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TRANSITION FROM STAMPLESS MAILING TO STAMPS IN THE KINGDOM OF POLAND

by **STEPHEN G. RICH**

Reprinted from STAMPS of 3/3/56

If there is any one country to which the newly popular distinction between "stampless" and "pre-stamp" covers does not logically apply that country is the former Kingdom of Poland, Russian-dominated, which existed up to 1865. The usages and rates before stamps found use, were continued smoothly into the stamp period, so that any demarcation of this sort is strictly arbitrary, not to say confusing. Likewise stampless mailing continued for certain purposes notably foreign mail, right into the subsequent period when the Kingdom of Poland had been completely Russianized, when Russian stamps were in use, when only the old Polish postmarking or cancelling devices remained from the previous administration.

Likewise, the overlap of usage and the transition by stages are typical of what was a normal process in many countries. Change the dates, place names, and money, you convert the Polish transition into that of Canada, the United States, or France. France speeded the transition; Canada let it last twenty-five years; the United States began it eleven years before Poland; etc. But features not common to these countries and others fail to appear except in odd corners, with each of them.

Thus, we find that in 1853 the rate of 10 kopecks per loth weight had been

established in Poland. This had in fact been the rate for the zone system of 1848, for less than 100 versts. This corresponds to the U.S. establishment of the "5 and 10" rates in 1845 instead of the former elaborate zone system with 6 cents for minimum distance.

The use of the handstamp rater, "FRANCO" in a sausage-shaped box in Poland dates back to 1847, and continues right through to 1869 on stamped and stampless mail alike. It was frequently, but far from universally used on prepaid mail, even as the American "Paid" handstamps through the corresponding transition period.

The use of stamps in Poland begins with Russian stamps, and in 1858. Because a 5-kopek envelope for local letters existed, there is the complication of stamped envelope use as well as of adhesives to differentiate Poland's transition from that of other countries. Apparently the 5-kopek "St. Petersburg" envelope, authorized for use on local letters in Warsaw, provided the first stamp usage. The records, as in Rachmanov's book, indicate Jan. 27, 1858 as date of start of usage; but Feb. 10, 1858 seems to be the earliest reported cover. From Polanski we show an example (Fig. 1).

But adhesives, in particular Russia's first stamp, the imperf. 10 kopeck, saw service very soon. April 21, 1858, from Warsaw to Strzemieszcze, is the earliest



Fig. 1—Portion of S. Petersburg Provisional Envelope used in Warsaw, 1858

reported example. As Fig. 2 we show this earliest use, taken from Stamp Specialist Blue Book (1941).

The reader will notice the familiar Polish cancellation of a numeral within four nested circles. These devices were provided early in 1858, in anticipation of the introduction of stamps. The numeral indicates the office; a system of numbering was set up by a postal service order of March 27, 1858. Evidently the kilers had been made previous to the publication of the order. This parallels the U. S. 1847 order that stamps were not to be cancelled with the town postmark; but differs in that the American postal service left it to each postmaster to provide whatever device he chose.

The next stage is represented by the Warsaw provincial envelopes put into use Jan. 1, 1859. These were made by means of a two metal handstamps, and hence are strictly "Handstruck Stamps"—perhaps the earliest examples of such from any country. There are two types. During this same year, Russian perforated issues found occasional use in Poland. The early 1858 issue, the 10 kopeck value, is known on several Polish covers, and the late 1858 issue is the second type, likewise is found on 1859 cover, at least one, from Warsaw.

Now during all this period, stamped usage forms only a literally infinitesimal portion of the mail in Poland.

The estimate is here made on the basis of 1859 items seen over a period of 20 years, that less than one letter in 100 went with stamps prior to 1860. This contrasts with roughly 10 percent of the mail going stamped in France in its first year, 1849, and approximately the same proportion in the United States, as in Canada somewhat later. (I am trusting my memory for the percentages in the other countries, in order not to delay this article beyond the deadline for publication).

The year 1860 is marked by the introduction of both adhesives and the stamped envelopes.

The envelopes came first—even as the provisionals of 1859 had paved the way. Here it might be remarked that for all three countries ruled by the then Czar, stamped envelopes preceded adhesives: Finland and Russia in 1845, Poland in 1859. So even in this respect, Poland in its transition to stamps shows features not unique, but found in other lands. The position of Poland as a representative of typical or widespread postal methods at this date is thus strengthened.

The two envelopes, 3 kopecks for Warsaw local letters, 10 kopecks for general mail, are definitely stated to have gone into use Jan. 1, 1860, by Polanski and by Rachmanov.

The Lone Adhesive, Poland's 10 kopeck stamp, though officially issued also on Jan. 1, 1860, is not known used earlier than Feb. 29, 1860, at Lublin and March 2, 1860 at Kutno. Curiously enough, next reported date is June 4, 1860, at Myszkow. However, in this case we do have a record that use of the stamp was not authorized, though it was supplied to post offices earlier, until March 16, 1860.

Stampless covers of 1860 are not too scarce. In particular, mail going abroad remained stampless through this period and even to at least 1869 for the most part.

But stampless domestic mail seems to have come almost to an end during 1860. During the period when Poland No. 1 was current, stampless covers, whether paid or collect, seem to be scarce. I infer that this is not the result of destruction of them subsequently, but that the contrast to their



Fig. 2—Earliest known usage of an adhesive stamp in Poland: Russia No. 1 on cover from Warsaw, April 21, 1858. (Cuts courtesy STAMPS Magazine.)

relatively plentiful presence in 1857 to 1859 represents the actual change of usage.

From the postmark point of view, the town marks, FRANCO in sausage, Warsaw receiving time handstamps, suffer no change. Even colors used for postmarking remain wholly unchanged. Thus there is, as in other countries, continuity during transition.

As a result of the 1863 Rebellion, Poland's postal autonomy was taken away in 1865. Russian stamps replaced Poland No. 1; but there seems to be no other change in usage. In the period from 1865 to 1870 the Polish town marks continued in use till worn out, being replaced slowly by strictly Russian marks in 1868 and 1869. But the Polish killers, numerals in nested circles, stayed in use right along, until a general change to striking the town marks, Russian style and new, provided about 1870, directly on the stamps was ordered.

Indeed, the Warsaw section or branch office killers, with nested squares, and the Warsaw device of numeral in nested octagons, find their most ex-

tensive use after the 1865 suppression of Polish stamps. The octagon device is, in fact, not known, or not reported in print, prior to the suppression. If anyone has it on Poland No. 1, whether on cover or off, he will confer a real favor on all students of older Polish philately by recording it in an article with an illustration.

The transition to stamps in Poland may not have become complete even as late as 1870; but material to establish any later stampless usage has not yet come to my notice. Foreign mail continued to go stampless in part, into at least late 1869. It is my personal belief that it is quite likely some countries were still reached by mail of that sort until Russia, including Poland, became a charter member of the U.P.U. with U.P.U. rates and service methods effective in mid-1875.

This article has merely opened up its subject, rather than having attempted to treat it in all possible detail. This is deliberate, since a rather long, extensive survey of material from many sources is needed to do full justice. It is hoped this article may inspire some student to undertake this.

The Second Issue of Stamps, By Post-War Poland

Values 25 and 50 Groszy — Printed in Moscow

by MARJAN DUNSKI

(Translated from the Polish by Walter Szymlek)

The first issue, known as "The National Heroes set" which went on definite sale on September 12, 1944 had rather a provisional character, because a directive of September 13, 1944 brought into circulation new stamps—values 25 and 50 groszy, known as the "Moscow Printing Set."

In August 1944 the director of Communications, Posts & Telegraphs, by the National Liberation Committee in Lublin, Eng. Jan Grubecki had ordered from the Moscow firm "Goznak" 14,000,000 stamps of the 25 and 50 groszy values. The first part of this order from "Goznak" arrived at Lublin September 13, 1944 and contained 500,000 stamps of each value. These stamps were instantly released for sale by the following order:

"The Daily Bulletin of Tariffs" (Dziennik Taryf) of Posts and Telegraphs, Year VIII, No. 7—Lublin, January 16, 1945—Page 17, Pos. 5.

REGULATION

Of the director of Communications, Posts & Telegraphs, Sept. 13, 1944.

On the basis of article 22 from Aug. 3, 1924 on Posts and Telegraphs (Dz. U.R.P.—No. 63, pos. 481, of 1933) I hereby order the following:

1. Introduced for sale are postage stamps of 25 and 50 groszy.

2. The 25 groszy stamp, measuring 26 x 37mm has the design of the White Eagle on a red background. Beneath the design in large letters is placed the inscription POCZTA POLSKA. In the upper left corner is the inscription 25 GR.—in the upper right corner: 25 GR.

The 50 groszy stamp, measuring 26 x 37mm shows a drawing of the monument GRUNWALD in Kraków. Color: dark-green. Beneath the drawing is placed the inscription in large letters: POCZTA POLSKA. At the bottom of the drawing in white letters: GRUNWALD. In the upper left corner the inscription 50 GR., in the upper right corner: 50 GR.



3. This order becomes effective as of Sept. 13, 1944.

Director

Eng. Jan Grubecki

Catalog data on this issue:
1944, Sept. 13.—Moscow printing. Rotogravure. Ordinary paper. Perforation lineal 12¼.

4 25 groszy, red, size of the drawing 22.3 x 33.5mm.

Total printing 3,720,000

4N Same—Imperf. Total prtng. 200

4A 25 gr. brown-red, size of drawing 22.8 x 33.5 mm.

Total printing 21,000,000

5 50 gr. dark green; size of drawing 22.8 x 33.5mm.

Total printing 12,530,000

5N Same—Imperf. Total prtng. 200

The 25 groszy features the National Emblem. The 50 groszy shows the base of the Władysław Jagiełło monument in Kraków, which was founded on the 400th Anniversary of his victory over the Tuetons at Grunwald, and which was demolished by the Germans during their occupation of Poland in World War II. The paper of this issue is white of .07mm thickness with gum, 12¼ lineal perforation. The gum is either white or yellowish, glossy or flat. The sheets are of 100 subjects: 10 horizontal rows of 10 pieces. The 25 gr. value was withdrawn from circulation by the following order:

"Dziennik Taryf" N 2 - 21945 - pos. 6

REGULATION

From the Director of Posts and Telegr.

on Dec. 18, 1944—concerning the withdrawal of the 25 groszy postage stamp.

On the basis of Article 22 Enactment 1, of Aug. 3, 1924 on Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs (Dz. U.R.P. No. 63 pos. 481) I hereby order the following:

1. The withdrawal from circulation of the 25 groszy postage stamp with the National Emblem, introduced into circulation by order of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs on Sept. 13, 1944.

2. The stamp shall be accepted for exchange or an equivalent refund in cash, until January 1, 1945.

Director of Posts & Tel.
Eng. Jan Kapeliński

The reason for the withdrawal of the 25 groszy stamp was the change in postal rates established in Sept. 1944 by the Director of Posts & Tel. An order from Dec. 23, 1944 established the new rates as follows:

Letter-domestic, to 20 grams	1 zł.
Postal card - domestic	50 gr.
Postal card - foreign	1 zł.
Letter-foreign, to 20 grams	2z 1.
Letter-foreign, over 20 grams	3 zł.
Registry	2 zł.

The new rates went into effect on Jan. 1, 1945.

The 50 groszy stamp was withdrawn May 31, 1945 by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs by an order of April 27, 1945—"Dziennik Taryf" R. VIII. No. 2, Warszawa, July 1, 1945 - Page 24, pos. 22.

REGULATION

From the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, April 27, 1945—concerning the withdrawal of the postage stamp value 50 groszy.

1. On the basis of Article 22, Enactment No. 1, of August Aug. 3, 1924 on Posts & Telegr. (Dz. U.R.P. No. 63, 1933 Pos. 481) I hereby order the following: On May 31, 1945 the withdrawal from circulation of the postage stamp 50 groszy with the view of the Grunwald Monument in Kraków, of dark green color, issued for circulation on Sept. 13, 1944.

2. The exchange of this stamp at the Post Offices and Postal Agencies will be carried out till June 15, 1945.

Polonus Bulletin, May 1956

TID BITS

A highly specialized catalog of post-war issues of Poland was published in mimeographed form in Poland by the Section of the Polish Philatelic Society, Kraków.

* * *

We heard that Prof. St. Mikstein is working on an up-to-date article on the Kraków stamps.

* * *

Prof. Ant. Laskiewicz intends to bring the Ikaros catalog up-to-date, published in the Polish language.

* * *

At the recent FIPEX the following members walked off with awards: Dr. L. Kozakiewicz got a silver gilt medal, V. Rachmanov a gold one; Myron Steczynski a silver one, and Walter Kolakowski a bronze one.

* * *

Warm weather had no effect on Polonus meeting attendance. The May 24th meeting had 32 members in attendance. The evening was highlighted with a beer party. The treats were on Roman Reinowski who celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary April 25th.

* * *

Polonus will receive shortly the official labels of the 7th Polish Philatelic Exhibition at Warsaw in 1957. The attractive poster stamps show the coat of arms of Warsaw the Syrena, and comes in three different color combinations: light blue and black, rose and black, and chartreuse and black. Cost 10 groszy each—or 10 cents per set of three. Obtainable from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chgo. 47.

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A LINK WITH KOSCIUSZKO ?

by JOHN C. CRIMLISK

This letter is from the Kingdom of Poland to Luneville, France.

The cover has no Polish postmark, but is dated inside 14 September, 1776. The figures 159 in the top right hand corner no doubt are the number in the Postal Register and the faint red manuscript mark to the lower left of the figures may be an abbreviated manuscript mark for Warszawa. There is a red transit postmark PAR MASEYCK. On the reverse is the manuscript inscription "Odebrany Dn. 2 8bra 1776" translated as "Received 2nd October 1776."

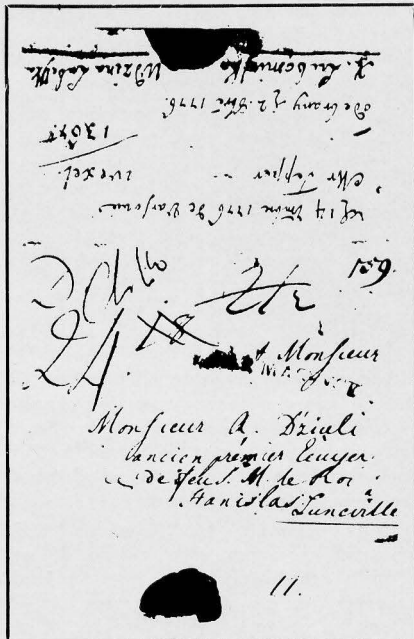
The letter was sent by Pierre Tepper & Co. (The well known Warsaw Bankers) on behalf of Princess Lubomirska wife of the Palatine of Lublin to A. Dziuli former First Ecuyer of His late Majesty King Stanislaus. Reference is made to an earlier communication received for the Castellan of Radom. A draft on Paris for 1367 livres was enclosed.

The Princess Lubomirska and Kosciuszko were well known to each other.

In 1774, Kosciuszko returned to Poland after his travels abroad to study military organization. He set about trying to put the family finances on a sound footing, but his brother Józef, spending more than saving, quarrelled with him, and Tadeusz had to seek hospitality in the home of his married sister. It was during this period, whilst teaching drawing and mathematics to the daughters of the future Grand Hetman, Józef Sosnowski, that Kosciuszko fell in love with Ludwika Sosnowska. However, Sosnowski had already gambled away his daughter to Prince Józef Lubomirski, and the lovers were forced to plan an elopement. They were discovered and Kosciuszko, attacked and wounded was driven from the house.

The attitude of Ludwika's father, his quarrel with his brother Józef and his unsatisfactory financial position made Kosciuszko decide to go to Paris in 1776.

In Paris, the American Agent, Silas Deane was calling for volunteers for the American Army and in response



Kosciuszko sailed for America in the Summer of 1776 and had to make the crossing on borrowed funds.

Ludwika showed that she was still interested in Kosciuszko for she is recorded as having written to him in America "... that in my heart I am unalterably and until death yours." On his return to Poland she wrote to the King requesting that he be given a military command.

Was the money sent by the Princess to Paris, to repay the loan made to Kosciuszko?

I'm afraid we shall never know.

THIRD ANNUAL POLONUS PICNIC

Picnic Chairman Roman Reinowski announced that Sunday, July 22nd has been selected for our Picnic at Powers Lake, Wise., at Doc Kozy's resort. Full particulars will be given in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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For Polonus Members Only

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NEW PRICE LIST OF BULLETINS AND POLAND NO. 1 BOOKLET

The first 100 issues of the Polonus Bulletin cannot be sold in singles. Issues after No. 100 at 20c per copy. A full complete set to Jan. 1957 — \$20.00 postpaid. New subscriptions run \$2.00 per year.

The Poland No. 1 Booklet by V. Rachmanov, 50c per copy to members. Not more than two to a member. Dealers — 60c per copy, no discount. Outsiders — \$1.00 per copy.

Send orders to Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

IN MEMORIAM—DR. F. V. BIELSKI

Polonus member Dr. Francis V. Bielski, a physician, passed on. He was 57 and lived at 200 S. Norwinden Dr., Springfield, Pa. He was a member of the staff at Taylor Hospital.

Surviving are his wife, the former Emily Zebrowski; a son, Francis V. Jr., who is studying for the priesthood at the North America College at Rome; a daughter Mrs. Dolores E. Johnson, of North Wales; a sister, Sister Mary Cajetan, of the Bernadine Sisters.

Our most heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Emily Bielski and the family.

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NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

A set of two stamps which commemorate the 9th International Cycling Race, Warsaw-Berlin-Prague, held May 1 to 15, 1956, were released April 25th.

The design is the same on both, which is a cyclist in racing form. The values are 40 gr. dark blue and 60 gr. green. Designed by H. Przewdziecki, rotogravure, size $31\frac{1}{4} \times 25\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Special postmarks were used in Warsaw-Łódź-Stalingrad and Wrocław during the race.

During May Zum. No. 704, Scott's 593 was surcharged with new values — 10, 40, 60 gr. and 1.35 zł.

A set of four Tourist stamps will be released in values of 30, 40, 60 gr. and 1.15 zł.

Three additional stamps are to be added to the Warsaw Monuments, 30, 40 gr. and 1.55 zł.



Illustrated above are the proposed designs of a new set to be issued in August for the International Olympic Games at Melbourne, Australia.

Two stamps commemorating the Polish Women's Congress are to be issued in June. Depicted will be a portrait of L. Wawrzynska, a heroic teacher who sacrificed her life to save children from a fire.

—Prasa i Książka

POLONUS PHILAT. SOCIETY

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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.

ON THE SUBJECT OF "PORT GDANSK" INVERTED OVERPRINTS

In connection with a recent transaction of "Port Gdańsk" inverted overprints — some members voiced the opinion that no inverted overprints were known prior to the last war, and those stamps, showing up now, might have been museum pieces "liberated."

At the Slavonia Exhibition at Katowice in 1934, Władysław Nowotarski of Żywiec had in his exhibit of Gdańsk two stamps of Port Gdańsk not listed by Scott, the 10 groszy (1K-5) and 25 groszy (1K-8) with an inverted overprint; also one block of four with a double overprint.

—W. S.

ROSSICA SOCIETY JOURNAL

The latest issue of the Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, No. 48, carries two short articles by member V. Rachmanov "Interesting Russian Postmarks of 1867" and "Russia No. 1 With German Postmarks."

Also appearing in this issue is another article by Capt. S. de Shramchenko "Postage Stamps of Ukrainian National Republic 1920." The Polonus Bulletin carried and article by Capt. S. de Shramchenko in Issue 131 pgs. 4-5 about Ukrainian Field Post of 1920.