

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue No. 97

July-August 1951

SOME POLISH FORGERIES

by Herman Stallberg

Translated from the German by John Gapinski

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THE FORGERIES OF THE LUBLIN ISSUES



Identification Characteristics

1. Evenly ascending and descending letters—a large “O” (genuine). First 3 letters in a straight line, a smaller “O,” thin appearing printing type (fake).

2. On the genuine overprints the “O” in “Polska” is a little larger (higher) than the neighboring letters, easily recognized with a lens.

On the fake overprints, the “O” is

POLSKA POCZTA

Genuine

POLSKA POCZTA

Fake

about the same size as the other letters.

3. The shadings on the neck of the eagle (genuine) are made by fine thin lines open towards the left, on the fake overprints thick lines are used which are connected with each other. On the genuine the tail feathers and claws are marked out finer than the fakes.

4. The outer line of the double circle encompassing the eagle is slightly thicker, in some places on the forged overprints. On the genuine it is very even.

5. The distance between the “A” in “POLSKA” and the “P” in “POCZTA,” from the foot of the letter to the foot of the other is (genuine) 0.5-0.6 mm., while in most forgeries this distance is greater (about 0.7

POLSKA POCZTA



Polish Eagle and “Polska Poczta”
Austrian Fieldpost

mm.). The same is equally true of the distance between the same letter, from head to head (genuine) 1.3 mm., (fake) 1.45-1.55 mm.

6. The height of the letters on genuine overprints is about 2.5 mm.; on the forgeries they are usually about 0.4-0.5 mm. shorter, and the letters are thinner than the ones on the genuine overprints.

7. The color of the fakes tends to dark brown, while the genuine is deep black, although there are many good imitations with black overprints.

8. The "P" in "POCZTA" is almost perpendicular or just a little inclined to the right, whereas on the forgeries it seems to be falling over, that is it leans heavily to the right.

9. One of the most common variety of fakes has the letters "ZT" a little higher than the other letters.

The most commonly counterfeited stamp of this issue (40-50 per cent of all the stamps in circulation, is

the 50 h. dark green Scott 39. Although even the cheaper varieties are also faked about 12-15 per cent). Several fake cancellations are also known (Lublin), which may be recognized by the two very regular circles and the wrong diameter of circle (genuine 28.5 mm.). The differences in the circumference of the genuine cancellations are due to the soft rubber used in the cancellers, most of the time irregular (squashed). The forgeries are much more skilful than those of any of the other overprint issues of Polish stamps. The most deceiving is the one which appeared in Warsaw in 1921, the forged (Scott 32) 10 HAL. on 30 HAL., the most expensive stamp in this issue, the overprint in lilac-brown instead of black. It would not be too high an estimate to maintain that about 60 per cent of these stamps in circulation are counterfeits. The characteristics of the stamp (Scott 32) are listed in the table.

Table of Characteristics of Scott's Poland No. 32

Part of the Overprint	Genuine	Fake
1. Overall print	Color brighter, luminous	Darker, duller
2. Eagle, shadows on neck	Non-coherent, small dots	Shadow lines, coherent
3. Star over "30"	Wider than higher, partly irregular	Regularly colored, just as wide as high
4. Letters "HAL"	Height about 2.5 mm.	Height about 2.7-2.8 mm.
5. Letter type	Evenly thick	Irregular
6. Distance between stars (measured from star point to star point)	About 14 mm.	About 13.5 mm.

KANSAS FLOOD

Many of you probably didn't know that our Bulletin is printed at Lawrence, Kansas, by the Miller Print Shop. Kansas, including Lawrence, was hit recently by the worst flood in its history. Fortunately however, the Miller Print Shop was located on higher ground and was spared by the flood. We are indeed fortunate and thankful to be able to continue with our Bulletin as usual.

AUCTION NOTE

Chicago members are urged to attend the second meeting in September when Polonus will hold another auction. Roman Reinowski reports many attractive lots to be offered,

OLONUS PUBLICIZED

Linn's Weekly Stamp News in their June 25, 1951, issue, came out with a streaming headline "Polish Philately Featured." This 12-page weekly printed four articles, publicized Polonus and Polish Philately. A well written and illustrated article entitled "Poland's 20th Anniversary of Independence Issue" appeared. The article's author Clement A. Pulaski gave a rich historical description on each stamp of the 13 values of the set.

Linn's Weekly is a very informative philatelic newspaper—well worth the \$1.00 for a year's 52 issues. Subscriptions may be sent to Linn's Weekly Stamp News, P. O. Box 29, Sibley, Ohio.

POLAND

The Postal Issues During and After the Great War
by the late COL. R. N. W. LARKING, C.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

From January until October 1919, when a definite issue of "Postage Dues" appeared for Northern and Southern Poland, certain values of the first definite issue for Southern Poland, including the P. K. L. issue, referred to on page 172, Vol. III, were converted into "Dues."

These stamps were either machine-printed or hand-stamped with a metal, rubber, or wooden die in various coloured inks. The usual overprint was the word "PORTO," but other words were used, such as:

"Doplata" (Additional payment), "Oplata" (Pay) or "Oplacic" (To pay), "Wydac" (To surrender), "Zaplacono" (Paid), "Portowa" (Carriage charges), the letters "AP" (Absugs Porto), "P" or "PTO" for "PORTO," "T" for "TAKSA" (Tax).

These overprints appear on the stamps either alone, or with some additional design. Those that were hand-stamped appear in all positions on the stamp, especially since a large proportion of them were hand-stamped after being affixed to the correspondence.

A certain number of complete issues were overprinted before being actually required for use, and many of the denominations were never made use of. These were subsequently disposed of to collectors, either in mint condition, or, more often, "postmarked to order," with full gum.

After October 1919, even when the definite issue of "Dues" was in use, some of the "Postage Due" overprints continued to appear on the then current postage stamps up to the year 1924. In fact local postmasters made use of any odd stock of postage stamps they might have at hand, by converting them into "Dues." I have a cover with three 5 kr. (South Poland), one

50 fen. (North Poland), and one 50 fen. (Official) all hand-stamped "PORTO" at BELZ, 21.1.21; and another with three 10,000 8 mks. (Postage Due of 1923), and two 3000 mks. (Konarski) hand-stamped "PORTO" at BELZ 19.11.23.

Again, when the gold currency was introduced and remainders of the regular Postage Due issues were used up as postage stamps, I have covers with eight to ten of these "Dues" used as postage stamps, together with another lot of similar "Dues" hand-stamped "PORTO" at ROZENTAL in January 1924.

Some post offices which did not happen to have a hand-stamp handy, defaced the current stamps in script with the words "Porto," "Doplata," "Oplaty," "Marki Doplata," etc., in ink or indelible pencil; and, in order to arrive at the correct charges due, some values were even bisected and written across.

The varieties of paper, shade, plate, etc., found on the postage stamp, are naturally to be found on these "Dues"; but it would appear an impossibility to compile a complete list of these, as I do not believe anyone could furnish even a complete check-list of the stamps that were converted into "Dues" by the many post offices in Southern Poland.

I now give a descriptive list of the various overprints, and of the principal post offices which issued them:

1. ALBIGOWA.

"Porto," 14½x4 mm. ("P" and "t" 4½ mm.) rubber-stamped in violet. (Fig. 8.)

2. ANDRYCHOW.

"PORTO," 17½x3½ mm., rubber-stamped in violet or black. (Fig. 9.)

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3. **BALICE.**
 - (i) "P," sans serif, in a triangle, rubber-stamped in violet.
 - (ii) The same, but the side lines of the triangle do not meet the base.
4. **BALIGROD.**

"Porto," 15x3-4 mm., and letters unevenly set, rubber-stamped in violet or black.
5. **BARANOW.**

"PORTO," 16½x3½ mm., the left bar of the "T" is lowered, metal-stamped in black.
6. **BELZ.**
 - (i) "PORTO," 20x4½ mm., rubber-stamped in black.
 - (ii) "PORTO," 22x5 mm., metal-stamped in black. (Fig. 10.)
7. **BIECZ.**

"AP" in script, metal-stamped in black.
8. **BIELSKO (Bielitz).**
 - (i) "Porto," 8¼x2¼ mm. "P" and "t" 2½ mm.), in a frame 15x6 mm., metal-stamped in black.
 - (ii) The same, but the frame is broken at the corners. (Fig. 11.)
 - (iii) "PORTO," sans serif, 18x4 mm., rubber-stamped in black or carmine, (Fig. 12.)
9. **BOCHNIA.**

"PORTO," sans serif, 15½x3½ mm., the first "O" is broken at the base and the "T" is higher than the other letters, rubber-stamped in violet.
10. **BOROWA kolo MIELCA.**

"T," 10½ mm., in a thin line circle 16½ mm. diameter, rubber-stamped in black.
11. **BORYSLAW.**

"PORTO," sans serif, 21x7½ mm., in a frame 27x13 mm., rubber-stamped in black or violet. (Fig. 18)
12. **BRZEZANY.**

"PORTO," sans serif, in a frame with rounded corners, 30x10 mm., rubber-stamped in black. (Fig. 14.)
13. **BRZEZNICA.**

"PORTO," 18x2½ mm., with letters spaced and out of the alignment, rubber-stamped in violet. (Fig. 15)
14. **BRZOSTEK.**

"PORTO," sans serif, 16½x6 mm., rubber-stamped in black. (Fig. 16)
15. **CIESZYN (Teschen).**
 - (i) "PORTO," sans serif, 21x5 mm., rubber-stamped in black. (Fig. 17.)
 - (ii) "PORTO," 19x4 mm., rubber-stamped in black or violet. (Fig. 18.)
 - (iii) "PORTO," 20x4½ mm., rubber-stamped in black or violet.
 - (iv) "PORTO," 19x4 mm., defect in the base of the second "O," rubber-stamped in black.
 - (v) Eagle with "PORTO" below, total height 13½ mm., rubber-stamped in black. (Fig. 19.)
16. **CISNA.**

"DO PLATA," with a cross below, set diagonally in a wavy-line frame, which completely covers the stamp, rubber-stamped in carmine or black. (Fig. 20.)
17. **DABROWA GORNICZA.**

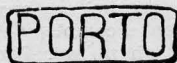
"PORTO," 19x4 mm., metal-stamped horizontally in black.
18. **DUBIECKO.**

"T," 11 mm. high by 12½ mm. broad, wood-stamped in black. (Fig. 21.)
19. **FELSZTYN GAL.**

"PORTO," 24x5½ mm., rubber-



13



14

Porto

15

PORTO

16

PORTO

17

PORTO

18



19



20



21

DO PLATA

22

PORTU

23

PORTO.

24

PORTO

25



26



27



28

- stamped in black.
20. GRUDZIADZ.
"DOPLATA," in a frame 20x6 mm.
rubber-stamped in black. (Fig. 22.)
 21. JABLONKOW.
"PORTO," sans serif, 15½x4 mm.,
metal-stamped in black. The second
"O" is usually open at the
top. (Fig. 23.)
 22. JAROSLAW.
"PORTO," 20x6 mm. "P," 8 mm.,
"t," 7 mm.), rubber-stamped in
black.
 23. JASLENICA kolo BRZOZOWA.
(i) Eagle with Crown, 19½ mm. high
by 15 mm. broad, rubber-stamped
in violet.
(ii) "PORTO," 18x3½ mm., rubber-
stamped in violet. The "T" is low-
er than the other letters.
(iii) "T" in a circle 17 mm. diam-
eter, rubber-stamped in black.
 24. JASLO.
(i) "PORTO," sans serif, 14x4 mm.,
rubber-stamped in violet. (Fig. 24)
(ii) "PORTO," sans serif, 16x3½ mm
metal-stamped in black.
 25. JAWORNIK POLSKI.
"Porto," 25x7-9 mm., metal-stamp-
ed in black.
 26. KALWARJA ZEBRZYDOWSKA.
"zaplacono," 42x5 mm., rubber-
stamped in black.
 27. KALUSZ.
"Porto," 19x5 mm. "P" and "t," 7
mm.), rubber-stamped in black.
 28. KOLBUSZOWA.
"PORTO," 22½x7 mm., rubber-
stamped in black. (Fig. 25.)
 29. KONSKIE.
"Porto," 21x6½ mm. ("P," 9 mm.),
wood-stamped in grey-blue.

30. KRAKOW (Cracow).

Krakow I (Poczta Glowna)

- (i) "Porto," with star above and
below, set diagonally in a treble-
line frame 19 mm. square, the cen-
tre line being wavy, metal-stamp-
ed in black. (Fig. 26.)

The overprint is known placed in
all positions on the stamp.

- (ii) "PORTO," 10¾x2 mm., set di-
agonally in a thin-line frame 12¾
x13¼ mm., machine-printed in
black, green, or red.

There are two types of overprint:

- (a) With serifs. (Fig. 27.)
- (b) Without serifs. (Fig. 28.)

There is one error: "POTRO" for
"PORTO."

Krakow 10 (Zwierzyniec)

"Porto," set diagonally in a dotted
line frame 18x15 mm., rubber-
stamped in violet.

Krakow 11 (Debniiki)

- (i) "PORTO," sans serif, 33x6½ mm.
("P," 8½ mm.), wood-stamped in
blue-black. (Fig. 29.)

- (ii) "Porto," with a white star above
and below on coloured half-moons,
in a circle 20 mm. diameter, rub-
ber-stamped in blue-black or vio-
let. (Fig. 30.)

- (iii) "PORTO," with a small star
above, in a dotted triangular frame
17x19 mm., rubber-stamped in vi-
olet.

The word "PORTO" is found in
two sizes:

- (a) 9x2½ mm. (Fig. 31.)
- (b) 9½x3 mm. (Fig. 32.)

Krakow 14 (Podgorze).

"PORTO," 14½x4 mm., in a dotted
frame 20x9 mm., rubber-stamped
in black. (Fig. 33.)

PORTO

29



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31



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PORTO

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PORTO

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PORTO

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Porto

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PORTO

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PORTO

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PORTO

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PORTO

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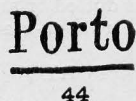
PORTO

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31. KRYNICA.
"PORTO," in block lettering 72x16 mm., wood-stamped in blue-black. (Fig. 34.)
32. KRZESZOWICE.
"PORTO," 19x4 mm., rubber-stamped in blue. All the letters are out of the alignment. (Fig. 35.)
33. LEZAJSK.
"PORTO," 17½x4-4½ mm., rubber-stamped in black. The lettering is uneven, the first "O" is high, and the last "O" is broken. (Fig. 36.)
34. LISKO.
"PORTO," 27x5½ mm., rubber-stamped in black or violet.
35. LUBAWA.
"Porto," wood-stamped in black, in two sizes:
(a) 37x9 mm.
(b) 34x9 mm. (Fig. 37.)
36. LWOW (Lemberg).
(i) "PORTO," rubber-stamped in violet, in two types:
(a) 22½x4½ mm., top of the second "O" is broken. (Fig. 38.)
(b) 21½x4½ mm., the "P" and "R" have no serifs. (Fig. 39.)
(ii) "PORTO," sans serif, 17x4½ mm., metal-stamped in violet (Fig. 40.)
(iii) "PORTO," sans serif, 17x3½ mm., metal-stamped in violet (Fig. 41.)
(iv) "PORTO," sans serif, 13x4 mm., metal-stamped in violet. (Fig. 42.)
37. LUPKOW.
"PORTO," sans serif, 18x3½ mm., metal-stamped in black.
38. MAKOW MALOPOSKI.
"D, MAKOW, Mpl.," in three lines, rubber-stamped in violet.
39. MIELEC.
(i) "PORTO," sans serif, 12x4 mm., in a dotted frame 16½x9 mm., with the date "1919" below, rubber-stamped in violet or carmine. (Fig. 43.)
(ii) "Porto," 21½x3½ mm., metal-stamped in black, blue, or carmine. (Fig. 44.)
(iii) "PORTO," sans serif, 14x4½ mm., in a single-line frame 13x9 mm., with the date "1920" below, rubber-stamped in carmine. (Fig. 45.)
This overprint appears on the Sejms, 1919, issue only.
(to be continued)



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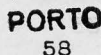
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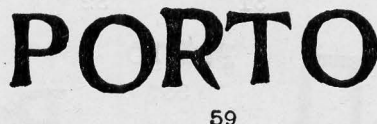
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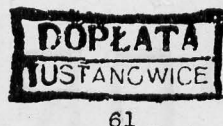
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The Forgeries of the Lublin-Karlfonds Issue

by Herman Stallberg

Translated from the German by John Gapinski



In this issue, just like in all the other overprints, there are many forgeries, and some are very cleverly executed so that a thorough examination is necessary to discover them. The most important characteristics are as follows:

1. Differences in the types of the letters, particularly the "P" and "A" in "Polska," and the "Z" in "Poczt." Since these overprints were made by the lithograph process which in itself already brings in a multitude of printing deviations, the typical differences between the letters alone cannot be taken as a safe sign of recognition of forgeries; thus the following observations must be used:

2. Deviations in the drawings of the eagle, especially of the wings and tail feathers, although the half shadows (dots) are the same on the forgeries as well as on the originals.

3. The ornaments attached to the right and left of the outer circle enclosing the eagle, are usually so different on the forgeries that most of

the time they may be used as a sign of identification.

4. The ink on the fake overprints has a metallic gloss and all the letters are too large and too thick, which makes the forgeries easily recognizable.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

In the May, 1951, Issue #95, we stated that the 45 groszy Gen. Dabrowski stamp was issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death. This was not correct as the bulletin from the Minister of Posts and Telegraph later revealed. It was issued instead to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Communist party in Paris.

The First Day of Issue was, March 24th. The amount issued 1,000,000.

The 45 groszy stamp described in the first paragraph of the June 1951 issue was printed by rotogravure not photogravure as stated. The First Day of Issue was April 27th. It was adapted from a design by Chmielewski by the designer, B. Brandt.

On June 1st, 2 stamps were released to commemorate the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Poland. The denominations are 30 groszy olive and 45 groszy blue.

The size of both stamps is 25½ mm x 31½ mm. The 30 groszy illustrates a Boy Scout facing forward and saluting. The 45 groszy shows two Girl Scouts facing left. Both were printed by rotogravure.

The Six Year Plan set, first described and illustrated in the Sept. 1950 issue of the BULLETIN, has again been reissued in three new values, 75 groszy, dark purple, 1.15 zloty green and 1.20 zloty red.

In addition two new values were added to the "Steel Mill Set" described in the June issue. They are a 60 groszy, brown and a 90 groszy, red. There was no change in the design of either set.

The "First Polish Congress of Sci-

PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

Many members have neglected to renew their membership for 1951. Because of the changing of treasurers, and illness in the family of our new treasurer, notices of neglected dues were not sent out to individual members. If you are not sure that you are paid up, send in your \$1.50 anyway. You will be credited for next year if you are already paid up. Send in your dues to Stanley Madro, 827 N. Maplewood Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

ence" set was received and we must agree that it is well done. All were printed by roto gravure.

The colors of each value is as follows: 25 groszy, red; 40 groszy, blue; 45 groszy, purple; 60 groszy, green; 1.15 zloty, violet; and 1.20 zloty, gray. Apparently a change in plans changed the 1.35 zloty value reported to be issued to the 1.20 actually issued.

No official information regarding this set has yet been received from the M. P. & T.

Issued also is a brown 45 groszy value engraved stamp, bearing the likeness of Feliks Dzierzynski. Issued apparently on the 50th anniversary of his death, inasmuch as the dates 1877-1926 are incorporated in the design. The stamp was designed by B. Brandt and engraved by S. Lukazewski. The size is 24 mm x 27 mm.

The most recent issue received is a set of 3 very large stamps, 48 mm x 31 mm in values of 45 groszy red, 60 groszy green and 90 groszy blue. The design which is the same on all values is as follows:

Across the top are the words "POCZTA POLSKA." In the center is a portrait of President B. Bierut within a medallion. On the left side of the medallion are two draped flags plus a panoramic view of factories, etc., below this is shown the date "22 Lipiec (July) 1944-1951." Below the Presidents portrait in a banner are the words "7 Lat Polskie Ludwey" translated means the seventh year of the peoples government. To the right of the portrait is a scene showing tractors, farms and power lines, below this is shown the value.

The First Day of issue is not definitely known but is assumed to be July 22. The stamp was designed by St. Lukazewski and engraved by M. R. Polak and C. Slania.

Ministry of Posts and Telegraph,
Poland

Jos. Bieniecki

TID BITS

The auditing committee composed of Ben Reeves and Stanley Kucharz reported at the last July meeting that the Society financial records are in good order.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Associate Editors this issue

Jack Domar
John Gapinski

The Bulletin will begin publishing what Poland lots brought in at auctions.

"My Experiences in Collecting Covers" an article by member Edwin C. Hopps will appear in the 17th American Philatelic Congress Book. Polonus is proud to have this honor come to one of its members.

Polonus members report that there are difficulties in receiving mail from Poland. Not much mail has come in lately.

STAMP EXHIBITION

The Central Council of Polish Organizations of Pittsburgh, Pa., is sponsoring an All-Polish Stamp Exhibition to be held on November 17th and 18th, at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa. It is opened to Polonus members. For entry blanks and further information write to Joseph A. Borkowski, 1415 Swissvale Ave., Pittsburgh 21, Pa.

NEW MEMBER

S. A. Sikorski
511 E. 250th St.
Euclid 23, Ohio

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Stanley Pasiecznik
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Stanley Draganowski
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Stanley G. Radgowski
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Polonus Bulletin, July-Aug. 1951