As mentioned in the text, the stamps of the fourth issue were issued in sheets consisting of 110 stamps.

This horizontal strip shows that one sheet consisted of 11 horizontal rows each containing 10 stamps. This is one full horizontal row.
The stamps were produced by W. Krafft of Nagy Szeben, in sheets of 100, both perforated (Perf. 11 1/2) and imperforated. Total number of printing was 8,000 perforated and 2,000 imperforated for the 2-h stamp and 10,000 perforated for the 5-h stamp.

The sheets were perforated only between stamps, thus marginal copies are imperforate on the outside edge(s). Sheets having perforation only between stamps in vertical direction also existed. Figure 7 shows a block of eight stamps having only vertical perforation.

Figure 7. In the sheet from which this block of eight stamps was taken, perforation was only done in vertical direction.

The gum on the 5-h stamp was most likely applied after perforation; it migrated through the holes into the front side of the stamp.

Sixth Issue - July 31, 1909

This pair was issued on July 31, 1909. The design is the same as in the previous issues except that now, the year 1909 is indicated on the stamp. Printing was again done by lithography, by W. Krafft in Nagy Szeben, in sheets of 50. The color of the paper of the 5-h stamp was changed from light green to green (emerald). Total printing was 2,000 copies of each issue. Perforation was 11 1/2 and is characterized by blunt pins resulting in a rough perforation.

This issue was used only in 1909, for about 2-3 months and is the rarest of the Hohe Rinne issues (except the first issue). From the 2-h stamp only a few copies are known to exist. Used 5-h stamps are also rare: as indicated by the Williams brothers, only six copies, all on covers from one correspondence are known. Mint copies of the 5-h stamps are somewhat less rare although still scarce.
The remaining stamps of the 1909 issue were stored in a post cart. Since next year, a new series was issued, the stored stamps were kept there. This cart, together with the stamps, was burned down a few years later, destroying these copies.

Seventh Issue - April 1, 1910

Finally, in 1910, a pair of stamps with new design was issued. The design shows a view of the colony and is the artwork of Hans Hocek, an architect. The stamps were relief-printed by Josef Drötleff of Nagy Szeben in sheets of four, Perf. 11 1/2.

Figure 8 shows the two stamps of this issue.

The color of the 3-h stamp was brown and of the 5-h stamp, it was green. The stamps were reprinted a number of times in the period of their validity (between April 1, 1910 and June 2, 1923) in order to maintain a constant supply at the resort; thus, different shades of each color exist. Generally it can be said that the darker shades represent earlier printings and, in fact, these are more scarce.

The total number of stamps printed in this period was:

3 h  -  22,860  (5,715 sheets)
5 h  -  14,960  (3,740 sheets)

Figure 8
The two stamps of the seventh and eighth issues.
For the printing, four stereos (cliches) were prepared for each denomination and these were locked together in the following form:

```
A B
C D
```

Each stereo has minor differences from which the position of any stamp in the sheets can be recognized. These characteristics are listed below, based on an article by the Williams brothers*:

3 Heller stamp:
A The second roof of the four in the center of the design has one dot and one line of shading.
B The second roof has three heavy lines of shading.
C The second roof has two dots and one line of shading.
D The right top corner of the stamp shows slight thickening of the top outer frame.

4 Heller stamp:
A The top outer frame has a wick in it, above and to the right of the "E" in RINNE.
B The first roof of the four in the center of the design is heavily shaded, and the fourth roof has a diagonal line through it.
C There is no shading on three roofs in the center of the design and there is an uncolored flaw above the first roof, rather resembling a butterfly with folded wings.
D There is a tiny nick on the inside of the left vertical of the "H" of KURHAUS, just above the cross-bar.

* L. N. and M. Williams: "Cinderella Stamp Corner". The Stamp Magazine (Great Britain), August 1962.
Figure 9.

This is a copy of the envelope issued in 1910. The small piece on the right, bottom is a copy of the backside of the envelope. Its text means "Resort Hotel 'Hohe Rinne', at Hermannstadt (Nagy Szeben), in Transylvania". Originally "Ungarn" (Hungary in German) was printed in the third row; however, after the Romanian take-over - and this cover was sold after 1918 - this was blocked out as seen here.
Postal Stationary of 1910. In 1910 postal stationary consisting of an envelope and sheets of notepaper was also issued. On the envelope, the design of the stamp is printed in greenish black in the upper left corner, having the numeral of the value obliterated. On the notepaper sheets, similar impressions but with star-like ornaments in the lower corners, exist. Figure 9 shows a copy of the envelope.

Eighth Issue – June 2, 1923

On June 2, 1923, the color of the stamps was changed to deep blue (3 h) and orange brown (5 h). Actually the denomination was already changed when, in November 1918, the area was annexed into Romania: the Romanian currency was 1 Leu = 100 bani, and a 3-h stamp sold for 30 bani and a 5-h stamp for 50 bani. However, the stereotypes of the stamps were used unchanged, having the old numerals: the stamps were simply sold for 10 times the value listed.

The new printing was carried out by using the original stereotypes (cliches) of the 1910 issue, again in sheets of four; however, now, the sequence of the stereotypes changed and represented the following configurations:

3 h stamp:  

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|}
A & D & \\
B & C &
\end{array}
\]

5 h stamp:  

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|}
A & C & \\
D & B &
\end{array}
\]

Thus, the characteristics listed above, for the 1910 issue now refer to these positions.

A total of 5360 stamps (1340 sheets) was printed of each stamp. Although the stamps were produced in one printing, color shades exist. Perforation is 11 1/2 but the holes are smaller than in the 1910 issue.

Ninth Issue – June 10, 1924

In order to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the resort, two new stamps were issued. The design shows a panorama of the cottages and the portraits of the two founders appear in the two upper corners having the date "1894 – 10. JUNI – 1924" between them. The portrait of Dr. Carl Conrad is on the left and that of Robert Gutten on the right. Figure 10 shows a copy of the stamps.
The stamps were designed by Géza v. Jakots and the final drawings were prepared by Colonel Theodor Lassy: their names appear in minuscule letters in the lower left (G.v.Jakots) and right (T.Lassy), just under the frame. One needs a very good magnifying glass to read them.

The stamps were printed by the printing plant of Krafft and Drotleff of Sibiu (the Romanian name of the town of Nagy Szeben); apparently the two printing plants formerly involved in producing the Hohe Rinne stamps meanwhile merged. The stamps were relief printed, by typography, with half-tone center and portraits, in sheets of ten, Perf. 11 1/2. The stamps have no denomination and are distinguished only by their color: the green stamp was sold for 50 bani and the carmine for 1 leu. Originally, the green was intended for cards and the carmine for letters; however, it seems that at or after the official existence of the local postal service, carmine stamps were also used for cards. The total printing was 30,000 stamps (3,000 sheets) of each.

From the ten stamps in the sheet, six have slight distinguishing marks; these are explained below, based on the following layout*:

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

1 There is a colored dot in the sky to the left of the roof, below "2" in "1924.

3 There is a colored dot in the sky above the trees, below the "1" in "1924".

* This description is again based on the article by the Williams' brothers referenced in connection with the Seventh Issue.
There is no "flag" on the roof of the main building.

On the right-side of the upper left portrait, just below the right top triangular ornament's point, there is an elongated colored mark.

On the right-side of the upper left portrait, to the right of the lower right triangular ornament, there are two small elongated marks, pointing toward the corner of the center picture.

There is a comet-like mark in the sky to the left of the "flag" on the roof of the main building.

Imperforate and other fancy copies of these stamps are known to exist, however, these are printers' waste and were sold only well after the local postal service ceased to exist.

The stamps were used until sometime in 1926 when the local carrier service ceased to exist and the Romanian Postal Service established a regular office at the resort.

Hotel Post Cancellations at Hohe Rinne

I know of nine different cancellations used by the office of the Society at the resort:

(1) The first issue was cancelled with a mark giving the name as

KURHAUS
auf der
HOHEN RINNE

(2) Starting with the second issue a circular canceller was introduced with "Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein-Kurhaus" curved around the upper part and "auf der Hohen Rinne - Section Hermannstadt" around the lower part, with the date in the middle. Figure 11 shows this cancellation.

(3) An oblong canceller with the title

KURHAUS
"AUF DER HOHEN RINNE"

was also used with the second issue. This cancellation is shown in Figure 12.
(4) In 1905 a canceller similar to (2) was introduced. On this, the text of the outer circle remained the same and the type of lettering is almost identical. The text in the inner circle was changed to KURHAUS in the upper half and "HOHE RINNE" in the lower half, both in capital letters. Figure 13 shows this cancellation.

(5) In 1910, an oblong rectangular canceller was introduced and used concurrently with the previous one. This canceller had the following text:

Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein
Sektion Hermannstadt
KURHAUS HOHE RINNE

with the date in the middle.

(6) The 1924 issue is cancelled with four different types of cancellers. The first was a rectangular mark with the text "SEKTION HERMANNSTADT" S.K.V. This is shown in Figure 14.

(7) The second canceller used with the 1924 issue consisted of the text "HOHE RINNE" in double-lined capital letters and the date. Such a cancellation is shown in Figure 15.

(8) The third canceller used with the 1924 issue had the text Direktion des Kurhauses "HOHE RINNE". It is shown in Figure 16.

(9) Finally, some of the stamps of the 1924 issue were cancelled by a date stamp only. Such a cancellation is shown in Figure 17.

The color of the ink was usually purple but variations from red to dirty brown and bluish are also known.
Figure 11.
Cancelled (2).

Figure 12.
Cancelled (3).

Figure 13.
Cancelled (4).

Figure 14.
Cancelled (6)

Direktion des Kurhauses
"HOHE RINNE"

Figure 15.
Cancelled (7)

"HOHE RINNE"
24. Aug. 1924

Figure 16.
Cancelled (8)

6. Aug. 1925

Figure 17.
Cancelled (9).
PART THREE: THE ISSUES OF "BISTRA"

"Bistra" is a Romanian expression and there are a number of locations with this name in Transylvania; for this reason, compilations often grossly mislocate the Bistra we are discussing here. For example, there is a small river named Bistra in the Muntii Calimani (this is the Romanian name of the mountain range; the old Hungarian name is Kelemen Havasok or, in English, the Coloman Alps) and I have read discussions of the hotel posts written in Hungarian which placed "our" Bistra there. Actually, the resort Bistra (in Hungarian: Bisztra, Bisztratelep, Bistra Colony, or Bistra Settlement) was located in the Szász Sebes - Nagy Szeben area, south of Szász Sebes.

Bistra was an unincorporated small village administratively belonging to Zsinna (now: Jina); the nearest post office was at Pojána (Polana Sibiului) and the nearest telegraph office at Szerdahely (Miercurea) meaning the telegraph at the railroad station of the Szász Sebes - Nagy Szeben line.* We should not think on a real town or village; we speak here only about a number of houses in the mountains. The actual resort Bistra was about 30 miles (50 km) southeast of Szász Sebes, up on the mountains. I indicated its location on Map No. 3, based on a map collection published in the 1930s by the Hungarian Cartography Institute.

Most likely, although the area geographically belonged to the village of Bistra, it was easier to get to Szász Sebes than to Zsinna; also, most likely, Zsinna was such a small village that it could not provide the proper supply while Szász Sebes was an old, traditional, typical German town. This is the reason why supply from and to the resort - including the mail service - was handled by a grocery store in Szász Sebes.

The cottage colony was established during the first years of this century and managed by the Szász Sebes (in German: MÜHLBACH) branch of the Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein. As stated by the booklet of the Williams'.

* These data are from the 1898 official Hungarian town list (courtesy of Dr. Z. Sólyom-Fekete at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.). At that time the railroad stations of small villages were authorized to handle and forward private telegraphs also.
brothers, "there was no government postal service linking Bistra (referring here to the resort) with the outside world, so the proprietors arranged to carry mail on their horse-drawn vehicle which made the journey to and from Bistra and Szász Sebes every Tuesday and Friday". This service was actually carried out by the store of Johann Rilki, in Szász Sebes, who evidently had a kind of monopoly.

For the transportation of newspapers a fee of 2 fillér (heller) was asked while the rate for postal cards and letters was 6 fillér (heller). Similar to Hohe Rinne, they also produced stamps to have a proof of the payment of this charge: a quantity of 5,000 of stamps of each denomination is said to have been prepared. The stamps were designed by Dr. Ernst Krauss, the president of the Szász Sebes branch ("Section Mühlbach") of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania; the design shows a fir tree and the texts "S.K.V. - Section Mühlbach" and "Bistra Post". The die for the printing was prepared in Vienna and the actual printing was done at Szász Sebes; there is no record about the actual printing plant. Figure 18 shows a copy of this stamp, with Johann Rilki's cancellation.

![Figure 18. A copy of the Bistrapost stamp, with Johann Rilki's cancellation.]

We have some problem with the date of issue and in fact also with the stamps. Older philatelic books and catalogues give the year when the stamps were issued as 1912 (e.g. Jászai in his book* gives the date of issue as June 1, 1912). In their booklet, the Williams brothers advanced it to 1909 and confirm this by showing the photo of a postal card mailed to Nagy Szeben on July 3, 1909. According to recent information from them, there is now new evidence for use as early as 1907.

The second problem we have is with the stamps themselves. Evidently not many people wanted to receive 4-5 days old newspapers and there is a question whether the 2-h stamps