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THE JAGIELLONS ON POSTAGE STAMPS AND THE GENEALOGY OF ST. CASIMIR

By Dr. Rayal de Ragan

Reading the "Polonus Bulletin" Nos. 177 and 179 I became interested in the column "In Our Mail Box" in which appeared Mr. Stefan Kochanski's letter pertaining to the postage stamp issued by Vatican City in honor of St. Casimir.

Since the answers given by the editor in No. 179 do not wholly exhaust the subject which undoubtedly interests many readers of this Bulletin in the U.S. and other Polish centers of the Anglo-Saxon countries, I would like to remind the readers, the Poles abroad and particularly the Americans of Polish descent of some of the historical dates.

This is so much more of timely importance, since the Polish State and the nation are observing the festivities of the Millenium.

Information presented here is based on true historical facts, compiled from Polish scientific sources as well as German. I have been working on the genealogical charts of the ruling houses of Europe on postage stamps for several years now and have made extensive research study bearing on this subject.

Regarding the uncertainties of Mr. Kochanski, I shall begin with Saint Casimir.

St. Casimir was the son of the Polish king, Casimir IV, popularly known as Kazimierz Jagiellonezyk, the son of Władysław Jagiello, the victor of Grunwald, and his wife Sophie, the

Duchess of Kijów. Casimir the IV was one of the greatest kings of Poland, the builder of Poland as a power State, flourishing politically and culturally. He surrounded himself with statesmen and scholars, he put Poland in the ranks of first powers of Europe, assuring her for two centuries the leading role in politics and culture. During his reign began the first era of the Renaissance in Poland. He had a large family: six sons and five daughters. The eldest son Władysław later became the king of Bohemia and Hungary. The second son in succession was destined as successor to the throne of Poland.

Casimir was born October 3rd, 1458 in Kraków (not in 1568, as erroneously stated in the article). Being intended for the Polish throne, he became the pupil of Jan Długosz, an outstanding Polish Humanist. In 1471, at his father's will, he contended for the throne of Hungary as heir to his uncle Władysław III, king of Poland and Hungary, known as Warnenczyk, who was killed in 1444 in the battle at Warna during the war with the Turks.

After his unsuccessful expedition to Hungary, he returned to Poland and in 1478 he set off for Lithuania as viceroy of the king (called the Grand Duke of Lithuania) where on March 4, 1484 he died in Grodno.

As to politics, he devoted very little of his time, absorbing it in religious

The Genealogical Table of the House „Jagiellons“

Abbrev:

L = Grand-Duce of LITHUANIA

♣ = King or Queen :

P = of Poland

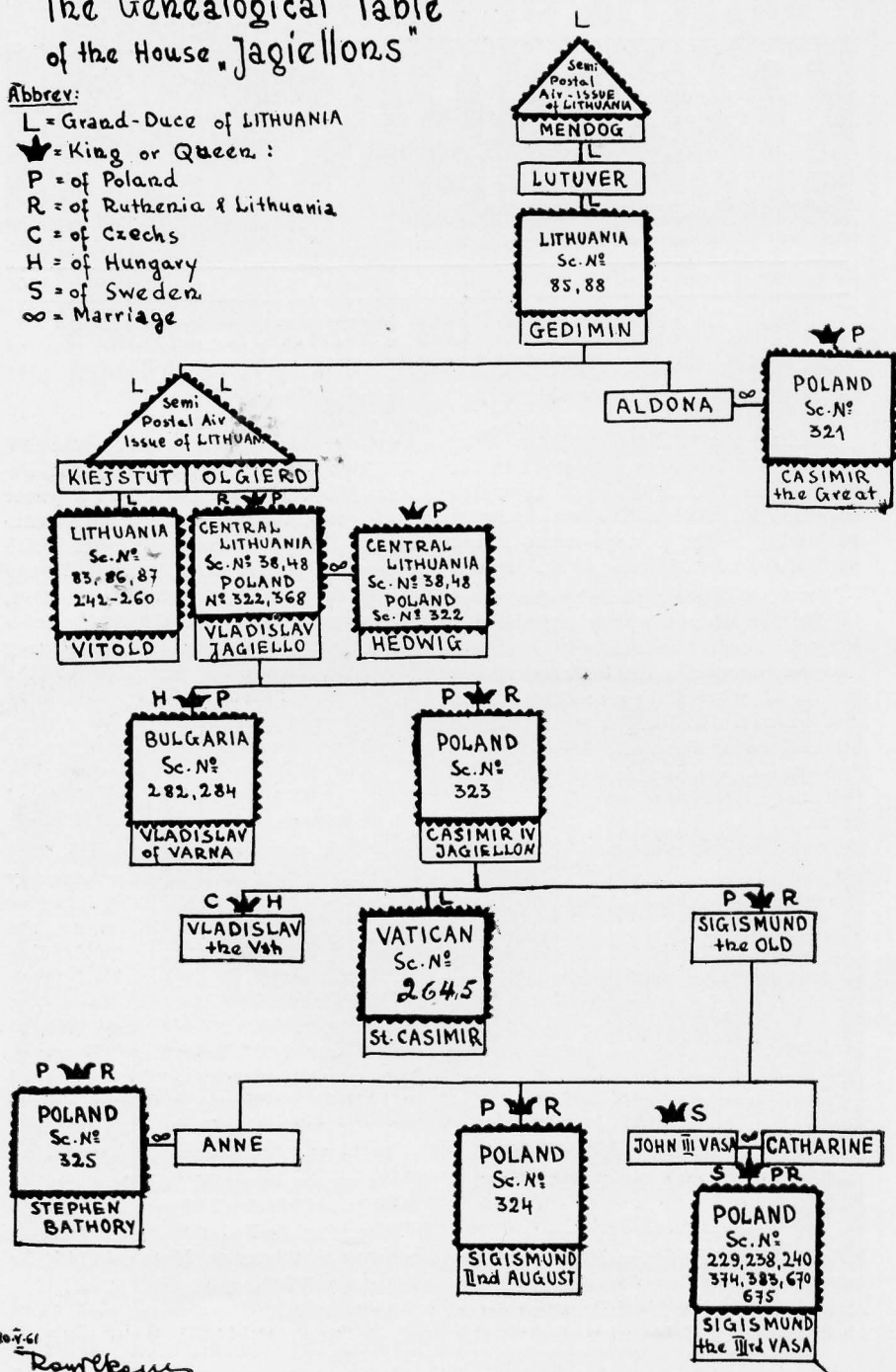
R = of Ruthenia & Lithuania

C = of Czechs

H = of Hungary

S = of Sweden

∞ = Marriage



10-7-61
Raykowsky

contemplations. In 1527 he was beatified by Pope Adrian, and canonized by Pope Clement VIII on November 7, 1602.

At no time was he regent, as he could not be one while his father, Casimir Jagiellonczyk IV ruled until 1492, surviving his son by eight years.

Regarding the Jagiellonian lineage on postage stamps, a row of personalities from the house of the Jagiellons, both ancestors and descendants of Władysław Jagiełło are featured:

1. Władysław Jagiełło and his wife Jadwiga Andregavenska (d'Anieu), king of Poland, Lithuania and Ruś. — Central Lithuania Scott's 38 & 48; Poland 322, 368 & on 1960 Grunwald issue. Born 1354, died 1434. Ruled as Grand Duke of Lithuania 1381-1386 and as king of Poland 1386-1434.

2. Władysław IV Warnenczyk, son of the former, king of Poland, Lithuania and Ruś, king of Poland and Hungary. — Bulgaria Scott's 282 and 284. Born 1423, died 1444. King of Hungary 1440-1444.

3. Kazimierz IV Jagiellonczyk, younger son of Władysław Jagiełło; king of Poland, Lithuania and Ruś. — Poland 323 and issue of April, 1961.

4. St. Casimir, Grand Duke of Lithuania, son of the former. Born 1458, died 1483 or 1484. — Vatican City Scott's 264 and 265.

5. Olgerd (Algirdas) Grand Duke of Lithuania, father of W. Jagiełło, son of Gedimin. — Lithuania Semi-postal Air Mails of 1933. Born 1296, died 1377. Ruled 1345-1377.

6. Kiejstut (Kestutis) son of Gedimin, uncle of Władysław Jagiełło. Grand Duke of Lithuania. — Lithuania Scott's 104, 105, 106 and Semi-postals Air Mails of 1933. Born 1297. Ruled 1377-1382.

7. Witold the Great (Vitautas Dydis), Grand Duke of Lithuania, son of Kiejstut, cousin of king Władysław Jagiełło. — Lithuania Scott's 83, 86, 87, 242-260. Born 1350, died 1430. Ruled 1386-1430.

8. Gedymis, Grand Duke of Lithuania. Grandfather of Władysław Jagiełło. — Lithuania Scott's 85, 88 and Semi-postal Air Mail Issue of 1932. Born 1257, died 1341. Ruled 1315-1341.

9. Mendog (Mindove), Grand Duke of Lithuania, grandfather of Gedymis. — Lithuania Semi-postal Air Mails of 1932.

The first Christian ruler of Lithuania (1253). Born (probably) 1220, died 1263. Ruled 1241-1263.

10. Kazimierz Wielki III, (Casimir the Great) King of Poland, son-in-law of Gedymis. Married to his daughter Aldona. — Poland Scott's 321 and new issue of April, 1961.

Born 1310, died 1370. Ruled 1333-1370.

11. Jadwiga, Queen of Poland, wife of Władysław Jagiełło, daughter of Louis the Great, king of Hungary. — Central Lithuania Scott's 38, 48, Poland 322. Born 1371, died 1399. Ruled 1382-1399.

12. Zygmunt II August, king of Poland, Lithuania and Ruś, grandson of Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk. — Poland Scott's 342.

13. Zygmunt III Waza, king of Poland, Lithuania and Ruś. Great grandson of Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk, son of Jan III Waza, king of Sweden and Catherine Jagiellonian, sister of Zygmunt August. Born 1566, died 1632. Ruled 1548-1572.

14. Stefan, Batory, king of Transylvania, Poland, Lithuania and Ruś, brother-in-law to Zygmunt August by marriage to his sister Anna Jagiellonka. — Poland Scott's 325.

Born 1522, died 1586. Ruled as Duke of Senenthbours (Hungary) 1571-1575, king of Poland 1575-1586.

The chart on the preceding page better illustrates the family relations described above.

In conclusion I would like to add that without exception all ruling houses of the 19th century and present of Europe have among their ancestors of the feminine gender relations to Casimir Jagiellonczyk and the furthest are only in the 17th generation.



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Printing Varieties of Type I of the Kraków Issues

By JOHN GAPINSKI

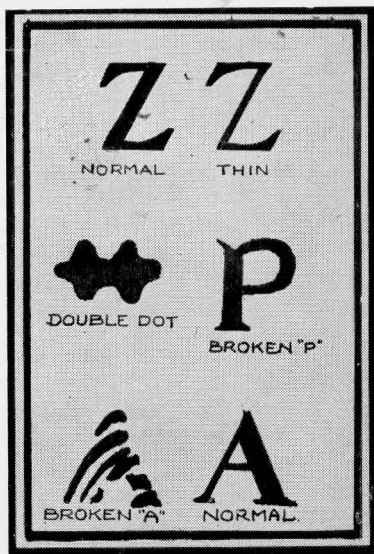
(Reprinted from STAMPS of Feb. 25, 1961)

Poland's Kraków stamps. Scott's Nos. 41 to 51, overprinted with Type I forms, show the following characteristics:

The overprint on the stamps in positions 4, 5, 14, 15, 34, 35, 44 and 45 of the whole sheet has a thinner than the normal "Z" in the word "POCZTA"; philatelists refer to this as the "Thin Z" variety.

On stamp No. 30 in the word "POLSKA" there is a damaged "A", called the "Broken A" variety.

On the 73rd stamp there is a double period instead of the usual rhombus, known as the "Double Dot" variety.



At top, the normal "Z" and "Thin Z" variety; in center the double dot and broken "P" varieties; at bottom, the broken "A" and normal "A".

The "Thin Z" variety is due to an error during the setting of the top linotype slug on the linotype machine. This particular linotype machine used two sets of letters, light-face and bold-face. Bold-face letters were used in setting the linotype lines, but accidentally the light face letters were used in the fourth and fifth words of the upper line, causing the "Thin Z". It was not

until after the first five lines in the top of the overprint form were cast that the error was discovered. The linotype matrices were then reassembled and new lines of type were cast, in which the spacing was an equal $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the words "POCZTA" against the unequal spacings of the first casting of $10\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Long after the completion of the overprint and partial destruction of the linotype slugs that had been used, attempts were made by forgers to duplicate the original form of these linotype lines, attempts were also made to forge the "Thin Z" by means of filing down the thick "Z".

There are nine distinct types known of this forged "Thin Z"; these are known as "Type VI Fakes", and would need a separate article to describe them.

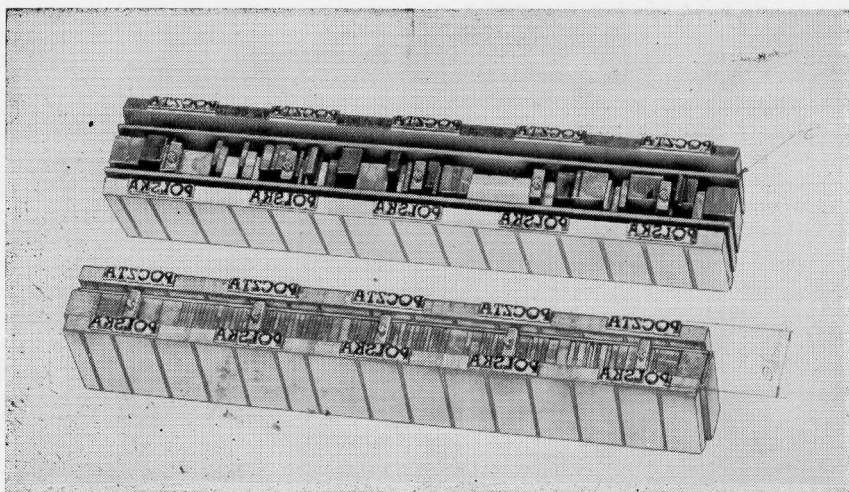
The damaged or "Broken A" variety, which occurs on stamp No. 30 of the 15 heller value was the result of injury to the form with a tool during the printing process. It did not happen until shortly after the printing started, and therefore that portion of the printing which was completed before the accident does not have the "Broken A" variety. It appears on the 15 heller stamps overprinted later.

The "Double Dot" instead of the rhombus, which appears only on stamp No. 73, occurred through the negligence of the printer who assembled the complete forms. It was overlooked at the proofing, or perhaps permitted to pass as unimportant, thus creating a scarce variety in this issue.

Characteristic marks of identification on the "Double Dot" variety, besides its measurements, are as follows:

(1) A cut at the top of the perpendicular line of the letter "P" in "POCZTA".

(2) A small dot above and to the right of the letter "T". This dot was produced by the lead which splashed



The Kraków stamps were overprinted with forms such as these. The linotype slugs had "POCZTA" and "POLSKA" set five times. The rhombus or ornament in the center was hand-set.

between the matrices of the letters "T" and "A" at the time of their casting.

The aforementioned cut of the letter "P" was produced by mechanical damage some time after the printing began, and is not found on the earlier printing of the 50 and 60 heller values and a part of the 15 and 80 heller stamps. From this we can conclude that the 15 and 80 heller stamps were overprinted in two separate batches.



The top left stamp of this block of four of the 40 heller value has the double-dot variety instead of a rhombus.
(Cut courtesy STÄMPF)

The "Double Dot" variety, being a scarce stamp, was also forged, and the forged overprints can easily be detected. First of all, the aforementioned damage to the letter "P" and the small dot are missing. Secondly, the relative position to each other of the words "POCZTA" and "POLSKA" are not consistent with the genuine measurements. Thirdly, the double dot is almost under the letter "Z" of "POCZTA".

Thus you have the story of the printing errors of Type I, which is just a small part of the huge study of the Kraków Issues of Poland.

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POLISH UNDERGROUND POSTAL ISSUE

by Wladislaw Kolakowski

(Reprinted from LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS)

Last summer during a trip to Poland I had the good fortune to renew my acquaintance with a Polish patriot who was known during the war years by the name of "Mir" (Disguise). With him I was able to verify the information for this article.

In 1942 an organization for freedom operating in Poland under the name "Polska Niepodległa" (Independent Poland) organized an underground post office and appointed Mir as postmaster. One of his duties was to print stamps for the distribution of the underground newspaper, "Jutro Polski" (Poland of Tomorrow). The paper was read by thousands of Polish patriots and was their chief means of knowing what was going on in the struggle for freedom.

The stamps printed for the distribution of the paper served two functions: they were the actual postage to cover the cost of delivering the paper, and they were also a kind of patriotic appeal to the people for their support of the underground fight. The stamp shows a white Polish eagle guarding the city of Warsaw, with its wings protecting her monuments and historic buildings from the attack of the black eagle, symbolizing the enemy. The white and black eagles dominate the design, which was done in red or brown on various colors of paper, and in the background we see the silhouette of Warsaw's monument to Zygmunt and other landmarks. At the top of the stamp is the inscription "Tajna Poczta Polska" (Underground Post Office of Poland), and at the bottom the value, 25 gr., and the words "Obrona Warszawy" (Defense of Warsaw). The dimensions are $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$, with line perforations $11\frac{1}{4}$. They came in sheets of fifteen, the sheets measuring about $6'' \times 5''$. The issue consisted of 18,500, printed between the dates



May 3, 1942, and July 24, 1944. Many were destroyed because of inadequate facilities for handling and printing, which was done by a lithographic process by workers who had to keep changing their hideouts. In addition, most of the stamps were destroyed by the people who received the newspapers, because they were afraid of being seen with them.

Because the people were afraid to use or receive the stamps of the underground post office, only this one issue was printed. Different color combinations were used at different times, and some stamps were imperforate, while others were not only perforate, but had an extra horizontal perforation through the middle of the stamp to divide it in half and so get twice the number of stamps from a given amount of paper. Thus the white eagle might be in use one week, the black the next. Cancellations were done by a metal stamp and consisted of a circle with the inscription "Tajna Poczta Polska". Sometimes they were black, sometimes red or green. An effort was made to obtain clean cancellations, because the underground considered the stamps as a kind of memorial to the courage of the men, women, boys and girls who risked their lives to print and deliver the paper. Many died in this effort.

Readers of this magazine can well understand the deep satisfaction it was to me to be able to sit down and talk to Franciszek Koprowski, who during the war went by the name of Mir, and to receive from him all the the variations of the underground issue known to be still in existence. It gives me great pride to share the story of this stamp, which represents the struggle and suffering and faith of the Polish people.

NEW MEMBER

679 Henry S. Buczowski, 51 Bar Beach Rd., Port Washington, N. Y. — 37-48-86

CORRECTION

In Issue No. 189 of April, 1961 of the "Polonus Bulletin" there appears the article of M. A. Bojanowicz titled "Poland No. 1 Imperforate Variety". In discussing the collection of Mr. Rachmanow of Poland No. 1 stamps, the author states that . . . "was in the pre-war collection of Mr. Rachmanow". This brings to the conclusion that the collection of Mr. Rachmanow does not exist anymore. But this is not a fact, as the valuable and reference collection is intact and more rare material was added since the war.

This collection was shown at the International Philatelic Exhibition FIPEX in 1956 in New York for which it received a gold medal, which is the highest award in this class. It also was exhibited at Poplex a few times but the rarest and greatest amount was, at Poplex 1960, and I am sure the philatelists of Chicago remember and admired it.

Leon Kozakiewicz, M.D.

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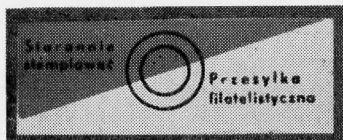
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A USEFUL INNOVATION FOR PHILATELISTS IN POLAND

The ministry "Łączność" which directs the post office department in Poland issued a new order pertaining to philately. As of now, in the post offices at the stamp windows where stamps are sold, a purchaser can receive a free label (illustrated), green and



white in color, inscribed "Starannie Stemplować / Przesyłka filatelistyczna" (cancel with care / philatelic matter).

This label is placed on philatelic mail. The text on the label is not a request or recommendation, but an order from the ministry. This is probably the first instant where the postal department of any nation ordered to cancel philatelic mail with care.

Philatelists in Poland will welcome this order. Perhaps other nations will follow.

— W. H.

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Special balloon flights were made at the International Trade Fair in Poznań, with four balloons participating: Syrena, Warszawa, Poznań and Katowice. Special labels and official covers were provided for this flight.