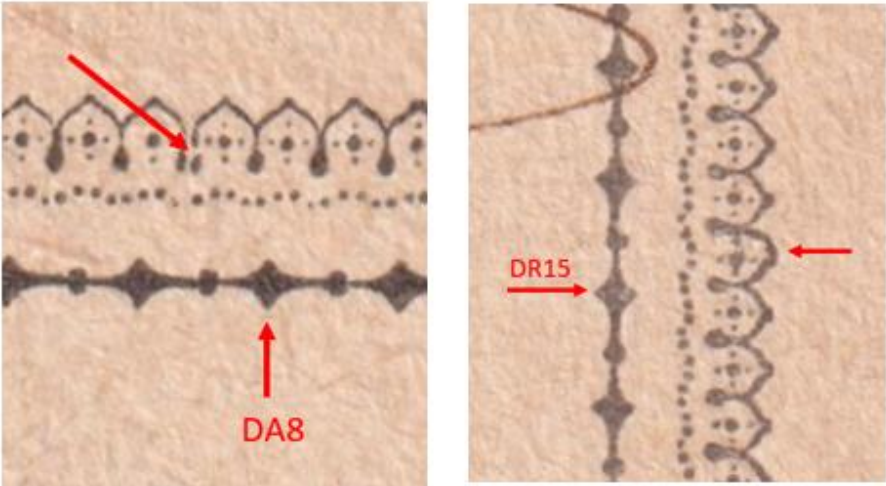
Variety 8-Ib2₁ – parasitic dot above PB01, DB46 broken R, fixing hole AL in 2 of the 4 cards, close to the corner of the card.



Variety 8-Ib2₂ – CO AL heavily damaged above, PB10-DB10 and PB11-DB11 arches broken L (2 cards).

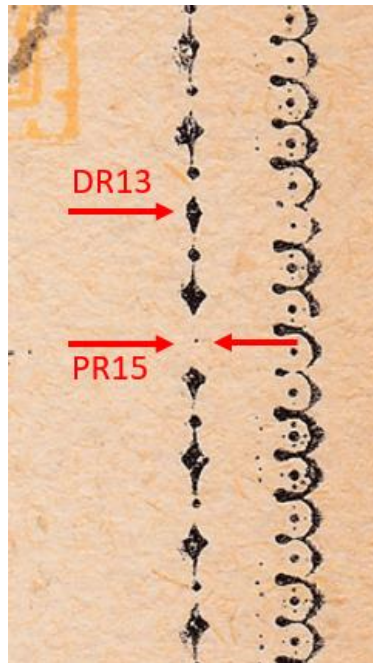


Variety 8-Ib2₃ – PA8-DA8 left leg of arch broken, PR15-DR15 arch bigger and rectangular (2 cards).



Type I - Subtype c – No widened spaces between the arches of the outer frame. Address lines with vertical offsets, openings, and almost overlapping dots.

Variety 8-Ic₁ – DR13 strongly reduced, PR15 absent, AL2: P134/P135 absent (2 cards).

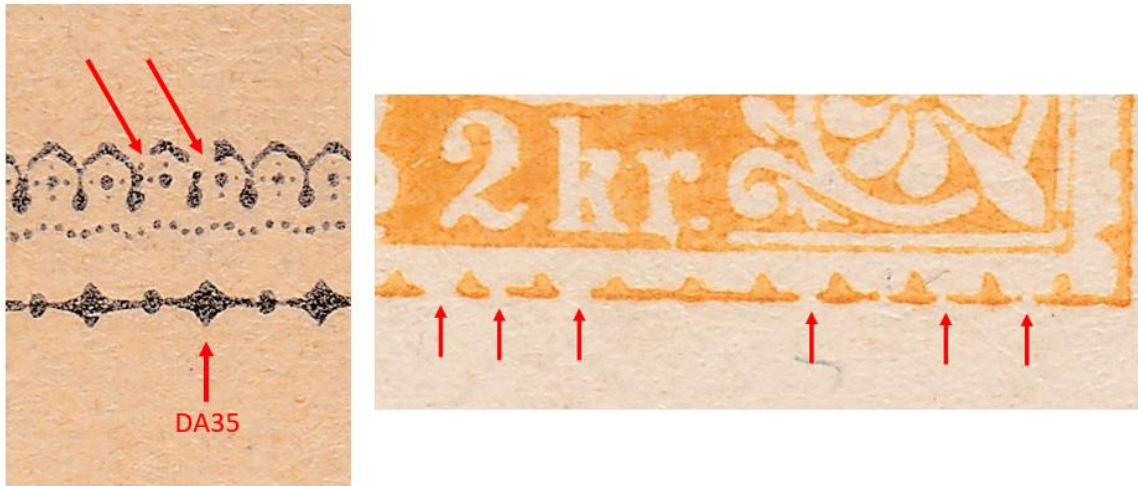


Card N° 8, type II, ERP 2 November 1871

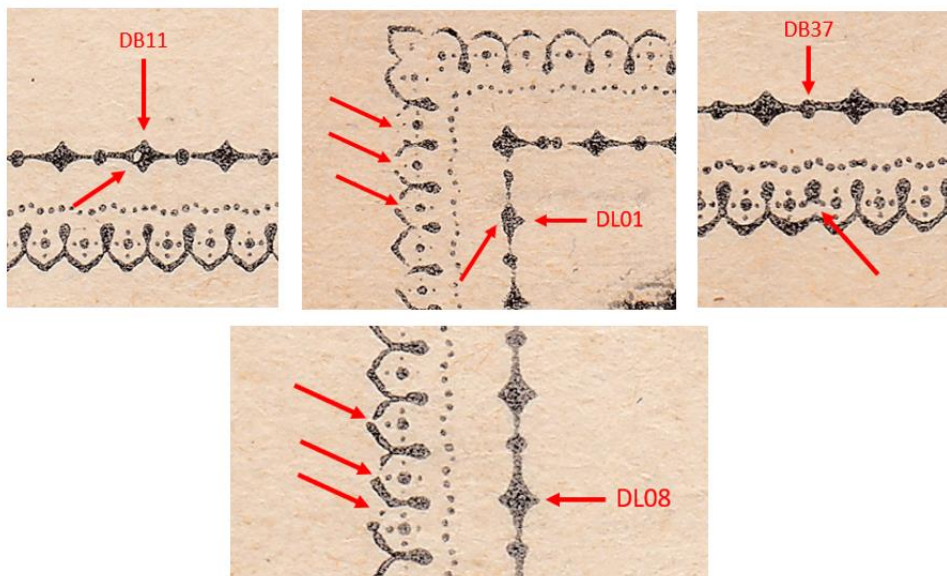


- Inner frame: 47 by 31 diamonds (DA00 to DA46, DL00 to DL30, etc.)
- Address line (AL1): 132 dots; AL2: 150 dots, AL3L and AL3R: 69 and 68 dots, respectively

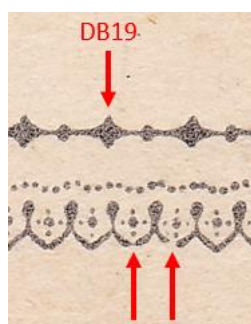
Variety 8-II₁ – PA34-PA35 2 arches damaged, several breaks in lower frame of stamp, AL3L: P61 to P68 irregular, elongated, merged (5 cards).



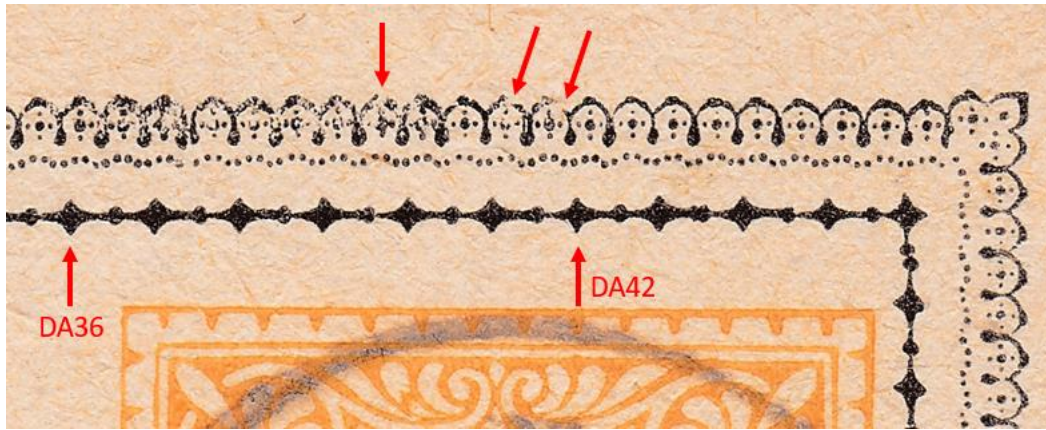
Variety 8-II₂ – DB11 big white dot, DL01 truncated L, PB37 dividing leg 2 arches damaged, CO AL-DL00-DL01 3 arches broken, DL7- DL8 3 arches broken (4 cards).



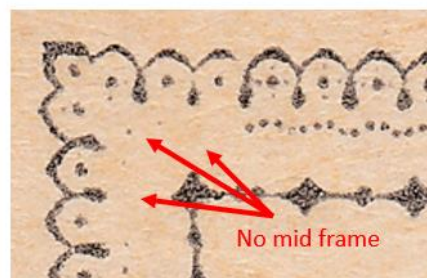
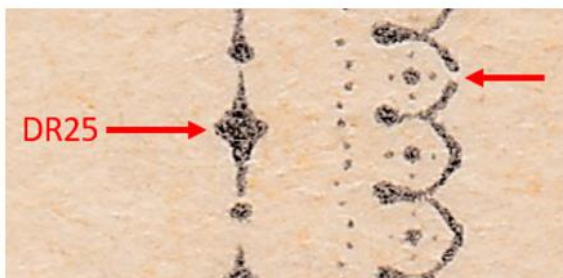
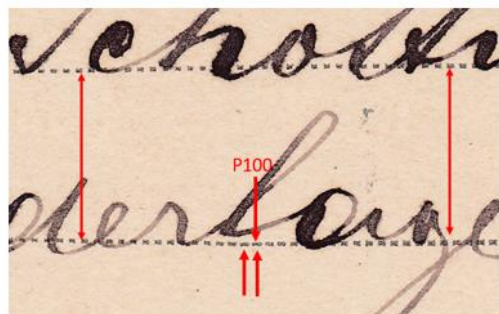
Variety 8-II₃ – DB19-DB20 2 arches damaged, AL3L: P43 elongated, P45-P46 merged (6 cards).



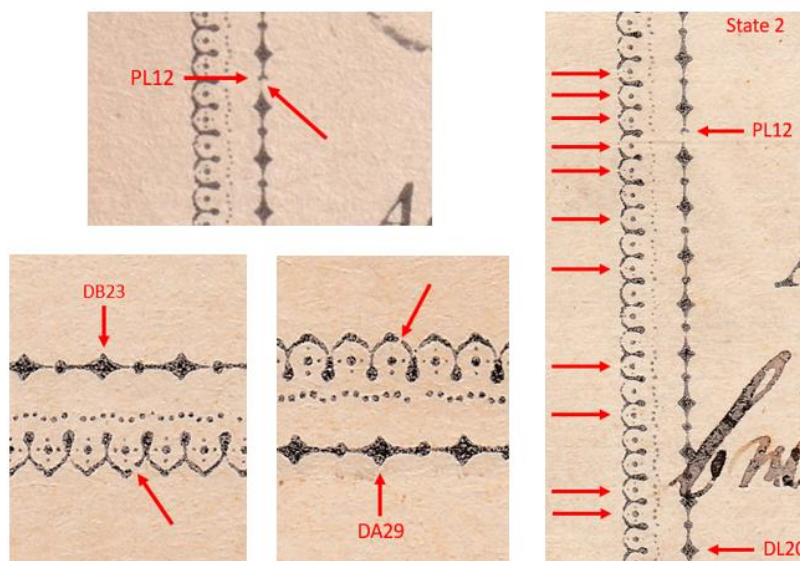
Variety 8-II₄ – DA36-PA42 all arches blurred, some damaged, AL1: P21 absent, P58 reduced (5 cards).



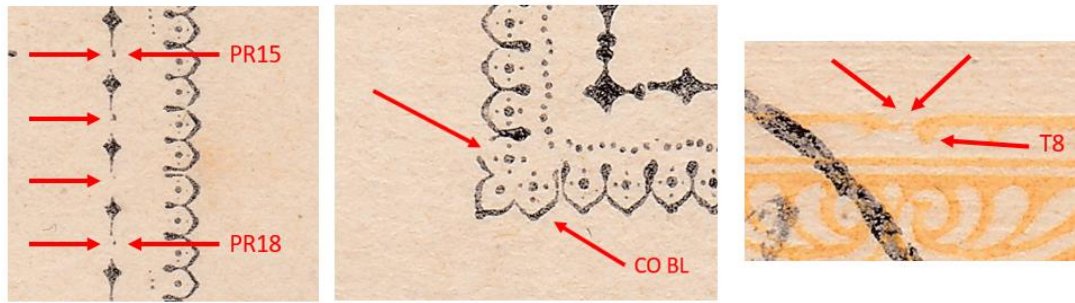
Variety 8-II₅ – Distance between AL1 and AL2 increasing to the R; AKL2: P99-P100 elongated. State 2: PR25-DR25 arch broken, no MF in corner above L (2 cards).



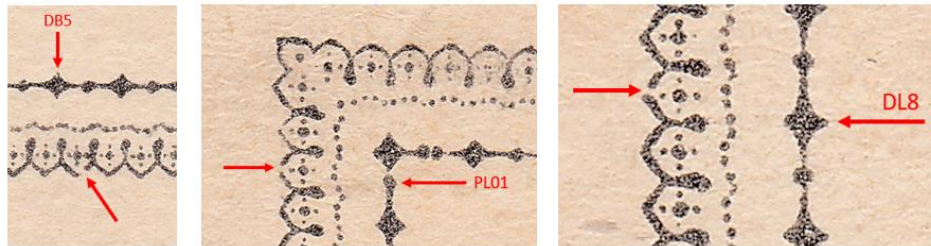
Variety 8-II₆ – PL12 damaged below, DA29-PA30 arch broken, DB23-PB24 arch broken R. State 2: numerous broken arches L (4 cards).



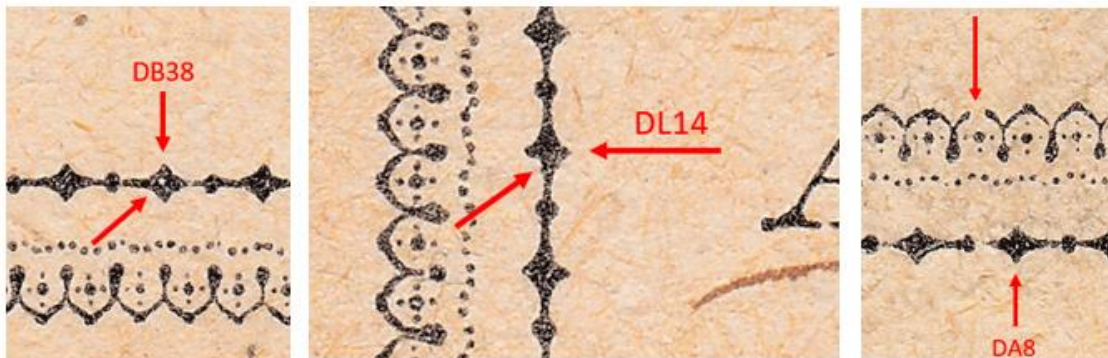
Variety 8-II₇ – PR15-PR18 absent or very weak, CO BL large break above L, stamp frame damaged above, P7-P8 (2 cards).



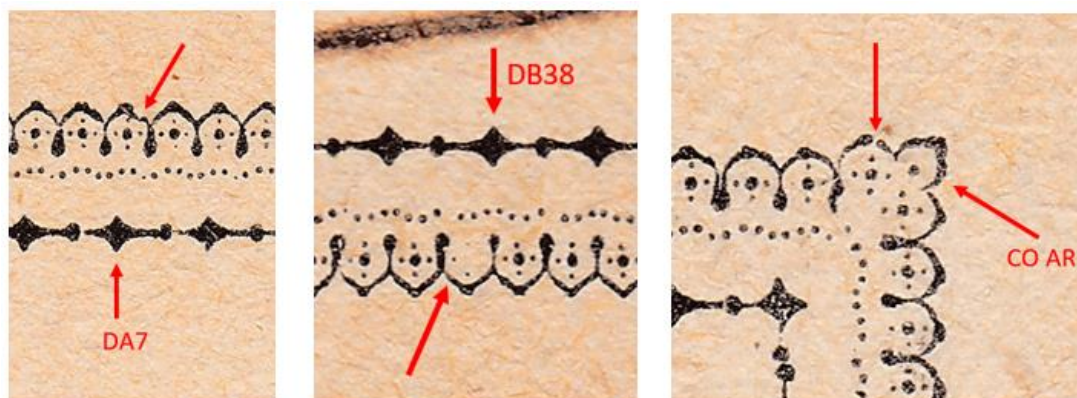
Variety 8-II₈ – DB5-PB6 arch broken R, DL00-PL01 arch broken, PL8-DL8 arch broken (4 cards).



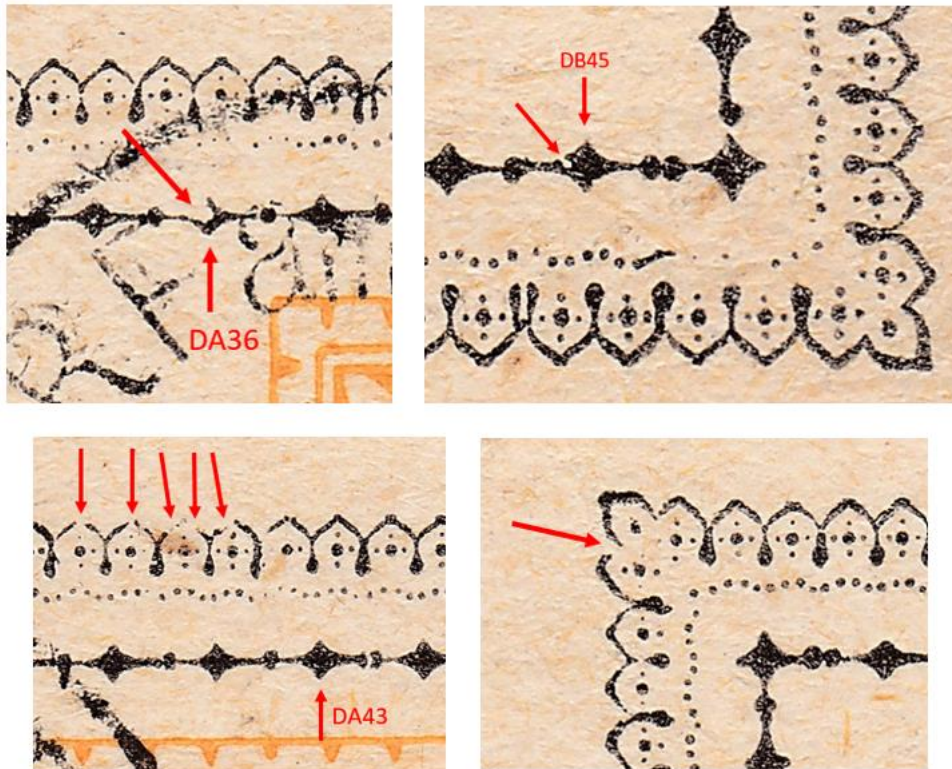
Variety 8-II₉ – white dot on PB38, DL14 incised below L, PA8-DA8 large hole in top arch, AL2: P98 and P99 strongly reduced (2 cards).



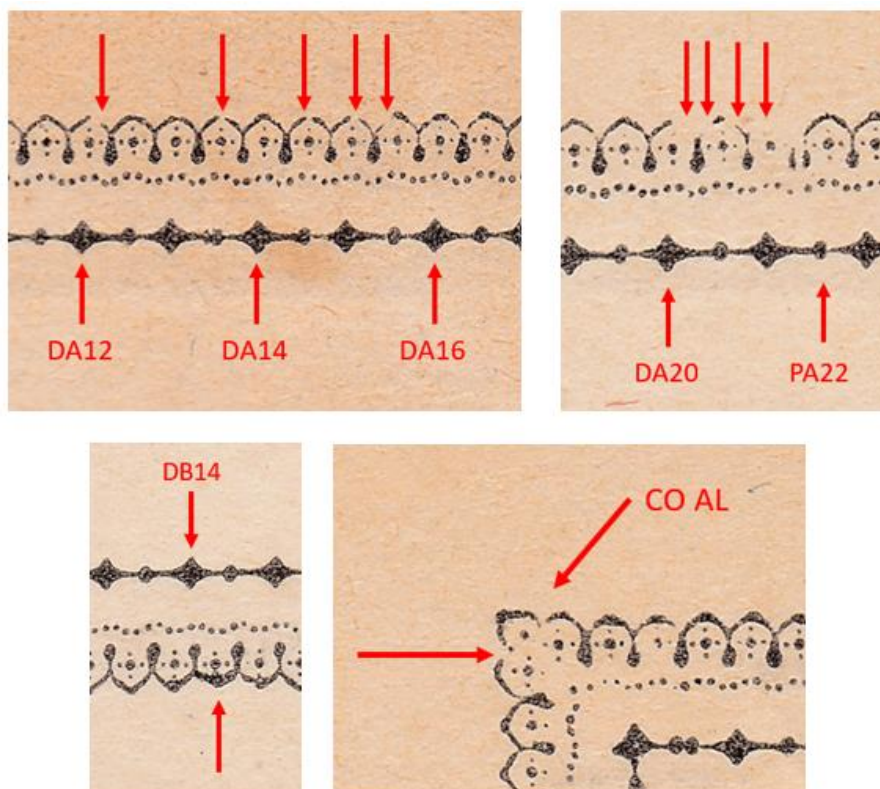
Variety 8-II₁₀ – DA7-PA8 arch slightly damaged R, PB38-DB38 arch empty, CO AR broken above L (4 cards).



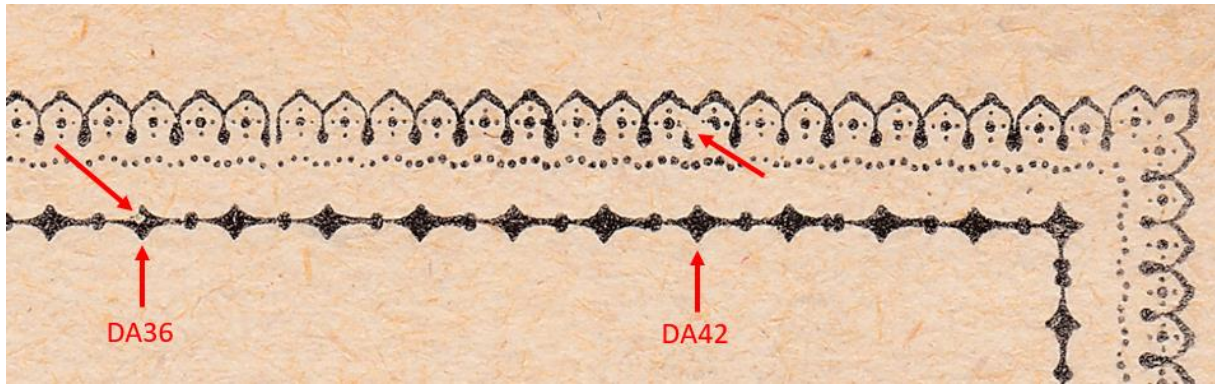
Variety 8-II₁₁ – DA36 incised, incised above L, DB45 incised above L, PA41-PA43 4 arches damaged, CO AL broken L (2 cards).



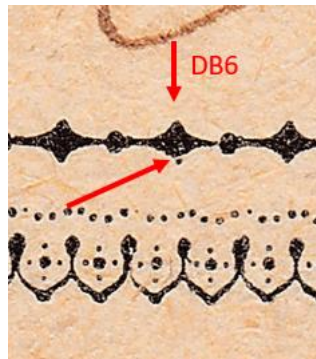
Variety 8-II₁₂ – DA12-PA13 and PA14-DA14 arch broken, PA15-DA16 3 arches broken, DA20-PA22 3 arches very partial, DB14-PB15 roof lowered, fat, CO AL broken L (2 cards).



Variety 8-II₁₃ – DA36 white dash above L, DA42 dividing leg broken (3 cards).



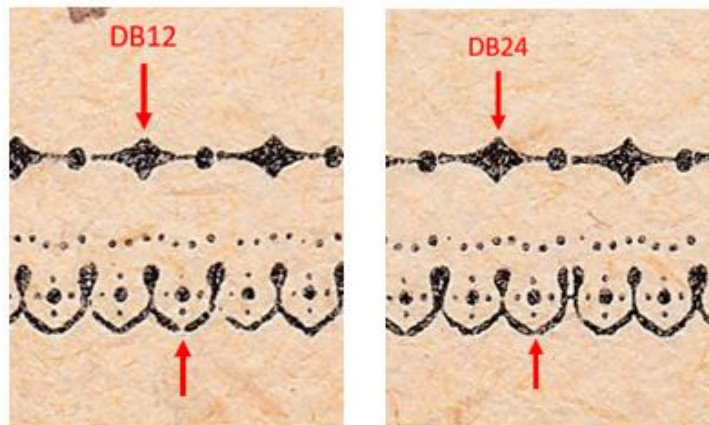
Variety 8-II₁₄ – DB6 broken below, AL2: P102 and P108 damaged (3 cards).



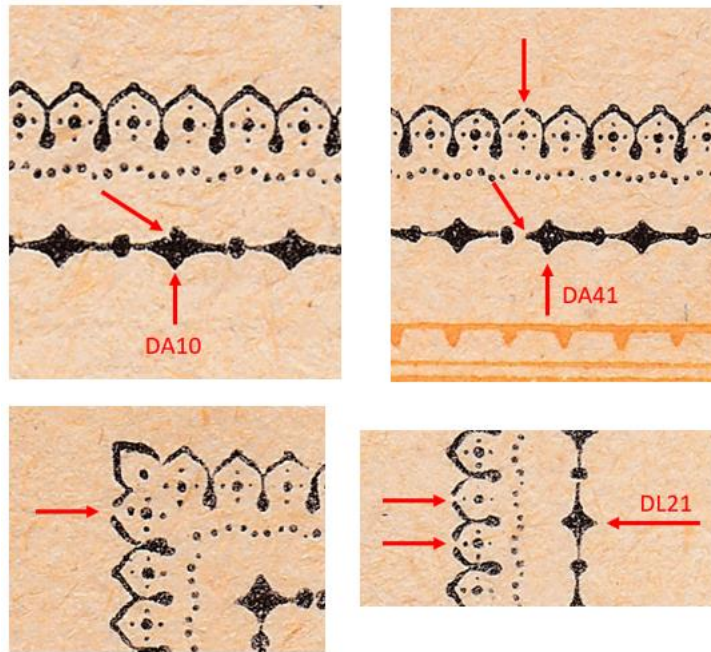
Variety 8-II₁₅ – DA27-PA28 arch heavily damaged, DB02-PB03 arch empty, AL1: P129 damaged (2 cards).



Variety 8-II₁₆ – DB12-PB13 arch broken, DB24-PB25 almost broken (4 cards).



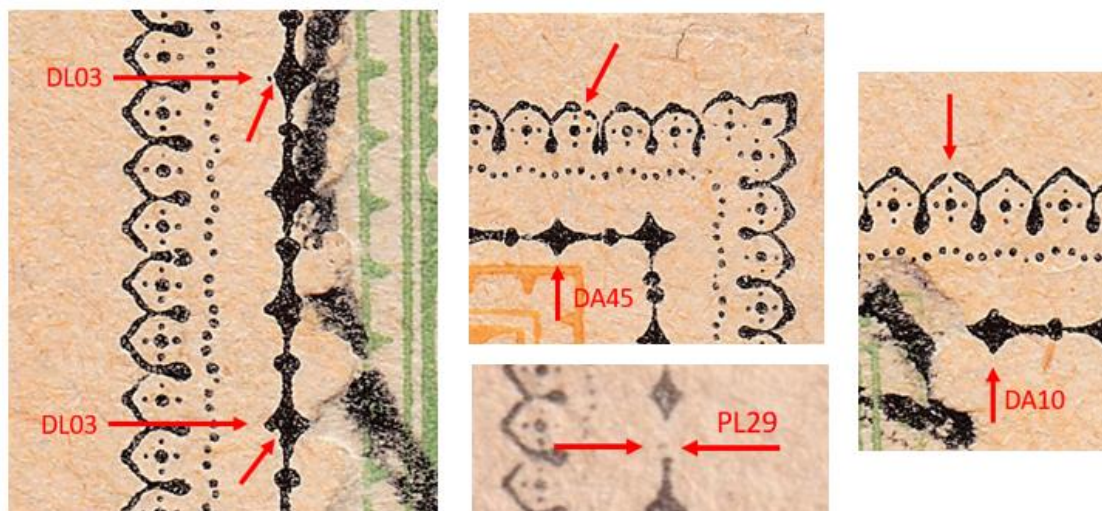
Variety 8-II₁₇ – DA10 incised above R, DA41 truncated L, PA41-DA41 arch broken, PL21-PL22 2 arches broken, CO AL broken L below (2 cards).



Variety 8-II₁₈ – PR7 almost absent, PR8b and PR10 missing, DL03 vertical white dash, DB33-DB34 2 arches damaged, AL2: P46 absent (2 cards).



Variety 8-II₁₉ – DL03 broken L, DL06 incised below L, DA45-PA46 arch broken. State 2: PL29 weak/absent, PA10-DA10 arch broken (2 cards). Two of the detailed pictures below shows parts of a green 3 kreuzer stamp used as a complementary franking on a card sent to Germany.

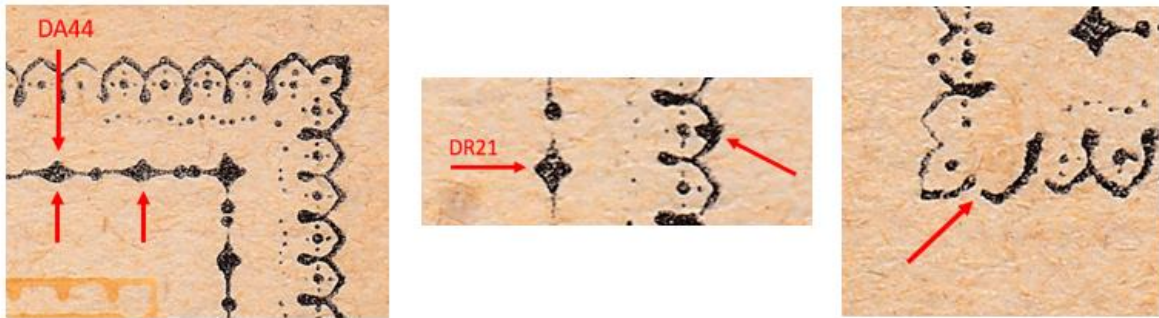


Card N° 8, type III, ERP 11 November 1871

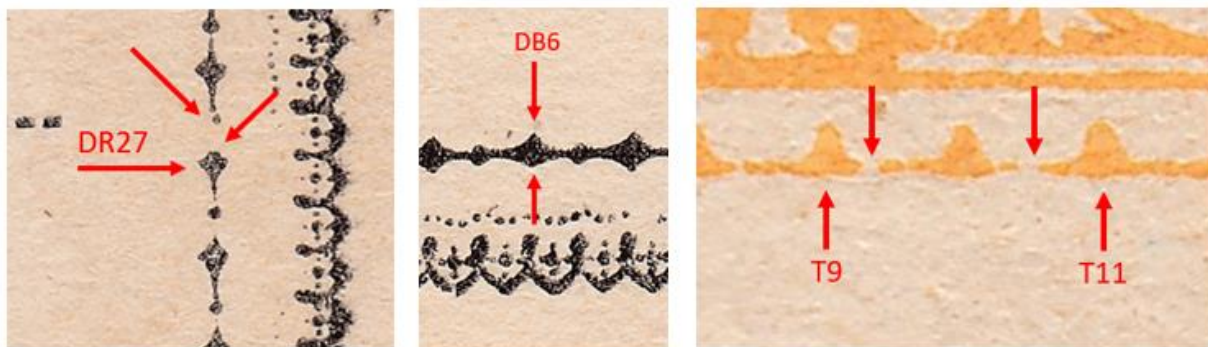


- Inner frame: 47 by 31 diamonds (DA00 to DA46, DL00 to DL30, etc.)
- Address line (AL1): 132 dots; AL2: 150 dots, AL3L and AL3R: 68 dots each

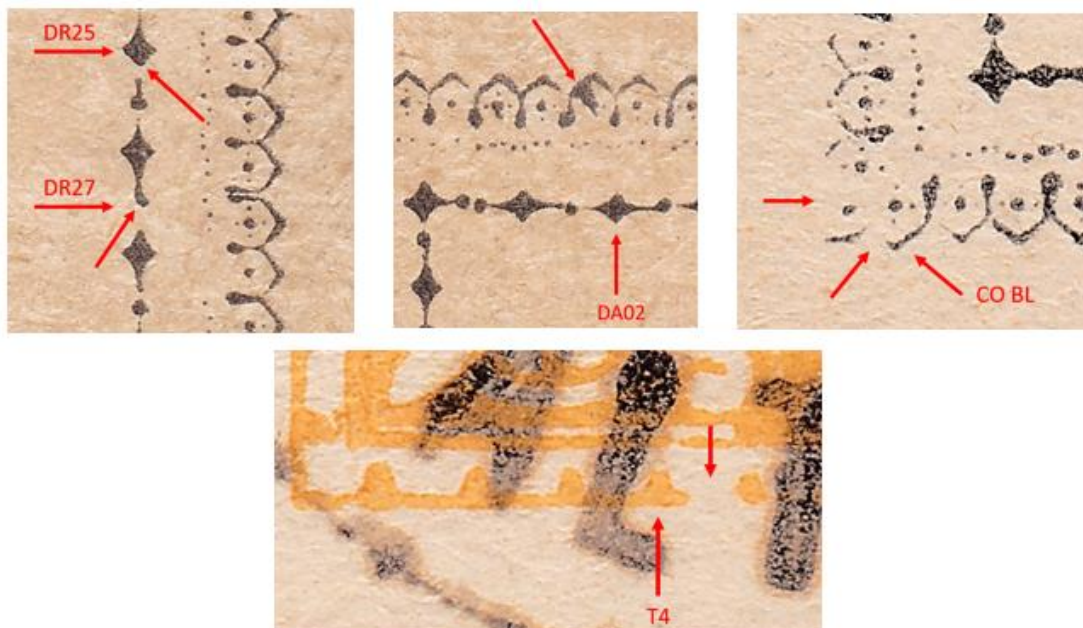
Variety 8-III₁ – DA44 and DA45 slightly truncated below, PR21-DR21 arch smeared above, CO BL broken below, almost empty, AL1: P21 reduced below, P103 almost absent (2 cards).



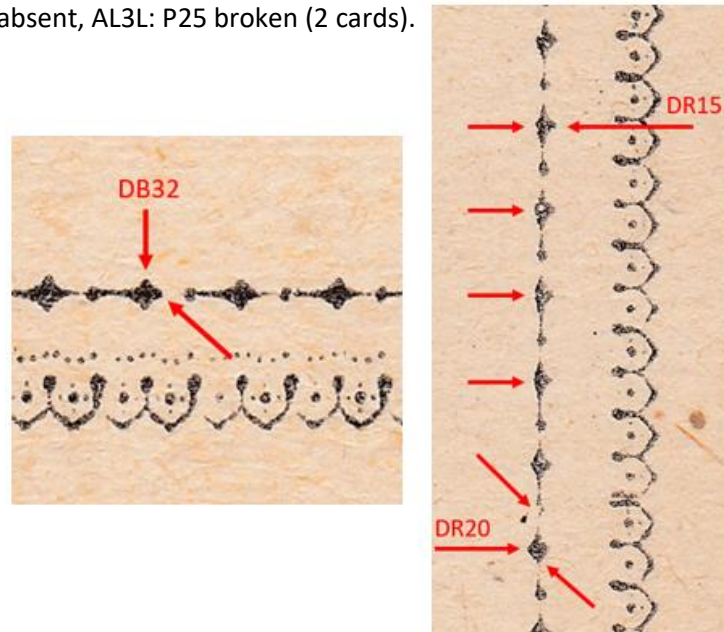
Variety 8-III₂ – DR27 truncated above, PR strongly reduced, DB6 truncated below, stamp frame broken twice below, T9- T11, AL1: P01-P15 merged, P110-P132 merged (2 cards).



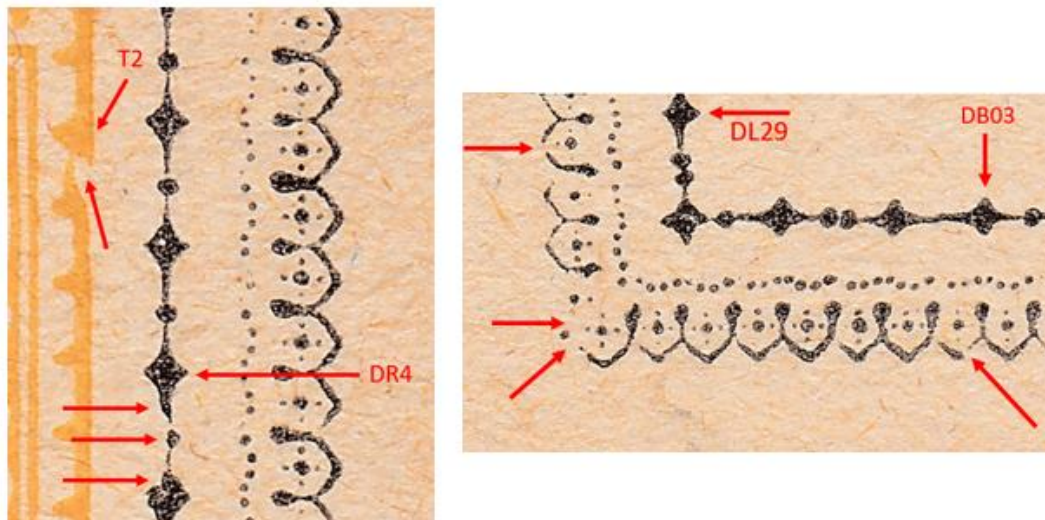
Variety 8-III₃ – DR25 truncated below, PR27 reduced, PA02-DA02 arch smeared, CO BL very weak, left side absent, broken below, stamp frame: large break below T4-T5, AL1: P29 and P48 almost absent, AL3L: P13 absent, P34 strongly reduced (2 cards).



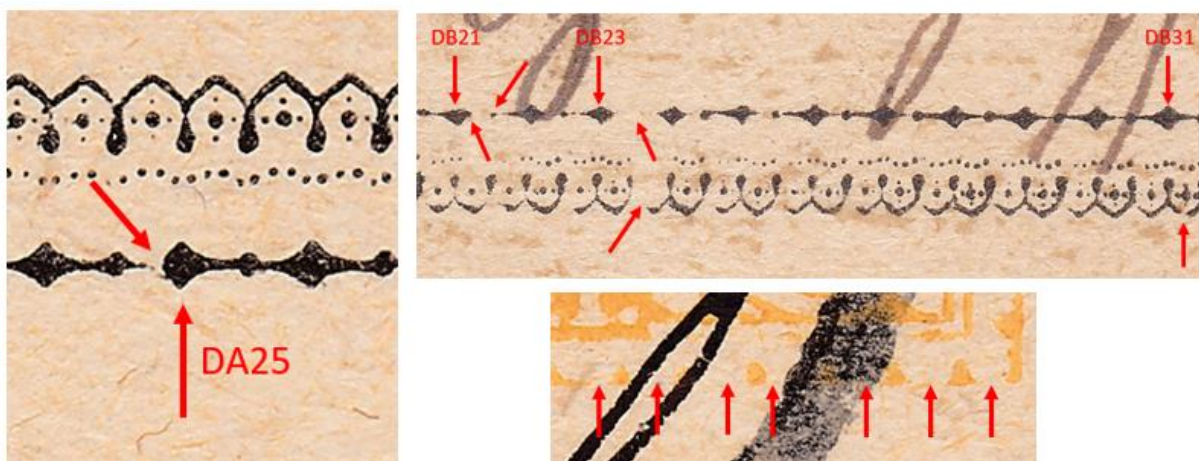
Variety 8-III₄ – PR20 absent/strongly reduced, DR20 truncated below, DR15-DR18 truncated L, DB32 truncated R, AL1: P09 absent, AL3L: P25 broken (2 cards).



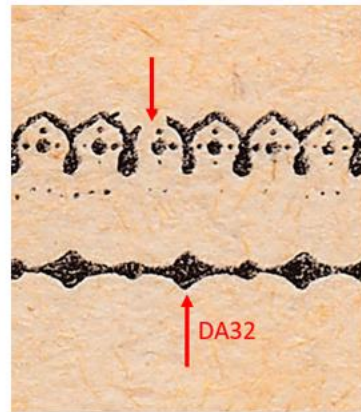
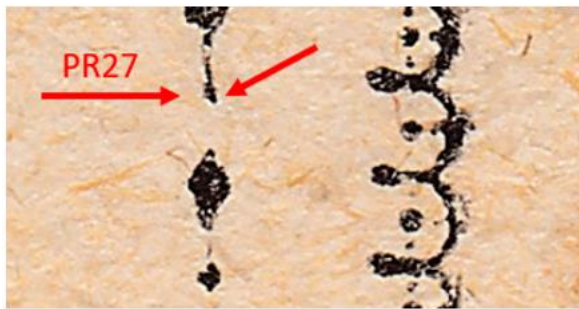
Variety 8-III₅ – DR4-PR5-DR5 damaged L, PB03-DB03 arch broken R, CO BL left side largely absent, DL29-PL30 arch broken, stamp frame broken right, T2-T3, AL2: P41 strongly reduced (3 cards).



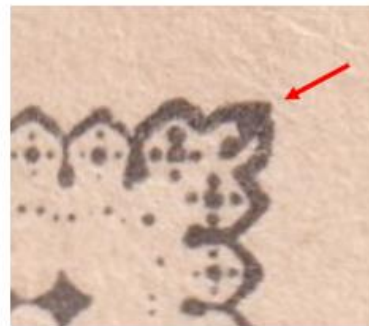
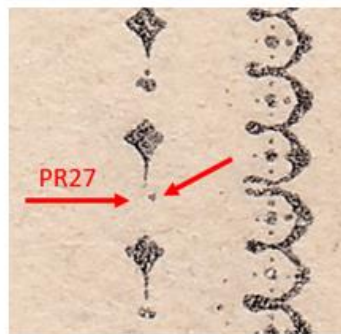
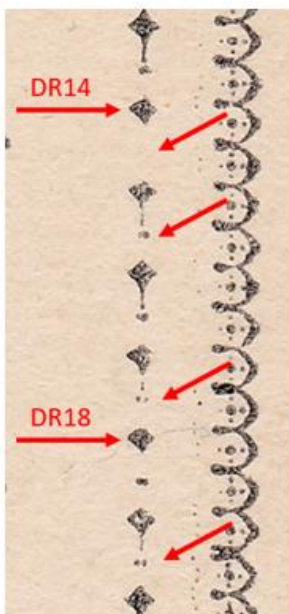
Variety 8-III₆ – DA25 damaged L, DB21 and DB23 damaged R, PB22 and PB24 almost absent, DB31-PB32 arch broken, PB24-DB24 arch empty, Stamp frame missing below R, all address lines very irregular (2 cards).



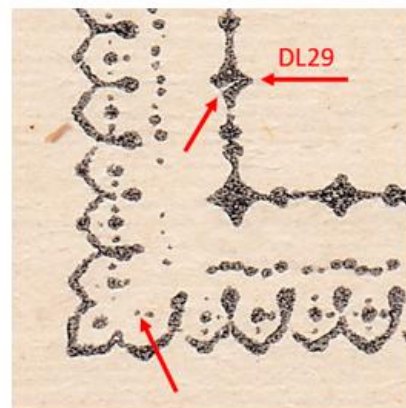
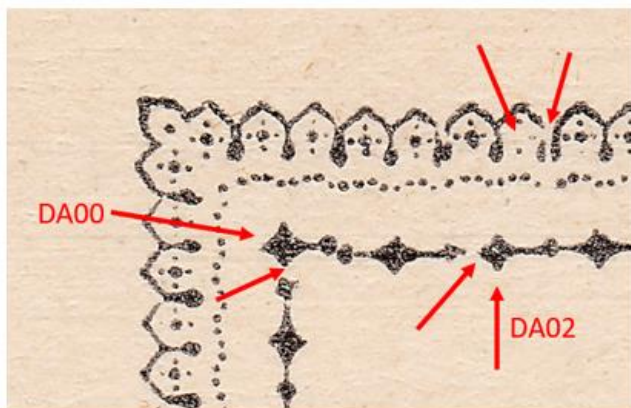
Variety 8-III₇ – PR27 almost absent, PA32-DA32 arch heavily broken, AL1: P57 strongly reduced, AL2: P74 reduced, P76-P77 almost absent, P118 reduced, P138 almost absent, AL3L: P03 almost absent (2 cards).



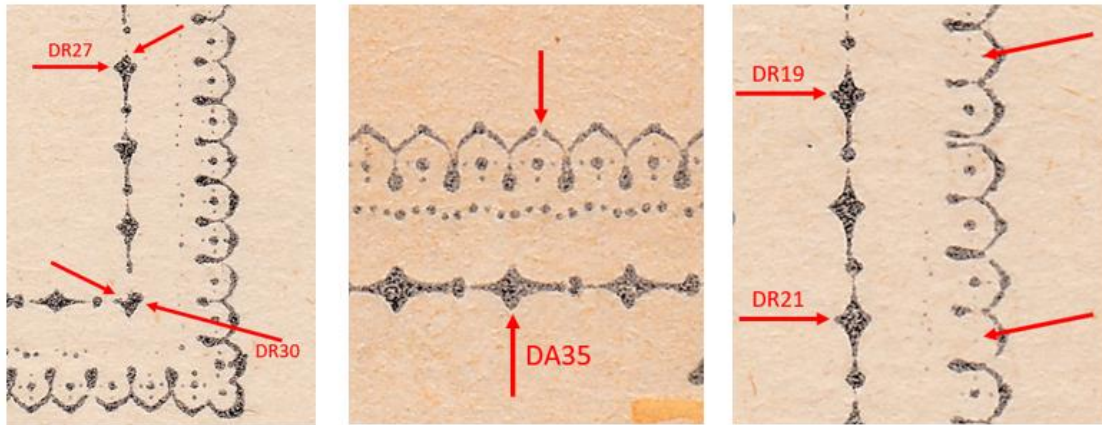
Variety 8-III₈ – DR14, DR15 and DR18 truncated above and below, P15, P18 and P20 absent or very weak, PR27 absent, DR27 truncated above, CO AR smeared in top, AL1: P04-P05 very large, P85 reduced below R (3 cards).



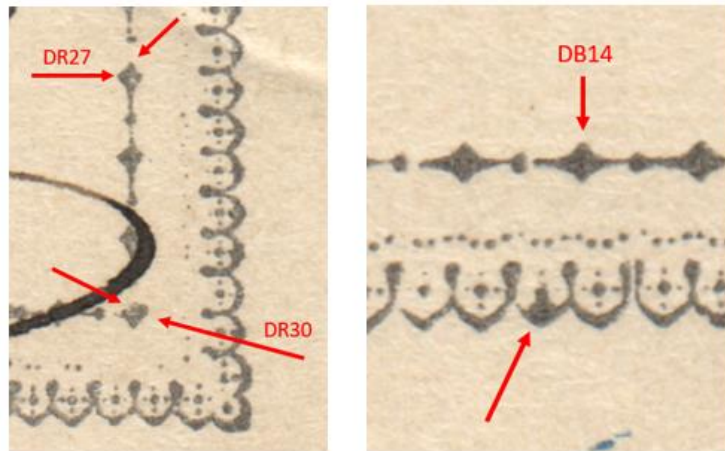
Variety 8-III₉ – DA02 truncated L, DL29 incised below L, DA00 truncated below, DA02-PA03 arch broken R, lacks central dot, CO BL lacks central dot below R, AL1: P01-P05 big, merged (2 cards).



Variety 8-III₁₀ – DR27 truncated above, DR30 damaged above and L, P27 and P30 reduced, DA35-PA36 arch broken, PR19-DR19 and DR21-PR22 arches lack central dot (3 cards).



Variety 8-III₁₁ – DR27 truncated above, DR30 heavily damaged above, PB14-DB14 top arch smeared (2 cards).



Variety 8-III₁₁ – PR01b absent, DR01 truncated above, white dot on DR18, PA14-DA14 arch smeared, DA14-PA15 leg missing, CO BL almost empty, broken below, AL1: P29 and P43 small (3 cards).

