

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Pomorze and Poznan Before 1918

by Stephen G. Rich



The two northwesternmost provinces of Poland, Pomorze and Poznan, lend themselves to the possibility of a collection which has not a single Polish stamp, yet which can become a complete collection of those of the three successive postal services which served this area while it was under German rule. In fact, such a collection can even extend to the earliest stampless covers from these provinces. The earliest reported stampless covers from either seem to be from the 1840's, and from Poznan province. Doubtless earlier ones exist, but are reposing unnoticed in collections of stampless of Prussia.

With the introduction of stamps in 1850 and stamped envelopes in 1851 by Prussia, the possibilities of showing Pomorze and Poznan usage at once began. The difficulty lies in identifying; for the first Prussian issues, up to approximately 1860, carry cancellations of numerals in four nested

circles, not unlike those of the Kingdom of Poland just to the east. With the aid of one of the published lists of the Prussian numeral cancellations and with a map to locate those within Prussian-occupied Poland, it would be possible to compile a useful list.

With the 1861-65 issues of Prussia, straight line boxed town marks, as illustrated, replace the numerals. Pomorze and Poznan places are far from frequent in most accumulations. However, enough turn up to make the search through material of old Prussia, off cover, interesting. In one lot of about a hundred Prussian stamps, I was fortunate enough to locate two of Pinne (German spelling of Pniewy) in Poznan and one of Czarnowo in Pomorze.

trict, and German Imperial stamp up to 1918, each one used in German-held Poland, is a fascinating one. On the basis of my own speed in finding them for five years past, I don't advise anyone more than thirty-five years old to even start the attempt.

The pictures with this article show

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PINNE
29 9 * 10-11

MUR·GOSLIN
7 12 * 9 10

The boxed straight line marks continued in use for many years, in a few cases up to approximately 1890.

In the period from 1865 on, double circle town marks appear, replacing the straight line marks at many larger offices and appearing in new offices then established.

Prussian stamps were replaced by those of the North German Postal District in 1867; and thus Poznan and Pomorze appear on this new series. Definitely, such usage is much harder to find than among stamps of Prussia. The Prussian postmarks of course continue in use.

With 1871, German Empire stamps appear in place of those of the District. It has been my experience thus far, looking over a fair number of lots of them from 1871 to 1918 inclusive, that Poznan and Pomorze cancelled copies are definitely difficult to find. I have had best luck with the ugly "Pfennig" and "Pfennige" issues of the later '70's and the '80's. The higher values are specially difficult to locate.

The possibility of getting a complete showing, by the catalog, of every Prussian, North German Postal District 1847 Torun mark (German spelling of the name) from a stampless cover, a typical straight line Prussian mark, and a typical late Prussian or early Empire mark, all from Poznan province.

The collector will find many an odd name, and many a peculiar abbreviation of a name, to enliven the assembling of Poznan and Pomorze usage during the Prussian captivity. Perhaps one of the most bizarre to the American eye and ear is Murawanna Goszlina, with its abbreviated straight line designation as MUR. GOSLIN. Polnisch Crone, a town in Pomorze, with the period when the Germans

insisted on calling it "Crone on the Brahe" to eliminate the hated word "Polnisch," is another with an interesting history of variations.

REGARDING POLAND NEW ISSUES

We have been noticing the abundance of Polish new issues as they came out, and a careful tabulation of them has been made. The prices of these are fluctuating and members buy them at their own risk. We feel that since the Society is an organization of Poland specialists, we owe it to our members to show these new issues. We will begin doing so in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

THIS 'n THAT

Do you know that the treasurer says that a few members have not remitted their 1946 dues of \$1.50? If you number among these few, kindly make your payment to Jack Rux, 6136 Addison St., Chicago 34, Ill.

We wish a Happy Birthday to the Ogden Hill Stamp Club on their 10th anniversary which was June 10.

Member Dave Lidman has taken over a new job as editor in chief of PHILATELY, a new magazine on stamp collecting. The first issue is expected to be published about August 5th. He promises stamp news with class and color.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED

FOR HONORABLE MILITARY SERVICE



William Wojcik
John Sopczak

A relic of a vanished postal service is shown in the November, 1939, National Geographic Magazine: it's a picture of one of the colorful boxes for mail bearing the Port Gdansk Polish stamps sold in Danzig prior to the war.

Torun Philatelic Exhibition Issue

by Bert Powell

Data

Scott's No.: B28, Type A59.
Purpose: To commemorate Philatelic Exhibition at Torun, Poland.
Date Issued: May 21, 1933.
Type: Semi-Postal.
Subject: City Hall of Torun.
Value: 70 Groszy face plus 40 Groszy surtax.
Amount Issued: 100,000.
Color: Reddish-brown.
Paper: Buff colored, wove.
Perforation: 11½.
Watermark: Posthorns.
Printing: From original engraved plates as used on Scott's No. 275.
Printer: Government Printing Works.
Life: May 21 to June 30, 1933.
Size: 20mm by 25mm.
Varieties and errors: None known.

This attractive Polish stamp was issued in compliment to a philatelic exhibition held in the historic city of Torun, Poland, from May 21 to May 28, 1933. The surtax of 40 groszy charged for each stamp, was intended to raise funds for the exhibition. The design of this stamp is identical with Scott's number 275, which was printed in dark blue and issued in January of the same year to commemorate the 700th anniversary of Torun.

The printing of this philatelic commemorative was from the original engraved plates as used in the printing of the anniversary issue. Worthy of note to the student, is the interesting fact that the lettering on this plate was a distinct departure from previous practice of the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. The lettering on this stamp is a bold forceful style which though ornate, never-the-less is of a legible and easily read type, which perfectly expresses the Polish taste of beauty combined with an air of solidity and utility.

A special circular handstamp cancel measuring 34mm. in diameter, was used during the exhibit. It seems to be of the steel faced variety as the printed matter is exceptionally clear and well defined. Cancelling during the tenure of the exhibit was done in a pleasing shade of red. Philatelic covers are extremely scarce in this coun-



try and are probably none too plentiful in Poland since the Nazi holocaust. Cut squares depicting the stamp with the philatelic cancel similar to the illustration, while encountered some what more frequently than covers, are still by no means common.

Torun, which was sometimes in the past referred to as Thorn or Thurn, was a very important city of the Hanseatic League and is familiar for its many historical relics of the Middle Ages. The city was actually founded in 1231, though Poland commemorated the origin in 1933 instead of 1931. Just why the commemoration was celebrated two years later, is not known. As previously mentioned, Scott's number 275 was issued as part of the commemorative event. The city was originally founded by the Order of Teutonic Knights who were invited by Duke Conrad of Masovia to reside in this locality for the protection of the Dukes territories against the savage assaults of the Prussians. Ironically enough, Prussian methods haven't changed much in the last seven hundred years. Torun, which suffered from Prussian militarism seven hundred years ago, was again wantonly ravaged by this "enlightened" race in World War II.

Ultimately however, the Teutonic

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Knights became a more ruthless foe of Poland than the Prussians whom they were called to subdue. It followed as a matter of course, that Torun became a subject city of the Teutonic Order. The Poles could hardly be expected to take the overbearing attitude and the harsh treatment of the Knights without a murmur, so, as naturally could be expected, they revolted against their arrogant conquerors in 1454 and the city was finally annexed to Poland in 1466.

Acknowledgements are made by the author to the Polish handbook, Ikaros, and to the S. I. A. which published a most informative article on this stamp some years ago.

ON THE BARLETTA-TRANI ISSUE

The following was printed in PAR-ADA, an illustrated fortnightly for the Polish Forces on April 7, 1946:

"Polish civilians, who after the German defeat drifted to Italy and grouped together at the towns of Barletta and Trani on the Adriatic sea in special camps under the care and assistance of the Polish 2nd Corps, govern themselves according to the ways of the pre-war Poland. Assisting them is American aid to Catholic Poles, the War Relief Services—N. C. W. C., which is active wherever there are Poles, civilians or soldiers. By the initiative of a section of the organization in Italy, special postage stamps were issued. These stamps—of the Region Post of the Polish Corps in Italy—are truly historical, and income derived through their sale is for a fund to assist Polish refugees."

The Barletta-Trani "Poles in Italy" issue, which first appeared as four stamps, then acquired an airmail value and then was supplemented with three souvenir sheets, has now been augmented with five "centow" denominations, including two bicolors of a new design: 15c olive brown in the music-and-medal design; 30c green and brown and 60c red brown and olive green in the new design of a bejewelled Madonna between kneeling angels; 50c gray black in the design showing an old grenadier and a modern soldier against an outline map of Poland; 80c dull violet in the map of Italy and coat-of-arms design.*

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Camille de Rhynal, of Nice, France sends photographs of the front and back of a cover sent on July 25, 1942, from London, and bearing some of the Polish set of stamps issued in London in 1941 (3K1-3K3) to an address in Nice, Cimiez, France. The letter was carried to France from England by "Undersea Boat." These same boats were used to effect the escape of persons from Europe during the German occupation, and for the passage of intelligence men of the Allies.

Letters transported by these boats were censored both in England and when they reached the Continent. Mr. de Rhynal states that the "Undersea Boats" sailed for the port of Villefranche s/mer, near Nice, under the nose of the enemy, a few miles from their headquarters. The landing was made at night with the collaboration of the French Coast Guard, and some fishermen who belonged to the Underground army. The voyage from England to Nice took only four days. The

letter that Mr. de Rhynal has was delivered without any suspicion being aroused on the part of the Nazi or Italian authorities who were in control of that section.*

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- 291 Karl Wulff
154 Oxford Ave.,
Dayton 7, Ohio
(Poland & U. S.)
- 292 M. Rayall De Ragan
Skrz. Poczt. 1004
Poznan 2, Poland
(All Europe)
- 293 Tadeusz Juszcak
ul. Akacjowa
Podkowa Lesna K/Warszawy
(All Europe)
- 294 John M. Maciolek
166 Shurs Lane
Myk, Phila. 27, Pa.
(EPP & Poland Coins)
- 295 Jan Bojko
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- Culver, B. G.
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- Falcon, Stanley J.
Hq. Co., 9840 T. S. U.-C. E.
North Fort Lewis, Wash.
- Harmel, Julius
626 Aldine Ave.
Chicago 13, Illinois
- Sopezak, John
420 Willow St.
Bridgeport 8, Conn.
- Wojcik, William
1539 W. Cortez St.
Chicago, Ill.

POLISH THUMBNAIL SKETCHES*

by Bert Powell

Thomas Paine, the American Revolutionary War Pamphleteer, has never been depicted on a U. S. stamp! However, his likeness appears on Poland #319 issued by that country in commemoration of our Constitution. He once said, "I love the man who can smile in trouble."

* * *

Early Russian stamps used in Poland are identified by the cancellations being in numerals in the center of four concentric circles or as in the case of Warsaw, occasionally in a square of the same type.

* * *

Frederick Chopin, the Polish poet of the piano, was one of the greatest composers the world has ever known. His likeness is portrayed on Poland's Scott's type A45. His music is deeply imbued with Polish spirit. Chopin's music is unique and the greatness of his genius, though essentially Polish, is so human in its qualities that it has become universal.

* * *

Near Krakow, lies the Polish city of Czestochowa, where on "Jasna Gora" (Bright Mountain) stands the convent of the Pauline Friars with a church containing a miraculous picture of the Blessed Virgin. Tradition has it, that Saint Luke painted this unusual and beautiful likeness of the Virgin and the Holy Child. Poland's stamp, Scott's type A76 portrays the convent and the church which plays such an important part in The Deluge, by Henry Sienkiewicz.

* * *

The stamps of Marienwerder in which Polish specialists are so interested come, as a rule, very poorly perforated. It is said that the perforating was done in a hurry and was somewhat bungled in the operation. It will be noted that Scott lists some of them partly perforated and specialists claim that there are others of the series in this same condition.

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