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The Municipal Stamps of Przedsborz*

By Col. R. N. W. Larking and John Adamson

Among the few Municipal stamps of Poland issued during the 1st Great War, those of Przedsborz rank next to those of Warsaw. The motive behind the issue displays the grit and determination of the Poles to establish themselves,—yes, the 1st Great War brought a ray of hope. The necessity for these Municipals arose from prevailing war conditions, when civil postal services ceased to exist.

During the occupation of Poland by the Germans and Austrians all civilian correspondence was dealt with by military authorities from whose post offices civilians collected their mail. This obviously caused great inconvenience to those who lived some distance away from the few military post offices.

Alive to new possibilities, a group of Poles in Warsaw suggested to their Municipal Council the advisability of approaching the German Governor-General, Von Beseler, with a view to setting up a Municipal post whereby correspondence could be delivered from the military post offices to addressees. The Citizens of Warsaw Committee worked out a detailed plan to cover the expenses of a Municipal Courier. When Warsaw, however, obtained sanction, other towns sought similar permission. Among the most notable were those of Zawiercie, Sosnowice, Zarki, and Przedsborz. This latter town was situated on the River



First Issue

Pilica, in the province of Kielce, Southern Poland, and under Austrian Administration. There was no military post office at Przedsborz, the nearest being at Konsk, 23 miles away, where all civilian correspondence was handled. Therefore, a local post was constituted between the two towns under the direction of the Austrian military authorities.

The first Przedsborz issue appeared on December 18, 1917, and consisted of two values only, 2gr. red and 4gr. blue, both showing the Polish eagle and 1917 in the center panel, and inscribed MIASTO PRZEDBORZ in Polish on the left, and STADT PRZEDBORZ in German, on the right. The word GROSZE appears at the top and bottom, with the value in all four corners.

The stamps were lithographed in sheets of 32 stamps, grouped into four blocks, four wide by two high. The horizontal gutter was 15mm. wide, the vertical gutter was 6mm. wide, with a 4 mm. spacing between all stamps. Each block of 8 was identical to the other 3, so errors in one block corres-

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pond to errors in the others. All genuine stamps show a dot on the edge of the eagle's right wing (the reader's left). Apart from the dot on the wing there are other characteristics on each respective stamp in the block, the chief being as follows:

2GR.

1.—In the background of the right top "2" the 2nd vertical line of shading on the left is broken close to the top.

2.—In the background of the left top "2" the 1st line of shading on the left is broken $\frac{3}{4}$ way down.

3.—There is a small dot touching the curve of the "G" on the lower Grosze.

4.—In the background of the left top "2" the 1st line of shading ends with three dots close to the top.

5.—The left bottom "2" is smaller and has no ball nor serif.

6.—The top line of the frame containing the left bottom "2" is broken at the left corner.

7.—The two outer frame lines on the right side at the top of the stamp merge together and form a solid mass.

8.—In the top of the eagle's left wing, at the reader's right, there is a small dot.

4GR.

1.—There is a small dot just below the bottom "4" at the right.

2.—There is a small dot in the right bottom corner of the right bottom "4" square.

3.—There is a small dot nearly half way down the left side between the outer and inner frame lines of the right bottom "4" square.

4.—The outer and inner frame lines at the right of the top "4" square merge into one.

5.—The left bottom "4" has a uniformly straight top stroke.

6.—There is a small dot just to the right of the frame of the lower left "4."

7.—No prominent mark, beyond the usual dot inside and touching the eagle's right wing, half way down.

8.—There is a dot in the apex of the "Z" in the top "Grosze" and on the top of the "Z" in the bottom "Grosze."

A few sheets are known imperforate, the remainder being perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The number issued was 3,000 of the 2gr. and 5,000 of the 4gr. The 2gr. is known with a double horizontal perforation, and the 4gr. is known bisected and used as a 2gr. value. Originals are clearly printed, and the



Second Issue

tongue of the eagle is well defined. Cancellations were the postmark of the Austrian Field Post Office lettered "K.U.K. ETAPPENPOSTAMT PRZEDBORZ, KRIES KONSK—(Imperial and Royal Provincial Post Office Przedsborz, District Konsek). Postmarks should be in greenish black oily ink and there should be dots after each letter of K.U.K. Four proofs only exist of this 1st issue. 2gr. brick red, 2gr. green, 4gr. brown and 4gr. olive, imperforate and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. Incidentally, the red and olive proofs are twice as scarce as the other two. Several types of forgeries exist, imperforate and perforated, with and without the dot, the dot on the forgeries being nearer the center of the wing.

A second issue appeared on February 26, 1918, consisting of four values lithographed in sheets of 25, 5x5, and were issued imperf. and perf. 1) and $11\frac{1}{2}$. The 2gr. olive green on pale olive green gives a view of the Town Hall. The 4gr. violet on buff gives a view of the bridge over the River Pilica, the 6gr. blue on pale olive, the Market Place, and the 10gr. red on buff, the Town Arms. Beneath each is inscribed MIASTO PRZEDBORZ. The date 1918 is in a semi-circular label at the top, the bottom panel gives the value. The issue consisted of 5,000 of the 2gr., 10,000 of the 4gr., 3,000 of the 6gr., and 2,000 of the 10gr. There are three types in each horizontal row in the sequence 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, by which the genuine can be distinguished from the forgery. The types are:

2GR.

Type I.—Inner frame line broken above the "gr." the right inner frame line is cut short 1mm above the tree.

Type II.—Left inner frame line con-

tinues downward and almost touches the "M."

Type III.—Dot between tops of "Z" and "E" of GROSZE; last letter of PRZEDBORZ has thin horizontal bottom stroke. Right inner frame line touches top of tree and stops there.

4GR.

Type I.—Left inner frame line stops above "M," small comma on top of "I."

Type II.—Left inner frame line continues downward to foot of "M." Minute dot low down between "PR."

Type III.—Left lower corner of inner frame line around GROSZE broken below "G," dot high up between "ZE" of GROSZE.

6GR.

Type I.—Thin jagged line above "MIASTO" and thin line above last "Z" of PRZEDBORZ. Minute dot between the words MIASTO PRZEDBORZ, nearer the O.

Type II.—Dot below each foot of "M" touching frame line. Dots between "IA" of MIASTO and "OR" of PRZEDBORZ.

Type III.—Dot between "O-P" low down, dot between last "RZ" and after "Z."

10GR.

Type I.—Small hook on top serif of "I" in lower right "10."

Type II.—Broken line before "M." Right inner frame line stops above "Z."

Type III.—Thin line under "ORZ."

An error in the 4gr. is to be found in the inscription "PRZEDBORZ" which reads "PRZEDBORK," the thin "Z" being damaged resembles a "K." Proofs exist of all four values, imperf and without gum, classified thus:

- (a) Partially without each ground.
- (b) Background changed in color.
- (c) Printed on both sides with different value.

The postal cancellation is the same as for the first issue, but some copies have the violet postmark shown on the fifth issue. These were probably postmarked to order at a later date. Forgeries of this issue are coarsely printed and easily distinguished from the genuine. In the 10gr. the forgery shows the initials "RMP" (Rada Miejska Przedborz)—not always visible—on the mallet and sheaf of grain. These initials do not appear on the genuine issue though they appeared on later issues. Some of the forgeries, of which there are three types, are so well done it is difficult to describe them. Roughly, in (a) forgery the



Third Issue

bottom stroke of "Z" in "GROSZE" is long, in (b) forgery the accent over the "O" in "PRZEDBORZ" is thick and short and touches the "O." In (c) forgery the line under 1918 is continuous and thick, in the 10gr. comparison with the genuine must be made.

A third issue appeared on March 15, 1918, and consisted of the same four values, on white paper, but with the designs transposed. The 2gr. green showing the Market Place, 4gr. red, Town Hall, 6gr. violet, Bridge over the River Pilica, and the 10gr. blue, Town Arms. Beneath the date 1918 on the lower three values, rays have been added with "RADA MIEJSKA" printed across them. In the 10gr. there are no rays, but "RADA MIEJSKA" fills the labels on each side of the date. The numbers issued were: 2gr., 7,000; 4gr., 8,000; and 3,000 each of the 6gr. and 10gr., printed in sheets of 25, imperf. and perf. 10.

There are three types of each value, the chief characteristics being:

2GR.

Type I.—Dot between "SZ" close to "Z."

Type II.—Colored scratch below "S" of "MIASTA." Dot between "ZE" of "GROSZE" high up and scratch after right "2."

Type III.—Minute dot under "G" of "GROSZE" and vertical scratch at right of "GROSZE" panel. Dot after and level with right "2."

4GR.

Type I.—Left inner frame line continues downward, right inner frame line stops 1mm. from top of tree.

Type II.—Left inner frame line stops at roof of house, right inner frame line continues to panel.

Type III.—Right inner frame line

stops at top of tree, touching it.

6GR.

Type I.—Left outer frame line is farther left than value label, dot under right leg of "A" of "MEIJSKA."

Type II.—Right outer frame line is farther right than value label.

Type III.—Left inner frame line is broken at roof of house, left outer frame line is flush with value label.

10GR.

Type I.—No top serif to "1" of lower left "10." Left vertical stroke of "M" of "MEIJSKA" broken.

Type II.—Dot in bottom left corner of "GROSZY" label.

Type III.—Colored dot in vertical stroke of "P" of "PRZEDBORZA."

The fourth issue of March 27, 1918, shows the currency changed from GROSZE to HALERZE, to conform to the Austrian currency during the Austrian occupation of southern Poland. The same four designs appear as in the preceding issue, the values and colors, however, are different. The 5hal. is red, 10hal. green, 15hal. blue, and the 20hal. violet. These were issued in sheets of 30 stamps, 6 horizontal rows of 5, imperf. and perf. 10. The 5hal. is also known perf. 11½ and is quite scarce. There are two types in each horizontal row, in the order 1, 2, 1, 2, 1. They are as follows:

5HAL.

Type I.—Small white dot to right of large dot after 1918. 4th ray from right side broken under left foot of "A."

Type II.—Four dots form a square around the lower left of "5."

10HAL.

Type I.—Left inner frame line stops short at roof of house.

Type II.—Left inner frame line continues downward.

15HAL.

Type I.—Left inner frame line continues downward. Dot below "ZY" of "HALERZY."

Type II.—Left inner frame line is broken at middle third.

20HAL.

Type I.—Thin line above lower left "20" close to frame line above.

Type II.—Top left corner of frame around left "20" broken.

The postal obliteration is the same as for the third issue. Proofs exist as in preceding issue, printed on both sides with different values. Forgeries show the same characteristics as those in the third issue.

The fifth issue appeared on July 27,

1918, in sheets of 60 stamps, 10 horizontal rows of 6, and was imperf. and perf 10 and 11½. The values, designs and colors were the same as the fourth issue, except that the rays in the three lower values have been removed. The 20hal. can be distinguished from that value of the fourth issue by "RADA MEIJSKA" being in smaller lettering, and there is a colored dot under the "A" of "MEIJSKA." The quantities issued are not available.

There are two particular types of forgeries, one being coarsely printed with varying shades, sizes of lettering, and a continuous coarse line under 1918. In the 20hal. there are two small dots before the "M" in "MEIJSKA," the "J" is straight and clean cut, and there is a short colored stroke under "A." Over the "R" of "RADA" there is a blob of color. In the genuine there are no dots before the "M," there is a small dot touching the top of "J" and a round dot under "A," and there are faint dots over the "R" in "RADA." The other forged type shows a cross instead of a dot at each side of the date in the three lower values and in each corner above "MIASTA PRZEDBORZA" in the 20hal. These are presumed to be of German origin. Forgeries of Przedborz municipals are plentiful everywhere and ridiculous prices are being asked. Therefore this article may be of some assistance to those who desire to collect this group. One final word, undoubtedly these stamps were used for a local post, but correctly speaking they are not "locals." "Municipals" and "locals" differ in this respect—as far as Poland is concerned. The word "local" is used only for those provisionals that appeared after November 11, 1918, whereas "municipals" were created during the German and Austrian occupation and paid for delivery from the post office only to the addressee. The "local" provisionals paid full postage.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sgt. Charles Wrobel, A.A.F.P.C.C.,
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COL. R. N. W. LARKING, C. B. E.



On June 22nd, the very day when Polonus was busily engaged in ceremonies inaugurating the sale of the United States stamp with the flag of Poland, word came to us that our distinguished and honored member in England, Colonel R. N. W. Larking, C. B. E., passed away on May 10th. We had learned previously that the Colonel was failing in health, but nevertheless the news of his death was a shock and his loss is keenly felt by Polonus members such as Mr. Adamson, Dr. Alberg, Dr. Kozakiewicz and others who knew him personally, as well as by the rest of us who read his many articles in Gibbon's Stamp Monthly and who referred to his works constantly in Ikaros.

We in Polonus, as well as collectors throughout Poland, always regarded Colonel Larking as the No. 1 collector and authority on the stamps of Poland. His Polish collection embraced 72 volumes and included every setting and variety of the rare Krakow issue. The Colonel has specialized in this issue for the last 20 years, being in close touch with Prof. Mikstein of Krakow during that period, and acquiring basic knowledge and proficiency to become fully qualified to expertize these elusive overprints.

During World War I, Col. Larking had charge of prisoners, many of whom were Poles that were captured only because of their sympathy to the Allied cause. When these officers and men were released to a freed Poland after the war, they kept in close contact with their friend in England to whom they sent all the current issues that were provisional and local in their character as well as those that were issued by the new government. Colonel Larking studied and classified these stamps in a thoroughly professional fashion and laid the foundation for the permanent classification of Polish stamps as used by the handbooks and collectors in later years. He really placed Polish philately on a scientific basis and in the foremost rank of stamp issuing countries. It must be remembered that in the early days of the Polish republic there were different stamps used in different sections of the country with different monetary values, and that there were wide deviations in the productions of each issue so that the colors, papers, inks, gums, perforations and plate flaws varied widely. It was Colonel Larking more than any one else who brought order out of chaos in the classification of endless variations, which rose to over 600 kinds of one stamp only.

Colonel Larking's collection represents not only the physical existence of thousands of stamps, but the heart and soul of a man who put 25 of his best years into his hobby. Besides the 72 volumes of stamps properly classified and meticulously arranged, the Colonel's collection has much reference material which is not duplicated in any other collection. Polonus would like to see this collection preserved intact for the Philatelic Museum in Poland when the war is won.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Member 183—Miss Regina Barbara Sierowiecki, 2568 E. 117th St., Cleveland, Ohio. (Poland and General)

Member 190—Jan A. Sliski, 36 Huron Ave., Apt. 23, Jersey City 6, N. J. (Poland and Airmails in General)

Member 191—Casimer J. Dabrowski, 1507 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill. (Poland, U. S. mint, Sov. Sheets and 1st day covers)

Member 192—Albert L. Kolaczewski, 3431 Melrose St., Chicago, Ill. (Poland and U. S.)

FRIENDSHIP THRU THE YEARS



Address delivered by Myron E. Steczynski on June 22, 1943, at ceremonies in Chicago featuring first-day sale of stamp honoring Poland.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Postmaster General, Honorable Guests, and Friends:

The stamp issued today to honor Poland is another monument to perpetuate a close friendship between two great countries. This friendship is bound by strong ties that have no parallel in history and the stamp likewise is an expression of friendship which brings the two countries very close together. No other country is so closely bound to America.

At the precise time when America was winning her freedom, Poland was losing hers. A gallant champion of liberty, General Casimir Pulaski, found it hard to combat odds in Poland, and came here, only to sacrifice his life for our freedom. America issued a stamp in his honor in 1931 to begin a mutual series which scores a glorious addition today.

The following year, in 1932, Poland returned the courtesy by issuing its most beautiful stamp up to that time to honor George Washington upon the 200th anniversary of his birth, and the next year in turn, the United States issued the stamp of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his admission to American citizenship as a reward for his services in behalf of our independence. The monument shown on this stamp was erected in the main by a civic organization with

headquarters in Chicago—the Polish National Alliance.

The next philatelic move in this march of friendship was a gesture by Poland in 1937 when she commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States with a large stamp depicting the glory of American freedom. Poland finds a parallel in her own historic Constitution of the 3rd of May adopted 6 years before ours and ranking, with ours, among the 5 great documents of history.

And finally today, when Poland needs friendship above everything else, she finds it here. The United States extends this friendship to Poland in vivid form. A stamp is being issued at this time both in the capitol of the greatest nation on earth and in this city, where there are more of us of Polish ancestry than in any other city in the world, besides Warsaw.

Let the red and white flag shown on this stamp wave throughout the world and find its way into a free and glorious Poland. Let the freedom of Poland come from America, just as it did after the last war. Begin the long but steady march of liberation by sending this symbol of American friendship to every corner of the globe.

With American friendship—Poland shall win.

POSTAL EMISSIONS OF ALLENSTEIN*

by Bert Powell

Polish stamp collectors are intensely interested in the shortlived postal emissions of Allenstein (Olsztyn in Polish). The stamps are certainly not beautiful and the overprint which they bear makes them even less artistic to the collector who likes stamps with picturesque scenes. The interest of Polish collectors in these stamps is purely historical. A large Polish population had always resided in Allenstein and even after the plebiscite, as provided by the terms of the Versailles Treaty the Poles retained a vital interest in the economic and social life of this territory.

First of all, let it be explained that the Allenstein which issued stamps was a territory of 4,457 square miles, bordering East Prussia, and had 264 postal stations within 11 postal districts. According to the 1910 German

census, 274,320 Germans resided in this area and Jan Kowalczyk in his book, "Prussian Poland," cites a Polish population of 259,963. It will, therefore, be readily observed that the difference in numerical proportions was not great. The plebiscite, however, resulted in an overwhelming German vote, which was later investigated with the following findings:

1. A German patriotic society, called the Heimatsdienst, had been particularly active in stirring up agitation in the disputed territory, for annexation to Germany.

2. Germany had included in the census two German army corps of 19,169 soldiers who would return to their German residence after serving their army term and who, therefore, should not have been classified as permanent residents of Allenstein.

3. Germany included bi-linguals and Masurs in submitting the population figure to the Inter-Allied Commission. Most of these groups are inherently Polish.

4. Many residents of Allenstein who descended from Poles and who were holding minor positions in the German government, were forced to vote German in the plebiscite. At a more opportune time most of these groups aligned themselves with Poland.

5. Germany allotted secret funds to its agents in the plebiscite area with a lavish hand and influenced the vote in favor of Germany. Germany also settled her subjects on the border and penetrated into Poland constantly. Thus by agitating trouble about the boundaries the Germans caused a mix-up at voting time.

These are but a few of the facts which became known after the plebiscite proving that Germany of twenty-five years ago was no different than the present Nazi government.

The plebiscite was to be held on June 11, 1920. For some reason or other, it was postponed until July 11th of that same year. The territory was finally vacated by the Inter-Allied Commission on August 16th.

The first stamps of Allenstein as issued under the authority of the Inter-Allied Commission were 13 German stamps (Germania type).

This series was issued on April 3, 1920 and consisted of the following German stamps:

Overprint on issue of 1906. Scott's type A16—5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 75 pf.

Overprint on issue of 1916-19. Scott's type A22—15 pf. dark violet.

Overprint on issue of 1920, offset printing. Scott's type A17—1, 1.25, 1.50 M.

Overprint on issue of 1920, offset printing. Scott's type A21—2.50 M.

Overprint on issue of 1911, engraved. Scott's type A19—3 M.

The 14th stamp in the series, the 15 pf. violet brown, was not issued until May 1, 1920. This was the Germania stamp Scott's type A21.

The second series of stamps for Allenstein under the authority of the Inter-Allied Commission was overprinted on German stamps. The same series of German stamps as previously described were used but the overprint was changed as follows:



Articles 94 and 95 of the Versailles Treaty were the ones that referred to the ultimate destiny of Allenstein, and these numbers are shown on the overprint of the second issue. This second series was issued late in May 1920, but the 15 pf violet brown was not issued until June 25th—just 16 days before the plebiscite. It is worth more than all of the other stamps of Allenstein put together. Since both series of stamps for Allenstein were so shortlived, covers showing legitimate postal use are comparatively scarce. Covers prepared by and for collectors are possibly more common. A complete list of postal cancellations on Allenstein stamps is given in Michel's Specialized German Catalog.

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FIRST DAY SALE POLISH STAMP

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker has announced that first day sale of the Polish stamp was 1,053,011, for a total of \$52,650.45.

Covers canceled first day: at Chicago 88,170; at Washington, 136,002. Total 224,172.

POLONUS COVERS

Jack Domar, Secretary of Polonus announces that 1075 "Polonus" First Day Covers were issued in Chicago.

THIS IS WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT POLONUS' FIRST DAY COVER

"The cover that the Polonus club sent out is really something to look at and it will be a show piece in exhibitions long to come. It is a beautifully illustrated affair bearing reproductions of American and Polish stamps issued in honor of the two countries. Down in the lower left corner a mint copy of the Polish flag stamp peeks through a cellophane window. It is easily the cover of the year."

—Cecil Betron in Chambers Stamp Journal.

"The Polonus Philatelic Society, of Chicago, issued the most novel and the best first-day cover for the Poland stamp that this writer ever saw. Showing through a robin's egg blue background, and printed in the same purple as the new Polish stamp, show the United States General Casimir Pulaski and General Tadeusz Kosciuszko stamps and the Polish Kosciuszko, Washington, Pulaski, the Kosciuszko, Paine and Washington and the Ignace Jan Paderewski stamps while a protected cut out in the lower left corner shows an uncanceled Polish overrun stamp which with the first-day cancelled copy in the upper right completes a 'Friendship Thru the Years' cover long to be remembered."

—Elmer C. Pratt in Courier-Post, Camden, N. J.

"We have held for last that extraordinary cover of the Polonus Philatelic Society of Chicago. This group were accorded special honors at the first day ceremonies as mentioned in our issue of last week and the splendid cover they have produced is one well worthy of the best traditions of this live stamp club. The cover has been specially printed and is copy-righted.

"A special envelope was made, the entire face of it printed in robins egg blue except for a white edge about 1/8th inch wide. At the left side of the cover are pictured the Pulaski and Kosciuszko stamp issued by our country associated with three Polish stamps, that with Washington and the two above mentioned, the Polish stamp picturing Washington, Kosciuszko, Paine, etc., and the view of New York and the Paderewski stamp. These are all grouped so that the lower left corner of the envelope is blank. Here a window the size of the new flag

stamp has been cut in the face of the envelope and a card bearing the new stamp has been placed in the envelope with the stamp showing through the window in the envelope. The stamp on the card is covered with cellophane.

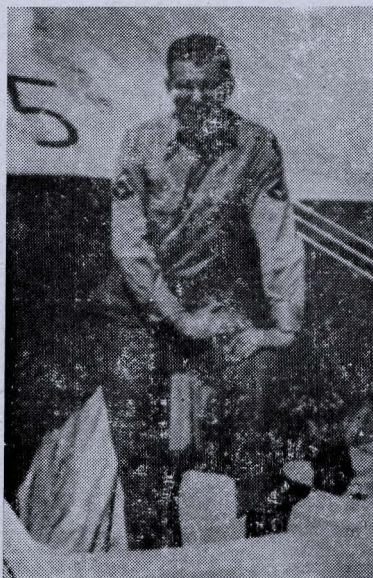
This rounds out one of the most attractive First Day covers that we have ever seen."

—George W. Linn in Linn's Weekly Stamp News.

"The Polonus cover for the Poland stamp issued June 22 was quite a disappointment. The idea was good but the printing wasn't what I would like it to have been."

—Joseph Bieniecki, Member Polonus Philatelic Society.

FELIX PIENTKA



War Department dispatches list Felix Pientka as among the missing in action over Sicily. Felix was a radio operator on a troop transport plane.

Felix Pientka was a charter member of Polonus, its first secretary for two years, and also a member of the Publications Committee.

He was also president of the Evanston Philatelic Society and Stamp Editor of the Evanston News.

We hope sincerely that he is only missing and that soon we shall learn he is alive and well.

The Ski Meet Issue of Poland*

By Clement A. Pulaski

Zakopane is associated in the minds of many as the playground of Poland. To the lover of winter sports such association is justified, as this once tiny village is situated in the most attractive mountain group of Poland, the ever snowcapped Tatry Mountains.

The Tatras are the highest in Europe east of the Alps, the altitude attaining 2700 meters. They are completely alpine in character, a mountain range of great beauty and their special charm is enhanced by lakes at high altitudes. One such lake, the Morskie Oko, is but a short distance from Zakopane, and without doubt, one of its chief attractions. Easily reached by bus, one is treated to a magnificent view upon arrival at this point.

The topography of Zakopane, together with a broadened public interest in winter sports, including skiing, brought an influx of inhabitants, resulting in the growth of a quaint, relatively unknown village, from obscurity to a modern city. The pre-war population of Zakopane was over 25,000 residents. The beautiful and colorful costumes worn by the mountaineers and the old huts and houses contrasted with modern hotels, are delightful sights for the visitor.

Modern Zakopane catered to 200,000 tourists each year and to accommodate such a crowd, the hotels had a capacity of 15,000 beds. The tourist trade had diversions in Zakopane other than skiing. Perhaps the most outstanding of these was the cableway to Kasprowy Wierch. This line, 4150 meters in length, connected two mountain ranges over a gradual ascent of 1070 meters, making it one of the largest cable railways in Europe. At the height of the summit is a modern hotel and meteorological observatory.

This peak is famous for its splendid panorama and excellent skiing grounds. Here mountain skiers and just plain lovers of breathless, inspiring and unmatchably gorgeous scenery, gathered for a satisfying and long remembered view.

Another point of attraction was the new funicular railway to Gubalowka. Perhaps less spectacular and not as

exciting as the cable ride over the deep canyon, yet this speedy four minute ride brought immense joy to all excursionists. It is easy to understand from the foregoing why Zakopane was chosen in 1939 as the site for the World Skiing Championships. A well filled program of races and other events, continued from February 11th to 19th inclusive. Many nations were represented by their most talented skiers who vied for honors and leadership.

In commemoration of this event, the Government of Poland issued a special set of stamps, consisting of four values, namely 15, 25, 30, and 55 groszy (Scott's Nos. 335-338) all with the same design. The printing was one million copies of each value. The design presents a mountaineer on skis, dressed in full native costume, rich in colorful hand embroidery, for which the "Gorals" are noted. Peaks of the Tatra Mountains form the background. In addition to the value at the extreme right bottom and the word "POLSKA" toward the left. In the lower left corner is a reproduction of the official emblem used so extensively in advertising the tournament. A typical cancellation, featuring the slide and skis, was used on all mail posted during the days of the tournament.

The design of the stamp is the project of the well known artist W. Boratynski, while the engraving was done by M. Duczynski. White, smooth paper was used, without watermarks. The perforation is 13x12½. The stamps were placed on sale at all major post offices throughout the country on February 6, 1939. However, the special F. I. S. cancellation was affixed only at the main post office in Zakopane from the opening date of the tournament, February 11th, to the closing date of February 19th. For the convenience of philatelists, 14 additional post offices were temporarily established, and for the more expedient handling of mail, 50 receiving boxes were scattered over the Zakopane terrain. Before and during the meet, such cities as Zakopane, Warsaw, Krakow, and Poznan used publicity slogans featuring the tournament.

Considerable public interest was

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Favor Sheet with special cancellation at Zakopane,
Feb. 11, 1939, scene of International Ski Tournament.

aroused during the tournament by the unannounced appearance of mobile "post offices on wheels." The huge buses, six in number, were the zenith of modern design. Each bus was equipped with two comfortable telephone booths. A specially trained personnel was prepared to handle all normal functions of a full sized post office. An adequate supply of all current postage stamps, postal cards and other material was carried. Money order service was available. The outer shutters protecting the windows were so constructed as to form sitting stools for patrons. This unique arrangement added to the comfort of clients when the bus was open for business. Each bus weighed nine tons, and was capable of travelling 70 miles per hour. All covers posted at the bus had affixed an additional four line Polish slogan.

Here in America collectors received this issue enthusiastically. The revol-

utionary departure from the more conventional types heretofore seen on nearly all commemorative and regular issues, was generally welcomed with a nod of approval. But there was no unanimous acceptance of the design among philatelists in Poland. While some philatelic publications were reserved in commenting upon the design, others were quite outspoken in voicing their disapproval. One such editorial came forth with a critical view by pointing out that "the F. I. S. stamps are inappropriate for any propaganda scheme. This issue is not in keeping with the trend of times. The monotonous duplication of design the wooden statues; the lifeless cloudy colors; finally, hopeless compatibility, are all disappointing features." A direct attack upon the designer is made at the conclusion of the editorial, with the observation that "coming steadily from the hands of the same artist, what more is to

be expected."

A small group of Polish collectors continued the barrage of words. A well known writer pointed out that "the color scheme is poor; the shades chosen do not blend with the design; the general drawing is outstandingly disproportionate, and as a whole, the stamps compare unfavorably, not with issues from large countries, but such small nations as Latvia, Hungary etc."

Another correspondent presents the views of a collective group by saying that "we hesitate to believe that there is a shortage of artists capable of recognizing the bonds between sketching and philately. It is time to break with the tradition that Poland must be outdistanced by other nations. Prompt action without prolonged meditation should be undertaken to assure adoption of reforms which will place the Postal Department at least on a par with other nations."

These several excerpts gathered from various journals, are presented merely to bring out the serious views taken by some collectors. Of course this group represents an unimportant minority, as a much larger number of persons heartily approved the design and applauded the work of the artist. Perhaps the more general attitude of the interested public is voiced by the editor of the Radom Daily, who comes to the defense of the artist by writing that "criticisms are unwarranted, as we all know that Boratynski is one of our leading artists, famous for his unlimited talent, and his past creations attest to his artistic qualifications."

This writer falls in line with the vast majority of well wishers for artist Boratynski. It is to be hoped that he will survive the catastrophe of war and in the very near future emerge in a peace loving world, to continue his creations for an independent Poland, freed from the menace of lustful and rapacious neighbors.

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the BULLETIN is a combined July-August issue. It marks the end of the first and the beginning of the second year of the existence of the BULLETIN.

When the BULLETIN was first discussed, uppermost in the thoughts of everyone was the role the BULLETIN was to play. It was planned as a vehicle for information on the stamps

of Poland together with such pieces of news and information about the society, its activities and the activities of its members, as were deemed to be interesting.

The record of our accomplishment stares at us in cold black type. We are well aware of the deficiencies and limitations of the BULLETIN. Its size, in number of pages, could be increased. This would mean that instead of one philatelic article, probably two could be presented each month. Perhaps advertising material could be added.

How well we have succeeded in satisfying your needs, your desires for information about the stamps of Poland can only be answered by you. Anomalous is the fact, however, that during the entire year we have received no word of commendation, criticism just or unjust, from any of the members of the society or subscribers. We are happy to note, however, that a few stamp columnists have thought well of our efforts.

The BULLETIN will continue to appear as long as the members of the society want it to be a society activity. We shall endeavor to continue to present monthly such articles we feel are worth while philatelic additions to the information on the stamps of Poland.

—The Editor

ENOUGH SAID

We take the liberty to quote from the column of THE OLD SLEUTH appearing in the August 14, 1943 issue of STAMPS:

"So much mystery seemed to surround the first day sale of the Poland stamp in Chicago, that the Old Sleuth set one of his best operatives to work to dig out the facts. As was well known by the philatelic press, the Polonus Philatelic Society of Chicago originated the idea for a first day sale in Chicago and went to great lengths to insure its success. They were, presumably, to have full charge of the affair, and two of its members were included in the first draft of the program. However, when the official program was printed their names were omitted, and it appears that another Polish-American group had "chiseled in" and were endeavoring to run the affair—or at least influence the Program Committee. The program was forty-five minutes late

in starting, due to the fact that the Postmaster General was giving an interview to the press, but in due time, all of the notables filed down from the Postmaster's office, and made their way in a single column to the rostrum. On their way to the rostrum, three official representatives of Polonus found themselves in line and took their places well up in front on the platform. Fortunately, Myron Steczynski was able to prevail on Dean Swietlik, to introduce him, and it was well that he did so, for Mr. Steczynski's address was by far the most informative of the entire proceedings. He touched on Polish-American relations from the Revolutionary War to the present time, and mentioned many famous Polish names like Pulaski, and Kosciuszko who played important roles in American history. Possibly it is due to the petty politics which almost ruined this affair that has prevented the Post Office Department from selecting other cities for first day sale on the stamps that have been released."

THIS 'N' THAT

J. Elmer Zinsmeister is the new editor of the S. P. A. Journal. The July issue will be the first issue edited by him. Good luck to you, Elmer, and congratulations to the Society of Philatelic Americans.

* * *

In a recent edition of the CHICAGO TIMES, there appeared a photo of our member, Captain Leonard J. Sluzynski, with this message: "I would like nothing better than to hear the hum of Chicago 'L' trains soon." Captain Sluzynski is now stationed some where in Alaska.

* * *

David Lidman Stamp Editor of the CHICAGO SUN, was guest speaker at the July 23, 1943 meeting of the Society. He gave a most interesting talk discussing the submitted designs for the Overrun Nations stamps.

* * *

Ed Richardson, who conducts the column "THE HOLLOW TREE" in STAMPS had this to say about Polonus recently: "Local societies will not be included (in a list of national societies), unless they are of some special significance, one example being the Polonus Philatelic Society, whose membership may not be exactly national, but its activities certainly have a national aspect and its ef-

fectiveness reaches far beyond the city limits of Chicago.

OPEN LETTER

Chicago, June 6, 1943

Mr. George W. Linn
Sidney, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Linn:—

About ten days ago Bert Powell handed me a note from you questioning the proper design of the Polish flag, and asked me to send you a few words of explanation. I have been so rushed with my regular work that I am getting to your note only now.

The NATIONAL Polish flag has the plain two colors only—the upper half is white and the lower half is red. Since this design is extremely simple and not as distinctive as it might be, the Polish flag for maritime use on merchant ships and men of war, as well as for use abroad, has the white eagle within a red shield placed in the center of the white half. Consequently, the flags which were the NATIONAL flags with the plain red and white halves, but the flags carried on Polish ships at sea or those used at the New York World's Fair, for example, had the shield on the white field.

As I am bringing out in the forthcoming issue of the SPA Journal, the maritime flag with the white eagle on a red shield in the center of the white field is more typically Polish than the official national flag which has the plain white and red halves. It is just one of those things. We in America are so accustomed to our national flag, that we forget that we have a Union Jack and that the National Geographic Magazine, for example, has devoted pages to various forms of our flag. Great Britain has several official flags—depending on their use, their place, and the occasion. Many foreign countries have different purposes, and Poland is among them. We have seen very much of the Polish maritime flag in America lately and I do not see anything wrong with its use on posters, covers, etc. That is the flag of Poland we would ordinarily see—the plain red and white flag would be limited to within Poland—and such a condition is now out of the question under German occupation.

I trust I have made the distinction clear. With warmest personal regards, I am most sincerely yours, Myron E. Steczynski, president, Polonus.