

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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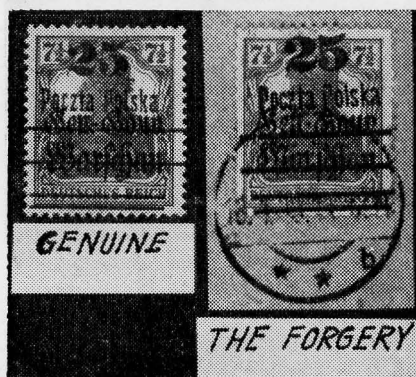
Checking the Forgeries

by Dr. A. Schroeder

(Translated from the German by John Gapinski)

Overprint Forgery of Scott #15

Since this stamp—with the exception of the 20 fen. blue—is the best one of the whole set, and the basic stamps are easily obtainable, it is especially exposed to a great amount of forging. The forger does not take the already scarce and expensive stamps of the “General Gouv. Warschau” issue but the German 3 fen. stamps which are very easily obtained at one-third of their price, and he forges the “Gen. Gouv. Warschau” overprint at the same time.



This is the case with the forgery described here. The “Gen. Gouv. Warschau” overprint, on account of its complicated letters, makes it very hard to duplicate; but then makes it easier to recognize.

For comparison the same value was not chosen but the 25 on 7½ fen., because of its light background color the

overprint stands out more clearly. We can then plainly see that on the forgeries:

1) the letters “Gen. Gouv.” are not in one line; the round parts of both “G”s extend below the line of the lower case letters.

2) that the letters, especially of the upper row “Gen. Gouv.” are considerably larger.

3) that the distance between the “W” and “A” in “Warschau” is greater.

4) that also the overprint “Poczta Polska” is much larger and in which the letters “A” and “P” show a conspicuous difference.

5) that both lower bars are too long (18¾ mm. instead of 18 mm.)

The forged overprint is dull and evidently both overprints seem to have been printed with the same ink.

The illustrated stamp postmarked “Lodz” is possibly genuine and may be one of the liberated pieces.

Complete Forgery of Scott #214

Since the faking of Polish stamps became very popular, one could expect that any day a forgery would show up of this very scarce and highest value of the Eagle issue, and it may be assumed that the one described is by all means the only one of the last one.

Fortunately, this forgery was very crudely made, and if we compare the two illustrations shown here, we are able to see an abundance of differ-



GENUINE

THE FORGERY

ences: the eagle which is very finely engraved in the original, lacks every heraldic charm, especially the face part turned out crudely. The head and beak are not separated, the eye brow is missing, the tongue hangs incoherently in space. The body has only four monotonous pearl-string like cross lines, the talons have no claws. A strong deviation is also shown in the wings, of which the right one has only 11 instead of 12 feathers. The arch around the eagle decorated with ornaments came out too heavy, and the two ornaments to its left and right are larger. In the value numbers the zeros are smaller but thicker, the "2" is sloping to the left, and the lower stroke is drawn too far to the right. The right work "mk." is larger than the left and closer to the edge. In spite of the many visible differences this is a dangerous forgery because the color is very good and it is found with the cancellation "Poznan 3".

Overprint Forgeries of Scott #519-22

A very miserable forgery, seemingly overprinted with a handstamp. The recognition marks are the much too wide frame around the cross, the badly crooked cross, the smeared numerals, and most of all, the somewhat sloping horizontal line of the "3" and the hardly legible word "mk."

Complete Forgery of Scott #233

Since there is no inducement in forging this cheap stamp for philatelists, it therefore seems that the two forgeries here described were made to defraud the post office, and since they are found on genuine mailed letters, they have a certain desirability for collectors of such frauds.

The left forgery is in spite of its clear printing, the worst. In the first place there is the conspicuous difference between the size of the two numerals "2" and "0", which on the genuine is much greater. All engraved lines are very clumsy and partly false, especially in the front sail. The perforation is 10%, and the height of the picture is 20½ mm., about ½ mm. too low.

The second forgery is in color and

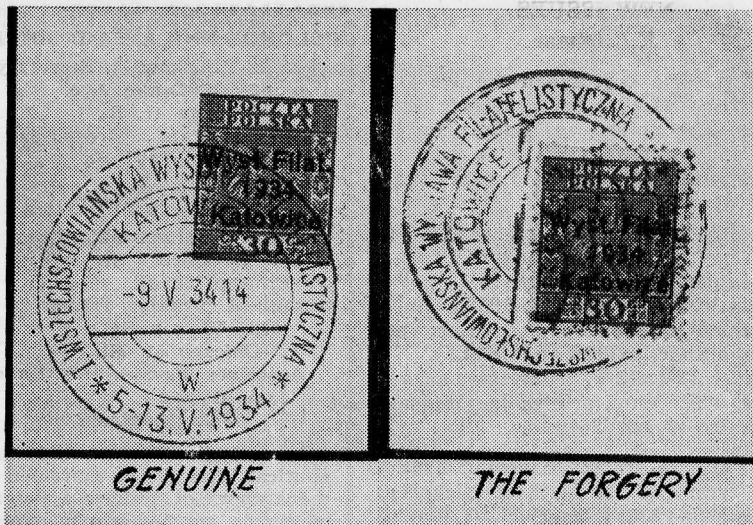


GENUINE THE FORGERY



GENUINE

THE FORGERY



size better made, has also a perforation of 10%. The letters in the upper lines are noticeably smaller, and the "C", "Z" and "L" are different from those on the genuine. The engraving here is also very poor and again especially in the front sail. The eagle in the shield is very badly drawn and blotchy. Both cancellations found on these stamps ("Poznan" and "Bygdoszcz") are considered forgeries because of their uneven and large letters.

Overprint Forgeries of Scott #280/81

By this time, most of the philatelic exhibit arrangers have come to the conclusion that to overprint current stamps for this event with a simple printing type device is a very questionable gift to the collectors, because invariably this will induce a large quantity of forgeries, especially of the cheap values.

The here described product is so bad that one would hardly accredit it to a philatelic exhibit. But there were already a few examples of such badly executed overprints, as for example the ones of the LeHavre exhibit, which without a genuine reference stamp are hard to judge.

The illustration shows that the forged overprint is much too small; the letters are not in a line, and are printed with badly covering spotty ink. The genuine overprint on the oth-

er hand, has a clean, glossy, blue-black ink. Most conspicuous on these forgeries are these characteristics: in the first line the letter "i" is much too short compared with the other letters; in the second line the open "9"; in the third the much too short "w". These forgeries originated in Poland.

The stamps that were used to illustrate this article were through the courtesy of Myron Steczynski from his private collection.

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NEW ISSUES

J. J. Domar

After some correspondence we finally received a notice of recent New Issues. The notice was dated March 1953 and received by us June 9th.

Not previously reported is as follows:

Set of three commemorative stamps honoring the European Boxing Championship in Warsaw:

Date of issue: May 17, 1953.

Nominal values: 40 gr. red-brown, 80 gr. orange, and 95 gr. violet.

Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, unwatermarked paper, white gum, printed in rotogravure, size 25.5×31.25 mm.

Set of two stamps honoring 480th Anniversary of the birth of Nickolas Copernicus—Astronomer.

Date of issue: May 22, 1953.

Nominal values: 20 gr. brown, Copernicus as painted by Matejko, and a 80 gr. blue, portrait.

Perforation, $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12$ and $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

Size: 43×25.5 mm. and 25.5×43 mm.

Paper, white, unwatermarked, gum white and engraved.

Set of two commemorative stamps honoring the Merchant Navy:

Date of issue: July 15, 1953.

Nominal values: 80 gr., green, 1.35 zl., blue.

Perforation: $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper: white, unwatermarked, gum white. Intaglio printing from steel.

Size: 31.25×25.5 mm.

Commemorative set of two stamps honoring the National Day of 22nd July, 1953:

Date of issue: July 15, 1953.

Nominal value: 20 gr. cerise-red, 2.35 zl. blue

Perforation: $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper: white, unwatermarked, gum white. Printed in rotogravure.

Size: 25.5×31.25 mm.

Postage due: Value 5 zl., violet, perf. on Aug. 25, 1952.

Official stamps: Without denomination, blue, perforated (Zwykla). January 1953, also a brick-red (Polecony)

Postal Stationery: Envelope, stamped, picturing Power station at Jaworzna, value 45+15 gr., released Jan.

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Associate Editors this issue

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Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

26th. The envelopes were issued with 6 different slogans, one to each envelope.

Air letter sheet, picturing an airplane over seaport. Value 55 gr., grey blue. Released Jan 28, 1953.

—Varimex

PAY YOUR DUES!

Our Treasurer has begun mailing final notices to delinquent members. If you have not paid your 1953 dues of \$2.50 yet, or if you paid the old rate of \$1.50 and still owe the additional \$1.00, please remit immediately to John Skotnicki, 1036 N. Wood St., Chicago 22, Ill. Failure to reply to this final notice will result in the dropping of your name from the Polonus Roster and discontinuing with the mailing of the BULLETIN to you.

BULLETIN RATES

At a recent meeting the following rates were established for members who wish to advertise in the Polonus BULLETIN:

One inch ad—\$1.50

One-quarter page—\$4.00

One-half page—\$7.00

Full page—\$12.00

These rates are for members only.

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