

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX '97

The biggest Polonus event of the year is Polpex '97 which will take place March 14-15-16, 1997, at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. It will be held in the Victoria Room which is larger and has better lighting.

Thanks to artist Leon Kawecki of California, we have a cancellation design to submit to the post office for approval. Covers are planned with a color cachet. A U.S. postal station will operate in the Victoria Room for the duration of the show.

As in previous years we will have souvenir sheets and a program catalog. This year the program catalog will not only be available at the show but will be mailed to all out-of-town members

Support the Polpex by being a Patron for a donation of \$5 or more, or a Well Wisher for \$2 or more. Ads are \$50 for a full page, \$40 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page.

Please send copy and payment to the Program Book Book Chairman, Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622. Checks should be payable to Polonus.

The program catalog will contain philatelic and historical articles relating to the theme of our show which is

1000th anniversary of the death of St. Adalbert, Patron Saint of Poland.

Polonus was always known for its impressive Polish collections. Nowhere else this side of the Atlantic can you see such an impressive exhibition of Polish philately--52 large size frames. It happens only on the weekend of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 14-15-16th, 1997.

A house of thirty dealers is planned with some coming from as far as Colorado, California, and Canada. Hours of the show are Friday 10 to 6, Saturday 10 to 6, and Sunday 10 to 4.



TADEUSZ SOKOLOWSKI

1929 — 1997

Tadeusz Sokolowski fought in the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, served in the armies of three nations and later worked as an architect designing the interiors of some of Chicago's most famous buildings.

Mr. Sokolowski, 68, died February 1st at Resurrection Medical Center of complications from prostate cancer.



He was born in Warsaw, Poland, and fought in that city's Old Town against Nazi occupation. He was wounded by a German shell in 1944 and was captured. He spent time at the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp and later the Mauthausen camp in Austria.

"It's amazing when you think about it. He was about 15 or 16 years old (when he became involved in the struggle against the Nazis)," said Mr. Sokolowski's son, Mark Sokolowski. "For him that was always what was important, his time in that unfortunately hopeless fight."

When Mauthausen was liberated, Mr. Sokolowski went to Italy and fought in a Polish unit under the command of the British Army.

After the War, Mr. Sokolowski went to England and moved to Chicago in 1951. He was drafted by the U.S. Army and served in the 87th Infantry Regiment based at Ft. Riley, Kan. during the Korean War.

Mr. Sokolowski received several military honors, including the Polish Army Medal, the Polish Silver Cross of Merit and the British War Medal.

"The greatest thrill for him was when he was invited to the White House for a dinner with President Reagan," Mark Sokolowski said. That was for a ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. For the 50th anniversary in 1994, Mr. Sokolowski helped organize ceremonies in Poland attended by Vice Pres. Al Gore.

Mr. Sokolowski received his bachelor's degree in architecture while in Chicago and later oversaw interior projects at the Sears Tower, John Hancock Building and the new United and American terminals at O'Hare International Airport.

Mr. Sokolowski was active in organizations such as the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress, the Polish American Engineers Association, Polonus and the Polish American Numismatic Association.

In Polonus, he served as Vice President and Director, and was an ardent collector and a magnificent person. He left his mark with us.

LIBERATION OF POMORZE 1920

By EDMUND RADWAN

Unlike the Province of Poznań which was liberated by the armed uprising of December 26, 1918 to February 16, 1919, Pomorze (West Prussia under partition) had to wait for the date laid down by the Treaty of Versailles.

On the morning of January 18th, 1920, a Polish armored train crossed the border and occupied a suburban railway station in Toruń. By 12 noon Polish cavalry units entered the center of the city. Liberation proceeded as follows:

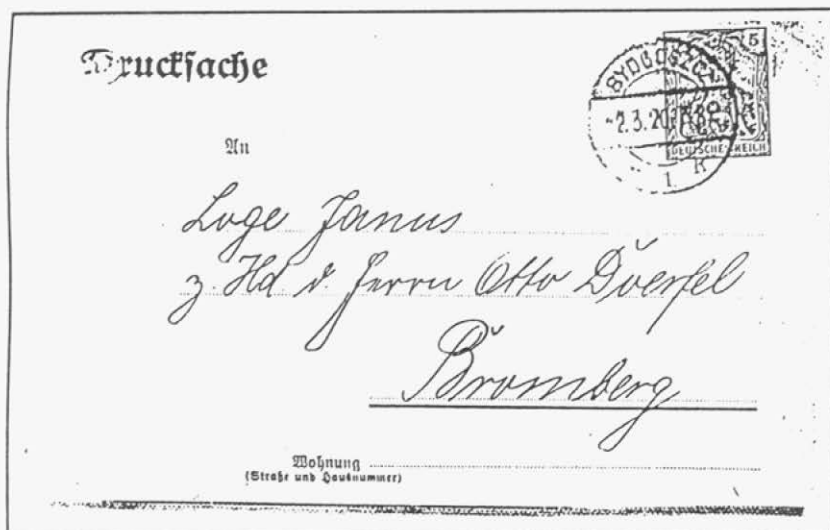
January 19 Lidzbark, Brodnica, Margonin
January 20 Wąbrzezno, Bydgoszcz, Fordon
January 21 Łasin, Radzyń, Chełmża, Nakło
January 22 Chełmno, Kozłowo, Mroczka, Wyszysk, Wysoka
January 23 Grudziądz
January 26 Bory Tucholskie
January 29 Tczew, Starogard, Tuchola
January 31 Kościerzyna, Chojnice (reaching the new German frontier)
February 4 Smętowo, Sulęcín, Mezowo
February 7 Kartuzy
February 10 Puck

Puck was the only specifically Polish port on the seaboard since Gdańsk had been declared a Free City. At Puck, Gen. J. Haller threw a platinum ring into the waves to make a symbolic betrothal of Poland with the Baltic Sea.



The take over by the Polish Postal Authorities created the usual abnormalities which collectors of Postal History are always looking for. I produce three examples here:

- a) Postcard posted March 2, 1920 in Bydgoszcz for local delivery bearing a German 5 Pf stamp and cancelled with a Polish canceller BYDGOSZCZ.



- b) Postcard posted January 30, 1920 in Chełmża to Poznań with a mixed franking of German 5 Pf stamp and two Polish 5 F stamps cancelled with the old German canceller of CULMSEE.



- c) Cover posted March 17, 1920 from Kartuzy to Danzig franked with a Polish 20 F stamp and cancelled with a German TPO mark KARTHAUS - LAUENBURG / ZUG 902. (Lauenburg = Leborg). This cover presents a puzzle because Leborg is situated the opposite way to Gdańsk from Kartuzy. Was the cover actually carried by such a roundabout route or was a superseded canceler simply used as a makeshift? There are no markings to indicate how long this cover took to reach its destination.



Reprinted from the "Polish Philatelic Review" of Great Britain.

QUAINT TALES FROM THE POLISH POSTAL PAST

"PAID IN CASH" MARKINGS

By A. A. BERRISFORD

The text of this article is based upon the notes I prepared to introduce a display dealing with this subject and which I hope, may be of some assistance to collectors having items of this rather obscure branch of Polish philately in their collections.

First of all, a few words of explanation as to what is implied in the title of this article.

From 1918 onwards in the Polish Postal History at various times, shortages of postage stamps have occurred at either national, regional or local Post Office levels. In order to continue the postal services, senders of letters, cards, etc. made cash payments in lieu of stamps. To signify that postage had been paid — cachets or manuscript markings were applied to covers, cards, etc. and these are subject of this article.

My collection (in 1975—R.SZ.) consists of some 200-230 examples of different markings embracing the period 1918-1925 and examples are shown here from this period, although the points made could equally apply to these markings found after 1944-45. Because Polish Postal History again repeated itself . . .

Some of the reasons for shortages:

a) From November, 1918 to January, 1919 no national supply of Polish stamps were available and provisional overprints on Austro-German stamps were only in use at a limited number of post offices.

b). At the time of regaining of Independence, large areas of Southern Poland were under influence of Ukrainian nationalists and it was not until well into 1919 that Polish Forces regained control of these areas, which would cause operational and distribution problems and delays.

c). The unification of Polish currency in February, 1920, caused the distribution of stamps with the Northern Poland values (Marks and Fennigs) to offices in Southern Poland and running down of stocks of old issues before delivery of the new uniform issues — causing in some areas shortages of postage stamps.

d). Rapid inflation during the years 1921-24, with frequent increases in postal rates and the large quantity of stamps required on one letter caused a quick depletion of stocks.

e). National currency change to the złoty-groszy in March, 1924, caused similar difficulties as described in item c.

Guidelines regulating "Paid in Cash" postal service.

The basic information required to be shown on the mail to indicate a cash payment — were as follows:

1. A manuscript note or applied cachet indicating "Paid in Cash."
2. The amount paid for postage.
3. Receipt No. allocated to the payment for accounting purposes.
4. A signature or initials of the clerk receiving the payment.

Although judging by the quantity of examples in my collection, a number of Post Offices did not indicate all of this information on their mail.

Nomenclature.

The text of the manuscript or handstamp marking applied to denote "Paid in Cash" postage varied considerably and some of the more popular are listed below:

- Opłacono gotówką — Paid in Cash
- Pobrano gotówką — Taken in cash
- Gotówką zapłacone — Cash taken
- W gotówce pobrano — In cash taken
- Franko or Franco — Postage paid

Information on the subject.

After acquiring the bulk of my collection, I looked for any already published information from which I could decide the best means of displaying the items. Alas, the only written information available to me was a brief reference in "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", (Vol. III, pages

110 & 111), stating that several different types were in use and listing a few examples.

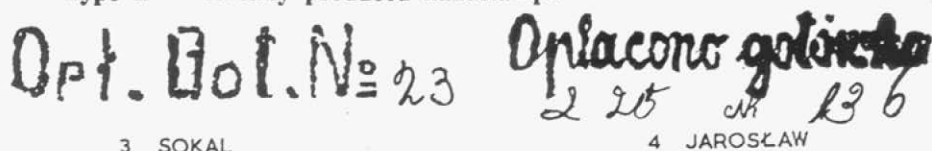
So, left with a lack of additional information and to my own devises, I decided to divide these markings into types, ie: manuscript, box frame handstamps, similar inscriptions and so on . . .

Type 1 — Manuscript markings:



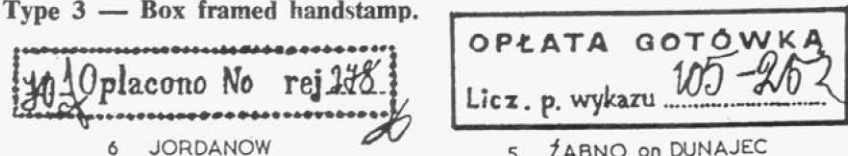
All information being entered upon the postal item by hand in ink or pencil.

Type 2 — Locally produced handstamps:



Although almost all handstamps used were produced locally, this description refers to those cut by hand (sometimes rather crude) from a solid piece of rubber, wood, etc., resulting in uneven lettering and often also disintegrating in places after some use.

Type 3 — Box framed handstamp.



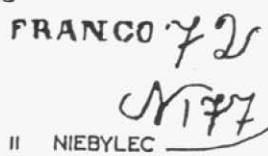
These were in a variety of shapes and sizes, sometimes divided into segments for the entry of the required information. Few handstamps had the text also in French as fig. 7.



Type 4. — "Franko" or "Franco" handstamps.



These German one bar markings are found in about equal quantities of both spellings on mail posted in the Bielsko and Cieszyn areas of Silesia, where the larger percentage of the population spoke also German.



Type 5. — Handstamps made up from printers letters.

Oplacono gotówka 2R. Oplacono gotówka

12 USCIERYKI

13 RUDKI

A number of handstamps were made up into a required unit from loose printing letters. Judging from the end product, for some Post Offices this lettering was hard to come by — with the text being compiled with a mixture of capital and small letters or from more than one style or size. Also the specific in Polish alphabet letters such as “ł” or “ó” and “ą” can be found substituted ó with German ö and others with common l, o and a.

Type 6. — Handstamps with abbreviated spelling.

OPŁ. GTW.
AK. 25 H. No 54/a

OPŁGOT
MK 25000POZ 24

Fig 14 LISKO

15 STARZAWA near CHYROW

Pobrano gotówką R: 136
Mrk. 6 f.
K.

ZAPŁACONO
MIA — 17 12 got 50h

16 WIŚNICZ near BOCHNIA

17 WIELICZKA

The composition of this type of handstamp contains usually various abbreviations of the text “Oplacono gotówką.” An interesting example is fig. 15 showing a handstamp prepared for use in the inflation period because of the three O’s for the high postage rates are already included within the handstamp. Figs. 16 & 17 show some differing forms of inscriptions.

Type 7 — Decorative handstamps.

← Oplac. gotówka →
No 17 400 MK.

20 POSADA OLCHOWSKA

Several forms of decoration are to be found. Also a better quality of print lettering is usually featured from this type of handstamp and were probably produced from the local printers’ stock where such decorative additions were more readily available. (See also fig. 7).

Type 8 — Mass produced handstamps.

Oplacono gotówką

21 ŁAWOCZNE and ŻYWIEC

Of all the handstamps in my collection I have found only two designs which occur in use at more than one Post Office and which leads one to believe that some handstamps were produced in quantities in work-

shops, probably to the specification of the Postal Authorities and dispatched to Post Offices over a wider area.

In conclusion, it will be appropriate to mention other, also interesting items to be found among covers and postcards of that period. These are a mixed use of postage stamps with additional "Paid in Cash" markings on the same cover. As at many Post Offices, there was availability of only a few low value stamps — the difference for actual postage was paid in cash. I have only a single example of most of the handstamps, so that estimating the periods of use is nearly impossible and, of course, would welcome any additional information or dates of usage from anyone having these items in their collection.

First published in "Polish Philatelic Review", the official magazine of the Polish Philatelic Society — London, in 1975 (Vol. XII - No. 56). Reprint prepared by R.SZ.

ESSAYS OF MURNAU STAMPS

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

In the 1985 March-April issue of the *Polonus Bulletin*, I published together with Chris Kulpinski, the article "Recut Dies of Stamps from Camp Murnau." Since that time additional material has accumulated to continue this topic and also to consider the genesis of these rare and interesting stamps.

1. "The Onion Shaped Tower", Michel No. 1.

The first stamp issued in Murnau was preceded by an unissued design shown in figure 1. It shows the same buildings as the issued stamp (figure 2) but without the camp square in front. The nominal value is 15 f instead of 10 f. The composition and the quality of the woodcut of this essay are poor, thus it was replaced with the much better design of the stamp issued on November 6, 1942.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

2. "The Mountains", Michel No. 6.

Originally this stamp was planned to be printed in two colors (figure 2). The center part of the stamp showing the Alps visible from the camp, was printed with a separate woodcut. It is surrounded by a frame in dark blue which shows stylized barbed wire with a guard tower on the bottom and the nominal value "20 f" on the right side (figure 3). For the issued stamp, the frame was omitted and the nominal value "20 f" was cut in on the left side on the mountain design. The shading lines in the sky were improved by cutting numerous vertical

grooves to make them appear lighter. 98 stamps were printed with this die (figure 4). Since the sky still appeared to be too dark, the lines in the sky near the horizon were removed and the remaining 1502 stamps were printed with this retouched die (figure 5).



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

3. "The Window at the Soldier's Grave", Michel No. 7.

Originally the woodcut was quite dark which resulted in a poorly defined design (figure 6). Therefore the shading lines were first removed from the cross (figure 7) and later from a large part of the sky. This modified woodcut was then used to print the issued stamps (fig. 8).



Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

4. "The Mess Tin", Michel No. 8.

In this design like in the previous one the background appeared to be too dark (figure 9). To improve the contrast, the background was lightened around the mess tin and around the tag on its handle. The woodcut was then used to print issued stamps (figure 10). While the printing was in progress the die was further modified by removing more of the background in the upper part of the design (figure 11).



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Figure 11.

5. "The Music Festival", Michel No. 13.

For this two-color stamp, two dies were cut in wood. Proofs in black with green background and in black with red background were made with these dies in their original versions (fig. 12). Preceding the printing of the stamps, both dies were improved. In the main die, the lines surrounding the "1" were removed and changes were made in lines on lines were cut in the background die below the right side of the theater mask. White the "1" (figure 13).



Figure 12.



Figure 13.

6. "The Polish Eagle", Michel No. 14.

The last stamp of Camp Murnau was issued on March 31, 1945 (figure 14). There was a competing design also made by T. Kluzniak, shown in figure 15. This unissued stamp was printed with two dies: The eagles and the inscription were imprinted in black and the vertically striped background in red.

7. Postage Due Issue "The Chickens", Michel No. 1.

Originally the die did show the rooster in profile, looking to the left (figure 16). The engraver cut off its beak to make it look toward the viewer (figure 17).



Figure 14.



Figure 15.



Figure 16.



Figure 17.



MY FAVORITE POSTCARD

By ROMAN H. STRZELECKI

Back in 1977, I wrote an article about a super-special post card dated in 1933. The card was mailed during the II National Exhibition in Toruń. To me this post card was the introduction to real philately. I joined the ranks of Polonus, and over the years finally became the president of this society.

Looking over past Bulletins, I note we had such philatelic stories. Dr. James Mazepa wrote many a story connected with a specific cover or stamp. I am sure many of you readers have some stories to tell about a philatelic item in your collection.

I would like to introduce a new practice in our Bulletin, "My Favorite Philatelic Item". I'm sure there is some item you have with some sentiment, joy or sorrow attached to it. Tell us your story!

To get things going we are reprinting my article of January 1977 on the Toruń post card. —R.S.

1933 TORUŃ PHILATELIC CARD



The above card is not a classic, neither is it very expensive, that an average collector could not get. Nevertheless, to me its one of a kind in the world. It has a triple value:

1. Philatelic;
2. Sentimental;
3. My pass into the philatelic world.

I will try to explain in that order its short history.

1. Philatelic Value:

From a pure philatelic angle, this is an official souvenir card issued on the occasion of three various anniversaries:

- a). II National Stamp Exhibition,
- b). 700th Anniversary of the City of Toruń,
- c). 10th Anniversary of the Polish Philatelic Society in Toruń.

The front of the card shows a reproduction of Poland's #275 with an appropriate inscription at the bottom. The back of the card has three stamps: Scott #275, C-10 and B-28. Cancelled with a special Show cancellation, dated May 21—28, 1933, the card was mailed from the Exhibition Postal facilities by registered mail and express.

2. Sentimental Value:

The card was prepared by my father, who is long parted with this world. It was mailed from the II National Stamp Exhibition. The inscription or dedication on the left: "On the occasion of the 700th Anniversary of the City of Toruń, from the II National Stamp Exhibition for the Little Philatelist."

Because the card was addressed to me personally, I can still remember today, how proud I was, when the card was delivered to me.

To me it was something special. All of my pre-war collection was stolen during the war, but somehow this card remained behind. It was sent to me by my mother after the war.

I had many occasions to sell it, have built and disposed of many collections where this card fit in perfectly, but somehow I could never part with it.

3. My Pass Into the Philatelic World:

I was born in Toruń, and lived there. The year 1933 was a great event in the philatelic world, especially for the Philatelic Society in Toruń. They celebrated their 10th anniversary with a big show.

I recall very distinctly that I attended the Exhibition twice; once with our School Stamp Club, and a second time with my father. After some discussion at home, it was decided that as a 10-year old, who had been "playing with stamps long enough", I should be "properly introduced to the Philatelic World."

So on Saturday, the 27th of May, my Dad took me down to the Exhibition to show me what and how to collect. As my father had many friends who were also stamp collectors, I was introduced to many experts and real collectors.

Naturally, I was soon treated like a real philatelist; got acquainted with some juniors, already more advanced than I, with three or four books filled with various stamps and who already were talking about exchanging and swapping.

To me all that was very new, but somehow I liked it. Whether I convinced myself or I became somehow indoctrinated, I do not know. However, that was how it was, my beginning with real philately, and I still have the card.



Pod patronat. rządu Pania Ministra Poczt i Telegrafów
II ZUSZCZEPOLSKA WYSTAWA
FILATELISTYCZNA
od 21 maja 1933 r. do 28 maja 1933 r.
z okazji 10-lecia Związku Filatel. Toruński
Picture side of 1933 Toruń Postcard

Stamps To Look For and Stamps To Avoid

By J.M.S. KALUSKI

25.2.1919. THE P.K.L. ISSUE.

Scott Nos. 61-71

P.Z.P. Nos. 55-65

(The initials P.K.L. stand for "Polska Komisja Likwidacyjna — Polish Liquidation Committee" which was for a short period the highest political authority on Polish territories formerly occupied by Austria).

The genuine stamps were issued imperforate with no gum. Lithography. To facilitate cutting stamps from the sheet, each stamp had a faint frame of dots printed around. There were various constant minor flaws, but the most noticeable is on the 1 Kor. value; stamp No. 44, where the letter 'r' in 'Korona' looks like the letter 'c'.

Some of the 1 Kor. stamps were printed vertically, others horizontally. While it makes no difference to their market value, nevertheless those printed lying horizontally are rarer and can be recognized by the position of the figure "1", being near the top of the frame while those printed vertically nearer the bottom.

The stamps to look for are those which were privately perforated, either by a local P.O. (eg. Żywiec) or big commercial firms. Perforated stamps bear cancellations of Dukla, Gromnik, Jasło, Kraków, Kalwaria, Leżajsk, Ropczyce, Stroż, Szczurowa, Tarnów, Tuchów and Żywiec. Those bearing other cancellations will most likely be forgeries, i.e. Hanovic — there is no letter 'v' in the Polish language.

FORGERIES

Typographic Forgery



Forgery



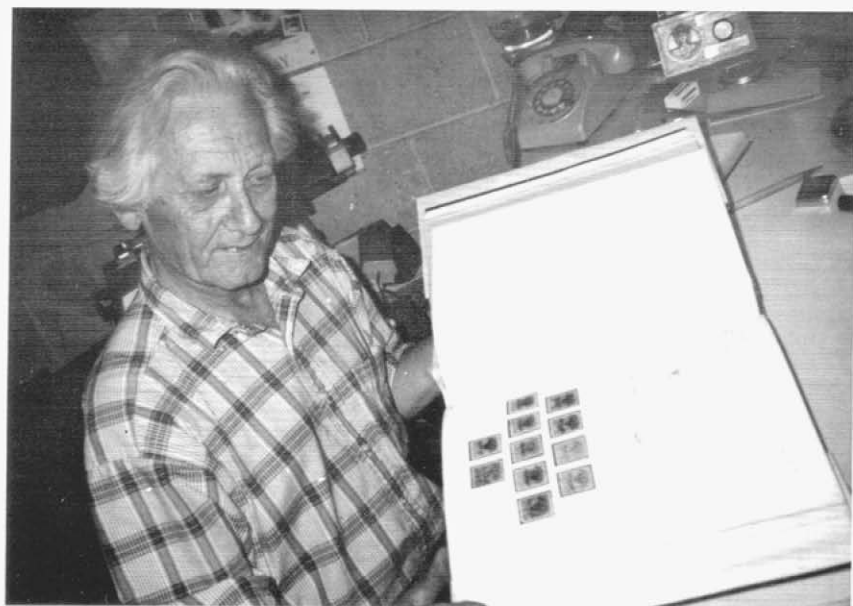
Genuine

Reprinted from "Polish Philatelic Review", Great Britain.

Both, stamps and Proofs — in black — were widely forged and are worthless. The forgeries, in typography, are easily recognized if compared with a genuine stamp due to differences in color, various design discrepancies, shape of the lettering and different type of paper. The most obvious error can be seen on the 2 hal. value: on the genuine stamp it is: "2 halerze 2" — on forgery: "2 halerzy 2".

DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG -- REVISITED

By FRED SZEBEL



Polonus Bulletin #475-12 carried a photo of Stanley Kronenberg as a young boy. I revisited Dr. Kronenberg and on the photo you can see the lines on his face at age 70+. He is showing me one of his 70 plus albums of the stamps of Poland. As he claimed previously, he does not specialize in any particular area of philately. He has now every stamp, variety, etc. that Poland, as a country, ever issued since 1860. All are well documented, described, etc. He can compare every stamp, overprint or what have you. He is known as an expert on the stamps of Poland.

As our editor noted in Bulletin #475, Dr. Kronenberg has contributed many articles as well as translations like the massive J. Adamczyk Kraków article which was printed in installments in our Bulletin. I visit Dr. Kronenberg almost every year and always learn something new. Time spent with him is always rewarding.

Collectors of Poland seeking an expert's advice may contact him at: Stanley Kronenberg, Ph.D., Hollow Road, Skillman, NJ 08558. His phone is: 609 466-3713.

"STAMP MARKET TIPS" by JOHN G. ROSS

POLAND'S 1939 OCCUPATION SET A GOOD BUY

In September, 1939, Adolf Hitler's armies overran Poland. While the resistance was fierce, the Polish army was no match for the Germans, and in a few weeks Poland was occupied. Soon afterwards, a set of 13 German stamps surcharged "Deutsche Post Osten", Scott N17-29, was placed on sale at Polish post offices.

This set was plentiful in the stamp market for a long time, but now it is becoming very difficult to find.

The 1997 Scott catalog values the 13 mint, never hinged stamps at \$11.45, unchanged from the 1996 retail value. Dealers in Germany are paying around \$8 for the set and are selling it for the equivalent of full Scott.

I believe this set is a good buy at today's prices.

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Dealers in Germany are looking for mint sets of Poland's German occupation set from 1939. Once plentiful, the set has become hard to find in mint, never-hinged condition.



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POŁDEX '97

COMMEMORATING THE 1000th YEAR OF THE
DEATH OF POLAND'S PATRON SAINT ADALBERT

House of the White Eagle
6839 N. MILWAUKEE AVE., NILES, IL

FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY,
MARCH 14th - 15th - 16th
FRI. 10-6 ■ SAT. 10-6 ■ SUN. 10-4

52 Large Frames ■ 30 Dealer Bourse

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