

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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The Krakow Issues

by J. Gapinski and F. E. Wolosewick

Another Article on Poland's Famous Nos. 41 to 60 Stamps.

Type I Overprinted Stamps

(In the former articles on the Krakow issues, the authors discussed only the general aspects of the issue, and occasionally interjected some detailed information pertaining to the individual stamps. It is now their intention to make a detailed analysis of each individual stamp, and also to discuss all those factors which in one way or another enter into their description.)

The first stamps to be discussed will be the 3, 5, and 10 Heller denomination; Scott's Nos. 41, 42, and 44, since all these stamps fall into one group. As small quantities of each were available, they were printed in one lot. The surcharge used in overprinting was of Type I. It is definitely known that the above stamps were not the first ones to be overprinted, since the characteristic damages, like the damaged "A" in POLSKA, on the 30th stamp, and the cut in the letter "P" of "POCZTA," on the 75th stamp, can be found in these denominations.

In order to complete the discussion of these stamps, we are again repeating the total quantities issued, together with the probable number of errors, and major varieties.

Scott's Number	Denomination and Color	Total Issued	Number with Thin "Z"	Number with "Double Dots"	Number with Damaged "A"
41	3H, Violet	2350	240	23 or 24	24
42	5H, Light Green	2050	210	20 or 21	21
44	10H, Magenta ...	2250	230	21 or 22	22

From the above table one can readily appreciate that the varieties, such as the presence of "Double Dot" instead of the conventional rhombus on the 73rd stamp, and the appearance of the damaged "A" on the 30th stamp, are extremely scarce in the above issues. By comparison, the thin "Z" errors are approximately ten times as numerous.

Some doubt exists in our minds as to the total number of "Double Dots" found in these stamps. In each of the above denominations half sheets of fifty stamps were used. From the above data, the printer could use either the left half of the matrix, or the upper half of the matrix, for surcharging the half sheet of fifty stamps. If the left half were used the number of "Double Dot" varieties would be increased by one, and if the upper half were used, the number of "Double Dot" varieties would be decreased by one. In either case the number of damaged "A's" would be unaffected by the manner of surcharging the half sheet of fifty stamps, since the 30th stamp, would appear in either section of the sheet.

In the above denominations there are no inverted surcharges, or double surcharges. Any stamps in these denominations found with surcharges other than normal, are forgeries. As a final word of caution, thin "Z" forgeries are



Illustrating an unusual philatelic cover. This cover contains the following genuine stamps 6, 15, 20, and 40 Heller denominations. The 3, 5, 10 and 12 Heller stamps show the forged thin "Z's," the balance of the stamps are also forged. The cancellation on these stamps appears to be genuine.

quite possible in these issues. These forgeries can either be detected by inspection or may be evaluated from precise measurements of the surcharges. Rules for detection, and tables of measurements have been given us previously.

At the time of the surcharging of these stamps, the monetary value of the Krone was undergoing rapid devaluation. Since the stamps originally were of low monetary value, they were then of little practical use for ordinary postal service. It is our conviction that some clever stamp collectors and dealers became aware of the limitations of these stamps for postal uses, and when they further discovered the small quantity of issue, bought out these stamps from the post offices. Consequently only a very small number of these stamps actually performed postal duty.

The very limited use of the 3, 5, and also of the 10 Heller stamps for postal purposes, raises some interesting philatelic questions and speculations as to the genuineness of postal can-

cellations, and of postal genuineness of the covers. There is a fine distinction which we are trying to bring out in the present discussion, from those which were cancelled by some obliging postal employee. It is our belief that these cancelled covers, were carried away from the postal window by the owners, without being sent to their destination through the regular channels.

In order to bring out the distinction, we will cite illustrations which depend upon postal rates prevalent at the time. We really ought to know the postal rates within the confines of the city of Krakow, and also postal rates to other cities, within Poland, and to foreign countries. We have not been able to determine with exactness, what the current rates were for the various points of destination, but have a fair idea by comparing postal rates used at that time in other sections of Poland. Hence a knowledge of postal rates must be brought into the picture in order to distinguish between genuinely used postal covers

and those covers cancelled to order.

In the first example, a cover bearing a genuine 3 Heller stamp is addressed from Krakow to Warsaw. The cancellation of the stamp is genuine. The questions is: HAS THIS COVER PERFORMED TRUE POSTAL SERVICE, OR WAS IT CANCELLED TO ORDER, AND WAS THE ADDRESS ADDED LATER? It is our opinion that the cover has not performed true postal service, since 3 Hellers were not sufficient to carry the letter from Krakow to Warsaw. It is extremely doubtful if at that time 3 Hellers could even prepay postage within the confines of the city of Krakow. Hence the cover in the above illustration was cancelled to order, and the address was probably added later.

As a second illustration let us take a cover bearing a genuine 10 Heller stamp and assume that it was sent from Krakow, Poland, to a foreign country. The stamp and the cancellation of course are genuine. The same question is asked again: "HAS THIS COVER PERFORMED ACTUAL POSTAL DUTY, OR WAS IT CANCELLED TO ORDER?" We believe that this cover was cancelled to order and that it has not performed actual postal service. We are basing our observation on a cover of 25 Heller denomination in our possession which was used to prepay a letter from Upper Silesia to Czechoslovakia.

Finally, as a third illustration, a cover bearing a genuine 10 Heller stamp, was mailed from Krakow to the United States. Upon the receipt of the cover at the U. S. post office, postage due stamps were affixed with the intention that the fee be collected from the addressee. In this case the cover has most likely performed actual postal service, and is therefore genuinely used.

In order to reinforce the above examples let us cite an illustration with which all readers are familiar. Suppose a letter was sent from Chicago to New York with but one cent postage affixed to it. This letter would be delivered to the addressee in New York, upon his payment of three cents postage due to the New York post office. Such a cover has performed genuine postal use. Let us assume, however, that the above cover has been delivered to the addressee in New York without the required postage due stamps affixed to it. Such a

cover of course would be an "accidental oddity," and it would be ascribed to the negligence of several postal employees, who may have wilfully violated existing postal laws. Such a letter could not be considered a normally used postal cover.

The purpose of this discussion is to warn collectors to be on the alert when buying covers bearing Krakow cancellations, and to help collectors distinguish between covers which were postally used, and those which were cancelled by obliging postal employees. Of genuine Krakow covers having 3, 5 and 10 Heller stamps, no doubt only a bare handful exist. On the other hand, we believe that a small quantity of cancelled to order covers are available, especially with the 3 and 5 Heller denominations.

It is our opinion based on facts at our disposal, that a single 3 Heller stamp, and a single 3 Heller stamp, and a single 5 Heller stamp could not carry first class, nor even second class mail within the city of Krakow, without having additional postage due attached to the letter. It appears that the minimum rate for local city mail was 10 Heller at that time. Of course it may be possible to find covers having much higher denominations, with the values of the 3 and 5 Hellers attached to them, or perhaps several stamps of these denominations attached to a cover, satisfying prevailing postal rates. Such covers are of course genuine, and as such are scarce philatelic items.

The readers after having followed through the above discussion are beginning to wonder about "off-cover" cancelled copies. There is of course very little to be said about that condition. If both the stamp, and the cancellation are genuine, that of course would be a used copy, and as such is a rare item. Whether the stamp has been used genuinely, or cancelled to order, is beside the point, since it is physically impossible to tell from inspection of the stamp, to which category this stamp belongs.

Insofar as the relative value of the cancelled to order cover is concerned as compared with a used copy "off-cover" having a genuine cancellation, we are reluctant to place extra value on such covers. Suffice it to say, that in either case, the items are rare, but the rarest of all is a genuinely used cover, meeting postal regulations.

This 'n' That

Polonus Auction

POLONUS again will hold an AUCTION of items of interest to collectors of the stamps of Poland under the able management of Roman Reinowski, Sales and Auction Manager. Roman reports splendid material and some of it "hard to find stuff." Some of the lots are donation lots, proceeds of which go to the Society. Don't miss this meeting and Auction! Be there.

Polpex 1943

Start now to prepare for POLPEX 1943. President Domar advises that definite plans are now being laid to make it a bigger show than ever before. Special attention will be given to Associate Members in an effort to have them participate in a larger number of exhibits.

Meet the New Members

1429 Anthony P. Schaefer
S. Clarence Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
Poland—Czechoslovakia.
Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz
3001 N. Central Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Poland—Belgium—U. S.

Tattling

The October 3, issue of STAMPS will have an interesting article on the stamps of Poland entitled "Sobieski at Vienna" written by Myron E. Steczynski. Do not miss it.

Clark Collard, Stamp and Coin Editor of the Chicago Sun says "I shall express directly to you my compliments at the combination "new" form of the "Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

If you and other Polonus members watch the Sun in the coming several weeks, you will find Polonus news in our paper."

Felix Pientka has recently been transferred—his new address:
 Pvt. Felix Pientka
 316th Troop Carrier Group
 Lawson Field, Fort Benning, Ga.

Roman Reinowski, Jr., has just been appointed member of the S.P.A. Membership Committee.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to Dr. M. E. Uznanski, at our August 14th meeting. "Doc" responded with a round of liquid refreshments for all assembled.

One of the highlights of the recent S.P.A. convention in the "Motor City" was the meeting of the collectors of the stamps of Poland held Friday Evening, August 21, 1942.

The meeting, arranged through the untiring efforts of Ray Bartz, was probably the best attended meeting of the various regional meetings scheduled. President Domar of Polonus Philatelic Society presided and philatelic talks were delivered by M. E. Steczynski, Zygmund Dworowski and Lester Jankowski.

Incidentally Doc Uznanski did not deliver his talk on Russian Locals, Aug. 28th. He was indisposed. We hope the Entertainment Committee can arrange a spot for this talk.

H. L. Lindquist, Publisher of STAMPS is reserving another issue of his splendid magazine for the Stamps of Poland, to appear in February, 1943. How about it, you budding authors? Send your article to the Publications Committee.

Suspended Members

T. Klozek, E. Leilous, T. Dombek,
T. M. Strugielski, A. E. Kuta, F. Smie-
gel, A. Kowalski, M. F. Wojtaszek, Dr.
H. A. Biggs, W. Czubay.

Correction

Last month we made a mistake in the spelling of the name of one of our new members, for which we are deeply sorry, humbly apologize and hereby correct.

Elmer Stuart
58 W. Washington St.
Chicago, Ill.—Poland #1—U S.

THE PROGRAM OF MEETINGS FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR:

Oct. 9		Polonus Auction
Oct. 23	 RICHARD CANMAN	STAMPS OF CHINA
	 Surburban Collectors	Cicero-Berwyn
Nov. 13	 Open Meeting	BEEBA International Phila. Week
Nov. 27	 DR. L. KOZAKIEWICZ	Polish Locals
	 North Shore and Hawthorne Night	
Dec. 11		POLONUS JUNIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY