



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue No. 110

January 1953

The Block of Six of the Polish-Russian Stamp of 1860

by Prof. Stan. Mikstein

(Translated by Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz from ILLUSTROWANY KURJER
FILATELISTYCZNY)

Stamps of the Polish-Russian emission of Jan. 1, 1860, are usually seen as singles, seldom as pairs, and rarely in blocks of four. In 1932 the firm of Stanley Gibbons of London acquired the first known mint block of six. They also acquired a vertical pair (which fits into the block of six) which leads me to believe that:

- 1) This is the only known block of this size which makes it unique.
- 2) The two stamps in the vertical pair are from the same sheet which is proven by the paper, gum and the tear in the bottom margin.
- 3) All these stamps bear the following position in the sheet: block—86, 87, 88, 96, 97, 98; pair—90 and 100.
- 4) The Block has large margins at the bottom, and the pair at the bottom and right side, and only a part of the margin is gummed making it possible to determine the type of paper.
- 5) All these stamps being together, enables the study of perforations over a large area, on each edge, and also between the stamps.

Before analyzing the characteristics of these stamps let us take in some of the known history.

History

The pair (position 90 and 100) is from the collection of W. S. Lincoln

who collected stamps from 1854 and was one of the oldest dealers of stamps (1859). His collection was a legend in England. Being a philatelist himself, he possessed first class rarities. He had sheets and blocks of the classics. The best known specialists were his clients, but he usually did not show his rarities so that he would not sell them. After his death in 1922, his stock and collections were inherited by his son W. E. Lincoln who held them until 1930 when the firm was liquidated, and all the stamps were sold to Stanley Gibbons in London.

The block of six came from the collection of W. Dornier Beckton, who was well known as a member of juries in International exhibitions and a prominent member of the Manchester Philatelic Society whose members collected sheets and blocks for philatelic study and research. He was also a member of the experts committee and president of the Royal Philatelic Club in London, decorated with the medal of Lindenberg Tillard. He collected stamps from 1880 to his death in 1931. His collection contained only stamps to 1891, numbering 154,000, many in sheets and blocks. After his death, a good portion of his collection and this Polish block of six was purchased by Stanley Gibbons.

Since the block of six and the pair



Mint block of six of the Polish-Russian stamp, largest multiple piece known, now in the possession of Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz, the translator of this article (Cut courtesy STAMPS.)

are from the same sheet, it can be supposed that W. Dorning Beckton purchased the block from W. S. Lincoln.

In 1932 a prominent philatelist, member of the experts committee of the Krakow Philatelic Society, Dr. J. Tislowitz, purchased the block and pair.

Perforations

According to the monograph of the late W. Polanski in "Postal Stamps of Poland in the XVIII and XIX Century" the perforating machine for Polish-Russian stamps "was constructed primitively by a certain technician in Warsaw and seems to have been used during the whole time of the emission of five years as there is no information in government documents as to any other machine."

The block of six and pair also show such characteristics, peculiar and unfrequently seen perforation that they not only verify the preceding quoted

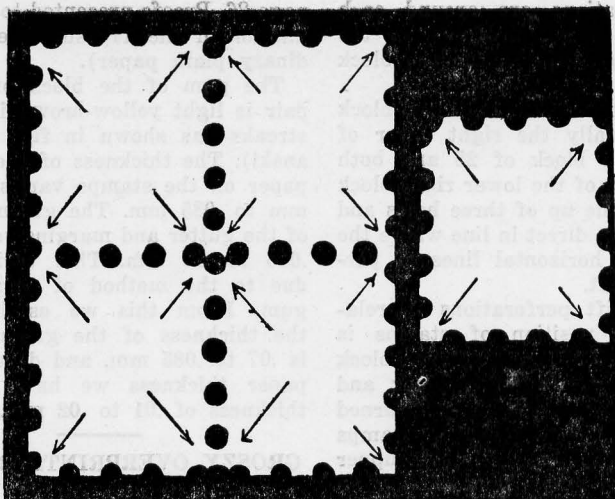
statement but also explain why until now on single stamps, and even on pairs and blocks, it was impossible to determine the perforation of the stamp, moreover enabling the reconstruction of the perforating machine. Because the guessing of the perforation of these stamps in their unseparated condition is extremely interesting and difficult, the presentation of my guessing will begin with established facts, moreso as it does not conform to present day regulations and accepted standards.

We have three types of perforations:

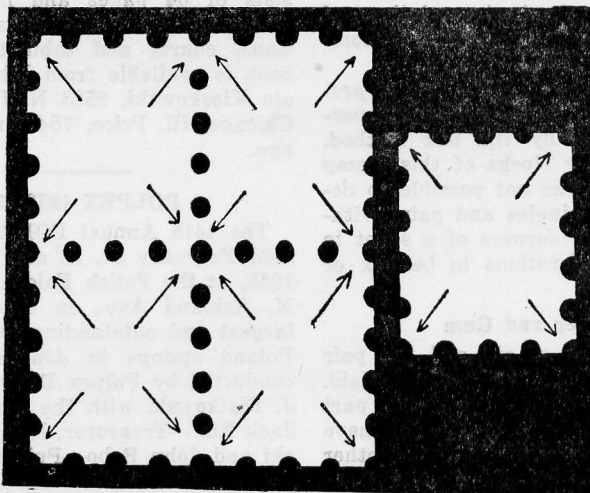
1. Line
2. Comb
3. Box (Frame)

From a single stamp, or even a block, it is impossible to differentiate comb or box perforation except in special instances in blocks.

For a machine to make box perforations it must be so constructed that with one operation a stamp will be



LINE PERFORATION. The irregular punching of the holes at the corners results in irregular perforations around the stamp.



BOX (Frame) PERFORATION. The regular punching of the holes at the corner results in a perfect perforation around each stamp.

in each enclosure and no perforations will be on the sheet margins; and the characteristics are:

1. No perforations on margins or in between sheet gutters.

2. All internal corners of stamps forming the corners of the sheet are perfect.

3. No conglomeration of perforation holes of all corners in all stamps in a sheet.

(Editor's Note: At this point we

would like to explain that the Polish-Russian stamp was printed in sheets of 100. Each sheet of 100 was divided into four blocks of 25 each, separated by a gutter. The distance from one block of 25 to another was 8 to 9 mm. The block of six and pair discussed in this article are from the lower right block of 25.)

Taking all the above theoretically we analyze the pair and block of six and prove their characteristics:

1. Perforations are around each stamp and do not protrude on the margins or gutter between the block of 25.

2. Three lower corners of the block of 25, especially the right lower of the adjoining block of 25 and both lower corners of the lower right block of 25 are made up of three holes and the corners lie direct in line where the vertical and horizontal lines of perforations meet.

3. The shift perforations in relation to the position of stamps is found regular in the complete block of 25. The shift of this block and pair is to the right, and so turned to the right at the top that on stamps 86 and 96 it extends to their upper edges, on the other hand further on it occurs between stamps 80 and 90, and also between 90 and 100.

4. At any of the corners where the vertical cross the horizontal lines of perforations are there any conglomeration of holes.

From the above findings the preponderance of proof is that the perforations were by the box method. Since no larger blocks of this stamp are known it was not possible to determine from singles and pairs without margins or corners of a sheet to prove the perforations to be box or line.

Paper and Gum

On the block of six and the pair it is proven that the paper is laid. We determined this from the part of the margin which did not have gum. It is probable that the other stamps of this issue are on laid paper, and that the lines are not due to the unevenness of the gum, but to the structure of the paper. If these lines were due to the gum then the lines would be of variable width depending on how the gum was applied by the brush. In laid paper lines are consistently the same width.

Because the block of six and the pair have vertical laid paper is not conclusive that all stamps of this issue were made on laid paper as these stamps were issued from Jan. 1. 1860 to April 13, 1865, and several printings were made. (See Polanski,

page 26. Proofs presented to the Commission of the Treasury were on ordinary plain paper).

The gum of the block of six and pair is light yellow-brown in vertical streaks (as shown in fig. 2 in Polanski). The thickness of the gummed paper on the stamps varies from .07 mm to .085 mm. The gummed paper of the gutter and margins varies from .085 to .10 mm. This variability is due to the method of applying the gum. From this we establish that the thickness of the gummed paper is .07 to .085 mm. and deducting the paper thickness we have the gum thickness of .01 to .02 mm.

GROSZY OVERPRINTS BOOKLET

Member W. Kolakowski of Great Neck, N. Y., has published a book entitled "Groszy Overprints." It consists of 54 pages and includes the story of these overprints, illustrations, charts and tabulations. The book is available from Librarian Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago, Ill. Price, 75¢ plus 3¢ postage.

POLPEX 1952-53

The 14th Annual POLPEX will be held February 27, 28 and March 1st, 1953, at the Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., in Chicago. The largest and outstanding exhibition of Poland stamps in America will be conducted by Polpex Director Barney J. Fialkowski with the assistance of: Jack Rux—Treasurer, Dr. Mioduszewski and John Bobo—Publicity, Myron Steczynski—Art, Roman Reinowski—Bourse, Anthony Banasiak—Program.

Seals may be ordered from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill. Price of seals with descriptive folder—25¢ per set.

An auction will be held on the night of Feb. 28th and some outstanding Polish Airmail material will be offered.

A Catalog of the Exhibits will be printed. Dealers and collectors may place ads in this catalog by contacting Anthony Banasiak, 5526 So. Kolmar Ave., Chicago 29, Ill. (Telephone RE 5-4743). Prices for a full page

ad are \$12.00, half—\$7.00, quarter—\$4.00, eighth—\$3.00.

AN APPEAL

In order to assure our POLPEX 1952-53 as a financial success, we appeal to our members to become Patrons of the exhibition. To be a Patron costs one dollar. All patrons will have their name printed in bold type in the Catalog of the Exhibits.

Won't you help by sending your dollar to Chester Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Scheduled for release during the IV quarter of 1952.

Polish Army Day—3 values, 30+15 gr., 45+15 gr., 1.20 zl.+15 gr., perforated steel engraved and scheduled for about 10-12-52.

35th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution—2 values, 45+15 gr. and 60 gr. perf., steel engraved, scheduled for 11-7.

Month of Polish-Soviet Friendship—2 values, 30+15 gr. and 45+15 gr. perf., steel engraved. Scheduled for about 11-7.

Passenger-Car Factory in Zeran, 2 values, 45+15 gr., and 1.15 zl. perf., steel engraved, scheduled for about 11-25.

Miners Day—2 values, 45+15 gr. and 1.20 zl.+15 gr. perforated, steel engraved, scheduled for about December 4th.

II International Violin Competition in commemoration of Henryk Wieniawski, 2 values, 30+15 gr. and 45+15 gr. perforated, rotogravured, scheduled for about December 5th.

Lorry Factory in Lublin, 2 additional stamps to the series of the 6 year Plan of the Economical Development of Poland, 2 values. 30+15 gr. and 45+15 gr. perforated and steel engraved scheduled for release about December 20th.

Varimex

Since we have received the notice of the contemplated releases during the fourth quarter we actually have

received the following:

A set of two stamps issued in commemoration of the XXXVth Anniversary of the Great October Revolution picturing the assault on the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, 1917.

Date of Issue: Nov. 7, 1952.

Nominal Values: 45+15 gr. red brown and 60 gr. grey brown

Perforation: 12½x12½

Gum: White, Paper: white, unwatermarked

Engraved, size 25½x43 mm.

This set was issued also in imperforate form.

Also issued was a set of two stamps to commemorate the Month of Friendship between People's Poland and the nations of the Soviet Union. The stamps bear a portrait of Lenin.

Date of Issue: November 7, 1952

Nominal Value: 30+15 gr. dark violet and 45+15 gr. brown

Perforation: 12½x12½

Gum: White, Paper: white, unwatermarked

Engraved, size 25½x31¼ mm.

NEW MEMBERS

Jos. Wantuch

86 Jefferson St.

Yonkers 2, N. Y.

Dr. Henry H. Cieselski

1101 Jaques Ave.

Rahway, N. J.

Albert V. Tenczar

4353 Archer Ave.

Chicago 32, Ill.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Robert Lerner (Associate Jr.)

160 W. 95th St.

New York, N. Y.

Gregory G. Puscion

P. O. Box 254

Fergus Falls, Minn.

Roman R. Sowakowski

P. O. Box 757

London, Ontario, Canada

Rev. R. J. Berendt

4600 S. Honore St.

Chicago 9, Ill.

Jacob Gaska

1 Marquette Row

Yonkers 3, N. Y.

TID BITS

With the sudden death of the President of the Society of Philatelic Americans, our own Ben Reeves has become the new President of the organization.

Dr. M. E. Uznanski made the Chicago Sun-Times at Christmastime. He lectured on Xmas Seals at the Hawthorne Club and had his picture with his Xmas Seals in the Chicago newspaper.

Doctors Uznanski and Kozakiewicz, Myron Steczynski and Jack Domar spoke before the Chicago Philatelic Society recently and impressed the listeners with the wonderful and powerful material Poland offers the collector.

Central Lithuania

Scott 13/22 complete mint,
signed Laszkiewicz, 10 vl
Scott \$58.00 ---- Net \$25.00
Scott 21/22 the two top val-
ues separately signed.
Scott \$50.00 ---- Net \$20.00

Unknown Varieties

Scott No. 22 mint, signed Laszkiewicz, overprint inverted. The greatest rarity of Cen. Lith. ----- Net \$50.00
Many other varieties and errors in stock. Prices on request.

POLAND

Some of the greatest rarities now in stock.

Scott 158A—4 mk. carmine
rose error ---- Net \$50.00
Scott 50—90 hal. thin "Z"
variety signed Mikstein.
Gryzewski 300.000 zloty.
----- Net \$150.00

Scott 286—1 zl. overprint inverted, signed -- Net \$75.00
All stamps are genuine and signed.

Many other rarities of Poland in stock.

M. A. BOJANOWICZ

40 West Hill, Wembley Park,
Middx., England

Member:

Polonus, B.P.A., P.T.S. London
Established in England from 1946

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Ed Hopps, Secretary
2246 Medill Ave.
Chicago 47, Ill.
J. J. Domar, Treasurer
3715 S. Clinton Ave.
Berwyn, Ill.

Publications Committee

Chester W. Makowski, Chmn.
2215 W. Cortez St.
Chicago 22, Ill.
Chester A. Schafer, Editor
2144 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 22, Ill.

Associate Editors this issue

Jack Domar
Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz

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.

A resolution was introduced at the first January meeting to change the Society dues from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per year.

Ben Reeves rushed in from Tampa, where he judged a Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs show, to be a guest speaker at Polonus at the November 28th meeting.

We're glad to see Adam Kloskowski back again at meetings active as Librarian after his recent illness.

The recent Jack Knight Airpex at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel was conducted with member Barney Fialkowski as Chairman.

THE WAR IS OVER . . . BUT THE MALADIES LINGER ON

Yes the maladies of war linger on and on. You can see for yourself if you visit the veterans' hospitals.

Give now! Give generously! The war is not over for those men still in the hospitals!

Send your donation now to Stamps for the Wounded, c/o Barney Fialkowski, 2633 N. Emmett St., Chicago 47, Ill.