

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 85 TO BE AT NEW LOCATION

The Polonus Philatelic Society decided to change the site of its annual exhibition for next year. POLPEX 85 will be held March 23-24, 1985 at the beautiful and spacious Polish Highlanders Home, 4808 S. Archer Ave. in Chicago. This show's theme will be the 75th Anniversary of Polish Scouting.

Chairman of the exhibit, Edward Link, is a scoutmaster with the



1910 **75** 1985

JUBILEE of POLISH
BOY SCOUTS
AND
GIRL GUIDES



SPECIAL CANCEL TO BE USED AT POLPEX 85

Polish Scouts. He has invited them to participate in the exhibition. A special Junior section will be devoted to their exhibits.

The exhibition is open for competition to members and non-members who collect Poland, Polonica with associated material, and foreign. Featured also will be topical collections of Scouting on stamps. A Grand Award will be given for best in the show; Polonus Award for the best in Poland; Research Award for the best research on stamps of Poland; Junior Award; President's Award; Novice Award; Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals and Special Awards. Entry forms are available from the entries chairman, Art Walinski, 7353 West Estes Street, Chicago, IL 60631.

Dealers wishing to have tables at POLPEX 85 may contact the bourse chairman, Romuald Odrowski, 5327 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60641.

INDEX WELL RECEIVED

Over fifty members have requested their copy of the "INDEX" to the Polonus Bulletin. This 200 page book was compiled by Polonus member, Marian Dudek and is an indispensable tool for the Polish philatelist. The "INDEX" lists every article that appeared in the "Polonus Magazine" and the "Bulletin", between 1940 and 1983 by title, author and by Scott Catalog if a

particular stamp is discussed.

The "INDEX" is free to any Polonus member who requests a copy on the pre-printed envelope enclosed in last month's "Bulletin". Members are encouraged to donate toward the printing costs of \$4500. If the pre-printed envelope has been misplaced, requests and donations should be sent to: James Mazepa, Ph.D., Box 1217, Oak Park IL 60304.

The following made donations toward the printing of the "INDEX":

\$50.00	Robert Bannan	\$10.00	Leon Kawecki	\$10.00	Arno Winard
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BE A POLPEX PATRON

This year we are going into more expense with the POLPEX as the Polish Highlanders Hall is much larger with better accommodations. With every POLPEX we publish a program catalog with a listing of exhibits, advertisements of dealers and members, patrons and well wishers. We need your financial help. Be a Polpex Patron with a donation of \$5 or more. A Well Wisher listing costs \$2 or more.

A RECENT POSTAL CARD RARITY FROM POLAND

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The second visit of Pope John Paul the Second in Poland in June 1983 was celebrated philatelically by the issuance of commemorative stamps. Among them the 5 złoty postal card shown in Figure 1, commemorates the meeting of the Pope with the leaders of the Polish People's Republic. In this postal card the Vatican's coat of arms is on the left

side of the Polish eagle, 527,000 such postal cards were issued.

Figure 2 shows the same postal card but with the eagle on the left side and the Papal insignia on the right side. This was the original design of this postal card. For some unfathomable reason, the authorities decided that the placement of the coats of arms was improper and



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

523,000 already printed cards in this version were destroyed and replaced with the new version. Several maintained creating thus a philatelic rarity.

DUES INCREASE IN 1985

Membership dues for 1985 become payable January 31, 1985.

Due to the scheduled postal increase in first class mailings and to rising printing costs of our Bulletin, we are forced to increase our membership dues from \$10 to \$12.50 per year. Enclosed with this Bulletin is a self addressed remittance envelope for your convenience.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO POLONUS BULLETIN

The American Philatelic Society sponsored a "newsletter" competition among its affiliates and chapters, and our "Bulletin" was awarded a Gold Medal. This is a real tribute to those who work so diligently on preparing the "Bulletin" and to those writers who have made contributions. Keep up the good work!!!

In Our Mail Box

Dear Mr. Mazepa,

Thank you for entering the A.P.S. Chapter Publication competition. There were 28 entries in the competition, only two of which received Gold Awards. Congratulations on a well deserved Gold Award.

I have enclosed copies of the judges' score sheets and any comments they may have had. I hope you will find them helpful. I would normally make some suggestions for improvement, but in your case, I really can't. The "Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society" is truly a superb and a very professional publication.

You, and especially your editor, Chester Schafer, are to be congratu-

tulated for a job well done.

If you have any specific questions or comments please don't hesitate to write me at the above address.

Martin Richardson
Chairman of the Jury

ARE YOU DISPOSING OF YOUR POLONUS BULLETINS?

With the publishing of the INDEX we are receiving requests for past issues of the Polonus Bulletin. Our supply on some numbers are very low. If you have past issues of the Bulletin, which you have no use for, please donate them to Polonus. Send them to Chester Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Illinois 60656.

We are grateful to the following for their donations of past Bulletins:
Joseph Bieniecki Al Rybarski
James Mazepa Stanley Madro

WINNERS' CIRCLE

At the recent SUNPEX 84 held in November in Sunnyvale, Calif., the following Poland exhibitors received awards:

JOHN BARTCZAK - Reserve Grand, a gold, the Postal History Society Award and the APS Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence for "Galicia Postal District."

THOMAS GOBBY - Vermeil and APS 1900-40 Medal of Excellence for "Poland 1918 to 1924."

JOHN KOVALSKI - Bronze Medal for "TABROMIK Semiofficial Airmail Stamps of Poland."

CONRAD P. STRAUB - Bronze Medal for "Poland Postage Due Stamps on Cover."

REINSTATED

Milton M. Kohn
16404 S. Kenwood Ave.
So. Holland, IL 60473

The First Russian Stamps Used in the Kingdom of Poland

by James Mazepa, Ph.D.

Last year, 1983, marked the 125th anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps in Imperial Russia and the Kingdom of Poland. Although postage stamps had been introduced in ethnographic Polish territories by Austria and Prussia as early as 1850, the Kingdom of Poland as part of the Russian Empire had its first experience with postage stamps beginning in January 1858. This article will document the use of the first issue of Russian stamps in the Kingdom of Poland in that two-year period until the introduction in 1860 of the stamp known as "Poland No. 1."

Historical Background

Poland was one of the major powers in Europe from the thirteenth through the eighteenth centuries, but gradually lost influence due to internal conflicts and external pressures. In the late eighteenth century, three partitions of Poland occurred. The Austrians, Prussians, and Russians all claimed portions of the Polish state for themselves, and with the Third Partition of Poland in 1795, the sovereign Polish state ceased to exist as an independent political entity.

The ensuing Napoleonic Wars and the creation of the Duchy of Warsaw by Napoleon in 1807 raised the hopes of the Polish people for a restoration of a free Poland, but the broken promises of Napoleon and the defeat of the Grande Armée in Russia crushed these aspirations. The Congress of Vienna in 1815 established the borders of the European states and recognized the annexations of Poland by the Austrians, Russians, and Prussians as a political fact. A free Poland was not to emerge until more than 100 years later.

Thus, from 1815 on, the postal history of the Kingdom of Poland is tied to the postal history of Russia. The Russians occupied the Polish eastern provinces, the central area around Warsaw, and the north-eastern Lithuanian counties. This territory was called the "Congress Kingdom" (after the Congress of Vienna) or simply the "Kingdom of Poland."

While varying degrees of autonomy were at times permitted, at other times repressed, the Kingdom of Poland was part of the Russian Empire. As part of Imperial Russia, it was generally subject to the same

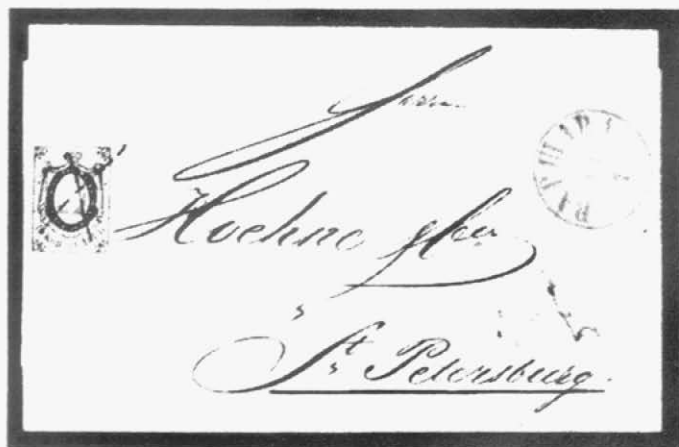


Figure 1. Earliest recorded use of Russia No. 1 in the Kingdom of Poland, January 11, 1858.

postal rules and regulations as Russia itself, and this naturally also applied to the introduction and use of postage stamps and stationery.

While the postal history of the Kingdom of Poland is intimately tied to that of Imperial Russia, it forms an individual study for Polish and Russian students of the development of the post in this area because of the separate yet subordinate postal administration, distinctive canceling devices, and, in the period from 1860 to 1865, a distinctive stamp.

This article will discuss only the very first issue of Russia used in Poland; that is, the 10-kopeck imperforate and perforate, and its companion 20- and 30-kopeck issues (Scott Nos. 1-4).

Introduction of Postage Stamps

Russia was somewhat late in introducing postage stamps to its people. While postal stationery had been in use in St. Petersburg and Moscow as early as 1845 and in the rest of Russia in 1848, adhesive stamps were not authorized until 1856 by Tsar Alexander III. A number of essays were proposed and the adopted design was put into production in 1857. The issue was to have three denominations — 10, 20,

and 30 kopecks — which were to be printed on watermarked paper. These stamps corresponded to the expected rates of ten kopecks per loth, a loth being not quite one-half-ounce.

The postal authorities intended the stamps to be issued perforate, and for this purpose a machine was ordered from Austria. However, the machine arrived in damaged condition and the stamps could not be perforated in time for the announced January 1st deadline. So, to honor the January 1st date, the 10-kopeck stamp (which would be the most commonly used value, as this was the rate for a single letter sheet) was sent to post offices in December 1857 in imperforate condition.

This stamp, known to the world today as "Russia No. 1," was released January 1, 1858, in European Russia, and somewhat later in Asiatic Russia. At least two "first day" usages have been recorded, neither in the Kingdom of Poland. The 10-, 20-, and 30-kopeck perforate stamps were made available a short time later, possibly as early as January 10th. These four stamps (Scott Nos. 1-4) also may be considered the first "Polish" stamps if one considers the use of adhesives in the Kingdom of Poland. These stamps were valid only on mail within the Kingdom and to Russia;



Figure 2. Russia No. 1 with "1" of Warsaw.



Figure 3. Russia No. 1 with previously unrecorded numeral of #55 Biala.

mail to other countries could be sent pre-paid, part-paid, or collect, but adhesives could not be used.

Earliest Recorded Use in Poland

In a discussion of the dates of use, one must keep in mind that two calendars were in use in Poland at this time: the Western (Gregorian) calendar, and the Eastern (Julian) calendar. The Eastern calendar was at this time twelve days behind the Western.

Postal regulations introduced in Poland during this period required that letters originating in Poland with destinations in Russia were to be postmarked in Russian

with the date of the Eastern calendar, while letters with destinations within Poland were to be postmarked in Polish with dating by the Western calendar. So one could possibly find two "first day" dates: January 1, 1858, if used by the Eastern calendar, and January 13, 1858, if by the Western calendar. Dates during this time were usually written as "January 1/13, 1858," to accommodate both calendars.

To date no one has discussed the earliest use in Poland of these Russian stamps. Uses of Russia No. 1 within Russia itself during the month of January are not uncommon, but are very difficult to find from within Poland. The earliest use in Poland

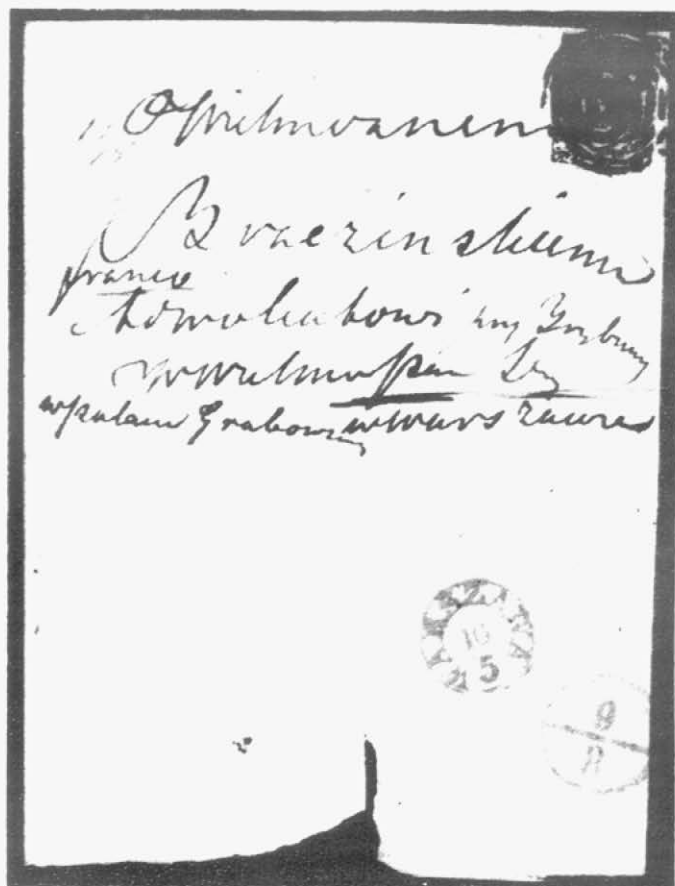


Figure 4. Russia No. 1 on letter from #195 Warta; manuscript insert of May 14th, and arrival in Warsaw on the 16th at 9 a.m. ("9/R").

I have seen is a letter postmarked January 11th (Russian style) which was sent from Warsaw to St. Petersburg. It was pen-canceled with the town postmark alongside as directed by the postal regulations. Earlier dates might well exist, but this letter is earlier by about ten days than the next date I have seen.

Postmarks in the Kingdom of Poland

Three different classifications of postmarks can be found in the short period between January and mid-March 1858. Each was a response by the postal officials to new developments in the use and abuse of the novel postal adhesives.

I. Manuscript Cancellations The original circular of the Post Office Department instructed postal employees to pen-cancel the adhesives with an "X" and to place the town-of-origin postmark alongside. Thus, the only way to tell if the stamp was used in Poland would be if the entire letter with the postmark was saved.

II. Town Cancellations The task of pen-canceling the stamps proved too bothersome, and the postal officials feared that some stamps would be removed from letters and "cleaned" for re-use to defraud the post. While this latter practice did occur to some degree, it is probably more

common on the first Russian stamp in our own time than in 1858!

On February 26/9, 1858, a new regulation was issued directing that town postmarks were to be used to cancel the stamps. The postmark was to include the town name and the date of dispatch. The canceling devices from the pre-stamp period were used for this purpose, and one often finds that the stamps were also pen-cancelled in accordance with the first regulation.

The Main Post Office in Warsaw usually postmarked stamps in red, with black being the exception. Other towns were instructed to use black ink to cancel the stamps, but red and blue postmarks are also known. Town cancellations with or without pen crosses are the scarcest postmarks of this period.

III. Number Cancelers In early 1858, central postal officials in St. Petersburg mandated that canceling devices with numerals were to be used. While the topic is beyond the scope of this article, one should note that the cancelers used in Russia proper consisted of a numeral surrounded by either a circle, rectangle, hexagon, or triangle of dots, each corresponding to the class or type of post office.

The cancelers in the Kingdom of Poland had a distinctive character. They consisted of four concentric circles enclosing a nu-



Figure 5. Russia No. 1 with combination numeral #1 of Warsaw and pen crosses.

meral which identified the office. These cancelers were to be introduced March 15/27 and were to replace the practice of canceling the adhesives with the town postmarks.

The new directive stated that the adhesive was to be struck with the numeral canceler, and the town postmark with the date applied elsewhere on the front of the envelope. The numbers ranged from 1, which was assigned to the Warsaw office, to 269. Within a few months new offices opened and consecutive numbers were assigned, and other offices closed and their numbers were reassigned. By 1866, 345 numbers had been assigned to post offices, and these continued in use until the early 1870's.

The exceptions to the numeral cancelers were postal agencies in railroad terminals, which were assigned letters rather than numbers, and the postal railroad cars of the Warsaw-Vienna line, which had large dots in the center rather than numbers. In some few cases the stamps also received pen crosses as well.

To date there has been no systematic gathering of data on the use of the first Russian stamps in Poland. The monograph by Mr. Rachmanov and the book by Mr. Bojanowicz (see References at end of this article) can serve as preliminary attempts to gather data, but neither claims to be an

in-depth study of the extent of use of these adhesives in the Kingdom of Poland. I propose here to document the usages of these stamps as gathered from the major philatelic works that study this period, auction catalogues that picture or describe such examples, and from known cancellations in collections today.

The fact that thirty-one Polish town cancellations and forty-one different numeral cancellations have been identified on Russia No. 1 testify to its wide distribution and use in the Kingdom of Poland. As one would expect, the larger cities, such as Warsaw, Lublin, Lodz, Sokolow, and Kalisz are represented, but many smaller towns and villages also are recorded.

While pen-cancelled examples of Russia No. 1 are common, combinations of the pen-cancelled stamp and town postmark are scarce because entire letters were not often saved, thus destroying the possibility of identifying the town of origin, and so this source of knowledge about the use of No. 1 in Poland has often been lost.

Stamps postmarked with the town postmarks, with or without pen crosses, are scarcer than the numeral cancelers. The Warsaw date stamp in red is by far the most common, either in Polish or in Russian. Only one or two examples are known of most of the other towns.



Figure 6. Russia No. 2 on letter to St. Petersburg from Warsaw.



Figure 7. Russia No. 2 with #168 Myszkow over #162 Radomsk, re-used to defraud the post.

The numeral cancellations are the most common by the fact that they were in use the longest time. I would estimate that ten to fifteen examples exist of "1" Warsaw on Russia No. 1, and five to ten examples each from towns such as Lublin, Lodz, and Sokolow. Most of the other numerals are represented by only two or three examples, and a fair number, such as #55 Biala and #195 Warta, are represented by only one recorded example.

The finding that only twenty-six different Polish cancellations are recorded on the 10-kopec perforate stamp is somewhat of a mystery. One would logically expect more, based on the fact that this stamp is much more common than its imperforate counterpart, and had a wider distribution. Two possible explanations for this might be, first, that only recently has this stamp achieved a catalogue value that merits a separate listing in auction catalogues. This source of information, which was significant in the documentation of the imperforate stamp, was absent.

Second, perhaps the imperforate stamps were not used up quickly, and by the time the post office requested an additional supply of stamps, rather than sending the perforate version (Scott No. 2), the October issue perforated 12 1/2 on unwatermarked

paper (Scott No. 8) was available and sent to Poland. I believe the latter to have been the case.

The 20- and 30-kopec stamps are difficult to find used with Russian cancellations, and with Polish cancellations they are rarities. I would estimate that only eight to ten examples of the 20-kopec and six or seven examples of the 30-kopec stamp exist with Polish cancellations. Mr. Bojanowicz notes in his book that the 30-kopec exists with forged red #119 cancellations of Koszyce. I have seen this cancellation on the 30-kopec both with and without pen crosses, and they are undoubtedly genuine. It is quite possible that forged cancellations of the red #119 exist, but I have not seen them. A forged #142 of Ryczywol on the 30-kopec stamp was recently offered in a European auction.

These stamps and the subsequent October 1858 issue were not permitted to be used in the period of Poland No. 1, January 1, 1860, to April 15, 1865. A "late use" could be considered between April 16, 1865, and December 31, 1884, at which time these stamps were demonetized. I have not seen any letters that would document a late usage, but one undoubtedly late use is that of the 30-kopec stamp with the "BW" cancellation of the Bydgoszcz-Warszawa Railroad Station in Warsaw. This cancellation was not in use prior to 1860, so could have been applied only after April 15, 1865.

I believe other examples of Polish cancellations on first issue Russia could exist, and only need to be discovered and reported!

AP

References

- Bojanowicz, M.A. *The Kingdom of Poland*. London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1979.
- *Rachmanov, V. "Russia Number One," *The Collector's Club Philatelist*, Vol. XXXII, No. 5, September 1953.

**Recorded Polish Cancellations of Russia No. 1,
10-Kopeck Brown and Blue Imperforate**

I. Covers with Pen Cross and Town Postmarks Alongside

1. Chmielnik
2. Plecka Dabrowa
3. Pultusk
4. Ruda Guzowska
5. Skierniewice
6. Warszawa + 17 mm circular date stamp in Polish
7. Warszawa + 19 mm CDS in Russian
8. Zdunska Wola

II. Town Postmarks

Type

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Bilgoray | red straight-line |
| 2. Brzesc Kujawski | red straight-line |
| 3. Gonczyce | black CDS |
| 4. Granica | red CDS (on cover) |
| 5. Krasnik | black-boxed |
| 6. Janow | black bilingual on cover, also red bilingual |
| 7. Lochow | black CDS on piece |
| 8. Lodz | black CDS |
| 9. Lomza | black CDS |
| 10. Lublin | black straight-line, small letters |
| 11. Maryampol | red and black CDS |
| 12. Nieszawa | red straight-line (on cover) |
| 13. Plock | red bilingual (on cover), also black CDS |
| 14. Pradla | black CDS |
| 15. Pyzdry | red CDS |
| 16. P. Iom | black two-line railroad station cancel |
| 17. R. Iomsk | red CDS (pair) |
| 18. Rud. Guzowska | red bilingual with pen crosses on piece |
| 19. Rypin | black bilingual (on cover) |
| 20. Skierniewice | black CDS |
| 21. Sred. | manuscript |
| 22. Szyd. iec | red bilingual |
| 23. Tarnob. | red straight-line |
| 24. Terespol | red bilingual with pen crosses |
| 25. Turek | red CDS |
| 26. Warszawa | black and red 17 mm CDS in Polish, both with pen crosses,
loose and on cover;
black 19 mm CDS in Russian with pen crosses, loose;
red 19 mm CDS in Russian with pen crosses, loose and on
cover |
| 27. Wejwery | red CDS with pen crosses on cover |
| 28. Wlodawa | red CDS |
| 29. Zalesie | red CDS |
| 30. Zgierz | blue CDS on cover |
| 31. Zolkiewka | oval postmark in black |

III. Numeral Cancellations

Notes

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. #1 Warszawa | known with and without additional pen crosses, loose and
on cover; known re-used on cover |
| 2. #6 Kaluszyń | loose and on cover with additional straight-line town post-
mark |
| 3. #27 Szaki | |
| 4. #28 Suwalki | |
| 5. #29 Szypliszki | |

6. #31 Łódź	
7. #40 Grajewo	
8. #45 Pułtusk	numeral in manuscript on cover
9. #49 Wyszki	used twice
10. #50 Ostrow	in red
11. #55 Biała	
12. #58 Kodyń	
13. #61 Międzyrzec	with pen crosses
14. #68 Garwolin	
15. #69 Węgrów	
16. #70 Sokołów	black and red, also strip of three (black) on cover
17. #71 Sterdyn	
18. #73 Lublin	
19. #75 Kurow	used twice
20. #84 Stepankowice	
21. #85 Hrubieszów	
22. #97 Zamość	
23. #98 Chmielec	
24. #107 Opatów	
25. #124 Pinczów	
26. #129 Jędrzejów	
27. #140 Białobrzegi	used twice
28. #141 Kozienice	
29. #175 Granica	on cover
30. #182 Łódź	
31. #183 Rokietnica	
32. #192 Cerków	
33. #193 Błaszki	used twice
34. #195 Warta	on cover
35. #197 Żdunska	Wola
36. #223 Kolo	
37. #224 Turek	
38. #236 Ozorków	
39. #239 Nieśawa	black over red #239 on cover
40. #244 Izbica	on cover
41. DP	Warsaw terminal of the Warsaw-St. Petersburg Railroad Line

**Recorded Polish Cancellations of Russia No. 2,
10-Kopeck Brown and Blue Perforate**

1. #1 Warsaw	numeral with and without pen crosses, loose and on cover red Russian CDS with pen crosses in red, re-used over "1" Warsaw
2. #52 Nur	
3. #57 Terespol	
4. #61 Międzyrzec	
5. #70 Sokołów	
6. #73 Lublin	
7. #108 Sandomierz	
8. #109 Staszów	in red on cover
9. #111 Łagów	
10. #120 Kielce	
11. #130 Wodzisław	
12. #140 Białobrzegi	
13. #147 Iłża	in red on cover
14. #150 Suchedniów	
15. #154 Opoczno	in red
16. #162 Radomsk	

17. #168 Myszkow
18. #175 Granica
19. #179 Piotrkow
20. #182 Lodz
21. #191 Kalisz
22. #200 Pabianice
23. #232 Kutno
24. #245 Osieczyn
25. #253 Plock

reused over #162 (Radomsk)
on cover

in blue re-used over #176 (Dabrowa)

Recorded Polish Cancellations on Russia No. 3, 20-Kopeck Blue and Orange

1. #1 Warsaw
2. #67 Gonczyce
3. #70 Sokolow
4. #119 Koszyce
5. #175 Granica

with and without pen crosses

loose and on cover

in red, with and without pen crosses
on cover

Recorded Polish Cancellations on Russia No. 4, 30-Kopeck Red and Green

1. #1 Warsaw
2. #70 Sokolow
3. #119 Koszyce
4. #162 Radomsk
5. BW

on cover

in red, with and without pen crosses

Bydgoszcz-Warszawa Railroad Station (late use after 1865)

Addendum: Since the publishing of this article in the August "American Philatelist", the following cancellations have been discovered:

Russia #1 - Numerical cancellations
#120 Kielce on piece

#247 Lipno on cover

Russia #2 - Numerical cancellation
#30 Seny on cover.

GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY

In January of 1919 available Austrian stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps by the postmaster in Kraków. These "Poczta Polska" stamps have become known as the famous "Kraków Issue" of Poland. There are several constant varieties in the several different "forms" or settings of the overprint. One of the most desirable is position 30 of form I, which has a malformed "A" in the word "Polska". This is known as the broken "A" variety and occurs only once in the sheet of 100 stamps. There is some dispute if 1100 or



1300 of the 90 heller were overprinted, but in any case, only 11 or 13 broken "A" 90 heller stamps are possible. Today, only six copies are known to have survived, one of which is shown here.

Among our members there
and those — who blame
are those — who complain,
and those — who act.

Polish 1920 Stamp Proofs By Gasparini

By JAN NIEBRZYDOWSKI

In 1923 the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs ordered from the Parisian graphic artist E. Gasparini (Gaspe) designs for three postage stamps listed in "Scott" as # 256 (Gen. J. Bem), #257 (Henryk Sienkiewicz) and #261 (Agricultural Exhibition in Poznań; Światowid). The corresponding "Ruch" numbers are: 237, 240 & 241. These stamps were printed on the basis of woodcuts submitted by Gasparini.

"Ruch" catalog and "Polskie Znak Pocztowe" vol. 1 (Warsaw 1960) describe quite accurately the proofs of these stamps which were made from the original woodcuts, nevertheless I like to complement these descriptions on the basis of the material in my collection.

In 1981 during the sale of the inheritance left by E. Gasparini, an old sealed envelope was found which contained four imperforate proofs on stiff paper of the Sienkiewicz stamp and ten proofs of the Światowid stamp. I presume that these items are E. Gasparini's author's proofs. Descriptions of these proofs are as follows:

I. Ruch #240 - SIENKIEWICZ

Design dimensions: 19 x 22.5 mm.
All have the engraved "E. Gaspe Sc." below the design.

Fig. #1 - Proof in blue on pale cream thick paper.

#2 - Same in ultramarine.

#3 - Proof in dark blue on a grayish very thin horizontally striped paper with narrowly spaced translucent lines.

#4 - Proof in a lighter blue on grayish very thin vertically striped paper with widely spaced translucent lines.



cent lines.

II. Ruch #241 - ŚWIATOWID

Two different woodcuts were used to print the proofs of which Type I was accepted and made the basis for printing the postage stamps. General distinctions between the Type I and Type II woodcuts are as follows:

- Overall design dimensions are: I: 22 x 39.5 mm, II: 22 x 38.5 mm.
- In the proofs of Type I, the outside lines consist of four parts; in the Type II proofs, these lines are continuous all around.
- Proofs of Type I have a period after "Gr" which Type II does not have.
- In Type I, the chin of Światowid is square, in Type II it is rounded and less pronounced.
- In Type I, the lines of the face are vertical; in Type II this shading is horizontal and consists of lines and dots.



- f. In Type I, the ornaments on the left and right sides extend to the edges of the design, but do not in Type II.
- g. Type I has round circles in the base, Type II has horizontal lines.

Both woodcuts have visible signs of retouching and both have the engraved signatures: "E. Gaspe Sc."

All the proofs seen, including a

vertical pair are on thick pale cream paper. The color of the Type I proofs ranges from violet brown to reddish brown. The Type II proofs are also on thick pale cream paper with colors ranging from light brown to red brown.

Dr. S. Kronenberg examined these proofs and confirmed their authenticity.

Polonus members who own other proofs of these stamps are requested to contact the author.

PLEBISCITE STUDY GROUP

Any Polonus Philatelic Society member interested in Post-World War I plebiscite countries of Allenstein, Marienwerder or Upper Silesia is welcomed to join a new study group. Contact P.P.S. member Dr. John D. Neefus, 706 Westover Ter., Greensboro, NC 27408. This study group which is now recognized by the Germany Philatelic Society will also include plebiscite Schleswig, Saar and Memel. The study group will be devoted to philatelic study and publishing both new research and older research with author approval. Danzig (Gdańsk) will not be included.

MEETING NOTICE

The last meeting of 1984 will be held Friday, December 28, at 8:00 p.m., at Polish American Congress Building, 5844 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Urgent Polpex business to be discussed. After the meeting we'll have some "Krople Świętego Walentego."

AMERIPEX

EXHIBITING EXPLAINED

Rules for exhibiting philatelic material and literature at AMERIPEX '86 have been announced. AMERIPEX, the only international exhibition to be held in the United States in this decade, will take place in Chicago, May 22 to June 11, 1986.

Each exhibit of material must have received at least a vermeil award at one of the thirty-one annual APS-accredited national exhibitions. Literature exhibits must have won a silver at a national show. The exhibitor must be a member of the American Philatelic Society or of a society affiliated with the APS. (Re-

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gulations of the International Federation of Philately — FIP — require that exhibitors must belong to their country's FIP representative, namely APS in the United States).

The AMERIPEX frames will hold sixteen standard album pages. FIP frame regulations are based on square meters of display space, and permit a minimum of four frames and a maximum of eight frames per exhibit for AMERIPEX.

The number of frames allotted to each exhibitor, within the framework of the rules, will be based on previous awards won and on space available. Approximately 3,000 frames are available for competitive exhibits, and one-fifth of those will be set aside for exhibitors competing internationally the first time.

The prospectus for exhibitors, philatelic and literature, are available by writing to AMERIPEX '86, 5944 W. Montrose Ave., Chicago, IL 60634.

KULPINSKI IN LONDON

Passing thru London on his return trip from Poland, Chris Kulpinski was able to attend the October meeting of the Polish Philatelic Federation in Balham, London, England. Chris obtained useful information on his specialty: Polish POW Mail During World War II.

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