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Nazi Concentration Camp Stamp Recalls Tradition of Madonna of Częstochowa

by Edward Nowak, Sr.

(Reprinted from STAMPS of 3/3/56)

Much has been written about stamps made at the vast Nazi concentration camp for Polish Army Officers at Woldenberg (Dobigniew). The rare stamps were printed from wood dies, hand-carved secretly by inmates, and printed on margins of Nazi propaganda newspapers, or any scrap of paper that could be found and secreted.

A regular but busy postal service was functioning at the camp, and mail was delivered via "grape-vine" style. Gold trinkets that escaped the eyes of Gestapo guards, paid for the stamps. The reservoir of such valuables was used by prisoners to buy medicines and food from guards for needy Polish comrades in arms at camp.

Numerous stories which came out from that camp reflected the strong, simple faith of prisoners, and among these was the one of the stamp depicting the "Madonna of Częstochowa," better known in this country as the "Black-faced Virgin", revered by Poles and Lithuanians.

History has it that the picture of the Madonna as shown on the crude stamp from the concentration camp was drawn after the original at Jasna Góra Chapel in Poland, which was painted by Saint Lucas on cedar boards from a table used by St. Joseph at Nazareth.

Saint Helena, who found the painting in 322 A.D. gave it to her son Constantine. It was brought to Poland



in 1290 by Ladislaus, then Governor of the Balsa region of Poland, and placed in a humble chapel at Jasna Góra (the bright mount) near Częstochowa. Later the chapel became the National Shrine of Poland, in care of Paulin Friars. Częstochowa city is a former walled stronghold that fought off raids by Turks, Tartars, Russians, Swedes and Prussians.

In the musty manuscripts written by Paulin Fathers one can read that in 1252 an attempt was made to carry the picture of the Madonna to a safer place. It was loaded on a cart for transport. The oxen would not move, nor would a different team of oxen that was harnessed. The priests took this as a sign that it was not the wish of the Virgin to be removed. That night the churchmen in charge of dream that the Madonna wished to re-transportation were informed in a

main at Jasna Góra, known today as Częstochowa.

In 1430 the Hussites invaded Poland and robbed the altar at Jasna Góra, attempting to take the portrait with them, but again the horses refused to move. Terrified, the thieves threw the holy picture into a field and galloped off with only the gold and precious stones that had adorned the altar and portrait.

During the 15th century, when the Russians raided Częstochowa, an armed Russian warrior entered the church of Jasna Góra with the intention of looting the bejewelled garments and crowns on the Madonna's portrait. Infuriated because he could not reach the crowns set with precious stones, he drew his sword and struck the face of the Madonna twice. To this day it has been impossible to hide the scars, for each time it is repaired, the scars return soon after, and the two scars have come to be associated with the Madonna as part of the way she can be recognized.

During July 1655, the vast Swedish armies led by King Carl the 10th, surrounded the monastery and church at Jasna Góra. The Paulin Monks, with several Polish Knights and four cannon, defended the shrine. The Swedes, after weeks of seige, departed empty-handed. Commanders and men in ranks testified that they had seen a beautiful image of the Virgin standing guard before the gates of Jasna Góra.

Every king of Poland since 1328 has made pilgrimages to Jasna Góra to pray for guidance and wisdom in ruling. Rulers of many foreign lands also made pilgrimages to the shrine. Of the vast register of celebrities the following are listed as outstanding: Prince Alex, son of Russian Tsar Peter the Great, Alexander the First, Prince Constantin Micolayevits, Michael the First, Wilhelm the Second the King of Saxony, Kaiser Wilhelm the King of Prussia in 1793, Frederic August King of Saony, Kaiser William II of Germany, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, and many others.

Pope Pius XI, who lived in Poland as Monsignor Ratti at the Papal Legate at Warsaw, visited Jasna Góra several times. His deep love for Po-

land's "Matka Boska Częstochowska" (Mother of God from Czesztauchau) was expressed by his placing a life-sized figure of the Virgin at his chapel at the Castel Gondolfo.

From 3,112 copies of the stamp printed originally at Woldenberg concentration camp, only 109 copies escaped destruction, according to philatelic research. Of the 109 only forty-two copies are known to exist in volumes of prominent stamp collectors on this continent. A copy of the adhesive can be seen at Cardinal Spellman's postal museum in the collection of Polish stamps donated by the writer to Regis College at Weston, Mass.

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THE COL. LARKING AWARD IS RETIRED

John C. Crimlisk of Filey, Yorkshire, England with a beautiful rounded exhibit consisting of covers from Napoleon's Grand Army in Poland, Prestamp, Russian stamps with Poland town cancellations and Polish Stationery was awarded the Col. Larking Trophy for the third year in succession thus retiring the Larking Trophy.

Myron Steczynski with a showing of the "Sowers" won the "first leg" on the Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz Research Award.

The "Best Poland Other Than Grand Award" was given to Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz for his magnificent exhibit of Poland No. 1.

The "Best Other Than Poland" was presented to Joseph M. Pirog of Chiscopee, Mass. for his Trieste. The Novice Award was presented to William R. Jusack and the "Best Locals and Plebiscites" Award was given to Dr. M. E. Uznanski for his Allenstein.

First Awards were presented to: Leo Haska-Hawryszkiw, Zdislaw Obara for two exhibits.

Second Awards went to Jos. Scheer, Outremont, Canada, Robert Wilson of New York and Chester Schafer.

Third Awards to S. A. Sikorski, Sig. Bor and Rev. Blase Szymasek.

The S.P.A. Research Award was given to Dr. M. E. Uznanski. Exhibits in the "Court of Honor" were by J. J. Domar and Leo Topolinski. Showing "Not For Competition" were Chester Schafer, Chester Mikucki and parts of the Edward Nowak collection from the Regis College Museum.

Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz is not eligible to compete for the Research Award nor is M. E. Steczynski eligible for the Col. Larking Award as they are the donors of the trophies in question.

— J. J. Domar

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First, before we go into Polpex 1956, I want to urge all members to prepare their exhibits for the 1957 exhibition. Our past show drew many comments that the exhibits were of good quality and well planned. In order to achieve this standard next year we must already plan our exhibit now!

A wonderful spirit of cooperation, willing and working hand were dis-

played on the mounting night of the show, and on the Sunday night when it was taken down.

As usual the Beeba was the highlight of the show. Next year we'll need a larger hall. Mrs. Anthony Banasiak and Mrs. Stanley Kucharz deserve worthy praise for the preparation and the serving of the food, as do the Committee members John and Sig Bor, John Bobo, Mr. Soltis, Jos. and Anthony Banasiak for running it. Music by the Polonus Polka Band with Bill Jusack was well received. Our thanks go to Doc Kozy for his donation of sausages, ham and kolacki, to Leo Topolinski for his cash donation, to Doc Uznanski for the bread, to Sid Shyman for the bagles and tomatoes and to Chester Makowski for his last minute cash contribution which brought the Beeba expenses up to the level of the income.

Especially pleasing were the many praises received for our colorful Madonna of Czestochowa souvenir sheets. Myron Steczynski is credited with a beautiful job of designing. Seal director Adam Kloskowski reports that the sales of seals and covers have exceeded those of previous years. Members may still purchase them (while they last) at 25c per set plus postage from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

Publicity chairman J. J. Domar handled the publicity very well—never before has our Polpex been promoted on such a large scale. Editor Chester Schafer saw to it that articles on Polish stamps appeared in the major philatelic publications.

Bourse chairman Roman Reinowski reported that the dealers went home satisfied, with money in their pockets. Our thanks also go to the advertisers, patrons and goodfellows in our program book, whose contributions helped make Polpex 1956 a financial success.

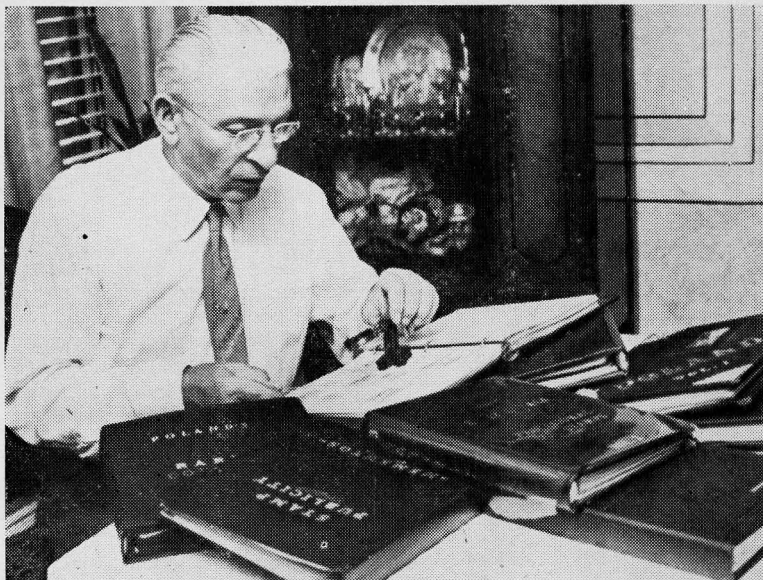
— Roman Burkiewicz

Stamps For The Wounded

Send your duplicates, old catalogs, albums, publications, etc. to Barney J. Fialkowski, 2952 N. Avers, Chicago 18, Ill.

Meet Mr. Edward Nowak

by J. J. Domar



The philatelic press some months ago mentioned the generosity of Mr. Nowak in presenting his collection to Regis College at Weston, Mass. This is the same College that Francis Cardinal Spellman had presented with portions of his collection.

Mr. Nowak's collection is housed in twelve large volumes and encompasses items from the Congressional Poland era to the present day. The collection is the result of 40 years of effort, combing the world for important copies, classifying, researching and writing up the stamp pages thus making the collection a very valuable source for research in the stamps of Poland.

The collection is very freely annotated, indicating inks, paper, historical data, reprints, and many unknown philatelic facts. Much information was received from a relative working in the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Poland, and therefore much of this information is original.

The 1914-19 era is shown in perfusion of papers, perforations and shades—Locals from Warsaw, Łódź, Lwów, Kraków and Poznań.

In the collection are P.O.W. issues from Woldenberg, Dachau and Gross-

born; from Polish Refugee Camps at Hamburg, Spackenberg, Monachium, Bavaria and Ettlingen; Polish Underground issues from Kraków, Łódź and the Warsaw Ghetto.

Central Lithuania is very complete as are the Plebiscite issues of Allenstein, Marienwerder, Eastern and Upper Silesia.

His collection has won many awards at competitive exhibits in the New England area, the outstanding being a Grand Award Gold Medal by the Polish Falcons of America, a Gold Medal by the Polish American Historical Society and a Gold Medalion for Philatelic Research in stamps of Poland by the Association of Polish Americans with branches in the United States and Canada.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edward Nowak, Sr. came to America in 1906 after completing some schooling at Śniatyn in former Austrian Poland. In America he attended evening school and obtained a high school diploma so that he could enter the Burdett College of Business Administration for a three year course which he completed with honors.

In 1917 Mr. Nowak volunteered for

service with the U. S. Army. He served in the Second Infantry Division in France where he was wounded by an artillery shell. Three U. S. medals and four French medals were awarded him for his service in World War I.

After the war Mr. Nowak organized the Pulaski American Legion Post and the Kosciuszko V. F. W. Post which today are widely known in New England.

When Poland needed funds in 1920, Mr. Nowak undertook the campaign to raise money for the First and Second Loan to Poland, and as President of the New England Chapter, he was successful in raising an amount exceeding their quota.

When Mr. Nowak was asked why he donated his valuable collection of Polish stamps, he replied:

"Because of my heart condition and being up in years, I can no longer serve the Polish cause as I could when I was young. I'm sending my collection to serve for me. I expect my collection to do some good—as much as some Polish organizations here in this country would. Poland needs representation here so then let my collection show to whoever views it, the accomplishments and aspirations of the Poles here and in the mother country."

One of the finest compliments paid this collection appeared in the "Boston Globe" . . . "The Regis philatelic center is open to the public, particularly to students of philately, and visitors to New England will find an inspiration and education to make a pilgrimage to Weston, Mass. and spend an hour with the priceless collection of Polish stamps presented to that institution of learning by Edward Nowak of Winthrop, Mass.

* * *

TID BITS

Among the guests at Polpex 1956 were ex-General Zarzycki, many members of the Czechoslovak Society and various members from Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and New York.

Our Lady of Częstochowa was reproduced on a German cancellation. We have seen this cancel on a special philatelic card with German stamps put out especially for "Monachium, Praca Polska Na Obczyźnie".

Walter Szymlek has shown us a full page page of a roto-magazine of Poland reproducing all of Post War Poland's Sport Stamps in color. The occasion was Ten Years of Achievements in Sports as highlighted with stamps.

Barney J. Fialkowski, has been elected President of the Illinois Central Federation of Stamp Clubs.

EASTERN SILESIA ALBUM PAGES — A REVUE —

I have been collecting Poland and its associated countries for 15 years now and have accumulated quite a bit of material—singles, blocks and covers. Most of it is in stock books, loose material in packets, with various notations. The material has been this way for many years now.

Mr. Kobylka's Eastern Silesia pages are the answer to my Eastern Silesia problem. The are prepared for the regular collector and the specialist. His simplified pagts, for example, list the Czech "Hradcany S. O. Overprints" perforated all on one page. If you collect the different perforations like I do then you would use the specialized section which lists them with comb perf. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; line perf. $13\frac{3}{4}$; comb perf. $11\frac{1}{4}$; line perf. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{4}$. In the Regular 1919 Issue of Poland with the S. O. Overprint, the specialized section lists this issue perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ in type 1 and 2; perf. 10 type 1 and 2; perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ type 1 and 2; and perf. $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ type 2.

The types of overprints are plainly illustrated on one sheet with the different measurements and classification.

Blank sheets at the end of the album section are ideal for mounting blocks. A title page attractively printed in two colors illustrates the Czech and Polish coats of arms and reads: Eastern Silesia, 1920, Territory administered by the Industrial Commission of League of Nations."

The $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ round cornered sheets are on a good quality rag content paper and fit neatly in my stock book binders. The research work on these issues is already done—and my accumulation of Eastern Silesia material is now an organized specialized collection.

— Ye Editor

Central Lithuania and Its Stamps

Nearly 100 Varieties Produced During Brief Existence of This Baltic State

By BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

(Reprinted from WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR of 8/22/50)

The mushroom state of Central Lithuania would probably be completely unknown to most of us but for the fact that during its brief existence it issued almost one hundred postage stamps of various kinds. Originally a grand duchy of the Baltic state of Lithuania the territory fell under the influence of Russia towards the end of the 18th century. From then on it was the subject of endless disputes until its final union with Poland.

The territory has an area of more than 16,000 square miles, supporting a population of about two millions, half of which live in and around the capital city of Vilna.

During World War I the district was taken over by the Germans in Sept., 1915, but in 1918 the Bolshevik government obtained control following the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The Bolsheviks ceded it to Lithuania after evicting Polish forces earlier in the year.

A long dispute between Lithuania and Poland then ensued. Early in Oct., 1920, the territory was invaded by irregular Polish troops, under the leadership of General Zeligowski, just two days after a League of Nations Commission had decreed it should form a neutral zone. Zeligowski established a provisional government at Vilna and shortly afterwards the Soviet Union decided to recognize Polish claims. Later a plebiscite was overwhelmingly in favor of union with Poland and in 1923 the Council of Ambassadors legalized the Polish occupation.

All the stamps issued during the Zeligowski administration with one exception, are quite common and all, with this same exception, are equally plentiful perforated or imperforate. Owing to the limited facilities available for perforation the stamps sent to the smaller communities were all without perforation. It was considered that in these sparsely populated areas, where pressure of business was much less brisk than in the large city of Vilna, time could well be spared for cutting the stamps apart by hand. Cancelled

stamps are just as plentiful as unused ones and I think it more than probable that the vast majority of these stamps on the philatelic market today never saw the country of their origin!

First Issue

Evidently the Polish invaders came supplied with a stock of postage stamps. These are said to have been lithographed in Warsaw by, according to Gibbons catalog, a printer named Sawedski The design, (Scott's type A1) is attributed to an artist named Sanawski and this shows a combination of the national emblems of Poland and Lithuania—a white eagle and a knight on horseback.

Above the central device the inscription ŚRODKOWA LITWA (Central Lithuania is shown in two lines of capital letters, and at the base is the word POCZTA (post or postage).

There are three denominations: 25f. dull red, 1m. blue and 2m. violet—all equally common perforated 11½ or imperforate. They were printed on white wove paper without watermark and were first placed on sale on Oct. 20, 1920.

In the following March all three values were reissued in new colors—dark green for the 25f., dark brown for the 1 mark, and yellow for the 2 marks. These are also found perforated 11½ and entirely without perforation. White Scott lists them as one issue (No. 1 to 12) all other authorities are agreed that they are two separate sets.

Second Issue

Shortly after the occupation by Gen. Zeligowski's troops a supply of the regular postage stamps of Lithuania found in the postoffice at Vilna (and possibly in some of the smaller outlying post offices) was converted into stamps of the new regime by means of the usual overprint.

The overprint consisted of a shield bearing the united arms of Poland and Lithuania, together with the inscription ŚRODKOWA LITWA POCZTA and new values in marks. These stamps are

listed in the Scott catalogue under the numbers 13 to 22 inclusive.

According to the "West-End Philatelist" for March, 1922, the surcharge was set to cover fifty stamps only so that the full sheets of 100 had to pass through the printing press twice before being completely overprinted. Owing to this method being employed the lower halves of all sheets of the 2 marks on 15 statiku were printed upside down, thus producing a row of tetebeche varieties across the center. Why this was the only denomination treated in this manner is one of philately's little mysteries. The eighth stamp in the setting of the 6 marks had the figures "10" inserted in error, and the tenth stamp showed the numeral "4" instead of the correct "6" with the result that two copies of both these errors occurred in each sheet of 100.

This, by the way, is the only issue of Central Lithuania that is at all scarce and, as is perhaps to be expected, has been extensively counterfeited. The numbers issued were quite small as shown by the following figures:

2m. on 15 sk. lilac.....	2475
4m. on 10 sk. red.....	9400
4m. on 20 sk. dull blue.....	2300
4m. on 30 sk. buff.....	2300
6m. on 50 sk. light green.....	5800
6m. on 60 sk. violet and red....	1800
6m. on 75 sk. bistre and red....	2400
10m. on 1 auk grey and red....	3600
10m. on 3 auks brown and red....	200
10m. on 5 auks green and red....	300

Consequently there were 116 each of the errors 4 marks on 50 sk. and 10 marks on 50 sk.; of the 4 marks and 10 marks on the 60 sk. there were only 36 of each; while the similar errors on the 75 sk. totalled 48 of each. Consequently the catalog valuations given to these errors would seem to be out of all proportion to their actual scarcity.

True, this is not one of the most popular of countries, but it would be quite a formidable undertaking to gather together genuine copies of all the known varieties of this provisional issue. Scott lists the 2 marks on 15 sk. with inverted surcharge though, according to some authorities, all values may be found in this form. It should be

noted, by the way, that in the case of the 50, 60, and 70 sk. stamps, which are oblong in shape, the overprint appears sideways. The entire issue of these provisionals was exhausted within a few days of being placed in circulation.

Third Issue

In December, 1920 a more pretentious series was issued in the form of six pictorial stamps. They are said to have been designed by an artist named Ruezcic and were lithographed by a Vilna printer named Laskow. Each of the six denominations is of distinctive design.

The 25f. (Scott's No. 23) shows the head of a Lithuanian girl wearing the national coiffure; on the 1 mark (No. 24) is the figure of a Lithuanian knight or warrior of the Middle Ages; the 2 marks (No. 25) shows a view of the famous Gate of Ostro Brama at Vilna, surmounted by a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, on passing beneath which all are supposed to uncover regardless of their religious beliefs. The 4 marks (No. 26) shows the entrance to the Cathedral of St. Stanislaus, with the ancient tower that stands before it; while on the 6 marks (No. 27) is a reproduction of the arms of Central Lithuania. On the highest value, the 10 marks (No. 28) is a portrait of the redoubtable General Zeligowski himself. As is usual with the issues of this country all values are equally plentiful imperforate as well as perforated.

Fourth Issue

In April, 1921, a series of definitive postage stamps of a more elaborate character than those hitherto issued made its appearance. Four of the values are oblong in shape and the other three (1, 3 and 5 marks) are upright oblongs. This series of stamps was manufactured at Warsaw and all are in two colors. The stamps were printed on white wove unwatermarked paper and are perforated 13½ or entirely imperforate.

Scott describes the perforation as "11½, 13½, 14." Gibbons is satisfied with 13½ only, while other authorities call it 13¼.

The central oval on the 1 mark (No. 35) shows a view of the three spires

of the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, according to European authorities, but Scott tells us it is the St. Anne's Church of Vilna while on the 2 marks (No. 36) we find a view of St. Stanislaus Cathedral at Vilna. On the 3 marks (No. 37) the national Arms are shown with the white eagle of Poland predominating, and Arms of an even more elaborate character are shown on the 5 marks (No. 39). On the 4 marks (No. 38) are portraits of Queen Hedwig of Poland and Grand Duke Jagello of Lithuania, by whose marriage in 1385 the two thrones were united, while on the 20 marks (No. 42) are portraits of Thadeusz Kosciuszko and Adam Mickiewicz. The former was the leader of the Polish insurrection of 1794 while the latter was a famous Lithuanian poet. Of the remaining two values the 6 marks (No. 40) shows a view of the Castle of Tyschkewitsch, according to most authorities, though Scott tells us it is an astronomical observatory located at Poesobut. On the 10 marks (No. 41) is a reproduction of the historical ceremony of the uniting of Lithuania painting by Matejko depicting the and Poland at the diet of Lublin in 1569.

Fifth Issue

Two special commemorative stamps were issued in October, 1921 to mark the anniversary of the entry of Gen. Zeligowski's troops into Vilna. The 100 marks stamp (No. 57) pictures the arrival of the Polish troops, while on the 150 marks (No. 58) is a portrait of the general.

On February 22nd, 1922, another commemorative series of four values appeared to mark the occasion of the opening of the National Parliament at Vilna. All are of distinctive design, the 10 marks (No. 53) showing a young girl sowing seed as symbolic of the founding of the fledgling state. The National Arms are shown on the 25 marks value (No. 54) with, in addition to the date of issue, four significant dates in the history of Poland and Lithuania in the side panels.

These are "1385," the year of the marriage of Queen Hedwig and Grand Duke Jagiello; "1569," the year of the Diet of Lublin; "1863," the date of the revolt against Russian rule; and "1919,"

the year Zeligowski seized Vilna.

On the 50 marks (No. 55) is a view of the National Assembly Building at Vilna, while the 75 marks (No. 56) is an allegory of Labor, representing a smith with his family standing before a vista of smoking factory chimneys. While these are properly two separate issues, Scott puts them all together. Like the preceding issues of this country all values are equally common perforated 11½ or entirely imperforate. This was the last issue of regular stamps made before the union with Poland.

Semipostal Issues

Though at variance with chronological order it will perhaps simplify matters to follow catalog arrangement and that brings us to what Scott ambiguously describes as semipostal stamps. On March 8, 1921 stamps of the first issue, in both the original and changed colors, were placed on sale with an overprint reading "NA - ŚLĄSK - AM" meaning literally "For Silesia 2 marks." The 2 marks above actual franking power for which each stamp was sold was to raise funds to provide transportation for Polish sympathizers to vote in a plebiscite concerning the future disposition of Upper Silesia. A variety with the "N" of "NA" omitted occurred on the 63rd stamp of each sheet of the 25f. red This series of course, exists both perforated and imperforate. These stamps are listed in the catalog as numbers B1 to B12 inclusive.

In April, 1921, two values of the pictorial issue of 1920 were overprinted with a device consisting of the Geneva Cross and "1" on the 2 marks (No. B13) and "1 M" on the 4 marks (No. 14). The overprint was in red and the premium of 1 mark on each stamp sold was contributed to the Polish Red Cross Society. These stamps were also available in both imperforate and perforated form, and of the 4 marks perforated Scott lists a tete-beche pair—a variety that does not seem to be mentioned by any other authority.

A similar issue in the interest of the Polish White Cross Society followed shortly afterwards. Three of the values of the 1929 series had supplementary values inset in the design in the form

of the numerals "1" or "2" followed by a Cross and the capital letter "M" in outline, (Scott's No. B17 to B19). The 2 and 4 marks had additional values of 1 mark shown, while the premium on the 10 marks value was 2 marks. As usual, all three denominations may be had both perforated and entirely imperforate.

Postage Due Stamps

In February, 1921, a series of six stamps was issued for the collection of postage due on insufficiently pre-paid letters. Each is of different design, the 50f. (No. J1) showing a view of the Government Building at Vilna; the 1 mark (No. J2) depicts the Castle Hill of Vilna; the 2 marks (No. J3) the Castle Ruins at Troki; the 3 marks (No. 4) shows the City Gates of Vilna; while the 5 marks and 20 marks (No. J5 and J6) show views of the Cathedrals of St. Stanislaus and St. Nicholas respectively. They are lithographic productions and like the postage stamps may be had both perforated 11½ or entirely imperforate. Scott lists the 1 mark green as existing in a vertical pair imperforate between.

Thus during the short period of eighteen months this provisional government existed, philately was enriched by the creation of no less than 98 different stamps. Even if we ignore the perforated and imperforate differences, the total is fifty-three, which is quite a fair sized crop for the period.

The rival claims of Poland and Lithuania to the disputed territory were referred to the League of Nations but that august body arrived at no definite decision. However the sympathies of the people were almost entirely with Zeligowski literally camped on the spot, Poland and this, added to the fact that made its eventual incorporation into Poland and actual fact. Consequently since the latter part of 1922 Polish issues described in the foregoing stamps have been in use and the story were discontinued.

AN INVITATION

Midway Stamp Club extends an invitation to all Chicagoland members to attend an Open House on Wednesday, April 4th, at the clubrooms at Archer and Lockwood Aves.

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NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Two stamps honoring the First World Chess Championship of Deaf-Dumb Mutes held February 9-23, 1956 were issued on Feb. 9, 1956. The values are



40 gr. red-brown and 50 gr. steel-blue. They represent hands showing the deaf and dumb alphabet. In the background of the first stamp there is a chess knight and on the background of the second stamp a chess tower is seen. Perforated, size 25.5 x 31.25 mm., in rotogravure. Special postmarks were applied on the first day issue. During the Championship matches Feb. 9 to 23, another special postmark was used.

A set of three stamps were issued on March 6 for the 11th World Winter Sports Championships of Students. All stamps have the same design—a large snowflake in the upper left and hockey sticks and a puck on the right and across the bottoms. The top panel, value, hockey sticks and puck are one-color, the background another.

The values are 20 gr. black and blue, 40 gr. ultramarine and green, and 60 gr. cherry and light lilac. Printed by rotogravure.

On March 16th, 5 stamps were released to commemorate the Polish Merchant Marine. A 5 gr. dark green, 10 gr. red violet, 20 gr. grey-blue, 45 gr. brown red and 60 gr. dark blue and violet. These are steel-engraved.

The 5 gr. value shows a sea captain with the SS Kilinski on the background. On the 10 gr. is a sailor and in the background a hauler on the river. A harbor worker is on the 20 gr. with the SS Pokój on the background. And on the 45 gr. we see a shipyard worker at his work. The last value the 60 gr. shows a sea fisherman. On the background is the SS Chopin and trawlers.

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New Polish Issues Which Will Appear In The First Half of 1956

An the beginning of April a set of four stamps, 30 gr., 40 gr., 60 gr. and 1.15 zł., propagating the tourist trade, is to be issued. Pictured on the stamps will be: a shelter in the mountains of Zakopane, a boat with a map of Poland, tourist equipment bag and compass, and skiing in the mountains.

In April also, supplementary stamps to the Warsaw Monuments are to be issued. A 30 gr. will show the monument of the Ghetto. King Sobieski the III will be on the 40 gr.. The last value, 1.55 zł. will show Prince Jos. Poniatowski.

Two stamps of 40 and 60 gr. values commemorating the Ninth Cycling Race of Peace (Warsaw-Berlin-Prague) will be issued in the near future.

— Prasa i Książka

I GIVE—Regular Issues of Poland mint, Latin America Airmails used

I WANT—New Commemoratives mint, of U. S. A. and Canada

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