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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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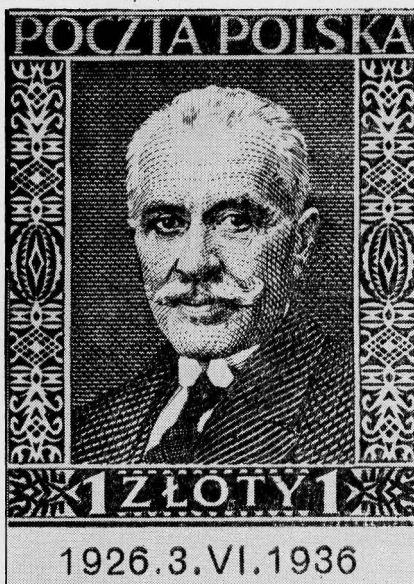
THE MOŚCICKI ANNIVERSARY STAMP

by MYRON E. STECZYNSKI

Reprinted from STAMPS of 3/3/56

In the October 1955 Polonus Bulletin there appeared a reprint from Weekly Philatelic Gossip of July 9, 1955, which, among other stamps of Poland, referred to Scott's No. 305, saying that two varieties had been found. Inasmuch as this stamp was printed from four plates identified by the numerals 1B, 2B, 3B and 4B under the 91st position, the question is raised as to which plates were used to print one variety and which were used for the other variety. To complete the record, the article states that in one variety the numerals "9" and "3" of the bottom inscription 1926.3.VI.1936 stand in line with the numerals "1" above, while in the other variety the bottom inscription is shifted somewhat to the left so that the numerals "92" and "36" appear to be in line with the numerals "1" above.

The answer to this question is that both varieties may appear not in one, but two, or three plates, but in all four plates. The stamp is printed twice, once for the design proper, which is steel engraved and consequently is printed by the intaglio process on damp paper, and once for the bottom inscription, which is done by typography (letterpress printing) from ordinary type or from an electrotype of it. The one process is the exact reverse of the other and both are described under Impressions in Information for Collectors at the front of Scott's catalog. The stamp can be examined under a magnifying glass, and it can be noted that the design proper is decidedly raised and glossy, especially noticeable with



a single source of light striking the stamp at a flat angle. The bottom inscription, however, is not raised but depressed, and has the characteristic fine hairlines at the edges of the printed numerals where the ink was squeezed out slightly during printing.

Since there were definitely two printing operations from entirely different plates, it is only natural that the two plates did not match exactly the same at every stamp. For example, with accurate measurements, there are differences in position of the bottom inscription within a pair, strip, or block of stamps due to the fact that the spacing

of the type does not match exactly the spacing of the engraved stamps. Then there is the matter of register where the second operation does not always place the sheet in exactly the same position as in the first operation, remembering that to transfer the engraving, the sheet must be moist and is consequently expanded. In general, these Moscicki sheets do not show the extreme variations as when stamps are overprinted as an afterthought for a special purpose, because such sheets are usually trimmed after the original printing and the positions of the imprint changes with the position of the margins.

One other observation should be made at this point, and that is the position of the inscription in a vertical direction, meaning the shift up and down. This varies from 0.7 to 1.4 mm. from the bottom of the stamp to the top of the inscription.

There were 330,000 stamps issued, and no significant varieties exist in the printing except for the relative position of the two impressions. The plate designation under the 91st position is usually trimmed off. To complete the record, the stamps were issued on June 3, 1936 to honor President Ignacy Moscicki on the tenth anniversary of his tenure of office. The issue was withdrawn on Nov. 15, 1937.

The fact that the double printing of this Moscicki stamp missed the attention of collectors was because the bottom impression is in the same blue color as the portrait. If it were printed in another color, as in the case of the Gordon-Bennett stamps, Scott's Nos. 306 and 307, the overprint would be apparent. In spite of the fact that the inscription "1926.9.VI.1936" is below the stamp and not over the basic design, it should be regarded as an overprint. The same would hold true if the inscription were in another color, or if it were applied in a second operation in the same or in another color from an engraved plate.

The original design was for Poland's first souvenir sheet, Scott No. 251, for the Warsaw Philatelic Exhibition, May 3 to 13, 1928. Together with the Pilsudski stamp, these were Poland's first engraved stamps. They were designed

by Prof. Z. Kaminski and engraved by F. Schirnbock. The Moscicki stamp appears on Scott's Nos. 255, 305, 316, J92, J93, J94, 1K19, and K24. All these stamps are based on the same engraving. Stamp No. 305 is higher overall, however, to provide space for the bottom inscription and is the only one of the group other than black. Stamp No. 316 appears in a block of four on the souvenir sheet which has an added typograph heading on the sheet. Stamps J92, J93 and J94 are surcharges which change the value and purpose, making them postage due stamps. Stamps 1K19 and 1K24 are PORT-GDANSK overprints for use in that office.

MORE "GROSZY" OVERPRINTS

Some years ago Poland issued three stamps including one Roosevelt value which were not recognized by Scott although other catalogs have listed them. Shortly thereafter with the political changes in Poland all previous stamps in the Post Offices were surcharged "Groszy". This surcharge created by the currency revaluation was provided at each P.O. either with metal stamp or rubber stamps. Several types are known to exist. In Warsaw two types appeared. A third type originally believed to have been a sub-type of type 2 has been discovered. According to information received by this column there are nine different surcharges on the Roosevelt Poland and they sell at anywhere from \$2.50 to \$10 each. Sanabria in his latest Air-mail Catalogue lists 5 of them. The latest study all bear the guarantee marks of Gryzewski whom we are told is a leading authority on Polish issues.

(Reprinted from MEEKEL'S WEEKLY 3/23/56 — "Sees All" column.)

TID BITS

From George Kobylka we hear that album pages for Post War Poland, 1944 to end of 1955, will be available in the Fall. This section will take up approx. 75 pages

The June 22nd meeting included an Auction and Beeba. The sale of material brought in \$25.00 which will be used for purchase of prizes for our coming Picnic.

Tadeusz Kościuszko, the Engineer of Human Rights

by JOSEPH A. BORKOWSKI

The year 1956 marks the 210th Anniversary of Birth of Poland's most illustrious son—that of Tadeusz Kościuszko who was born on Feb. 12th, 1746.

T. Kościuszko was always known for his military genius as an engineer and artillery tactician in which categories he won fame in the American Revolution and as a leader of Polish Insurrection forces which engaged the Russians in the dying days of Poland.

The True Character of Kościuszko

With the passing of time the true picture of Kościuszko's character is beginning to reveal itself not so much as the military engineer but as a Champion and Engineer of Human Rights. The study of contemporary records definitely reveal that whatever military genius he possessed that was secondary to his basic aspirations, granting of human rights to all individuals regardless of race, creed or color.

Kościuszko was essentially a humanist and realist. He utilized his military background not to conquer but to fight for human rights.

Kościuszko's Manifesto

Upon contemplating his military duties in United States, he returned to his beloved and civil war torn Poland with one avowed purpose—to gain rights and political privileges for all the people. Consequently in 1794 we find him heading the Polish Insurrection against the Russians.

On May 7th, 1794 he issued at Camp Połaniec a manifesto which embodied the following decrees: "that all peasants and all other classes which hitherto did not enjoy political privileges are hereby entitled to the same rights and privileges regardless of their status and furthermore all the freed peasants are to work only five days per week and not more than six."

Kościuszko's Spirit Carries On

It is true that he and his forces suffered the inevitable defeat but the seeds of freedom were well sown and which subsequently sprouted into a free and independent Poland in 1919.



It was this same spirit that punctuated the Polish Falcon Hall in Pittsburgh, Pa., on April 3rd, 1917 when the great Maestro Ignacy Jan Paderewski at a Special Falcon Convention called upon the American Poles, "to raise and aid him in organizing a Kościuszko Army of 100,000 men to fight for Poland."

His Last Testament

There is no better and convincing evidence of his love for all mankind than his last will dated May 5th, 1798 when he directed Thomas Jefferson to dispose of his Congress granted lands on October 13th, 1783.

In part he instructed the great Jefferson, "to employ whole thereof in purchasing negroes from among his own and as any others and giving them liberty in my name, etc."

THE BATTLE ROYAL FOR A KOŚCIUSZKO STAMP

One would think that a man with Kościuszko's reputation and character would hardly encounter any difficulty with our postal authorities to have a stamp issued to commemorate and perpetuate his name. Yet there was.

The First Move

To commemorate the 150th anniversary granting American Citizenship to Tadeusz Kościuszko, the noted Polish author and publicist Arthur L. Waldo in a letter dated January 22, 1932 to Senator James Couzens of Michigan to undertake the task of approaching the postal authorities to issue a commemorative stamp. The Senator replied on January 29th that because of general reluctance on the part of Washington officials it will be necessary to present a resolution before Congress. Polish organizations as a whole petitioned

through their respective representatives to get behind the stamp project and finally a reply dated February 17th, 1932 was received from Postmaster W. F. Brown "that the stamp will be given due consideration." There being no assurance given, the Polish bert Hoover for his intercession. This bert Hoover for his intercession. This pressure only brought on opposition from various anti-Polish organizations of which one in a letter to the President stated, "To discern the Poles who have not distinguished themselves will only make them haughty and proud."

Advised To Wait

With the 1932 elections occupying the both parties, the committee for Kosciuszko Commemorative Stamp was advised by Senator Couzens on February 4th, 1932, "to wait until after the national elections."

New Political Leaders — No Change In Attitude

When the Democrats swept the country in 1932 and Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president the hopes of advocates of the Kosciuszko rose unduly high for "at last the opportunity is here." But alas the change of political regimes in no way affected the attitudes of the newly named Postmaster James Farley. The committee headed by Arthur Waldo was informed by a letter of March 11th, 1933 that, "he will not issue the Kosciuszko stamp." That was that as far as James Farley was concerned.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt Acts

Despite Farley's rebuff the Kosciuszko Stamp committee appealed directly to President Roosevelt with a letter dated May 17th, "asking for his personal intercession." The President replied on May 17th stating that he will give the matter, "due consideration."

KOSCIUSZKO STAMP ISSUED

Finally in October 1933 in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair, Postmaster General Farley announced the issuance of Tadeusz Kosciuszko Commemorative Stamp, "to commemorate the distinguished Polish Patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko and the 150th Anniversary of his admission to American citizenship as a reward for his services on behalf of American Independence."

The American Kosciuszko Commemorative is listed in the Scott's catalog

as 734 (A235).

Other Stamps

His native country Poland issued a number of stamps as follows:

In 1932, 267 (A57) issued with Washington and Pulaski to commemorate the 200 Anniversary of birth of George Washington;

In 1938 he appears with Paine and Washington No. 319 (A82) to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Constitution of the United States;

In 1944 No. 343 (A102);

In 1945 the Kościuszko Statue in Kraków No. 358 (A106) marking the liberation of Kraków as of January 19th, 1945.

S.P.A. CONVENTION AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The Central Federation decided to hold an outing in the form of a trip to Grand Rapids, Mich. for the annual convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans, August 23, 24, 25 and 26 of 1956. Cost of train fare by coach \$14.38 round trip including tax. Time of departure Saturday Aug. 25 12:20 A.M. Return to Chicago Sunday Aug. 26 10:50 P.M. The Hotel Pantiland is the official S.P.A. hotel and sufficient accommodations and taxi service is assured.

Many Polonus members are planing to go along with other Chicago club members. Please notify our Central Federation delegate Mathias Pristika, 1637 N. Burling, Chicago, MOhawk 4-5495 by Aug. 1st if you intend to ride by train.

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THE PROVISIONAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

Value 1 Złoty of 1944

by **MARJAN DUŃSKI**

Translated from the Polish by Walter Szymlek

In connection with the rise in postal rates on January 1, 1945 the withdrawn from circulation 25 groszy value stamp was overprinted with a new value of 1 z.—at that time the value most in demand for domestic letters up to 20 grams in weight.

Simultaneously it was utilized to commemorate the activities of the country's National Council ("Krajowa Rada Narodowa").

The concerning regulation reads as follows:

REGULATION

By the Resort Director for Posts and Telegraphs from December 28, 1944 on the introduction for circulation of the 1 zł. postage stamp. On basis of Article 22, Enactment I, from June 3, 1923 on Posts and Telegraphs (DZ. U. R. P. No. 63, pos. 481 of 1933) — I hereby order the following:

1. The issuance of a commemorative stamp, value 1 zł. Reprinted from present value of 25 groszy and overprinted "1 zł. — 31.XII.1943 — K.R.N. — 31.XXII.1944."

2. The above regulation will take effect on December 31, 1944.

Director, Post and Telegraphs
Eng. T. Kapeliński

Catalog Data

1944 — December 31. Commemorative Issue. Value 25 gr. red, with black typographic overprint "1 zł. — 31.XII.1943 — K.R.N. — 31.XII.1944." Overprinted by the graphic firm of Pietrzykowski, Lublin. Perforation 12¼.

Total Printing:

1 zł. on 25 groszy red...200,000
same, inverted overprint.....100
same, double overprint.....100
6 x 4 1 zł. 25 gr. in vertical pairs.
6 x 6 1 zł. 25 gr. in vertical pairs.
The overprint is four-versed and the



original value "25 gr." is invalidated by two horizontal dashes:

— 1 zł. —
31.XII.1943
K. R. N.
31.XII.1944

The color of the overprint is BLACK! The printing form was composed of 50 overprints for one half of the sheet, so that every sheet traveled twice through the printing press. A form was composed of individual type and make-up material, hence the variations in dimensions.

The height of the overprint is 22.2 — 22.4 mm. The length and height of "31.XII.1943" and "31.XII.1944" is 18.3 x 2.7 mm. Length and height of the initials "K.R.N." is 13.6 — 14 x 2.7 mm. Spacing between the horizontal dashes in relation to the overprint of the adjacent stamp is as follows:

Horizontally

between:		1 & 2	2 & 3	3 & 4	4 & 5	5 & 6	6 & 7	7 & 8	8 & 9	9 & 10
Horizontal Rows:	1 —	4.8	3.7	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.8	3.8	4.7	4.7
	2 —	4.8	3.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.7	3.8	4.8	4.7
	3 —	4.7	3.7	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.7	3.8	4.8	4.7
	4 —	4.7	3.7	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.7	3.8	4.7	4.6
	5 —	4.7	3.8	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.7	3.8	4.8	4.6

This overprinting was carried out generally with great care; major shiftings are very rare and there are no errors in the overprints. Some letters however, show minute, but characteristic shape deviations and inexactnesses, incurred very likely during composition of the printing form. These are:

Stamp:

1. The first cipher "3" damaged at the top.
2. Left part of the period after "R" not printing on some stamps, and the first "3" damaged.
3. Incision in the upper "9".
4. Incision at the bottom of the upper "9".
6. The left dash broken.
7. Incision from the left in the lower "9".
12. Incision from the left in the lower "9".
14. Incision in the upper "9".
16. The bottom "4" broken.
18. damaged "Z" and the upper "9".
19. The upper ending missing on the letter "Z".
22. Incision in the letter "Q" from bottom left.
25. Incision in the upper "1" from right.
26. Incision in upper "1" and "Zl" and damaged upper "9".
28. Incision in right base of letter "R".
29. Nick or breakage in vertical line of letter "R".
30. Breakage in the last cipher "4".
31. Ending of the upper "9" missing.
35. Incision from left in "1" in the date 1944.
36. Damaged upper "1", "N" and in the second to last "4" in 1944 the right line broken twice.
37. Left dash broken.

Since the sheets were of 100 subjects and the printing form was composed of 50 overprints—the sheets traveled twice through the printing press—these characteristics show up twice on each sheet on the corresponding stamp. These stamps could be plated. However for single stamps there is no practical advantage in knowing the position. It could be of value in regards to inverts and double printings. Blocks and strips are identifiable from certain characteristics of the letters; harder single stamps, for which com-

parison with a whole sheet becomes necessary.

The stamp was withdrawn from circulation on April 15, 1945.

"Dziennik Taryf No. 2-1945"

REGULATION

By the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of March 9, 1945, on the withdrawal from usage of postage stamps values 1 zł., 2 zł. and 3 zł.

On basis of Article 22, Enactment 1 of June 3, 1924 (DZ. U. R. P. No. 63-1933), I hereby order the following:

1. Withdrawn will be from circulation the following postage stamps:

- A. Commemorative stamp value 1 zł. overprinted from 25 groszy value, with the National Emblem and overprint: 31.XII.1943 - K.R.N. - 31.XII.1944, issued December 31, 1944.
- B. Commemorative stamp value 2 zł. overprinted from 25 groszy value, with the National Emblem and overprint: P.K.W.N. - 31.XII.1944. Issued January 15, 1945.
- C. Commemorative stamp value 3 zł. overprinted from 25 groszy value, with the National Emblem and overprint: 31.XII.1944 - P.T.R.P.. Issued on January 15, 1945.

2. These stamps are to be exchanged until April 30 of this year.

3. This regulation will go into effect on April 15, 1945.

Minister of Post and Telegraphs
Eng. T. Kapeliński

THE 1 ZŁ. COUNTERFEIT OVERPRINT

(In compiling this study on the 1 zł. counterfeit overprint, I have drawn from Dr. Laszkiewicz's catalog: "Znaki pocztowe Polski Demokratycznej" Second edition—Warszawa, 1949.)

Since the 1 zł. counterfeit overprint has turned up, I present here the available information.

The "Philatelic Review" ("Przegląd Filatelistyczny") from Łódź, No. 9, 1949, page 105 states: "The counterfeit overprint of 1 zł. K.R.N. was carelessly executed in black, glossy color, with letters somewhat splashed, and often little distinct. Shape and style of type is different—smaller and "fatter". The height of the whole overprint is 25

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mm. Width of the date 15 mm. The inscription "1 zł." is spaced 6 mm. Space between date, K.R.N. and date is 5 mm. Height of capital letters is 2.5 mm. The overprint was made on stamps of the darker shade, with very clear feathering—which would indicate a somewhat "later" issue."

These stamps are showing up mostly with Rzeszów postal cancellations during a period when that post office had exhausted the whole stock of the genuine K.R.N. stamps. The demand for the 1 zł. value was very great when the post office was overstocked with only the 2 zł. and 3 zł. values of the commemorative issue. The price for the three stamps differed substantially for a long period of time. This could indicate a rather philatelic than fraudulent character of this forgery. All the more, since these stamps are most frequently found on registered letters of a philatelic character.

But the fact that no inverts, double overprints, etc., or mint stamps ever showed up—suggests something else.

Due to the frequent loss of mail and very low postal rates, most correspondence was conducted by registered mail.

The small amount of material on hand does not permit to ascertain more accurately the pertinent facts.

Cancellation dates on mail pieces are in January of 1945, around the time when Rzeszów felt the influx of philatelic tourists from territories liberated by the Red Armies, particularly from Kraków and Tarnów.

The Rzeszów post office became virtually a "Board of Trade" in philately.

Thus, the counterfeits could have been brought along by the transients.

My conclusion is, that it is a counterfeit of a philatelic nature. Nevertheless it does exist and is being found on various mails. Therefore it will be of interest to many collectors, specializing in Poland.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In the ten year period the following articles appeared:

1. Prof. St. Mikstein:

"Trzecie wydanie tymczasowego znaczka okolicznościowego za 1 zł."

2. Duński Marjan:

"Briefmarken Demokratische Polen"

Relacions et Amicjeno No. 98 -
Bruxelles, 1947.

3. Gromski Antoni:

"Wydanie okolicznościowe K.R.N. -
P.K.W.N. i R.T.R.P."

Przegląd Filatelistyczny, Łódź,
1950, No. 17.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

A set of four stamps was issued
May 25 to publicize the tourist trade.
It consisted of the following values:

20 gr. green, depicting a shelter in
the Tatra mountains. Designed by
J. Woneczak.

40 gr. green, shows ab ag and com-
pass with a map of Poland in
the background.

60 gr. blue, shows a boat on a back-
ground of a map showing the riv-
ers of Poland. Both the 40 and
60 gr. stamps were designed by Cz.
Kaczmarczyk.

1.15 zł. violet-brown, shows skis on a
background of mounted. Designed
by S. Jasinski.

All were printed by rotogravure.



Due to technical reasons the sur-
charging of Scott's No. 593 scheduled
for May is delayed until July.

—Prasa i Książka

APPLICANTS PENDING

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Vincent J. Raith
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political. The views expressed by
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herein do not necessarily express
the views of the Polonus Phila-
telic Society.

THIRD ANNUAL PICNIC

It's about that time again! Chicago-
land members, their families and friends
are invited to come out on Sunday
July 22nd, 1956 to Doe Kozy's Aquilla
Lodge at Powers Lake, Wis., and par-
ticipate in Polonus' Third Annual
Picnic. Activities on that day will
include swimming, boating, games, ra-
ces, etc. Prizes for the ladies and free
goodies to the kiddies. Starting time
7:00 A.M. till ?

Picnic Chairman Roman Reinowski
informs us that dinners for adults will
cost \$1.85 and children dinners \$1.00.

To get to Powers Lake, Wis. take
US 12 to Richmond. Pass Richmond
about half mile. Come to "Y" in road,
turn right into Trunk "P". Follow
Trunk "P" to Lodge.

NOTE!

Recently we have been receiving
many letters from Poland from col-
lectors who want to correspond and
exchange. Because they are non-members
we cannot publish their names in our
Bulletin. Members desiring the names
and addresses of collectors in Poland
may receive them at our next meeting
or by writing the Secretary. Polonus,
however, is not responsible for the
dealings that transpire.