

BULLETIN of the

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STAMPS OF NEW REPUBLICS SHOWN AT POLPEX '93

Western Europe has changed dramatically. With the fall of communism, independent republics have suddenly sprouted up. When the Berlin Wall came down, the two separated German States united. Poland led the way with the defiance of the Soviet regime brought on by Lech Waleś's Solidarity Party. Lithuania followed Poland's footsteps and declared its independence. Belarus and the Ukraine did the same. And just last month Czechoslovakia split in two as the Czech Republic and independent Slovakia.

History is mirrored in philately as stamps are the best evidence of what happened. POLPEX 93 will attempt to show it all with the exhibiting of stamps and postal history of countries surrounding Poland.



POLAND
AND HER NEW
DEMOCRATIC
NEIGHBORS



Polpex 93 Special Cancellation designed by
Arkadiusz Walinski.

This issue of 1990 shows "Matka Boska Ostrobramska," revered by Lithuania and Poland.

"Poland and Her New Democratic Neighbors" is the theme this year for the Polonus annual exhibition March 19-21 at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, IL. The theme will be featured on the cancellation, cacheted covers, souvenir card and sheets issued by the Polpex. The U.S. Postal Station will use the illustrated cancellation during the three days of the show.

Exhibitor's entry applications are available from Arkadiusz Walinski, 7353 W. Estes Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631. A program catalog will be printed for the Polpex and we ask members to support the project by being listed as a Polpex Patron or Well Wisher. Patrons at \$5 or more, and Well Wishers at \$2 are welcome. Send your donation to Stefan Czarniecki, 1511 South 59th Avenue, Cicero, IL 60650.

3 Mk. on 40 Fen. Issue - 1921

Scott #153, Ruch #120

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

In the first article,¹ which described the precursor issue (Scott #101, Ruch #97) of this overprinted stamp (Scott 153, Ruch 120), I presented insofar as material at my disposal permitted, the varieties found on the four postal sheets comprising the printed sheet. The information given extended the number of varieties identified on pages 164-165, PZP.² In addition, I identified varieties, not previously indicated, characteristic of a possible Sector 4 not indicated in PZP.²

This article will be concerned with the characteristics associated with the line obliterating the 40 fen. value in the two proofs, the characteristic of the five lines which obliterated the initial value in the final overprint design, and varieties in the overprint "3 Mk." The overprint consisted of "3 Mk." and either a heavy solid line (proofs) or five thin lines (adopted design) to obliterate the 40 fen.

Proofs

Two proofs are known, the difference between Proof 1 and Proof 2 is in the size of the "3", being 2¼ mm high in Proof 1 and 3½ mm high in Proof 2. The solid horizontal line on both proofs consists of a series of segments, not a continuous line across the sheet of stamps. Where these segments make contact, there is a space. Knowledge of the location of these breaks may assist in identifying the position of the respective stamp.

In my collection I have 36 copies of Proof 2. Of this total, 29 are type I, i.e., 3½ mm spacing between the "3" and "M" — a block of 20 (positions 1 through 20), two blocks of four and a single. Of the seven type II (2¾ mm spacing), one is a block of four and three are singles. Breaks seen, based on the above, are found in positions 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 24. Presumably, these breaks are identical in Proofs 1 and 2.

The Overprinted Stamp

The overprinted stamp is identical to Proof 2, except for the substitution of five thin horizontal lines obliterating the 40 fen. value. Although these lines appear to be continuous across the sheet of stamps, they too consist of a series of segments. Since the breaks in these lines vary slightly depending upon the amount of ink used and other considerations, I list them only in terms of their



PROOF I.

PROOF II.

ADOPTED DESIGN

position to the right or left of the right side of the lower loop of the "3", the left side of the left leg of "M", and the left side of the vertical leg of the "k". The list is indicated below:

Breaks in 5 Horizontal Lines (Preliminary Listing)

Position	Break in Line				
	1	2	3	4	5
1		RM*		RM	
2		L3		L3	
9	Rk		Rk	L3(?)	Rk
10	R3		R3		R3
11		RM		RM	
12		L3		L3	
19	Rk		Rk		Rk
20	R3		R3		R3
21		RM		RM	
22		L3 (2) [†]		L3	
29	Rk		Rk		Rk
30	R3				R3
32		L3		L3	
38	Rk		Rk		
39	Rk				Rk
42				L3	
43		L3		L3	
48	Rk		Rk		Rk
49			Rk		Rk
52			Rk		LM
54		RM (2), Rk		L3	
58					Rk
59	LM		LM		
62				LM	
63		L3			
64				L3	
68	RM, Rk				
69			LM		LM
73		L3		L3	
78	Rk		Rk		Rk
80			L3		
81					+ [‡]
83	L3	L3		L3	
88			Rk		Rk
93	L3		L3		
94	Rk		Rk		Rk
97		L3		L3	
98		Rk		Rk	

* R or L, right or left side of 3, M, or k; [†](2), two breaks in same line; [‡] +, break is from left end of line.

Anyone wishing the approximate measurements may get them by writing me.

Varieties

In his article, Steczynski⁵ included a table showing the varieties of Scott #153 in his collection. That table is reproduced on the next page:

Varieties in Perforations, etc.⁵

Space between 3 and Mk.	Surcharge	Gum	Perforation				
			10	11½ smooth	11½ rough	10 x 11½	11½ x 10
Top 4 rows	Matt	White	+	+	+	+	
3½ mm		Yellow	+	+	+		
Spacing	Glossy	White	+	+	+	+	
		Yellow	+	+	+		
Bottom 6 rows	Matt	White	+	+	+	+	
2 3/4 mm		Yellow	+	+	+		
Spacing	Glossy	White	+	+	+	+	
		Yellow	+	+	+		

He listed additional varieties, which included shifted or misplaced surcharges in any direction. Under matt surcharges only he added inverted, vertical, double, double inverted, "3" inverted "Mk," upright, "Mk." omitted, comma after "Mk" in position 51, no period after "Mk", left foot of "M" broken in position 70, and vertical stroke of "k" broken in positions 82 and 86. Under glossy surcharges only, he indicates obliterating bars only — "3 Mk." deleted in position 20 on some sheets only.

Defective surcharges, i.e., "Mk." partially or wholly missing, particularly on used copies, he attributed to the fact that many sheets of the basic 40 fen. stamps showed traces of gum on the surface, which, on soaking, would carry off that portion of the surcharge with it.

Polish catalogs^{2,3} also state that the stamp was part imperforate, i.e., missing perforations at the right or left sides, as well as being double perforated vertically; and that the surcharge appears on folded corners and printed on the reverse side.⁴ A cancelled stamp with missing perforations at the bottom was illustrated and described by Zarzycki.⁹

IKAROS³ indicates other varieties: the "comma" instead of the period after "Mk" in position 51, shifted overprints, incomplete strikes of the overprint, i.e., missing letters or broken obliterating bars, as well as sideways, inverted, and double overprints. Catalog⁴ also notes inverted, double, and sideways (vertical) overprints; "comma" instead of period; round dots; lacking vertical perforations; and double perforations horizontally. Catalog² states: "Stamp 51 in the sheet shows a printing variety in the form of a "comma" rather than a period in a portion of the earlier printed sheets. In later overprinted sheets this variety was removed." In addition the following printing varieties were listed:

- Position 30. White spot at bottom of "3"
- 70. Left leg of "M" broken
- 82. Vertical leg of "k" broken
- 83. Break in left portion of "k"

The overprinting took place over four periods from the early part of January to the end of February, 1921.

Following an examination of 28 sheets of overprinted stamps, Włodarski⁸ noted that the sheets could be divided into four groups based upon the overprint varieties noted. The groups with their varieties are tabulated as follows:

Position	Group				Description
	A	B	C	D	
1		+			"M" cut into
6				+	White spot in "3"
18			+		Dot in "k"
22	+				Deformed "M"
30	+				White spot in "3", deformed leg in "k"
32	+				Left leg of "M" deformed
33	+				"3" broken at bottom, "k" cut into at left
38			+		"k" cut at angle at top
42		+			White spot in "M" at bottom right
44		+			Right leg of "k" cut at angle at bottom
51	+				"Comma" instead of period
56			+		"M" cut at angle top left
57	+				"M" cut at angle at top left, "k" incomplete
68				+	"M" cut
70	+				Left leg of "M" broken
82	+				Vertical leg of "k" broken

In the material examined, varieties in Group A occurred solely on sheets of Sector a, Group B on b, Group C on c, and Group D on a (reference 1).

In addition to the varieties noted in the lettering of "POCZTA POLSKA" (reference 1) in the non-overprinted stamps (Scott No. 101, Ruch No. 97), there are several varieties in the overprint, both in the proof and in the finally adopted design. These include the spacing of 3½ mm between the "3" and "Mk" in positions 1 through 40, spacing 2¾ mm between the "3" and "Mk" in positions 41 through 100, the round dots in positions 17, 24, 34, 38, 45, 50, 61, 71, 84, 91 and 99,^{2,3,6,8} the matt versus glossy surcharges, and the breaks in the solid lines of the proofs or breaks in the five lines of the adopted design, which obliterated the 40 fen. There are also variations in the "3" or "Mk:" which were present in the original type face used or which occurred as the overprinting progressed. All of these variations, both in the precursor issue as well as the overprinted sheets are helpful in plating these issues. The positions noted above for the round dots have an error in that the round dot listed for position 50 should be position 59, ^{5,7} which I confirm.

The "Comma" Variety, Position 51

The question of the "comma" variety in position 51 may be raised here. Włodarski⁸ stated that the "comma" variety resulted from a wedge-shaped bit of foreign material attached to the period, which resulted in the printing of the "comma" rather than that this variety occurred only in the early overprinted sheets, being replaced by a period for the later overprinted sheets. He reported the "comma" in Group A (see tabulation) and in Sector a (reference 7) of the basic stamp. Since I have found the "comma" in one additional sector, I agree with Włodarski that the "comma" was not an accidental printing variety that was replaced, but an artifact that occurred during the printing process. The "comma" variety may have been present in Sector A or a, when the overprinted sheet consisted of the four panes taken from the postal warehouse, but could be found on at least one of the single sheets recalled from post offices before overprinting was initiated. The assistance of collectors, who have sheets, or at least blocks or pairs showing position 51 with the "comma" variety can identify the basic sheet used in producing the overprint. For the benefit of these collectors, I have identified differences in positions 51 and 52, which would be of help in assigning specific sectors.

Pos.	Sector (Sc. #101)				Comma (Sc. #153)			
	1	2	3	4	Sector			
					1	2	3	4
51	11(K)		8(O)		+	±	-	-
52		3(C)	8(O)	10-11 (S-K)				

All that can be said now is that the "comma" variety occurs in Sector A (or a) as well as in at least one additional sector.

I have not included the overprint varieties that I have seen, since I have only two full sheets and these are of sector 4 (or d). It may be possible to prepare such a tabulation after additional material is reviewed, since a determination has to be made as to what varieties are associated with the type used as against those varieties that occurred during the printing process.

ADDENDUM

Since preparing the original article on the 3 Mk./40 fen. issue, I have had the opportunity through the kindness of Mr. Chester Schafer, who supplied the original Steczynski (Larking) material, to study 10 more sheets and numerous other stamps pertaining to Scott #153 (Ruch 120). Rather than revising the original article, I have chosen to prepare this Addendum which incorporates material learned from a study of the above-mentioned collection.

In addition to the breaks in the solid lines used to obliterate the 40 fen. value in the proofs noted earlier, breaks seen in positions 24, 35, 39, 42, 51 and 52 can be added.

The table in the section "The 'Comma' Variety, Position 51" may now be modified as follows:

Pos.	Sector (Sc. #101)				Comma, pos. 51 (Sc. #153)			
	1	2	3	4	seen in Sector			
					1	2	3	4
51*	11(K)		8(O)		+	-	-	-
51 [†]					±	±	±	±
52		3(C)	8(O)	10-11(S-K)				

* Sheets of 4 panes; [†] single panes

On the basis of the above, the phrase "... could be found on at least one of the single sheets recalled from post offices..." in the original article should be changed to "... could be found on any of the single sheets..."

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Centennial of Polish Philately to End at POLSKA '93

The Exhibition "Polska '93" will be held May 7-16, 1993. This will be the third International Exhibition under the FIP patronage after World War II and in the 100 years history of Polish philately. The celebrations started in Krakow on January 6th, 1993 with a reunion of Polish stamp collectors. A special commemorative postal card was issued with a special cancellation. Polska '93 will end the Centennial of Polish philately.

In the Court of Honor Class, we will have a good opportunity to see the famous collection of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, Prince Rainier of Monaco and J. A. Samaranch. In a special class, the collections of Z. Mikucki and J. Witkowski will be presented, as well as rare items from the Wroclaw Museum of Posts and Philately.

For the first time, Polska '93 will be attended by dealers and foreign Post Offices, offering their products to the public. The Organizing Committee is doing its best so that the visiting tourists and philatelists will enjoy the exhibition, good accommodations and excellent cuisine.

FALCON TRAVEL BUREAU, INC. is offering a group rate on LOT Polish Airlines Boeing 767 flights from Chicago and New York with no change of planes. A block of seats has been reserved for departure May 4th and return May 18th. For those who wish to either return sooner or later, we can reserve your flights for the requested dates at the time of booking at no extra charge.

Airfare from New York - round trip - May 4th: \$749 + \$18 tax

Airfare from Chicago - round trip - May 18th: \$799 + \$18 tax

Upon arrival in Warsaw on LOT Polish Airlines on May 5th, you will be provided with ground transportation to POLSKA '93/Poznan.

From other cities in the U.S.A. there are special add-on fares to connect to LOT out of Chicago or New York, i.e. Miami: \$234.00.

These rates are as of January 1st, 1993 and are subject to change. If you wish to fly on other carriers, we can also make those arrangements for you, but they require a change of plane.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty or Wanda at:

9018 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714.

Phone (708) 298-0550 - Fax: (708) 298-0553.

Anybody interested in accommodations, touring Poland or participating in events accompanying the exhibition is requested to contact:

ORBIS S.A. Biuro Obsługi Cudzoziemców,

Pl. Gen. H. Dąbrowskiego 1, 61-894 Poznań, Poland.

Tel.: (48) (61) 330-221, Fax: (48) (61) 332-211.

or Falcon Travel, (address and phone above).

—Fred Szebel



POLAND'S STAMPS of the 1930's WORTH BUYING

From: "Stamp Market Tips"

By JOHN ROSS

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Poland again is an independent democracy. So far its economy is weak, but eventually I think it should recover.

That will be the time when prices for its pre-World War II stamps will rise rather rapidly. Very few of these issues remain in Poland. Most were sold years ago to dealers in the United States and other Western nations.

In September 1938, Poland issued a souvenir sheet to raise money to equip a balloon destined to explore the stratosphere, Scott no. B31. The printing was 65,000 sheets.

Over the years, this sheet has become scarce and is difficult to find.

The 1992 Scott catalog prices it unused, hinged at \$55, down \$2.50 from the 1991 retail value. Occasionally in a German stamp magazine, I see a dealer buy price for the sheet. Recently that buy price is around \$35.

I believe this souvenir sheet will increase in price a lot further once collectors in Poland start buying more expensive stamps again.

You will do well to buy this sheet in the United States now.

Poland's 1938 Stratosphere Balloon souvenir sheet, Scott B31, is in demand in Europe. Shown is the stamps from souvenir sheet.



POLISH GENERAL GOVERNMENT IS RISING

World War II began when Germany attacked Poland Sept. 1, 1939. The Germans overran Poland in a very short time. Soon afterward, Germany established military rule in Poland and began issuing stamps for what was called the General Government.

After the end of the war, large quantities of these stamps were sold to dealers in the United States. Most of the stamps still can be found fairly easily. As the years passed, many General Government stamps in stocks in the United States have been sold to dealers in Europe. In most cases, though, General Government stamps still are available in the United States at prices lower than what collectors in Europe have to pay.

Recently, I noticed several dealers buy ads for the Red Cross set of four issued in August 1940, Scott NB1-4. The 1993 Scott catalog

prices the four unused, hinged stamps at \$14.50, unchanged from the 1992 retail value. Dealers in Europe are paying around \$8.00 for the set. Most retail lists of European dealers price the set at least at \$13.00.

I believe you still can buy the Red Cross set in the United States for around \$10.00. This set is rising in price. There is no telling how much farther it might go.

First semi-postal set of Poland General Government, Scott NB1-4, is in demand in Europe



TIP OF THE WEEK

After the Germans overran Poland at the start of World War II, the Polish government fled to London and established itself in exile.

Many Polish aviators and other military personnel served in that government.

In December 1941, the exile government issued its first set of stamps, Scott 3K 1-8. These stamps had to be affixed to letters forwarded by the Polish merchant marine. They appear especially on letters to the U.S.

Covers with the exile stamps are scarce and very desirable, but mint sets are in great demand, too.



Polish collectors are seeking Poland's 1941 Government In Exile set.

The printing of the stamps was only 85,000 sets. During the decades of Soviet rule in Poland, not many of these stamps came into the country.

Now there is good demand for the stamps in Poland. The 1992 Scott catalog prices the set at \$15.10, unchanged from the 1991 retail value.

Retail prices in the United States are close to \$10. I believe this set is a good buy at that price. This WWII set has a good chance to rise in price. Buy it soon.

—J.R.

Historical - Investigative - Philatelic Bulletin, Łódź, Poland

This respectable periodical was started on November 15, 1960 in Łódź under the title: "Biuletyn Filatelistyczny." 100 copies were printed and are now bibliophilic rarities. Since that time this periodical changed names and its appearance. Its names were: 1960-1969: "Biuletyn Filatelistyczny"; 1970-1976: "Łódzki Biuletyn Filatelistyczny"; from 1977: "Historyczno Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny." At first, 1960-1970, this periodical was made in the size A-4 by means of an offset copier; since 1971 it is printed typographically in the size B-5. The issues are numbered in a continuous manner.

The index by Mieczysław Czernik for the first 50 issues was published in "L.B.F." No. 50, p. 253 and for the issues 51-100 in No. 103, p. 9.

Since 1967 this periodical is being issued quarterly. The last yearly compilation appeared in 1988. There were delays in the issuance due to printing difficulties. To make up for these delays the editors decided

to issue quadruple numbers for 1989 and for the following years. Currently appeared the quadruple issue No. 1-4 (No. 107-110) for 1989 printed on enameled paper and for 1990 (the last issue) the quadruple issue No. 1-4 (No. 111-114).

While most back issues are exhausted, those still available can be ordered from the publishers through Mr. Jerzy Tokar, Aleja Kosciuszki 118/35, 90-446 Lodz, Poland for \$5.00 U.S. per issue, including surface mail postage.

—Stanley Kronenberg

POLISH-AMERICANS RANK HIGH IN NUMBER

According to Les Kuczynski, national director of the Polish American Congress, recently compiled tables from the 1990 U.S. Census indicate that there are over one million residents in the state of Illinois of Polish descent. Of those responding nationwide to the U.S. Census, 9,366,106 people replied that they were of Polish ancestry and another 397,014 said that they were born in Poland, bringing the official total about just short of 10 million people of Polish heritage in the United States. Kuczynski who is also the general counsel for the Polish National Alliance, says that a more realistic number of Americans of Polish descent and Poles born in Poland residing in the U.S. would be closer to 12 million.

Kuczynski attributes this tabulation's accuracy in numbers of Polish-Americans as skewed due to the fact that the information was gathered from the U.S. Census long-form questionnaire. The long-form was mailed to about one in six or 17.7 million homes and of those replying ten percent did not identify themselves by any ethnic background according to the U.S. department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. The census bureau also commented that the data is based on a sample of the U.S. population and that it is subject to sampling variability and non-sampling error such as coverage error and processing error.

A truer picture of the Polish-American population is seen everyday on the streets of American cities such as Chicago, Milwaukee, New York, Detroit or Columbus. Municipalities such as these have a great number of people living and working in their own community and are not often represented in other areas, thus sometimes creating illusions of lesser numbers.

The census figures show that more than four percent of America's population is made up of people declaring themselves of Polish heritage. In Illinois more than a million people are Polish or are of Polish descent. Almost nine percent of the American born population in the state are of Polish ancestry and of the foreign born population, Poles make up more than eight percent. In straight numbers, only New York state has more people of Polish-American background, 1,181,077. Compared to Illinois' 962,827. Illinois also has another 82,211 foreign born Poles as residents.

Five other states have Polish-American populations greater than a half-million and another ten states that have a population with an average of a quarter of a million Poles. The neighboring states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio have Polish-American and Polish populations of 908,687, 511,409 and 452,053 respectively.

TED KWIECINSKI PASSES ON

Polonus lost an active member when Ted Kwiecinski succumbed after a sudden illness on Dec. 18, 1992 at the age of 74.



Ted was our able secretary for several years. He then took over as librarian and the keeper of all Polonus Bulletins, program books, souvenir cards and seals, covers and other publications which were stored in the home of the late Chester Mikucki. He sorted the material and stored it in a professional manner. He took an interest in promoting Polish philately among the youth, by preparing special packets of donated stamps for free distribution to youth attending our stamp shows. He always

helped in setting up the Polpex exhibits. He volunteered where help was needed. Polonus will miss him!

—R. H. Strzelecki

A Netherlands Pope John Paul II Forgery Discovered

Recently a forgery of the May 11, 1985 Local Post Office "Eindhoven" Netherlands souvenir sheet appeared on the philatelic market. The perforation is $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.



On the original the perforations surround the stamp design only. On the forgery the perforations run completely through the whole sheet horizontally and vertically. The sheet was offered to me for \$80.00.

—R. Odrowski

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**Polonus Medal designed by
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ciety, P. O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

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