

Two sheets of gold and two sheets of silver coloured overprints on 20f Karl were also printed.

In some studies they are called proofs. This is unlikely, as one of each sheet were printed on two separate days (30th May 1919 and 2nd June 1919) according to Szalay. In addition Szalay does not mark these sheets as “private” as he does to three sheets of the 10f Harvester printed on 28th May 1919.

There is some speculation that they were printed as colour or ink trials because the black overprint is difficult to see on the brown stamps. However if this was the case why were two trials needed and why were they carried out four days apart?

One of the more likely explanations for these different colours is that they were created as a favour, potentially for high ranking members of the post office or Romanian dignitaries.

However like most debates about these issues the exact reasons are not clear and lost in the fog of history.



The final batches in this print setting were the 40f War Charity.

One sheet of the 3000 sheets of this batch had a double overprint.

From BP
Red
Cluj
Display

40f War Charity Double Overprint position VI, 7 (1 sheet printed)



One sheet of the 3000 sheets of this batch had an inverted overprint.



40f War Charity Inverted Overprint position VII, 7(1 sheet printed)



A few trials prints were made on 22nd May 1919, but were destroyed.

On the 23rd May the overprinting started with the 2f Harvester, the first of the BANI over monogram.

During the start of the printing process the printers had problems with holding one of the "BANI" pieces together, producing one stamp per sheet with BAN_I. The underscoring is used to emphasise the spacing of the I.

This variety appeared during the initial part of the printing and was repaired, so only some of the sheets of the 2f Harvester and 2f Express exist with normal spacing at position I, 2. After this the variety remained constant for all of the Cluj Overprints.

According to Szalay 444 sheets of the 2f Harvester with BAN_I at position I, 2 exist. And 5500 – 5503 exist of the BANI variety.



BANI - Position I, 2

Note the broken B and the break in the 5th segment of the circular monogram frame that can be used to identify this stamp as being from position I, 2.



Corner Block - BAN_I, position I, 2

During the printing process errors occurred due to the letter B disappearing. Both of these errors occur on the 2f Harvesters, but at different positions.

Position of ANI	Number Produced
IV, 3	Approx 400
V, 2	Approx 2100



ANI at Position V, 2, and BANI at position I, 2



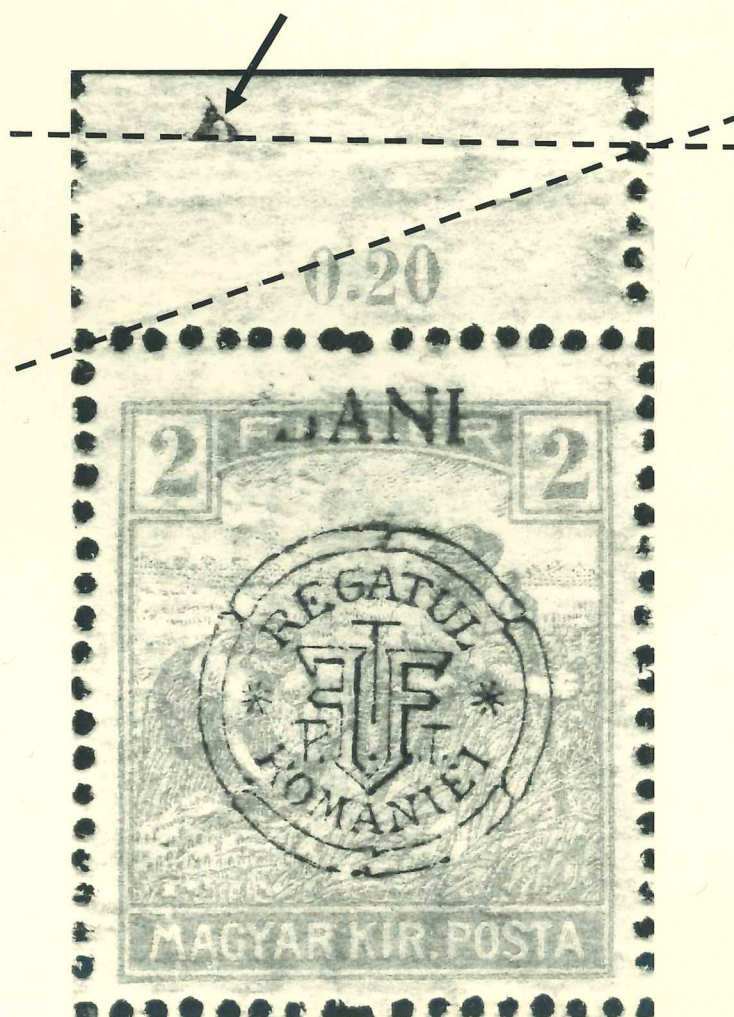
ANI at Position IV, 3, and BANI at position I, 2

“ANI” at Position 1,1 !



ANI at Position I, 1,
Corner block of 6 (I,1 to II,3)

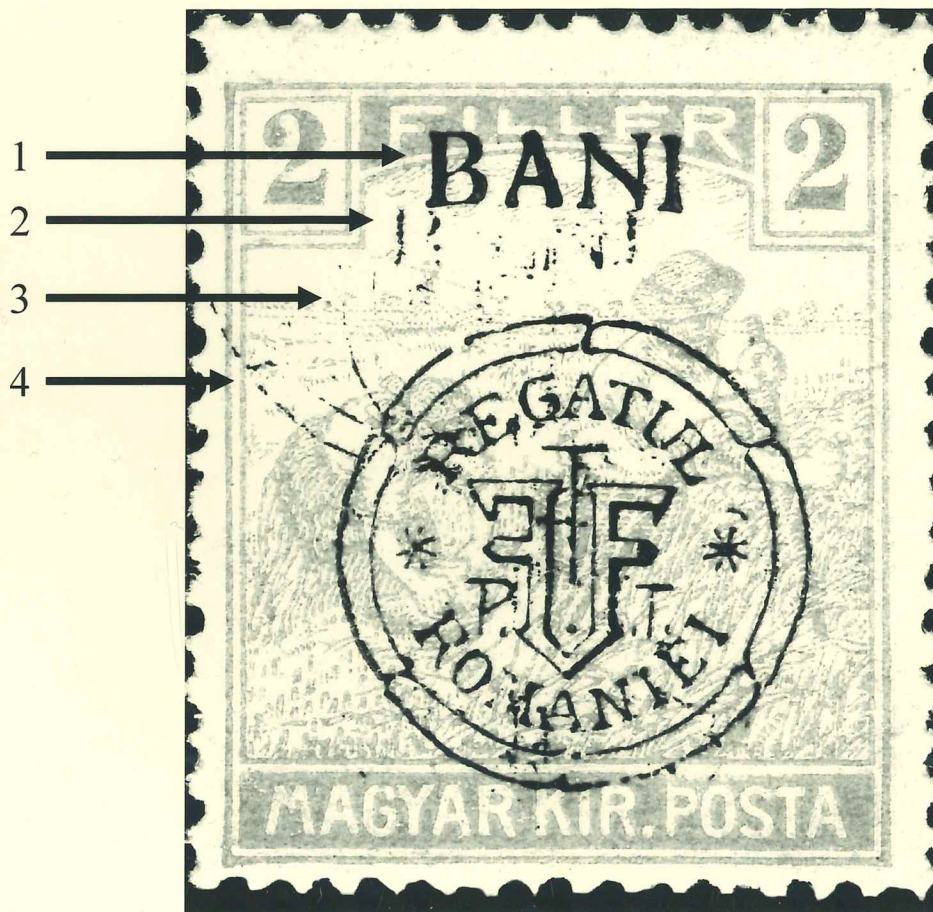
This is not an unrecorded missing “B”, but a result of paper folds highlighted by the dashed lines below, and the missing B is indicated.





2f Harvester showing parts of 4 separate overprints

Double overprints are known (and well recorded), triple and quadruple overprints are unrecorded for any of the Cluj or Oradea Issues



Printing continued with the 2f Savings stamp, 3f, 5f, 6f Harvesters, 10f and 15f Karl, 40f Zita, 15f Harvester, 20f Karl (the most numerous sheet took 4 days to print all copies), 25f Karl 25f, 35f, 40f Harvester, 40f Zita, Savings stamp, Newspaper stamp, and the 10f and 40f War Charity stamps.

There are only 4 double overprints from the Cluj overprints (15f Harvester, 1k Parliament, 20f Karl and 20f Postage Due), with one sheet being printed of each.



20f Karl Double Overprint
Marginal block of 4 - VII,1 to VIII,2



After a 4 day pause overprinting restarted on Tuesday 10th June 1919. The exact reason for this break is unknown, but it is likely to have been to allow for stocks of stamps to be gathered at Cluj (probably from the Post Office at Bistrita).

Printing restarted with the 2f Express, then continued with 3f, 2f, 10f Harvester, 10f Karl, 5f, 6f, 15f Harvester, 15f, 20f Karl, 25f Harvester, 25f Karl, 35f Harvester, 40f Zita, 40f Harvester, and 40f War Charity.

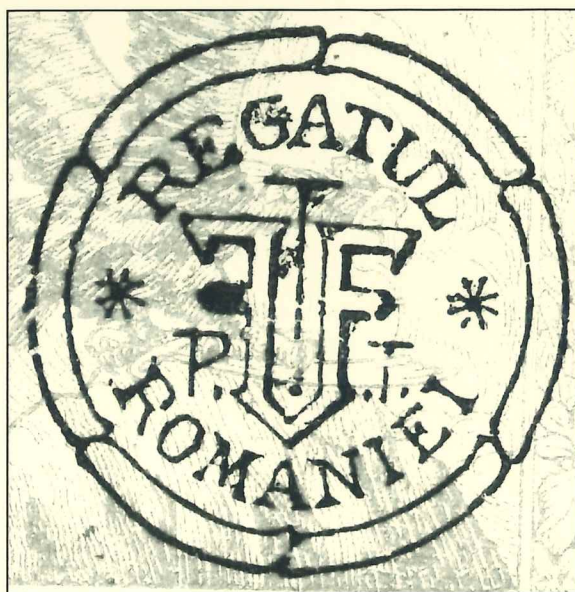
Stamps printed in batches 23-38 are known as "Arm Type" – due to the filled in left arm of the central monogram at position III, 8



15 Harvester (White Numbers)

Arm Type (III,8)

86 stamps of this type (1 per sheet)



The Postal Authorities kept records of the overprinting completed on each day (presumably for accounting and security purposes) but did not keep any record of the order that the stamps were printed.

Szalay was able to recreate a print order by “micro-philately”. This was helped by the printers build up of detritus on the plates and the cleaning, both of which are easily recognised.

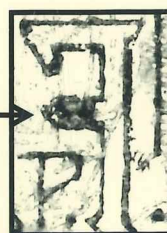
Here is an example of the type of analysis in action !



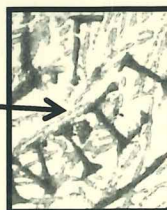
3b Harvester – Batch 24 (672 sheets printed on 10th June 1919)

Corner Block of 12 - I, 7 to III, 10

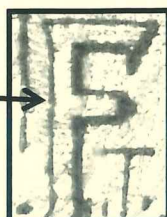
Position III,8 – Solid Arm of Left F (armtype)



Position II,10 – Spot between “I” and “E”



Position I,7 – No Spot in Right hand F.



The spot develops in batch 25 (2f Harvester)



The next stamps to be overprinted were the Parliament types. Obviously being different sized stamps required the print base to be altered, and the “Bani” moved below the monogram too.

By studying the differences in the letter sorts it is possible to ascertain that the printer did this by removing the top row of “Banis” and shifted the “Banis” for row 2 to be below the monogram of row one and then replace the previous row 1 “Banis” onto row 10 of the new print base.

Consequently the BAN_I that was in position I, 2 moved to position X, 2, and all the different letter sorts moved down 1 row.



80f Parliament (Batch 38)

Corner block (BAN_I at position X, 2) with vertical shifted overprint

This can also be seen through the analysis of varieties within the font - “Straight N” variety moved from position VIII,5 to VII,5



25f Harvester (Batch 31)
“Straight N” at VIII, 5



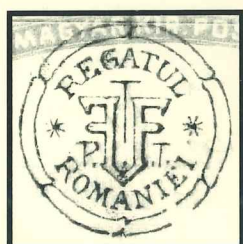
75f Parliament (Batch 37)
“Straight N” at VII, 5

On 14th June 1919
Batch 40, comprising
2394 sheets of the 1k
Parliament were
printed. During the
day there was a large
build up of detrius,
particularly at
positions I, 1 and IV,
1. The sheets below
show early and late
printings and also the
2 distinct colours
(mainly of paper)
of the 1k parliament
stamps printed that
day

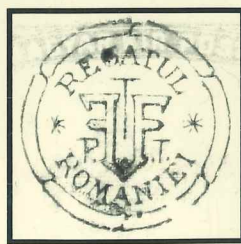


Corner block of 10
(partially obscured) of
an early printing

Corner block of 20 of a
later printing



Position I,1



Position IV,1



Following the procedure that the stamps were printed in order of value the 50f Parliament was followed by the 75f and 80f Parliament.

For the 1k value, the “BANI” was replaced by “LEU” and for the 2k, 3k, 5k, 10k values the “LEU” was replaced by it’s plural form “LEI”. This was done by removing the “U” and replacing it by an “I” as all the idiosyncratic “L” and “E” letter sorts did not move location. For the Leu/Lei values, the “L” at position VII, 3 was replaced by an “F”.



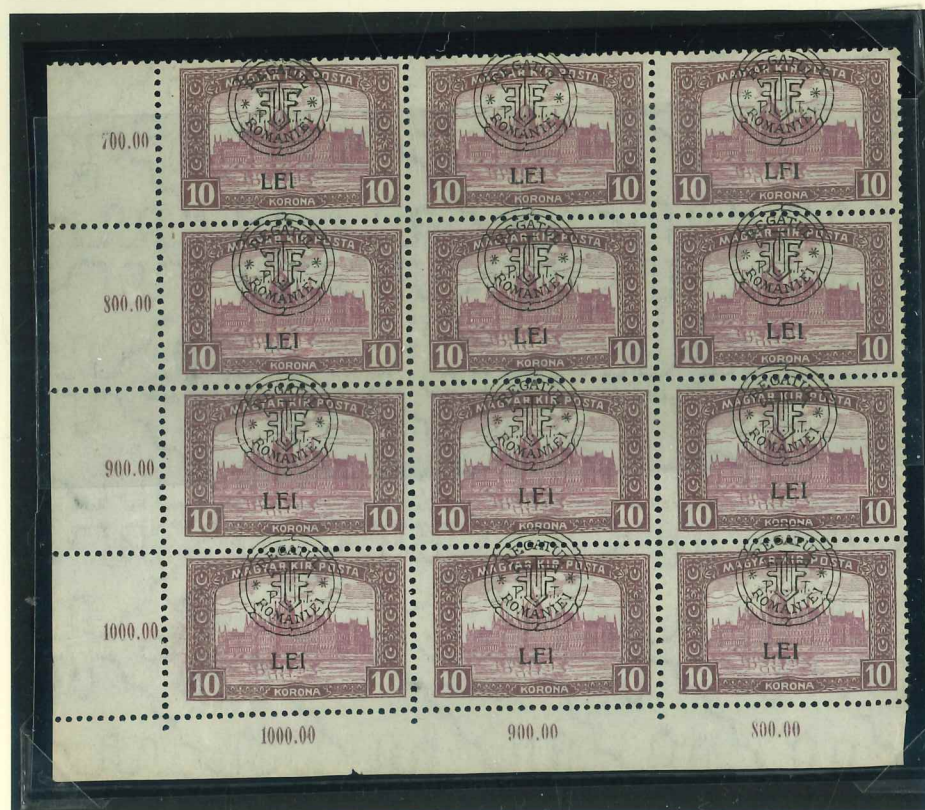
LFI error on 5k
Corner block of 9

155 stamps with this error



LFI error on 10k
Corner block of 9

131 stamps with this error



The “Bani under Monogram” stamps were the next to be printed – 40f Zita, 10f War Relief and 15f War Relief.

The 40f Zita was the only overprinted stamp that was issued with both “Bani over” and “Bani under” monogram



40f Zita - Bani Over Monogram
Corner block of 6 – I,1 to II,3

BAN_I at 1,2



40f Zita - Bani Under Monogram
Corner block of 6 – VIII,8 to X,10

BAN_I at 1,2 and Gate Broken Frame at
X,10

The 15f War Charity were normally issued with Bani under monogram, although shifted overprints also exist. However one sheet was printed with Bani over monogram. These two types can be differentiated by the distance between the BANI and the monogram, which is 2-3mm in the BANI over monogram stamps



15f War Charity

Bani Over Monogram
(see scan to right)



15f War Charity

Shifted Overprint
Note the different distance between the
Bani and the monogram



Four of the 10f War Relief Sheets are known to have inverted overprints.

Based on the study of the idiosyncrasies it appears that sheets "a" and "b" were printed on 17th June and sheets "c" and "d" on the 18th June and 20th June respectively

By examining the position of the overprint on the stamps and position of the perforations to the original design it is possible to determine which of the four sheets any particular stamp comes from



Sheet "a"

Printed on 17th June

Overprinted on left side of stamp

Perforations shifted left relative to original design

Sheet "b"

Printed on 17th June

Overprinted towards right bottom corner

Perforations shifted slightly left and upwards

Sheet "c"

Printed on 18th June

Overprinted towards top left corner

Perforations shifted right and upwards

Sheet "d"

Printed on 20th June

Overprinted centrally

Perforations shifted left

On the Postage Due stamps a piece used to block the type face working loose at position I,4 giving an "IBANI" flaw.



30-32 stamps
with this error



**Downward Vertically Shifted
Block of 6 (Positions I, 3 to III, 4)**

This blocks show 3 errors

- 1) Monogram Only
- 2) BANI over Monogram
- 3) IBANI (position I,4)

The final setting of the printing plates was created to overprint the Flood Relief sheets.

The Flood Relief Stamps were the same size as the parliament stamps, but in a vertical format. They were also the only overprinted stamps that were also surcharged, all being given the value of 1 leu.

The Printing sorts used for the “Lei” value indicator were mostly reused from the parliament Leu/Lei setting, but there is no correlation between positions



5f Flood Relief
Position VI, 6



Accented “E”

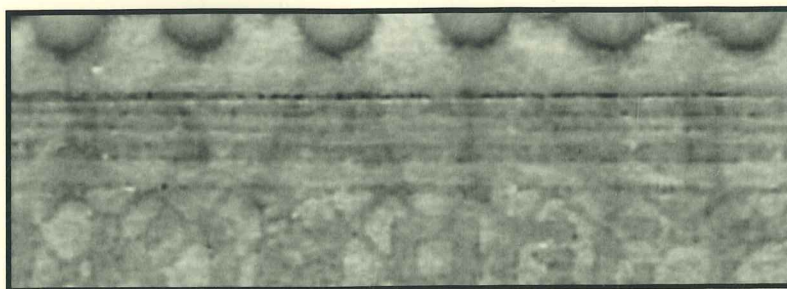


2k Parliament
Position VII, 7



2f Flood Relief
Blind BANI at top of stamp

This “Blind Bani” is an enigma. Obviously it has come into contact with either a Bani printing base (perhaps whilst assessing the changes needed for the Flood Relief) overprints or an offset Bani overprint.



Following completion of the 79570 officially documented sheets, the printing base was dismantled and the monograms returned to the Postal Authority