

ELECTRO FLAWS - [Plate Flaws]

Electro or Plate flaws are imperfections which develop on the printing plate and are manifest in the printed stamps. Such imperfections are cumulative over the life of the plate. Early printings will therefore have fewer electro flaws than later printings. As this issue is surface printed, any damage causing a depression in the surface of the plate will create a white [uncoloured] flaw while anything extra that raises above the plate surface will produce a coloured flaw. The quality of the printing and the paper and the amount of ink used greatly affect the appearance of Electro flaws.

Electro flaws have been identified only if present in at least 2 of the blocks studied. Some are quite subtle! I have been able to identify electro flaws in **56%** of single examples.



Block of 15 from top left of sheet [**Electro A 1-5; Electro A 11-15; Electro B 1-5**] identified by constant Position Flaws

Only **A4 and A12** have identified Electro Flaws enabling this to be plated.
Early Printing



Block identified by Constant Flaws as **Positions 14/15; 4/5; 14/15** but without any Electro Flaws evident.
Early printing



Pair identified by Constant Flaws as **Positions 4 & 5**.
No Electro flaws
Early printing



Block identified by Constant Flaws as **Position 8/9; 18/19** and by electro flaws on **A9 and A19**

Block identified as **Position 1 & 2; 11 & 12** and as **Electro A** as each cliché has Electro Flaws
Late Printing



Right selvage block identified as **Electro C Positions 16-20** - each with an identifying Electro Flaw with **Electro D Positions 6-10** confirmed by Electro Flaws. **Late Printing**

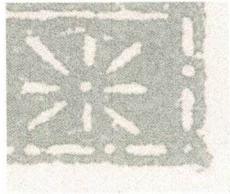


POSITION 1 Constant Flaws

- 1a RLC squarish projection
- 1b TRC small angled projection
- 1c LF thinned by upper part of wreath
- 1d TF short coloured compartment line above "C"

Electro Flaws

- A1 White line connecting ribbon to line above "P" in DOPLATA
- B1 White dot base of "Z"
- C1 White dot Left of upper part of "2"
- D1 White dot right of upper part of "2"
- E1 White line connecting lines left of "2"



1a

1c



1d



1b



POSITION 2 Constant Flaws

- 2a TLC small bulge
- 2b LF 1mm bulge opposite upper part of wreath
- 2c Small white projection on line below rt leg of "K" in POLSKA
- 2d LRC Small lateral projection [variable]

Electro Flaws

- A2 Coloured dot in ribbon to left of base of "2"
- B2 White line lower right ornament
- C2
- D2 RF white flaw top of 4th dash from LRC; 4th dot connects to margin
- E2 Small white flaw on 11th line up left of "2"

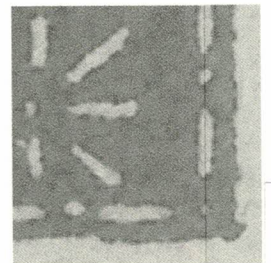
2a



2b



2c



2d

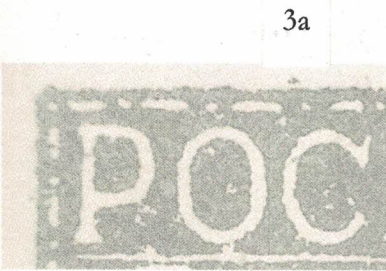


POSITION 3 Constant flaws

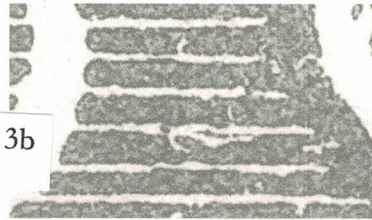
- 3a TF small coloured dot above frame in line with left part of "C" of POCZTA
- 3b Distortion of 7th line from top to right of "2"
- 3c RF rough and irregular in upper 5mm
- 3d White flaw upper left part of Left ornament

Electro Flaws

- A3 White dot between "T" & "A" in DOPLATA
- B3 Deformed "T" in POCZTA
- C3 Large white flaw left of left ornament
- D3 White flaws left of central part of "2" White line lower "Z" to line below
- E3 Large white flaw on line between "P" & "O" in POCZTA



3a



3b



3d



3c



POSITION 4 Constant Flaws

- 4a Coloured dot in rt leg of "K" in POLSKA
- 4b Break in line below "A" in POLSKLA
- 4c LF distinctive lines/dots in compartment lower
- 4d BF break joining the dash below first "A" in DOPLATA

Electro Flaws

- A4 White flaw on line above first "A" in DOPLATA
- B4 White extension top of "L" in DOPLATA
- C4 Small white flaw on line to Left centre of "2"
- D4 White line between 4th & 5th line > top of "2"
- E4 White flaws above "L" of DOPLATA and below "A" in POCZTA



4c



4d



4a

4b

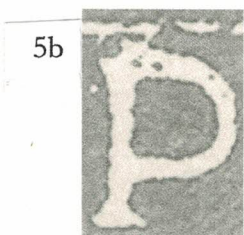


POSITION 5 Constant flaws

- 5a TLC 45 degree projection downwards
- 5b Distorted top of "P" in DOPLATA with coloured dots

Electro Flaws

- A5 Small white flaw above left ribbon below level of foot of "2"
- B5 Prominent white flaw upper part left side left ornament;
- C5 Tiny white flaw to rt of central part of "2"
- D5 TRC dash joins dot making irregular white line
- E5 White dot/line rt of "2" between 8th & 9th lines

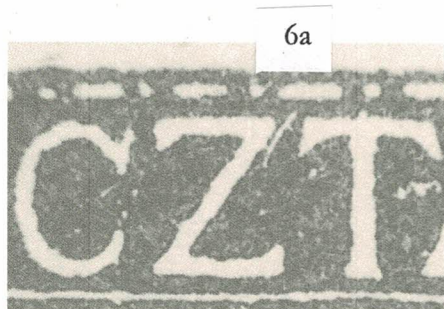


POSITION 6 Constant flaws

- 6a White line behind "Z" of POCZTA
- 6b TLC projection and bulge TF

Electro Flaws

- A6 White scratch through lines in the top of "2"
- B6 Large white flaw in "P" of DOPLATA
- C6 Dot above "Z" in POCZTA enlarged
- D6 White flaw on line between "Z" & "T" of POCZTA
- E6 Small white flaw lower left bar of Right ornament

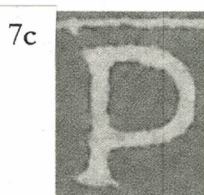
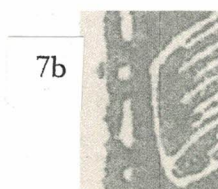
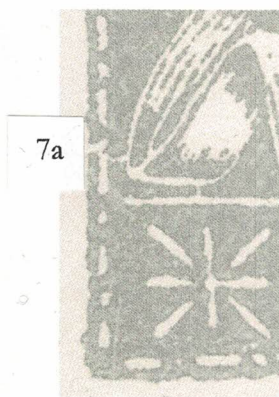


POSITION 7 Constant flaws

- 7a LF break 2.5mm above LLC
- 7b LF small coloured dot opposite 6th "dot" in dot/dash design
- 7c Small white flaw on line above to left of "P" of DOPLATA

Electro Flaws

- A7 Small white flaw on line to Right of top of "2"; White flaw in ribbon above "D" in DOPLATA
- B7 Tiny white flaw in coloured area below "A" in POCZTA
- C7 Tiny white flaw rt upper part left ornament
- D7 White irregular line > "L" in DOPLATA;
- E7 White flaw line to ribbon above "D" in DOPLATA

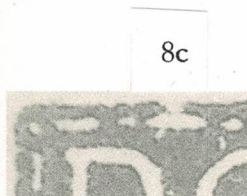


POSITION 8 Constant Flaws

- 8a Vertical white flaw on lower 2 left lines below "2"
- 8b BF small break joining dash below first "A" in DOPLATA
- 8c TF break connecting second left dash
- 8d RLC blunted

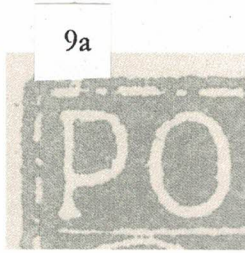
Electro Flaws

- A8 Small white flaw on line above first "A" of DOPLATA
- B8 White flaw on 11th line down to right of "2"
- C8
- D8 Small white flaw on cross bar of "A" in POLSKA
- E8 White dot between "Z" & "T" of POCZTA



POSITION 9 Constant Flaws

- 9a TF small break to dash above "P" in POLSKA
- 9b Small white dot on 8th line to left of "2"



Electro Flaws

- A9 Large white flaw on top right dash
- B9 Coloured dit in wreath above "O" in DOPLATA
- C9 TF break in dash above "T" in POCZTA
- D9 White line connection base of "T" in POCZTA to white line
- E9 White flaw on 1st dot BF; white flaw base of "D" of DOPLATA

POSITION 10 Constant flaws

- 10a LF prominent 2mm bulge at top
- 10b TRC bulge and irregular [differentiates from position 19]
- 10c LF 2 [or 3] small compartment dots opposite ribbon

Electro flaws

- A10 2 coloured dots in right ribbons
- B10 TF break 3rd dash from TLC [P]
- C10 Large white flaw in wreath left opposite top of "2"
- D10 White line connecting base of "L" in POLSKA to line below
- E10 White line connecting base of "Z" in POCZTA to white line below



SUBSTITUTION in Production of the Mould

In each of the 5 electros making up the sheet of 100 clichés, those at Positions 11 and 12 have **identical Constant Flaws** to those in Positions 15 and 16. [Confirmed in a sheet of 100 and blocks of 90 and 80]. This has to have occurred on the original mould and before the multiplication process which produced 5 electros of 20 clichés.

It is probable that a Test electro was produced from the original mould of 20 impressions from the engraved Die. On examination, the impressions at Positions 11 and 12 were found to be unsatisfactory and they were removed from the original mould. Positions 15 and 16 were cut from the test electro and a mould was taken. This was then inserted into the original mould - a **substitution**. Then, 5 electros were produced from this mould, treated and formed into the printing plate.

Clichés from Position 11 & Position 15 and from Position 12 & 16, can only be distinguished by the development of subsequent electro flaws.

POSITION 11 & POSITION 15 Constant flaws

- a White dot on line below "C" of POCZTA
- b White line top right leg of "K" in POLSKA to the dash above
- c Small white dot on right end 5th lower right line of base of "2"



11/15a



11/15c



11/15b



POSITION 11 Electro Flaws

- A11 Large 'target' flaw right side right ornament
- B11 White flaw on lower edge of line to left of right ornament
- C11 LF dent opposite "P" of POCZTA
- D11 White flaw connecting 2 lines to rt of central "2" 1 line above leaf; white dot in middle lower ribbon fold
- E11 Left ornament lower left and 2nd dash thickened



A11



B11



C11



D11



E11



POSITION 15 Electro flaws

- A15 Thin vertical white line top right frond
- B15 White flaw connecting lines 8 & 9 to rt of "2"
- C15 Small flaw left ornament
- D15 Small 'target' flaw left of base of "P" in POLSKA
- E15 Small white flaw on line left of central part of "2"



Selvedge Block with Electro E

Positions 4/5;
14/15 with E15



A15



B15



C15



D15

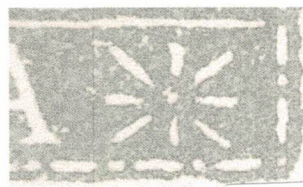


E15

POSITION 12 & POSITION 16 Constant flaws

- a TRC blunted
- b LRC blunted
- c Coloured 'bite' into top rt of "P" in POCZTA
- d Left leg "P" of POCZTA connects to line
- e LF breaks to bottom dash

12/16a



12/16b



12/16c

12/16e



12/16d

12/16	12/16	12/16	12/16	12/16	12/16	12/16

POSITION 12 Electro flaws

- A12 LF break 6th dot from TLC' Broken "O" in DOPLATA
- B12 White flaws right of "2" where lines join
- C12 Coloured dot in foliage below "T" in POCZTA
- D12 Large white flaw above line above 2nd "A" in DOPLATA
- E12 White flaw inside "O" of DOPLATA



A12



A12



B12



C12



D12



E12

POSITION 16 Electro flaws

- A16 White flaw on left of 4th line down above "2" & TF break above "P" of POLSKA
- B16 White flaw under cross bar of 2nd "A" in DOPLATA & white line connects rt 1st ribbon fold to line below
- C16 BF dash & dot joined below "L"; Flaw in front of "L" and flaw base first "A": in DOPLATA
- D16 White flaw in "C" of POCZTA
- E16 White flaws under crossbar 1st "A" and base 2nd "A" in DOPLATA; small flaw 4th line rt top of "2"



A16



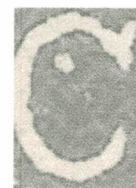
A16



B16



C16



D16



E16



POSITION 13 Constant flaws

- 13a White flaw on line below "S" in POLSKA connects to wreath
- 13b TF small break left of dash above "T" of POCZTA



13a

Electro flaws

- 13A White flaw on 2nd line right of "2"
- 13B Coloured dot in middle fold of ribbon on lower right
- 13C White angled line top of "P" of POLSKA to TF; White flaw in ribbon fold on right
- 13D Small white flaw on lower side of top of "Z" in POCZTA
- 13E LF horizontal white line above 9th dash
- 13? Large white flaw below line above left ornament [not on 80/90/100]

13b



POSITION 14 Constant flaws

- 14a TF TRC small distinctive projection
- 14b LRC blunt

Electro Flaws

- A14 RF white line above 7th dash from TRC;
- B14 White flaw inside 2nd "A" of DOPLATA;
- C14 BF large break 1st dash from RLC: RF diagonal line up from 2nd lower dash. [Last 2 do not have the BF break]
- D14 White flaw in "O" of POCZTA
- E14 White flaw joining line below "P" of POLSKA to wreath

14a



14b

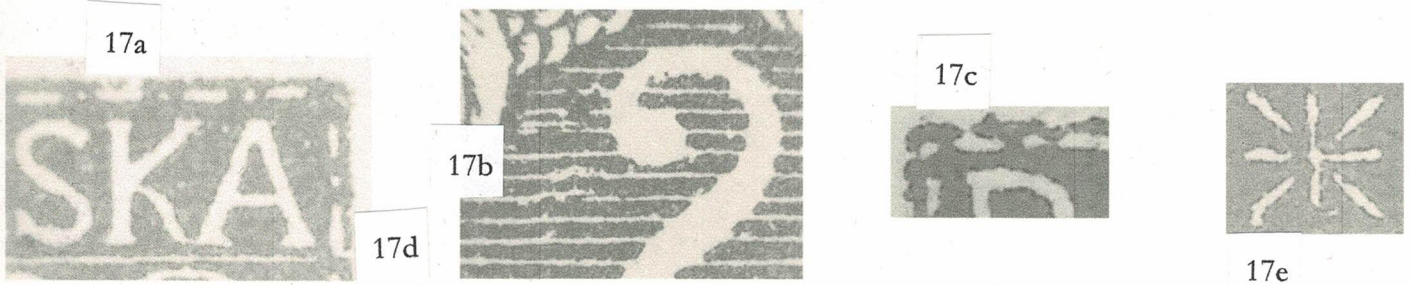


POSITION 17 Constant Flaws

- 17a TF break above left leg of "K" in POLKSA
- 17b Distorted lines upper left of "2"
- 17c TF break above first dash
- 17d RF break lower edge of 2nd dash from top
- 17e Small white dot lower left ornament

Electro Flaws

- A17 White flaw to right of "L" in POLSKA
- B17 White flaw above "L" in DOPLATA
- C17 White flaw in "P" and on top of "T" in DOPLATA
- D17 White flaw on line above base of "2"
- E17 Large white flaw right side by ribbon coil

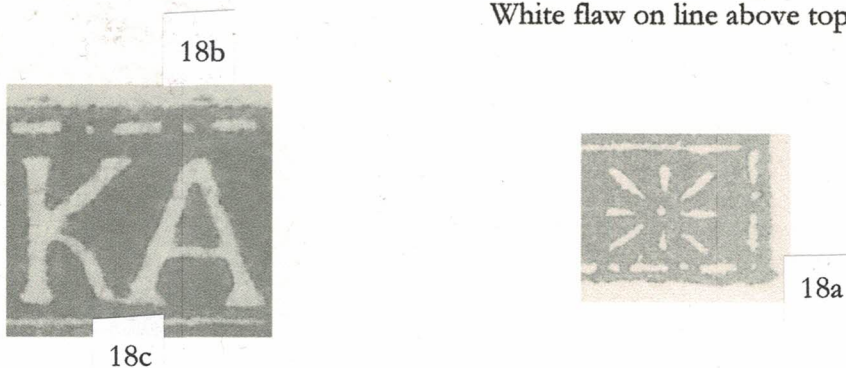


POSITION 18 Constant Flaws

- 18a RLC small rounded projection
- 18b TF short compartment line above "A" of POLSKA [and occasionally >"K"]
- 18c Base of "K" joins base of "A" in POLSKA

Electro Flaws

- A18
- B18 White flaw on left part of "P" of POLSKA
- C18 LF large white flaw by 4th dash from TLC
- D18 Thin white line top of "Z" in POCZTA to dash above
- E18 White flaw connecting "O" & "L" in POLSKA; White flaw on line above top of "2"



POSITION 19 Constant Flaws

- 19a LF 2mm bulge at TLC [similar to Position 10]
- 19b TF small bulge above "O" in POCZTA
- 19c TRC - no dot



Electro Flaws:

- A19 White flaw connecting line above "OP" in DOPLATA to frond above; Colour dot right first ribbon
- B19 RF white flaw on 3rd dot from LRC
- C19 Coloured flaw on top of "T" in POCZTA
- D19 White dot in colour above line above "DO" of DOPLATA
- E19 RF white flaw on 5th dot from RLC

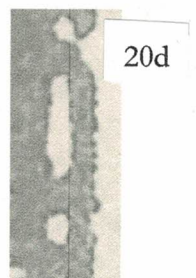
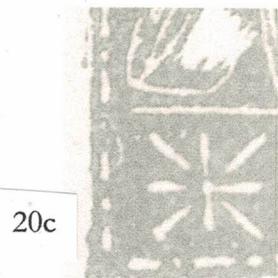
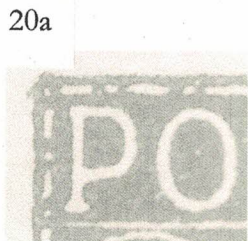


POSITION 20 Constant Flaws

- 20a TLC 45 degree projection down [see P5]
- 20b TRC blob on corner
- 20c LLC pointed with compartment line at 2mm
- 20d RF small dent opposite 4th dot from LRC

Electro Flaws

- A20
- B20 White flaw near end of line to right of central part of "2"
- C20 White flaw on line to right of top of "2"
- D20 White line flaw above cross piece in last "A" in DOPLATA
- E20 Flaws around "O" of DOPLATA



SUBSTITUTED CLICHES in Electro E, Positions 11 & 12

All Electro Positions 11 & 12 had been replaced in the production phase with moulds of Position 15 & 16. A further substitution is shown here with E11 & E12 being replaced with clichés from Position 14 & 15. The large blocks demonstrate that in electros A, B, C & D no such substitution is evident. The printing pale must have been damaged and a decision made to replace Electro E Positions 11 & 12. A new electro [or a spare created initially] from the original mould and clichés 14 & 15 selected, treated, excised and fitted into the printing plate. This is likely a late event in the life of the issue as the sheet or block of 80 show the substitution.



Positional corner block from Electro E with Constant Flaws for Clichés 1 & 2 above Clichés with Constant Flaws for Positions 14 & 15 - proof of Substituted Clichés

Strip of 3 with Constant Flaws for positions 14, 15 and 13, confirming Substitution Clichés



Positional block of 15 with **Electros A & B** with Clichés in **Positions 11 & 12** showing Constant flaws for these positions. All clichés except C2 demonstrate Electro Flaws

Positional block of 20, identified by Constant Flaws and Electro Flaws, with **Electros B, C & D** each having in **Positions 11 & 12** the Constant Flaws for those clichés.

