



Variations in Color and Print of Poland No. 1

A Study on the 75th Anniversary of the Stamp

by Marjan Jankowski

(Translated by C. Makowski from IKAROS of May-July, 1935
with permission of V. Hermanowski, Publisher)

Controversy and History of the Stamp

Observations on the Polish stamp of 1860 appear from time to time in the columns of philatelic papers, although it seems this matter ought to be less realistic by this time. A year ago for example there was a controversy on the question whether this stamp is inherently Polish. The discussion was carried out not on an international forum, but it was strictly a "native" controversy. Arguments on the origin of the stamp were presented; the discussion quieted down and the stamp became more Polish than ever. The fundamentals of tradition, history and merit of the stamp appeared too strong to question its nationality.

Many of us remember the not too distant pre-war I times, when the entire philatelic world knew about Poland, even though such a country did not exist politically. This was due to the existence of the stamp, which in the name of POLAND adorned exhibitions, albums, collections, catalogs and various philatelic publications throughout the world. This trifle in the eyes of the layman, "a scrap of paper" was building publicity about Poland. This is not a paradox, if we consider that the reaction of the Polish stamp on the opinion of the philatelic world lasted over half a century. The merit of the stamp and the esteem which it gained among strangers, are indisputable facts and Polish philately should be proud that it has a classical stamp to head its list.

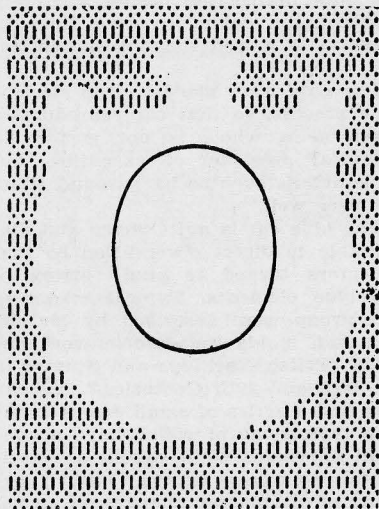


Fig 1.

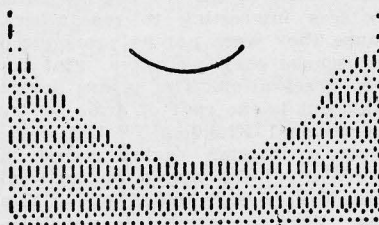


Fig 2

The Two-Color Printing

Among the first issues of postage stamps in other countries we meet one color stamps almost exclusively. Some issues appear bi-colored because of the colored background or paper, but the printing is actually in one color. The Polish stamp of 1860 is in the first group of classic bi-colored stamps (after Swiss and Russian), it therefore merits attention not only from the view of cancellations, perforations, etc.

For the printing of the first Polish stamp separate cuts were prepared for the blue and red (with varieties from rose to carmine). The blue cut emphasized the main character of the design such as the frame, the value, the crown and the outstretched cloak around the shield proper. The red cut was of prime character, stressing the background and coat-of-arms in the center of the stamp. The relation of the cuts united the design and harmonized the colors to give the impression of a well thought out entirety.

The cuts were made by the electrolytic process, so that the reproduction taken as a whole is not perfect in technical precision of execution, but some details such as background stand out very well.

The blue cut is quite sharp and discernable to direct observation so that collectors turned to study errors of the blue elements. Typical errors of this group were described by Mr. W. Polanski, in his well-known work entitled "Polish Markings and Stamps of the 18th and 19th Centuries." We can also find a series of small errors in the blue type, some of which have a constant character while others are accidental, such as: breaks, dots, thickening of the frame, changes of corner numerals 1 and 0, etc.

Colors and Nationality of the Stamp

The details of the red cut evidently were less interesting to researchers, because they were not as pronounced and because they were too faint for direct observation. The prime design of this cut is the coat of arms of the Congressional Kingdom (Polish eagle against a Russian eagle) placed in the center of the stamp on an oval shield, evenly surrounded by a thin ellipse. That the symbol is not Russian is evidenced by the top of the crown, placed above the Polish eagle and shown on the stamp in the form

of a dot with a cross between the heads of the Russian eagle. This small detail is therefore a characteristic Polish symbol in the red cut, just as the inscription, "ZA LOT KOP. 10" is characteristic in the blue cut. In other words each cut has its own individual Polish characteristics.

The drawing of the entire coat of arms of the Congressional Kingdom, because of its small scale, is not worked out in detail but is distinguished by the outline with the white space against the background of the red shield. This selection of colors surely is not accidental but is made to conform to Polish usage.

Size and Typography of the Stamp

The previously cited work of Mr. W. Polanski gives the same dimensions for both cuts: $16\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{3}{4}$ mm., which refer to the bodies of the cuts studied by him and not to the faces of the cuts which are somewhat smaller. As a result of numerous measurements of stamps (carried out by visual observation) I obtained the following measurements: 16.6x22.4 mm. for the blue cut (outer frame) and 15.9x21.7 mm. for the red cut (outside edges of background). These measurements may vary either way not to exceed 0.1 mm. Measurements of the blue cut determine the size of the stamp because they are larger and because the outline of the blue frame is distinct. Entirely within this frame is the red cut, because its measurements are on an average 0.7 mm. smaller. If the red background shifts beyond the blue frame, then the overall measurements of the stamp are really larger.

In printing, the blue cut was probably used first, and the red cut last. This inference is reached by visual observation of the stamps, though it is possible some were printed in reverse order, which should be checked by examining a greater quantity.

Copperplates did not guarantee fineness of the print and durability. Perhaps there were several issues of the stamp with the cuts cleaned in between, causing gradual wear or distortion of some of the details. I believe that research could follow along these typographic changes; this matter would be difficult, just as with classification of the first Greek issues which up to this time is not covered definitely.

The Red Background

Beside producing the center coat of arms the red cut fills in the background between the center emblem and the edge of the stamp.

Characteristic details of the background (Fig. 1) are as follows:

1. The drawing of the red background consists of 29 equally spaced bands of dots or bars. At the top of the stamp and at the bottom are bands of dots. The upper bands (the first dots and first bars) as well as the four bottom bands (two dots and two bars) are full, that is they run across the entire width, while the remaining ones are broken symmetrically in the center, in order to clear the coat of arms.

2. Each band of dots really consists of three rows staggered in such a way that each period (center dot) follows a colon (double-dot). All of these bands as a rule start at the left with a period (center dot) and end with a colon (double-dot). The number of dots and colons in a full row is 43 each.

3. Each row of bars consists of equally spaced vertical lines aligned with the periods (center dots). The number of bars in a full row is also 43.

4. The left edge of the red background is more distinct than the right edge, because the first dots and first bars of all bands are aligned, whereas the colons (double-dots) protrude at the right.

5. The rows broken in the center to clear the coat of arms are as a whole symmetrical, with the exception of the third band of bars from the top and the fifth band of bars from the bottom, in which there are five dashes at the left and four dashes at the right; one dash more on the left than on the right may be found in several of the middle rows where the coat of arms is widest. In the broken rows are also other characteristic details such as a single row of dots (instead of three) in the center of the fourth band from the top.

Varieties in the Red Background

The red background described above is most common (say on over 60% of the stamps). There are varieties where the top or bottom bands are made up of two rows of dots, instead of three.

These varieties are so distinct at times, especially in the bottom row (Fig. 2) that they preclude the theory

of worn plates. Besides this, they reveal such differences as: two rows of dots in the top band, half of either the top or bottom band with two rows of dots, etc.

Examination of varieties in the red and blue plates of the stamps may lead to their general classification, but unfortunately I do not have the extensive material necessary to carry on this work.

Question of the Monograph of the Stamp

A study of the first Polish stamp is difficult because strips and blocks are such a rarity. To establish a given variety demands only a good magnifying glass and a good list, but to group these varieties for positive conclusions on a scholarly basis awaits scholarly and thorough-going exploration.

Deep study has already been devoted to the entire subject of Poland No. 1 and in this field the work of Mr. W. Polanski as well as the classification of cancellations are truly outstanding. Further investigation and study are indispensable, because the end is closer than the beginning.

In view of the present 75th year anniversary of the stamp, these desires should be turned into realities.

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Vincent Wisniewski, #373

4014 Oak Avenue

Brookfield, Ill.

E. P. P., U. S., Canada, France
and Vatican City.

Roman Burkiewicz, #374

18 Rydal Gardens, 5th Kenton

Wembly, Middx., England

E. P. P., Germany & Grt. Britain

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Stanislaw Draganowski

13a Parsberg, DP Camp, Hohenfels,
Hohenfels, Germany

Alexander F. Helgesen

2531 N. Tripp Ave.
Chicago 39, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Wm. W. Wylie, #312

Western Stamp Collector
Albany, Oregon.

THE FIRST SEMI-POSTALS OF POLAND

by Myron Steczynski



The ten stamps listed in Scott's as B1 to B10 were issued for the first Polish Philatelic Exhibition opening May 3, 1919, during Poland's war with the Bolsheviks. It is said that the cannonade beyond Warsaw could be heard at the exhibition hall. The stamp show was a local Warsaw event, as compared with the First National Philatelic Exhibition held in Warsaw in 1928, for which sheet No. 251 was issued.

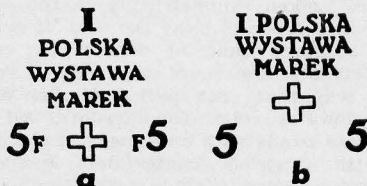
A postal station was operating on the premises, and used a special circular cancellation in violet WARSZAWA 1 - WYSTAWA MAREK, with or without an identifying "a." Remnants of the overprinted perforated stamps were on sale at the main post office for some time after the exhibition at the basic face value without collecting the 5 fennig surtax.

The printed surcharge is in deep purple, and means "1st Polish Exhibition of Stamps," with a 5 fennig surtax on all values for the benefit of the Polish White Cross. Surcharge (a) was applied to the three lower values and surcharge (b) was applied to the two higher values in the following quantities:

67-4

	Imperf.	Perf. 11½
5 fen.	800,000	1,200,000
10 fen.	200,000	1,800,000
15 fen.	400,000	2,600,000
25 fen.	400,000	2,600,000
50 fen.	800,000	1,200,000

The usual run was on thick wove paper, although some of the sheets were on ribbed paper, and these are the scarcer items. Minor varieties are numerous, and these include differences in color, rough and cleancut perforations, one or more edges imperf. or with double perforations, in addition to numerous flaws in the basic stamps as well as in the overprint.



The one major variety of this series is the 50 fennig value on ribbed paper with surcharge (a). A sheet of 400 was accidentally put through the press with the wrong form, but the mistake was caught before the sheet was issued. One hundred of these stamps were distributed to members of the Warsaw Philatelic Society and the remaining 300 were later officially burned. The upper right hand corner block of this rarity as included in the Colonel Larking collection is shown in figure (c).

Reprinted from STAMPS of Feb. 7, '47.
Note:

The principal reason for surcharge (b) is that the basic stamp upon which the surcharge was to be applied was larger than the stamps used for surcharge (a) therefore necessitating a different cut for proper register.

The Polish White Cross was a charitable organization similar to the International Red Cross. It was founded by Madam Helen Paderewski, wife of Ignate Paderewski, then Premier of Poland. Since Poland at the time was not a member of the International Red Cross there was a need for a similar organization.

WHEN POLONUS MEETS

The September 24th meeting was called to order by the President, Chester Mikucki with 26 members in attendance.

Mr. Domar as Publications Chairman appealed for material from members and asked that the speakers on Polish Philately prepare their material for subsequent publication in the Bulletin. Mr. Zeiler brought up several discrepancies appearing in the section on Poland in Scott's catalog and both Dr. Kozakiewicz and Mr. Steczynski explained at length how the endless varieties of some issues make the subject quite difficult to handle in a general publication like Scott's. It requires a specialized catalog to embrace some of the details brought up by Mr. Zeiler. Members were reminded that the Experts Committee keeps on recording all suggestions by members, and sends out a composite report to the catalog publishers every year before the August deadline. Mr. Kloskowski was appointed as the Chairman of the Program and Entertainment Committee and Mr. Larry Zeiler as the Publicity Chairman.

POLPEX 1949

Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Director of POLPEX 1949 has announced that our Tenth Annual Polpex will be held March 4, 5 and 6th, 1949 at the Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Plans are also being formulated to hold a "BEEBA" in connection with the show on Saturday evening, March 5th at eleven o'clock.

Since this is to be our Tenth Anniversary everything is being done to make this the finest and best exhibit we have held.

Five beautiful Trophies, including the Larking Award, and four large gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented. It is also planned to give every entrant a souvenir medallion.

The trophies to be awarded are as follows:

The Larking Award; It is the Grand Award of Polpex and will be given for the best Poland and Associated countries exhibit. The winner shall retain possession of it for one year. Anyone winning it three times obtains permanent possession.

Best Poland other than the Grand Award; This trophy is to be awarded to the runner up for the Grand Award.

Research Award for the stamps of Poland; To be given for the best original research or for the continuation of a research.

Best Poland Historical Award; This

trophy is to be awarded for the best Poland collection showing the political or philatelic history of Poland as depicted on stamps.

Best in the Show other than Poland Award; This is for the best collection of foreign or United States, specialized or topical other than Poland.

The twelve medals, four each of gold, silver and bronze will be awarded at the discretion of the judges to the best exhibits without reservations.

In the event that an exhibitor has more than one entry he shall be eligible for only one major award (trophy) but he can or may win one or more of the medals with other entries. The entry fee will be \$1.00 per frame, limit 8 frames to an exhibit.

No application will be accepted except on the official entry blank. The date of their distribution will be announced later. We would like to suggest however that after distribution that they be returned as soon as possible since space is limited and applicants will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

PRZEGLAD FILATELISTYCZNY

A new publication Przegląd Filatelistyczny (Polish Philatelic Review) has appeared in Lodz. The first issue dated, Sept. 30, 1948.

The editor is Witold J. Orlowski, the publisher Wydawca, and it is the official organ of the Philatelic Society of Lodz.

It is printed in blue on both sides of a sheet 27 inches x 19¾ inches and is so folded as to make 16 individual pages 6 7/16 x 9 13/16 inches. It is very well printed.

This issue was composed principally of New Issues (well illustrated) of Poland, Luxemburg, Czecho-Slovakia, Monaco, Austria and Hungary. It carries many ads but very little philatelic articles. It is the intention however that it will have very many interesting articles (3 promised for the next issue) and that the paper will contain 32 pages.

The interesting feature of this magazine is that some of the articles are printed in both Polish and English.

The price per issue is 70 zloty or 30 cents per issue. More information on this later.

The Polonus Philatelic Society welcomes this news and wishes the backers all of the luck in the world.

J. J. D.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar



The 6 zloty, European Conference on Railway Schedules stamp, announced in the September issue of the BULLETIN appeared on Oct. 6th with an entirely different set-up than contemplated at first. The design was changed entirely because the Ministry of Culture and Art in the last moment did not approve the project of Wilczyk and instead submitted a design by Ed. Bartłomiejczyk whose name is identified with many of the early pre-war stamps of Poland. The face value was likewise changed from 6 to 18 zlotys and the quantity ordered was 100,000 decidedly less than the proposed four million. The color is blue.

The predominant arch bears the inscription "Europejska Konferencja Rozkładów Jazdy Krakow 1948" (European Schedule Conference Krakow 1948). The speeding locomotive and the large clock are of main interest. The artists name appears below the stamp which is 30x23 mm., perf. 11½. Printed in rotogravure, in sheets of 50 by the National Printing Office at Krakow.

As mentioned above the issue was limited to 100,000, and was made available throughout Poland only to the members of the Postoffice Philatelic Clubs at the rate of 2 stamps per member. As of October 11th, they were not for sale to the public in Warsaw, but probably will be later in the month. It also was reported that of the 100,000 issued, only 22,000 are to be distributed in Poland, the remainder to be distributed among the delegates to the Conference.

M. E. S.
Robert Wilson
J. Bienecki

A new government postal card has appeared with the Bedzin Castle design A128 in Scott's Catalog. The face value is 6 zloty and the total price of the card is 8 zlotys. A postal station in Warsaw is shown at the left.

M. E. S.

Additional Information on New Issues Reported Previously

By the order of the Postmaster General of July 27th, the 15 zloty International Congress of Working Youth was released Aug. 8th. Designed by Tadeusz Tuszewski. Printed in the National Printing Office at Krakow. 4,509,100 copies were issued.

By order of the Postmaster general dated Aug. 27th, the 15 zł.+5 zloty Rebuilding of Warsaw Issue was released September 4th. It was designed by Z. Skibinski, printed in the National Printing Office at Krakow. 4 million copies were printed.

In answer to a number of requests, the words "TRASA, W-Z" which appear across the bottom of the stamp means, "Transit Street, East-West" (W, Wschod—Z, Zachod).

By order of the Postmaster General of Aug. 27th, the 15 zloty, 25th Anniversary of the Philatelic Society in Torun Issue was released Sept. 4th. It was designed by A. Suchanek, printed in the National Printing Office at Krakow. 4 million copies were printed.

Proposed Releases

In October there will probably appear a new ordinary issue in current values on which will appear the portrait of the President of Poland, Bolesław Bierut.

Nov.-Dec., a series of four values, Anti-Tubercular issue. An interesting innovation will be made in the shape of a special talon (one to each stamp) with appropriate designs.

Dec. 2, a special stamp to commemorate the Trade-Union Congress.

In December also, it is expected that a special 4 value issue will be released on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the origin of the Postal-Workers Trade Union.

It is reported too that it is intended that next year the stamps of Poland will again be engraved.

Przegląd Filatelistyczny-Lodz

LARRY ZIELER

Chairman Publications Committee

Beginning with the November issue of the BULLETIN the Publications Committee of the Polonus Philatelic Society will be in the capable hands of Larry Zieler.

He is not a new member of the Society although he has been active in its affairs for only the past six months. He was admitted to membership in September 1945 and up until six months ago he was a Staff Sergeant in the Armed Forces of the United States, having reenlisted upon his discharge, for two years service with the Occupation Forces in Berlin.

Larry Zieler has been a collector since his childhood and his interest in stamps and collecting activities increases with the years. He is now 31.

Larry is a graduate of Tilden Technical High School of Chicago. In those days he was editor of the Tilden Tech Times and also Director of the Stamp Club.

His interest in the stamps of Poland is general but his specialties are the Krakow issues and the Locals. He has very fine collections of these specialties.

The above short sketch should be sufficient to indicate that Larry Zieler brings to the position of Chairman of the Publications Committee a great deal of philatelic and journalistic experience but he cannot do the job alone. He needs and must have the full and complete cooperation of every member of Polonus.

TID BITS

Sgt. Victor Hermanowski, former publisher of Ikaros and of other philatelic books, is now in England planning a trip to America. We certainly will be glad to get acquainted personally with the man whose books and periodicals have helped so much to popularize Polish philately. We extend our hands in welcome to you, Mr. Hermanowski.

* * *

According to Mr. Robert A. Wilson, member in Warsaw, the Postal Museum and its entire collection has survived intact. He expects to visit it shortly and we hope send a report.

* * *

Best of luck to member Wm. (Bill)

Wyllie who has recently taken over as assistant editor of The Western Stamp Collector.

* * *

Rev. Jerome Holubowicz, O. M. C. is busy on his new rectory which he hopes to complete by Christmas. He wants to be remembered to all of his Polonus friends.

* * *

Mr. V. Rachmanov, 214-17, 47th Avenue, Bayside, N. Y. announces that the most recent price of the 1948 Gryzewski Catalog of Poland is now \$1.50 and can be procured from him at this price.

* * *

One must sometime read the stamp publications to learn what some of our members are doing. I noticed in K. Bileski's ad in STAMPS that Myron Steczynski has invented a new fangled stamp mount that seems to have all of the requirements.

* * *

We learn with pride that member, Col. O. H. Schrader, received a diploma award for his philatelic research in Private Proprietary Revenue Stamps, at the recent IMABA exhibition held in Basle, Switzerland.

* * *

Member, Stephen G. Rich was the guest speaker at the Women's Philatelic Society (New York) meeting of September 23, 1948, Hotel Pennsylvania.

* * *

Dr. Clarence Hennan of Chicago, president of the Essay Proof Society has announced appointments to various society committees for the coming year. The following are members of the POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY who were selected for various committees:

Awards: Walter Strait.

Publicity: David Lidman, chairman; Col. O. H. Schrader.

Essay Proof Journal: Stephen G. Rich, board recorder.

Officers of the Essay Proof Society: Ben Reeves, international secretary.

* * *

At the recent A. P. S. Convention which opened on Sept. 6, in the Shir-

ley Savoy Hotel in Denver, Col., member, Dr. Walter M. Eisin received a second award.

* * *

An article in STAMPS mentions that member David Lidman is the editor of Gimbel's Stamp News.

The August 1948 issue contains 64 pages of news and offers that will interest any collector. No doubt a sample copy will be sent on request and it will be well worth writing for.

* * *

It is with deep regret that we learn of the passing of member Henry Pines. Our most profound sympathy to his family.

* * *

On July 4, 1948 a conference was held in Krakow for the express purpose of forming a Federation of Stamp Clubs in Poland. In all representatives of ten stamp clubs were present to draft regulations for the coming year. Headquarters were moved to Warsaw.

* * *

Dr. M. Haiman of the Polish Museum is recovering from his recent illness and acknowledges the get-well note and flowers from POLONUS.

* * *

Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Sluzynski recently celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in New York City and on the Atlantic seaboard. Our best wishes and much luck—but how about changing those office hours from Friday night so that we can see you more often, doctor.

* * *

We received an announcement from Roosevelt College of Chicago naming member Henri Hayza as Professor of Violin and Acting Chairman of the String Department. Our best wishes for your continued success, Henri. Why not bring that collection of Music on Stamps to one of our meetings?

* * *

Myron Steczynski, writing in the April 1944 issue of the POLONUS BULLETIN, said that if he were asked to name his favorite stamp of Poland, 67-8

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Lester Jankowski
Larry Zieler

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he would choose the dark blue Sobieski at Vienna, Scott's No. 278. According to the Filatelista Polski of Poznan, a recent survey among readers and collectors in Poland and abroad names this same stamp as the most attractive of the prewar issues of Poland. Scotts No. B29, Warsaw 1938 Exhibition Issue with the Stage Coach and Wayside Inn was selected as the prettiest souvenir sheet, and Scotts No. B41, Last Stand at Westerplatte as the prettiest post-war stamp. The London Issue, Scott's 3K1 to 3K8 was selected as the prettiest Polish series issued abroad after 1939.

* * *

Why is it that after a POLPEX, applications for membership reaches a peak and then for the remainder of the year we have only 2 or 3 a month. Why not each of us resolve that beginning at once we shall obtain one new member every other month.

The larger the SOCIETY, the better will be the BULLETIN.

MEMBERS MART

POLAND, mint, used and on cover, new issues, FDC, Germany, Austria, etc. Everything on approval to members of POLONUS. Conditions and prices guaranteed to satisfy.

WANTED, offers from members in Poland,

Joseph Bieniecki, 2509 East 23rd St., Granite City, Illinois, U. S. A.