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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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THE "P.K.L." ISSUE

By DR. J. MACHOWSKI

(Reprinted from the "Polish Philatelic Review" London, Jan.-Feb. 1958.)

From Jan. 20th, 1919, a new era commenced for the post in the so-called Galicia and the Cieszyn Silesia as well as for the public using postal facilities in that part of the country.

On that day the current Austrian postage stamps lost their postal validity. Introducing this change the Lwów Postal Directorate Circular No. 488/XI, dated Jan. 12, 1919, appeared in the 'Dziennik Urzędowy' (Official Gazette) No. 2, dated Jan. 15, 1919, and a further regulation of same Directorate No. 688/IX, dated Jan. 12, 1919, was published in the official paper 'Gazeta Lwowska' No. 13, dated Jan. 17, 1919.

The above announcements proclaimed a new postal issue by the Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs in Warsaw, and ordered, until it appeared, the acceptance of payment by cash in all the subordinated post offices for all the services rendered.

As however the period of waiting for the promised new stamps had been somehow prolonged, and the manipulation of payment in cash turned out to be a tiresome burden for postal clerks and the public as well, the "Polska Komisja Likwidacyjna" (Polish Liquidation Committee) the highest political authority in the area, decided to issue its own stamps. (We will refer to the stamps issued by this Committee as P.K.L. issue.)

Because postal prerogatives at that time belonged to the Min. of Posts and Telegraphs a prolonged dispute deve-

loped between the Ministry and the Committee, which in the meantime was turned into the "Komisja Rządząca" (Governing Committee). The dispute concerning validity of the P.K.L. issue was settled by a compromise. The Ministry covered the production expenses of the Committee, took over the whole issue and allowed for its circulation with validity till May 31, 1919 (Min. P. & T. Order No. 12158/I, dated March 31, 1919, published in 'Dz. Urz. M.P.T.' No. 6, pos. 11, dated April 17, 1919).

The P.K.L. stamps were available at all the post offices in the area under the political jurisdiction of the Governing Committee. Mail prepaid with these stamps was free of any additional dues regardless of its destination point.

The issue was put into circulation on Min. of P.&T. instruction by the Kraków Postal Inspectorate Order No. 2484, dated February 28, 1919, with validity from March 1, 1919.

There seems to be no doubt, however, that at Kraków P.O.s they were distributed at a considerable earlier date. We have seen a pair of 25 h. value on original postal counterfoil, postmarked Kraków 10, 10.2.19., reason probably being ignorance or oversight on the part of a clerk.

The stamps were used both for postage and for dues (Min. P.&T. regulation No. 11670/I, dated Mar. 19, 1919, published in 'Dz. Urz. M.P.T.' No. 5, pos. 2, dated April 4, 1919). In some post

offices, varied hand-stamps were used to mark them as Postage Due stamps; in majority of post offices, however, no special markings were applied at all.

These local "postage due" overprints executed by means of handstamps, manufactured for the most part by postal employees, and with no authority whatsoever should not be confused with the Postage Due Issue introduced by Min. of P. & T. Order No. 193/XV, dated Jan. 25, 1921, and executed on the withdrawal of the original issue.

Projects and Proofs

The stamps were printed by a lithographic process at Zieliński's Lithographic Printing Works in Kraków.

The design by Jan Michalski, designer of the Works, shows Coat of Arms of the State, i.e. a white crowned eagle on heraldic shield, with ornaments on both sides, inscription POCZTA POLSKA at top, a value in both corners at bottom, with description of currency in between.

The original design (of 25 hal. value) differed slightly from that finally accepted by having the shield and the eagle broader by 0.5 mm.,—the eagle's head lifted, causing the crown to lay diagonally,—feathers on eagle's wings and body more dense and precise,—and numerals of value much thicker. Two prints, in black, of that original design are known to exist.

From the second die of the accepted design, several transfers (of 25 hal. value) were made, and after having the value removed, were laid on the stone, and then the required values were "touched in."

IN MEMORIAM

Steven G. Rich of Verona, N.J., an active Polonus member passed on August 9th, 1958. A renown philatelist, Mr Rich was also a philatelic writer and was the author of many an article on his specialty—Poland. His exhibits at our Polpex shows were of a high caliber and always brought him a major award.

Polonus mourns the loss of a great supporter **Steven G. Rich**, and extends its sincerest heartfelt sympathy to his surviving family.

After finishing this preparatory work, the 25 hal. Matrix Die was cancelled with 2 diagonally crossed lines. Prints in black from this cancelled die in pairs and singles are known to exist.

The final chemical work produced Matrix stones for all the required halerzy values. From these, proofs in black were made on bluish-white small sheets of paper in the following combinations:

- 2 hal. and 3 hal. with 11 mm. margin
- 15 hal., 10 hal. and 5 hal with 6 or 7 mm. margin
- 20 hal. and 6 hal. with 8 mm. margin
- 50 hal. and 70 hal. with 7.5 mm. margin
- 25 hal.

These proofs can be distinguished from those made from Printing Stones in that the corners of designs are clearly marked with brackets.

Proofs of 5, 10 and 15 hal. values were also made in dark grey on thick, white chalky paper in 3 x 5 lay-out, separately for each value. These possess brackets or small crosses on left and right margin of the sheet only, with dotted lines in between the designs.

Proofs from Printing Stones are known on a) grey-yellowish, coarse wood-paper, b) bluish-white, smooth rag paper, and c) white, thick, chalky rag-paper.

Value	Colour	Paper		
		a	b	c
2 hal.	black	*		
3 hal.	black	*		
5 hal.	grey	*	*	
10 hal.	grey	*	*	
15 hal.	grey	*	*	
25 hal.	a) greyish-blue			*
	b) violet		*	
	c) green	*		

Printing Stone proofs for 2 and 3 hal. values occasionally show set-off of the first project of the 1919 Kraków Issue overprint, i.e. an eagle on shield with POCZTA POLSKA at foot, on the back.

The bluish-white paper used for 5, 10 and 15 halerzy proofs, frequently shows various letters, dashes, and even light "blanket-prints" of the said stamps, on the back.

Values, Colours, Paper, Gum

The P.K.L. issue consists of eleven values of which the halerzy values were printed in single colours and the 1 korona value in two colours, on two kinds of paper:

- a) grey-yellowish, coarse wood-paper
- b) bluish-white, smooth rag-paper.

Value	Colour	Paper	
		a	b
2 hal.	bluish-grey	*	
3 hal.	dull violet	*	
5 hal.	light green	*	
6 hal.	orange	*	
10 hal.	lake	*	
15 hal.	brown	*	
20 hal.	olive-green	*	
25 hal.	carmine	*	
50 hal.	indigo	*	
70 hal.	blue	*	
1 kor.	carmine and olive-grey	*	*

It is interesting to note that the Min. of P. & T. Order introducing this issue does not mention the colours. These, so characteristic of lithographic printing, show variety of shades even on the same sheets, and for that reason are not commended as collectable varieties. It is proper to mention also that the glue used at post offices due to chemical reactions tended to change colours of stamps considerably. (E.g. 20 hal. olive-green into brown; 25 hal. carmine into orange; 50 hal. indigo into red; 70 hal. blue into green).

To have them in circulation as soon as possible, the stamps were issued imperforate. To make postal manipulation easy, the Żywiec P.O. had part of its stock perforated at the local "Solali" paper plant. For the same reason some firms and offices in the area acted similarly. Stamps are known perforated 11, 11½, 12½x11½, rouletted and pin rouletted (sewing machine).

Used on mail (known from Dukla, Gromnik, Jasło, Kraków 6, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Leżajsk, Ropczyce, Stróż, Szezurowa, Tuchów, Tarnów), these products of private enterprise are of interest to specialists. In mint condition they are of no philatelic value, and can be prepared thus at any time.

Due to lack of raw products the stamps were issued ungummed. For convenience of the public the Postal In-

spectorate ordered post offices to keep moist glue in tins ready for immediate use. This glue of very poor quality caused serious damage to stamps and to such an extent that collectors preferred cancelled to order copies, and in the case of valuable entires washed off the stamps and after thorough cleaning stuck them back, this time with a good quality gum. The stamps, perforated and imperforate, are known gummed privately, which from philatelic point of view is of course, of no significance.

Sheets and Panes

The Printer's Sheets consisted of two or three panes of stamps, with 10x10 lay-out in the first case, and 10x5 in the second, except for the 50 and 70 hal. values printed in sheets of one pane 10x10 and two panes 5x5.

1 kor. value is known with perpendicularly laid-out panes, with the white gutter between them measuring 15 mm. It is not as yet proved however, whether this lay-out is of a normal or trial character.

The panes of 100, 50 or 25 stamps, have no special markings on margins.

Numbers Printed

The Economical Office of the Kraków Postal Inspectorate, which took over the issue from the Governing Committee, gives numbers issued as follows:

2 hal.	501,000	15 hal.	1,504,850
3 hal.	400,850	20 hal.	602,650
5 hal.	890,050	25 hal.	3,008,550
6 hal.	100,450	50 hal.	806,650
10 hal.	1,004,050	70 hal.	501,150
1 kor. 408,000			

From the given quantities, the 1921 Postage Due overprints should be deducted as follows:

6 Mk. on 15 hal.	270,000
6 Mk. on 25 hal.	160,000
20 Mk. on 10 hal.	42,000
20 mk. on 50 hal.	60,000
35 Mk. on 70 hal.	26,000

Flaws and Errors

Lithography produces quite a range of various flaws. Those appearing during printing are for the most part of temporary character and as such of little significance. Those originated on matrix, intermediate, or printing stones, are of considerable interest, and as a rule typical for the whole printing. Of these we note the following:

Value	Pane of	Position	Flaw
3 hal.	100	100	'h' in 'halerze' with little hooks swollen neck of the eagle.
	50	2	
5 hal.	100	41	broken 'O' in 'POLSKA'.
		82	missing foot of 'P' in 'POLSKA'.
6 hal.	100	14, 19,	bleb on the eagle's right wing.
		34, 39,	
		54, 59,	
		74, 79,	
		94, 99,	
	50	14, 19, 34, 39.	bleb on the eagle's right wing.
10 hal.	100	20	missing foot of 'T' in 'POCZTA'.
		30	thickened claw on eagle's left foot.
		60	broken frame of the right value tablet; horizontal line in the left value tablet.
15 hal.	100	69	eagle with a pipe.
		78	bleb on eagle's neck.
20 hal.	100	37	shortened base of the left numeral '2'.
70 hal.	25	23	'O' in 'POLSKA' broken at top.
1 kor.	50	44	'Koccona' instead of 'Korona'.

To printing errors one must add the double prints of the 10 and 15 hal. values, and considerable shifts in various directions of the 1 kor. value, which was printed in two colours from two stones.

Besides these, there are also offsets and blanket-prints, prints on creased or folded paper, smeared and partly missing prints, etc.

Forgeries

Although, except for the 6 hal. value, the stamps of that issue are rather common, they were all forged, as well as the proofs in black.

Forgeries executed by typographic process and on paper different from that of the originals differ also in certain details of the design, lettering and shades, and do not cause much difficulty in detection.

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Plate variety: Arrow shows swollen neck of the eagle.

- R.N.W. Larking: *Poland. The Postal Issues during and after the Great War*, Gibbon's Stamp Monthly, 1930, p. 173.
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FROM POWERS LAKE

The Polonus Picnic at Powers Lake, Wis. August 3rd was blessed with very pleasant weather. A record crowd turned out. Games and races were held aplenty, with many children participating. Winner of all the first prizes in every adult competition was Zdzislaw Obara. All prizes were distributed and all the winners and Polish sausage went. The dinners served at Powers Lake were superb. Thanks to Doc Kozy for donating the sausage, and thanks to Roman Reinowski for a job well done as chairman.

TID BITS

Stefan Kochanski, newly appointed Polpex Director, announces that the 1959 Polonus Exhibition will take place on February 27, 28 and March 1, 1959 at the Falcons Hall.

* * *

Our thanks go to Eugeniusz Duba of Bydgoszcz for sending in the Mikstein article. We plan to use it in the near future.

* * *

A "Welcome Back" is extended to Mathias Pristika back in Chicago to stay—from California.

* * *

The Polish-American Congress will hold a Celebration at Jamestown on the 350th anniversary of the landing of Poles in September.

* * *

Polonus will show its Polpex Seals at the Polonica Exhibit in New York.

* * *

Congratulations to Zdzislaw Obara, former Bulletin associate-editor, on his marriage August 16th at South Bend, Indiana. Mrs. Obara is the former Elizabeth Mary Newman.

* * *

Our Secretary is taking subscriptions for the "Polish Philatelic Review" official organ of the Polish Philatelic Society in London, England. A one year subscription runs \$2.50. Write to Roman Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago 22, Ill. He will also answer inquiries on membership in that society.

* * *

Former Polonus member Mr. Ochat has devoted his time for many years, holding philatelic meetings with patients at the Dunning State Hospital, Irving Park Rd. at Narragansett Ave. in Chicago. Every Wednesday he meets with patients from 6 to 8 p.m. and talks and teaches them philately. Many of the patients he meets are interested in Poland stamps. They enjoy these meetings and look forward to them each week. At a recent Polonus meeting, Mr. Ochat appealed to the Society for a younger man to carry on his work. He is up in years and wants to retire. Is there one among us willing to serve his State and fellow man?

Kobyłka Album Pages

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What Will Be Shown at the 400th Anniversary Exhibition of the Polish Post

By **ALEKSANDER ŚNIEŻKO**

The Exhibition dedicated to the commemoration of 400 years of the Polish Post will be held in Warsaw at the Palace of Science and Culture in the IV Section (Exhibition Halls). It will take up six large halls with a total floor space of 1250 square meters.

The Exhibition will take place October 26th thru November 10th, 1958.

The aim of this Exhibition will be a wider acquaintance of the public thru visual presentation with the history and development of the Polish Post from its earliest times to the time present with special emphasis on:

a) The contribution of the postal institution to the growth and augmentation of National Culture.

b) Early documents pertaining to the creation and inauguration of the regular Polish Post and documents with regulations on its activities.

c) The development and technical equipment of the Post in the Peoples' Poland.

d) The meaning of postal publications and postal activities as a means of stabilization of friendship and peace among nations.

For this end the Exhibition will embrace the following topics:

1. The history of undocumented, irregular, monastic and private posts.

2. The regular Post from the XVI-mid-century to the Sas' dynasty in Poland.

3. The Post of the Sas'; the Stanisławs; Insurrection Period 1794,

4 Foreign influence on the organization of the Post during the period of lost National Independence. Autonomy of the Post directly after the partition of Poland, Duchy of Warsaw, Congress of Poland of the Kraków Republic, After-Insurrection Period to 1860.

5. The first postage stamp introduced in Poland.

6. The Post in World War I and "Between the War Years."

7. The Post during the Polish Nations struggle for It's Independence during World War II.

8. The Post in the Peoples Republic.
9. Technical progress employed in the service of the Post.

10. Progressive development of the Post in the light of statistics. Social problems of the postal worker.

11. The Post as a factor in drawing nearer Nations.

12. Regional stands from lands thru which ran the first postal route Kraków—Venice.

These categories thru a skillful plastic solution will be arranged into one unit. The abundance of material in iconographic and documentary exhibits will allow the visitor to understand better the techniques of the functioning of the Post.

The postage stamp in its different stages of production as well as precious collections of stamps from the Postal Museum will be a sure attraction to all lovers of these miniature artpieces of the graphic skill.

The leading subject of the Exhibition will be the history of the Post in Poland from its distant beginning to our present day—a wide range of observations, maps, charts, molds, illustrations of runners, carriages, buildings, etc., will interpret the different phases of this slow evolution.

Before we discuss the enlarged scope of the Postal Institution of today, which probably has not yet reached its full growth, lets analyze some of the utilitarian and recreational benefits we derive from it in our social life.

Post—the vehicle of thought must have been born with the oldest civilization and if there is a lack of complete documentation of its existence during the Celtic Era in our land, at least it is proven that from the time of the Caesarian Armies settling in Old Gallic lands postal routes and means of mail transportation existed. Wax tabloids found even on Polish land prove the exchange of thoughts and notes. The role of the postal institutions in that period was restricted basically to the State and military needs and it va-

nished together with Caesarism.

It revived in a new form in the Middle Ages and was utilized extensively for their own needs by the royal rulers, mighty business associations, universities, monasteries, and cities, especially those located on the crossings of trade routes. Some primitive postal and communication arrangement existed at the very dawn of Poland's history. Such primitive arrangements existed under Bolesław the Brave 992—1025, when he obligated the Crown cities (*miasta królewskie*) to furnish his officials and messengers with horses and carts called "podwody." The rulers utilized the "podwody" obligations for dispatching decrees and orders. As in most all countries, in Poland also these couriers "podwody" were in the exclusive service of the rulers and governments and their services inaccessible to the general public.

The Polish Post uses the year 1858 as its birth year. Its establishment was by Zygmunt August. This Monarch, the last of the Jagiellon line, radically reorganized the postal services and in consequence the first postal institutions in today's meaning of the word were established in Poland.

First of all he allowed the transportation of private mail or a fixed rate of prepayment. This ordinance transformed it into a public service institution and led to its future development. Issuing its first "Postal Regulation" on October 18, 1558, Zygmunt August entrusted the directoriat to courtier Prosper Provan, directing him to establish a permanent postal communications by means of "Pony Stations" along the routes, between Kraków and Venice, through Vienna, — "for our and our subjects' comfort."

The year 1558 is therefore a critical year in the history of the Polish Post, from which its further expansion begun.

Other historical highlights in the Polish Post are:

1538—Stefan Batory issued a regulation with some basic changes: a set time table for postal routes; a fixed rate—four groszy per letter regardless of distance; the exemption of certain Religious Orders from paying the postage. The establishing of a fixed rate

per letter was perhaps the first of its kind in the postal history of the world.

1620—Zygmunt III issued a manifesto by which he assigned a separate fund, collected from the "courrier tax" (*podwody*) for postal maintenance. He ordered that all announcements and letters be delivered weekly to every major city.

1647—Władysław IV issued a postal ordinance which established a post-tax, called "Quadruple" instead of the "podwody" in natural goods.

1667—The founding of the first regional post (*poczty partykularnej*) in Przemyśl.

1685—The Sejm passed a bill on custom inspection and custom duties on imported goods transported by mail.

From the enthronement of August II Sas, the sphere of postal activities were substantially enlarged. The most important reorganization was that of permanent postal connection routes and other improvements accomplished during the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski. This period is also best represented in documents, under which the shelves in the Museum are sagging.

The reform in the sphere of Postal Services during the Stanisław August times were so extensive that they brought the postal institution to its peak of flourishing, as recorded by contemporary historians and attested in descriptive literature by foreign travelers, who had visited Poland.

In the last years of the Kingdom of Poland the railroads began to be used in the postal service. About the same time the tariff reform saw its daylight and the postage stamp was born. The dusk of the XIX Century will treat with the evolution of the means of transportation. The success achieved in the combat of speed against time—the finale of which we cannot yet even foresee. After the use of man-pedestrian as a means of transportation, came the use of the animal—the horse rider, the coach; then mechanical power—railroad, automobile, airplane. What else has the future in store?

Efforts are being made to include in the Exhibition set-up some paintings, where letters or correspondence enters the theme, or where the painting would

serve as a simple accessory in the reconstruction of the scheme.

Postage stamps, exhibited in the "Postal History 1858-1958" will include letters and entires franked with the first postage stamp and a map with the numerical markers of that period.

A 30 frame exhibit in chronological order will show the stamps of 1914-1939 with special consideration given to color proofs and errors, culminating in the center of the "Between the Wars" Exhibits in a Court of Honor, dedicated to postal workers who fell in the fight for Freedom. There will be a display in the Court of Honor of ample material pertaining to the heroic defense of the postal workers in Gdańsk on September 1, 1939. Photos, a shot-up mail box, broken gun, bullet-ridden carrier pouch, blood-stained cap and the Flag decorated with the order of the "Virtuti Militare." The Exhibition continues in presenting the stamps of Post War Poland, including all derangements, proofs and errors.

The technical progress of the last 100 years will be clearly demonstrated in various exhibits: mail boxes, carts, postal ambulances (Mobile Post Office with all its inner equipment visible), etc. The Exhibition will also show thru documents and graphic charts the importance of postal services in the transportation of thoughts by means of literature, books and letters.

The Newspaper originated from a secret collusion between the printer and the postmaster who gathered the news from everywhere. For a long time (XVII—XVIII Century) the Post had the privilege of importing foreign newspapers into Poland, and these were mostly French and German. Then they were reprinted, as there were times when there were no copyright protection for authors. In Poland on a grand scale written newspapers were edited and published by Jakub Kazimierz Rubinkowski in Toruń.

An interesting exhibit will be the evolution of the envelope. From the simplest form of multiple folding of the letter to parchment tape, thru silk thread, to the present day cover as a separate unit, an enclosure for the letter and address carrier. Many of these

letters present an interesting study because of the hand that has written them. From times when the human thought expressed in writing could be passed on not only from one generation to another thru manuscripts and books, but also through space from one individual to another thru correspondence, the human hand is held in high esteem as the instrument in the penetration of the history of civilization.

Continuing in this section will be shown the development of the telegraph, starting with the oldest type of the Morse apparatus to the up-to-date distance writers. The background for this exhibit will be formed in a billboard shape, showing the first optical telegraph "Warszawa - Modlin - Petersburg." Similar to the telegraph exhibits the history of the telephone will also be presented.

The most interesting exhibit promises to be the radio-telegraph and radio-telephone stands with plastic demonstrations on the functioning of channels, etc. which make it possible to conduct thousands of conversations simultaneously; also the magnetic stabilizer and its working principles. To attract more visitors to this section demonstrating the progress of the Communication Service, a magneto-phono station will be set up where visitors would be able to record their own voice. Many other automatic devices will be on display and their use and functionings explained, like a photo-electric cell, able to set in motion other apparatus, etc. The section "Technique in the Service of the Post" ends with the demonstration of the production of the postage stamp, including the exposition of all preparatory work for each of the different types of printings—engraving, offset and the combination methods will be demonstrated and reproduction from pre-cancelled with engraving plates will be shown—valuable data to students of printing.

It is also planned to have for this occasion a commemorative postage stamp issued, that would be sold only with an admission ticket to the Exhibit.

**DONT' FORGET —
STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED**

15th Anniversary of the Warsaw Heroes of the Ghetto Uprising

By EDWARD NOWAK, SR.

(Reprinted from MEKEEL'S, 5/16/58)

Two stamp issues and three monuments were the respectful remembrance by the Polish Government of the heroic fight staged by Jews who'd rather die a hero's death in preference of enduring torture and gas chambers in Hitler's concentration camps; degradation of human self respect.

In front of the Warsaw's heroes of the Ghetto monument stand thousands of people to pay respects and homage to the memory of valiant Jews who died heroically in the unforgettable uprising against Nazi oppression.

Before the monument, erected by the Polish Government, gathered representatives and delegates of 16 nations to pay homage to human bravery in face of sure death. Long columns of Polish Army stand at strict attention. The white and amaranth flags flutter in bowed silence as the bugler sounds Poland's "Last Call".

Religion, national origins or politics have been forgotten. Only one aim dominates the crowds — to pay homage to the heroic dead regardless of anything else.

During the night of 18-19 of April 1943, the walls of the swollen Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw were encircled by Nazi cordons of S. S. troops, military police and armed detachments of Hitler's functionaries. Battalions of hated Nazis poured, like a flood, through the Nalewki section of Warsaw and soon entered the ghetto via Nowolipki street.

During the night of April 18 the Warsaw Ghetto was completely encircled. The artillery, heavy machine guns and "minenwerfers" were stationed at the strategic positions and soon opened a withering fire. All communication with the Ghetto was completely stopped.

It was the beginning of the finale to a monstrous and inhuman Hitler massacre. The Nazi order of the day was camouflaged by a cryptic official code name "Grossaktion Ghetto."

The plans for the execution of the

"Grossaktion" were written personally by Himler, in secret orders as early as Feb. 16, 1943, which were sent by special order to S. S. Obergruppenfuhrer Kruger in Warsaw.

"— it is ordered", stated Himler's letter, "that I be informed about the general plan of the Ghetto's destruction. Our task should be accomplished by the elimination of the area which presently houses over 500,000 **sub-humans** and which area will never be useful to the Reich. This part of Warsaw must vanish completely. The aim must be, that Warsaw, steadily a source of diversion, must be reduced to a few thousand inhabitants in place of a million."

At six in the morning, April 19, 1943, Hitler's detachments entered the Ghetto. At the lead of the marching columns in seemingly dead streets and alleys advanced an armored car with a loudly blaring megaphone urging the Jews to voluntarily emerge from dwellings and to report for "transport."

That very night, on the walls of the Ghetto appeared posters signed by the Jewish Fighting Organizations calling all able bodied Jews to arms.

The Jews responded. From the rooftop and windows of the 3 story brick dwelling at 38 Zamenhafa Street a hail of rifle bullets, and hand grenades and bottles filled with flaming gasoline greeted the marching columns of Nazis.

Demoralized detachments of S. S. troops retreated under withering fire leaving numerous dead and wounded behind them. Later, the leader of "Action Ghetto" reported to his commanding general:

"soon after marching in, the Jews aided by Polish bandits were able to repulse us. We retreated together with our tanks and armored cars."

Mordechai Anielewicz, the Jewish leader of the Ghetto uprising wrote: "My life's dream came to pass. I am a witness of a heroic battle of the

Jewish race."

May 8, 1943, on Mila Street in the Jewish Ghetto, the last shots were fired from a underground bunker serving as headquarters of the Jewish Battle Organization. Nazi artillery and air force reduced the Warsaw Ghetto to rubble. Hardly a stone was standing.

Today, at 38 Zamerhof street in Warsaw; in the section where the first

shots were fired by Jews against Hitler's horde, an imposing granite monument stands silently, guarding the blood-soaked and sacred ground.

"In this place" — reads the inscription in Polish and Hebrew languages — "during May 3, 1943, died a hero's death the Commander of the Jewish Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto Mordechaj Anielewicz, together with



Actual photograph taken during Warsaw Ghetto Uprising sent to author by Poland's philatelic societies. The right corner shows latest stamp honoring 15th anniversary of the massacre; top inscription reading: "Monument to Heroes of Ghetto — Warsaw."

his staff of Jewish Battle Organizations."

In 1948 Poland issued the first stamp Scott 417 honoring the memory of gallant Ghetto fighters. In the 1956 Polish issue of "Warsaw's Monuments" a new stamp was printed depicting the monument finished in time for the 15th anniversary of Hitler's massacre in the Warsaw Ghetto, as pictured in the right corner of the picture.

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 6

July 1958

As I told you last time, no meetings of our Society will be held until September and so the following remarks are about some of the other happenings over here recently.

The most notable event, from the English collector's point of view, was the appearance on July 18th of a new set of three commemorative stamps for the Empire Games. These Games, which have now been held for six years, attract athletes from every corner of the British Empire and are, undoubtedly, the biggest sporting highlight in the United Kingdom in 1958. From the philatelic standpoint they are important since the occasion has been marked with the special set mentioned above. In your own country the issue of a commemorative stamp or stamps occurs so regularly that you must regard it as fairly commonplace. In this country, however, we have a commemorative issue so rarely that there is eager anticipation amongst collectors to see what the designs will be like.

In this case, while the designs are not (in my opinion) outstanding, they are fairly attractive and it is generally felt in the British philatelic press that the 6d value is best. The main motif of all three stamps, 3d, 6d and $\frac{1}{2}$ d is the dragon—the national emblem of Wales where the Games are being held. Twenty four designs were submitted and the three chosen, all by different artists, were judged to be the best. The stamps are available at post offices all over the country and will remain on sale until the supplies are exhausted, which may take several months.

Another interesting "recent appearance" is the latest title in the European Philatelic Library. This is the third booklet in this series — being published by two Polonus members, Mr. Grimlisk and Mr. Kwiatkowski — and follows the "Polish Special Postmarks Catalogue", Parts 1 and 2, which were published earlier this year. This latest contribution entitled "Austro-Hungarian Military Posts, 1914-1918" was written by Keith Tranmer and consists of sixteen clearly written and profusely illustrated pages. I would heartily recommend this series to all. Details and booklets (price 50c each) can be had from Mr. J. Crimlisk, 9 Victoria Avenue, Filey, Yorkshire.

Looking ahead, we are now awaiting the appearance of the new edition of Stanley Gibbons catalogue Part II (European and Colonies). This catalogue, which is the accepted standard work in Britain and corresponds to your Scott catalogue, was due on August 8th. I will be giving you details of any significant changes in the Polish listing since the last edition came out two years ago, in my next month's column.

— RON NEGUS

POLONICA HONORS FIRST POLES TO LAND IN U.S.

In commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Landing of the First Poles at Jamestown, the Polish philatelic club POLONICA will hold its Third Annual Exhibition on September 27 and 28, 1958 at the Polish National Home Ballroom, 19-23 St. Marks Place, New York City. Along with the Exhibition, Polonica will issue a set of stamps showing the landing ship "Mary and Margaret", glassworker and the historic glasshouse. Two stamps will be printed, 5 + 5 cents and 10 + 5 cents, and a block 20 + 30 cents. Proceeds from the sale of these stamps will go towards the Cardinal Wyszyński Fund.

Members may obtain a set of two stamps for 25 cents and a block at 50 cents plus 4 cents postage, from the Secretary, Leo Small, 19-23 St. Marks Place, New York 3, N. Y.

* * *

BALLOON MAIL OF 1938

By **MARIAN DUŃSKI**

10th National Free Balloon Races for the Col. M. Wańkowicz Trophy, Mościce 1938

The Tenth National Free Balloon Races for the Col. M. Wańkowicz Trophy took place on May 8, 1938 at Mościce.

Balloon	Landing place	Covers backstamped
1. KATOWICE	Załuże	Załuże 9.V.38. 8b
2. LEGIONOWO	Potocze nr. Śniatyń	Śniatyn 9.V.38. 8 4a
3. SANOK	Załuże	Załuże 9.V.38. 8b
4. GRYF	Tyczyn	Tyczyn 9.V.38. d
5. HEL	Zamolińce	Matyjowice 9.V.38. —
6. ŁÓDŹ	Mikuliczyn	Mikuliczyn 9.V.38. —
7. MAZOWSZE	Serafinka	Horodenska 9.V.38. —
8. MESTWIN	Wesoła nr. Dynów	Wesoła 9.V.38. —
9. SYRENA	Wyżłów nr. Ławoczne	Ławoczne 9.V.38. b
10. MOŚCICE I	Wenecki niż. (Czechoslovakia)	Ławoczne 10.V.38. b
11. POMORZE	Łużany (Roumania)	Załuże 10.V.38. 8b
12. POZNAŃ	nr. Załuże (Roumania)	Załuże 10.V.38. 18b

Twelve balloons took part in this race each carrying approximately 240 letters. The mail prepaid for express delivery 2180 letters and 720 cards.

Commemorative Cancels

The balloon mail pieces carried during the 10th National Balloon Races have the following commemorative markings:

1. Round date cancel inscribed "X KRAJOWE ZAWODY BALONÓW WOLNYCH * MOŚCICE — 8.V.38-12" in black (1500 letters and 720 cards), red (360 letters) and violet (320 letters)

2. A four-line cachet reading "X KRAJOWE ZAWODY / BALONÓW WOLNYCH / O PUCHAR IM. PŁK. WAŃKOWICZA / MOŚCICE 8 MAJA 1938" in red or violet.

3. Cancel with balloon name in red.

4. Post office date cancel of the landing location in black.

5. Post office marked, delivering the mail piece to addressee.

The First Lwów Balloon Race was organized by the Lwów Aero-Club on June 16, 1938, in connection with the National Air Exhibition at Lwów assembled six balloons. The mail (1750 items) prepaid for express delivery, received commemorative cancels:

1. Round date cancel inscribed "I LWÓWSKIE ZAWODY BALONOWE—LWÓW 1—16.VI.1938" in blue or green.

2. A green cachet with a silhouette and name of a balloon. Part of the mail flown without this cachet can be recognized from postmarks of landing places.

3. Postmark of landing place.

Moreover the mail posted at the Exhibition P. O. received additionally:

a) A small exhibition cancel reading "X LWÓW - KRAJOWA WYSTAWA LOTNICZA" and a date, and

b) An oval cachet, in black, blue or green, reading "KRAJOWA WYSTAWA LOTNICZA WE LWOWIE — 29 V — L.O.P.P. 29 VI." with a silhouette of an aeroplane in the center.

Balloon	Postmark of landing place
1. GRYF	Borszczów 18.VI.38.
2. KATOWICE	Zaleszczyki 17.VI.38. 0
3. LEGIONOWO	Borszczów 18.VI.38.
4. MOŚCICE	Uście Biskupie 17.VI.38.
5. SANOK	Mnielnica Podolska 17.VI.38. 18
6. SYRENA	Kasperowice 17.VI.38. 1

The 26th Gordon-Bennett Cup Race organized by Belgium at Liege on September 11, 1938 was won by Poland

(balloon L.O.P.P. Capt. Janusz and eng. Janicki). No Polish balloon post was organized.

— WARNING —

Recently I received an auction catalogue from one of the largest stamp dealers in New York. In reading through the catalogue the one item that always disturbs me is the statement "as is" on overprinted items

This catalogue in question bore this notation on two Krakóws, a 90 hal and a 25 hal. Now these stamps are not cheap—one catalogues as \$100.00 and the other I believe at \$75.00. That's a lot of money to be gambling with.

Now there is no absolute logical reason for a dealer who has access to a **recognized** expert's opinion to advertise an item "as is." And when I see an advertisement like that I can have only one opinion and that is that the dealer himself suspects the stamp to be phoney and he is trying to unload it on an unsuspecting buyer—what else can one think?

My suggestion is this: Buy in auctions if it pleases you but do not bid on any Krakóws regardless if they are signed or not, unless you can return them if they are found to be counterfeits. Mikstein's signature has been forged. There are also other signatures of persons not qualified to expertize. So . . . a word to the wise is sufficient.

— J. J. D.

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INTERPOSTA HAMBURG 1959

A great International Philatelic Exhibition will be held in Hamburg, Germany May 22 to 30, 1959. The show will take up four large pavilions and postal administrations of the whole world will exhibit their treasures. Preliminary entries may be recorded by September 31, 1958—definite entries must be made on a special entry-form by January 15, 1959.

Our Secretary has received brochures on INTERPOSTA 1959. Out-of-town members seeking further information on this International Exhibition may write him. For Chicago members, he will always be available for details at the meetings.

STAMPS OF POLAND FEATURED ON TELEVISION

On a half-hour Boston show "Dateline Boston" member Edward Nowak, Sr. of Winthrop, Mass. was one of the three panelists on TV station WHDH, July 18, 1958. His subject of discussion and illustration was the stamps of Poland.

To Mr. Nowak goes credit as being the "first" Polonus member to score such a feat.

— W. S.

POLAND

	Mint	FDC
Olympics	.50	.50
Olympic Gold Medal	.20	.20
Museum Art Objects	.30	.30
Ski Anniversary	.30	.30
Ski Memorial	.15	.15
Doctors	.60	.60
X Bicycle Race	.25	.25
U.N. perf., Imperf. and Souv. Sheet	2.50	2.50
Fencing	.20	.20
Warsaw Exhibition Airmail	.45	.45
Warsaw Exhibition Souvenir Sheet...	.60	.60
Flowers	.25	.25
Firemen	.15	.15
Stamp Day	.15	.15
Leipzig Trade Convention	.05	.10
Doctor 1 zl. new value	.06	.10
1917 October Revolution	.15	.15
Karol Libelt	.05	.10
Wieniawski — violinist	.10	.15
Komenski	.10	.15
Strug — writer	.10	.15
Conrad — writer	.15	.15
Airmails — various cities	1.25	1.25
Ratusze	.25	.25
Fish	.50	.50
400 Years Post	.10	.15
Warsaw University	.10	.10

— SPECIAL —

754 60 gr. Olympic Imperf single \$6, pair \$12
1860/1955 Poland catalog postpaid \$1.75

TWIN EAGLE STAMP CO.

2140 Iowa, Granite City, Ill. U.S.A.

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

In connection with the International Fair at Poznań, a postal card was released on June 9, 1958. Also released was a printed 60 gr. stamp envelope bearing the likeness of Dr. Chalubinski of the Polish Physicians Set.

On June 20th an illustrated postal card was issued to commemorate the "Sleza Days." The design shows an old Slavonic stone sculpture (2000 years old) of a bear which was found standing on the Sleza mountain. Designed by J. Koneczak.

A set of two stamps was issued on June 14, 1958 to commemorate the VII International Glider Competition. The design is the same on both stamps—a silhouette of a glider made from the inscription "Mistrzstwa Poj 1958." A stylised cloud is in the background. Values are 60 gr. blue-grey and black and 2.50 zł. grey and black. Size is 25.5 x 31.25 printed in offset.

Expected Issues

In the latter part of July a set of two stamps were scheduled to appear. Designed by Severin Jasinski in two values—60 gr. and 2.50 zł. to commemorate the I.G.Y. The 60 gr. depicts a polar bear against a background of icebergs. The 2.50 zł. shows the launching of an interplanetary rocket and flying "Sputnik." To be printed in sheets of 70 stamps in monochrome rotogravure. The amount to be printed is 10 million of the 60 gr. and 1 million of the 2.50 zł.

A 60 gr. stamp bearing the portrait of the Polish painter, poet and dramatist, Stanley Wyspianski, and a 2.50 zł. with the portrait of the Polish Composer Stanisław Moniuszko, are in preparation. They will be printed by steel engraving on colored paper, designed by Joseph Koneczak, printed in sheets of 100. Five million of the 60 gr. and 800,000 of the 2.50 zł. are to be printed.

A third stamp was initially planned for this set (with a portrait of Juliusz Słowacki); it was postponed however, to 1959—the 100th anniversary of his birth.

The designs of the Polish Mushroom Stamps have finally been approved. There will be five stamps in the set:

- 60 gr. Zactarius Deliciosus
- 40 gr. Botelus Edulis

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Chicago 22, Illinois
Adam Kloskowski, Treasurer
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Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

- 1.00 zł. Cantarellus Cibarius
- 2.50 zł. Psallotia Campestris
- 3.40 zł. Amanita Muscaria

Designed by Cz. Borowczyk. They will be printed in four-color rotogravure in triangular shape. To be released in the last quarter of 1958.

Dr. M.A. Rayall de Ragan
ARS Polona

I wonder what became of the Polish Costume Series?

— J. J. D.

* * *

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