

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Postage Stamps and Their Classification in Polish Philately

by Prof. S. Mikstein

(Translated from Wiadomosci Filatelistyczne & Filatelista Polski)

(continued from previous issue)

Comments on my Classification

PROOFS (plates, reprints, papers, colors, etc.) as well as **PRINTERS WASTE** (i.e. stamps imperforated although issued perforated, partially perforated, moved perforations, smudged double prints, inverts, etc.) are not postage stamps, but may for purposes of illustration be placed in a collection. This is illustrated in the reprints of the Official stamps of 1935 under authority of the Resort of Posts and Telegraphs in Lublin in December 1944. By overprinting these stamps with a new value 3 zloty—they were to be changed to regular postage stamps, which due to technical difficulties did not materialize.

STAMPS NOT PLACED IN CIRCULATION are postage stamps issued by appointed authority but not brought into circulation and sale. Such stamps may be included in a collection as an intended issue of a competent authority. Democratic Poland has two such issues:

a) 25 groszy reddish brown issued September 13, 1944. This stamp had been withdrawn from circulation and was later used for various overprints.

b) Cracow overprints of January 29, 1945, on Occupation Hitler Head stamps.

The Polonus Philatelic Society assumes a neutral attitude to the above article. We neither affirm nor reject the opinion of the author. The article is published for your comments.

A **STAMP WITH FULL PHILATELIC VALUE** is a stamp which the entire sale quota is used for postage (carrying and delivery of mail). The Post is an undertaking for transporting of mail and not a charity, and placing it in the position of a collection agency for welfare collections is meeting with opposition. Many local as well as foreign collectors refuse to acquire stamps of this type, and some catalogs place such stamps under separate classification as not being of full philatelic value, and collectors need not collect them. The old divisions of stamps for current, commemorative, propaganda, charitable, etc., classification is not true, since the payment for purposes other than postal qualifies that stamp as not of full philatelic value. All such series can be classified as speculative issues of the Postal authorities, especially if the current stamps are not obtainable at face at the Postoffice. The cause of this may be:

a) inadequate amounts printed intentionally, and insufficient to supply need;

b) intentional inadequate distribution at face value in postoffices;

c) stamps assigned to non-postal agencies for re-sale.

LOCAL STAMPS B. I. 3— Local stamps of 1918/19 were stamps issued by Occupational or Partitioning Forces (postally good in Poland) on which the Local Post overprints which shows place of acquisition or use in a certain local postoffice after the formation of the Polish Government. Such

stamps even without the Polish Local overprint, at that time were recognized by postal authorities and paid for the delivery of mail without additional postage due.

KOSZYCE C. I. 5.—Preparation of these stamps was completed in July, 1944, by Polish Military authority after liberation of the Pinczow region.

KOSCIUSZKO DIVISION IN U. S. S. R. C. II. 2.—These were issued in 1941 by the Polish Fieldpost and was a stamp of 50 kopecs (Dojdzieny). However, we lack sufficient information at the present time and if a study reveals that this stamp was not issued by a postal authority, then this stamp must be listed under the label or seal variety.

I CORPS IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND C. II. 3.—This Corps had its own Fieldpost but documentary proof is lacking as to what issues are to be credited this Fieldpost, and if they were in fact by it authorized. After a study, all issues not conforming to the definition of a stamp should be removed to the label or seal variety.

INTERNMENT CAMPS OF SWITZERLAND D. I.—After the fall of France in 1940, many Polish soldiers got to Switzerland and were interned in conformity with International Law. Protection over the internees was by the Swiss Army. According to Art. 49 of International Postal Convention, internee mail is free. Thus if the Swiss used a certain type of stamp to be affixed to correspondence going out of Internment Camps, such stamps could only serve to show that mail is free of further postal charges (Portofreiheitsmarke). As such, they pertain to Polish internees and are of interest to the Polish collector though issued by a foreign power. But if the issue was arranged for by some committee, then they have in such case, nothing to do with postage stamps: they are then commemorative seals or welfare labels.

It will depend on the results of study into which classification they fall, but at the present time there is no documentary proof.

CAMP IIC WOLDENBERG D. II. 1.—From March 29 to April 6, 1942, there were prepared in this camp 11,930 stickers with a 10 fen. value (Widow) and 1,087 stickers of the 20 fen. value (Carrier), which were sold from the 2nd to the 6th of April, 1942, for the purpose of the Widow and Orphan

Fund. These are charitable seals, since the Post was first organized May 7, 1942.

Stamps known as the "Marching Post" Camp IIC Woldenberg were prepared in Prisoner Camp VIIA Murnau in April, 1945, which are commemorative seals prepared by a group of officers who were prisoners of the disbanded Camp IIC.

Comments Pertaining to Other Printings Imitating Postage Stamps

To complete the picture it is necessary in a few words to mention various "issues" haunting the trade and collections, which have nothing in common with postage stamps as they lack necessary essentials of postage stamps, i.e. the necessary authority and purpose, and under conditions that existed could not pay postage, and could only serve as receipts for charitable contributions. We will examine them in order:

I. NATIONAL ISSUES

1. LOCAL ISSUES—So-called Local stamps of 1944/5 issued contrary to rules on withdrawn occupation stamps as receipts for payment by a Local Post. In spite of the fact that local postoffices were not notified that they were not permitted to issue stamps, these local stamps did not excuse the collection of postage due. According to Art. 22 regarding Posts, Telegraph and Telephones, of June 3, 1924, only the Minister of Posts can issue Postage stamps, and according to Section 32 Postal Ordinance of March 21, 1931, in the event of a shortage of postage stamps, cash is to be collected. In the light of the above rules postal employees could not issue stamps, and any such "issues" prepared by them are not postage stamps in the Philatelic sense, and such known local issues from Brwinow, Konskie, Lezajsk, Lesko, Niezabitow, Rudnik Nad Sanem, Wawolnica, and Zamosc do not belong to the category of postage stamps.

2. CONSPIRACY POST—1939-1945 was free and did not use any stamps. All such various seals used during this period served as receipts for contributions to fight and harass the occupant in a so-called war of nerves.

3. WARSAW UPRISING POST VIII, SEPT. 1944 was also free and used only identification marks of origin and censorship. In the mailbags containing several thousand pieces of mail at that time, recently found in

the ruins of the Main Post Office at Warsaw, there was not even one letter with any kind of postage stamp. The spread of various type seals after the uprising has nothing in common with postage stamps nor with the Uprising Post in Warsaw, nor even receipts for contributions in the form of books for the wounded in hospitals.

4. THE GHETTO POST received and distributed mail from within and outside as well, charged for services and receipted for services from within with various seals. In no Ghetto were there postage stamps used. Representation of the Lodz Ghetto seals as stamps has a very doubtful origin.

II. ISSUES OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

1. CAMP ISSUES IN GERMANY.

After the fall of Germany the Polish war prisoners who found themselves in the German Reich, prisoners in concentration camps, and forced laborers began to unite in smaller or larger units to ease their living conditions or to return to the homeland. Many such camps were formed. In order to remain and keep contact with each other, the homeland, and abroad, and to unify, Posts were organized in some camps which issued series of nice looking seals which were called postage stamps. Some of these seals of so-called Camp Posts are known as: Dachau-Allach, Freiman near Monachium, Lubeka, Murnau (Polish Army Center) (not to be confused with Camp Post Murnau VIIA), Plauen, Helmstedt, Spakenberg, Hellbrun, Ettlingen, and Polish Settlement in Bavaria. According to Art. 49 International Postal Convention (Buenos Aires) correspondence of Prisoners of War and Internees is free of duty in the country of origin, handling, and delivery. Therefore, there was no necessity or use for special "issues" as they were unnecessary and did not serve to collect postage duty for handling. Various seals or holy pictures pasted on letters and cancelled by so-called postoffices of camps did not of itself make them postage stamps. The fact that such letters covered with many such seals did come to the addressee without postage due did not legalize such seals because this class of correspondence on the basis of international agreement is free of postal duty. To prove this there exists correspondence which was delivered in spite of the absence of any such seals.

The Division of Posts in London writes as follows regarding this matter: "Regarding the various seals which one finds on correspondence from Polish Prison Camps in Germany, we communicate that they are not issues agreed upon and in most instances the Division of Post is not informed of them. In one instance the Division of Posts was informed of seals in various changed colors and postal cards issued by the camp of former prisoners at Lubeka. All these issues like others of this type must be treated as amateur attempts at making philatelic curiosities. In the case of Lubeka as well as the others, there was no necessity or basis for forming a so-called postal administration with pseudo-postage stamps."

Besides this I can cite the statement of a war prisoner taking part in this activity which is as follows: "As a founder of the Polish Post P. O. C. Spakenberg I announce that this post did not cancel any postage stamps, but that all letters were sent to Hamburg where the post near the Allied Poles affixed stamps and cancelled them with a known cancellation mark. Regarding the stamps known as 'Libertas' they were issued by a group of officers who were former prisoners of war from camps in the neighborhood of Bad Oldesloe; while the 40 fen. brown stamp of Lubeka was issued through the effort of Allied Poles." This is clear, and according to Art. 49 International Postal Convention (Buenos Aires) releasing prisoner and internee mail from payment of postal duty, certainly qualifies these issues to the seal class and not to the postage stamp class.

2. CAMP ISSUES IN ITALY.

Thanks to the canny and fruitful work of Mr. M. A. Bojanowicz printed in the columns of "Wiad. Filat." in London, it is confirmed that the so-called stamps issued by "War Relief Service" for those Poles in Italy (Barletta and Trani) are the usual charitable seals having as their purpose aid to displaced Poles. These seals were sold almost entirely to philatelic dealers. As previously mentioned letters of prisoners are free of postal duty according to Art. 49 cited. Affixing such seals did not harm nor help in the transportation of the mail. Some tried to use the seals as postage in Italy but this was immediately squelched by the Postal Administration of Italy.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

My classification of stamps according to the issuing authority is not only an expression of system and order, but it also defines their purpose, standing, and meaning in the history, life, and expansion of a nation. On these factors depends the collector's interest, the number of collectors, and the stamps' specific philatelic value. It is known from philatelic experience that collectors put in first place stamps of general use of a country; in second place, stamps of Local authority; latter, other groups of not such general interest which are items for special collectors, as for example, Local Posts, City Posts, and private issues such as Camp Posts.

Here also is shown a looseness in the limits of stamps "fully" and "not fully authorized." Each stamp falling under the definition of a postage stamp, is fully authorized; but considering the head issuing authority, it has a varied specific philatelic value, and a more or less interest in it and demand in philatelic circles.

Furthermore, orderliness and strict limits of philatelic understanding on the basis of the International Convention as well as National Postal Ordinances, and the understanding of the postage stamp and its classification according to issuing authority will prevent such beliefs that in the album of Poland, the space between the last pre-war stamp of 1939 and the series "Heroes" of Sept. 1944, this space must be filled with stamps of private posts of Camps.

If this period (1939 to 1945) must be filled in the general collection of the country, one has at his disposition the London Issues of 1940-44 which are recognized in international philately.

In giving this sketch to the consideration of the large mass of philatelists I express the hope that I will not remain alone on the road to clear up knotty problems of our Polish Philately, and that in a short time there will appear in the philatelic press further detailed studies of the origin of various issues of war time, putting an end to conjecture, fantasy, and philatelic exploitation.

We invite your letters of comments and criticism on the above article. Write to the Publications Chairman, Chester Makowski, 2215 West Cortez St., Chicago 22, Ill.

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CONDOLENCES

With deep regret we report the passing of member Alex G. Consentino. Our most profound sympathy to his family.

RACHMANOV AMONG FOREMOST PHILATELISTS

From the Mercury Stamp Journal May issue we reprint here a little paragraph which appeared in their column "From Contemporary Philatelic Literature" which mentions the name of Polonus member V. Rachmanov:

"Historique de l'Academie de Philatelie 1929-1949," a booklet which gives all the facts about the 'Academie de Philatelie,' established in Paris on January 16, 1929, and therefore is now twenty years old. Membership in the 'Academie' is an honor awarded to foremost philatelists in all countries. At present there are, aside from an equal number of French members, thirty foreigners members of the Academie, of whom five live in this country, namely Alfred H. Caspary (elected 1948), Dr. Carroll Chase (1934), Harry L. Lindquist (1946), Edwin Mueller (1929) and V. Rachmanov (1936). The report gives a fine account of how the 'Academie' promoted philatelic research and other philatelic activities."

Member Jack Rux is a happier man these days. His youngest daughter, a rheumatic fever victim, for the first time in four years rode on roller skates and drove a bicycle.

History of the Sobieski at Vienna Stamp

by V. Rachmanov

(Reprinted from STAMPS of 2/26/49)

In the publication "Filatelista Polski" I note the result of the contest in which the 1.20zl. Jan Sobieski at Vienna, Scott No. 278, has been voted the most beautiful Polish stamp issued before 1939.

Inasmuch as this stamp saw the light of day only by chance, I want to share with other collectors my own recollections of the time when the Sobieski stamp was only in the making, and to reveal for the first time all the difficulties which had to be overcome before it could find its way to the albums of philatelists.

In June 1933 the Bureau of Engraving in Warsaw (Polska Wytwarznia Papierow Wartosciowych) was preparing to take part at WIPA, the International Philatelic Exhibition in Vienna, where the Polish Postal Museum was also preparing to exhibit. The Bureau of Engraving requested me to arrange its exhibit, consisting of work in process and of various proofs of recently engraved stamps such as Washington, Torun, Zwirko and Wigura, Wit Stwosz, (Scott's 267, 275, C10 and 277, respectively). At the same time this Bureau requested me to take the exhibit with me to Vienna as its delegate. In the course of my work, I was in its offices quite often and had an opportunity to contact Mr. Wlodzimierz Vacek, engraver of the Bureau, one of the most accomplished scholars of the well-known Viennese engraver, F. Schirnbeck, and the one to make steel engravings for such issues as Washington, Zwirko and Wigura, as well as Wit Stwosz.

During one of my talks with Mr. Vacek, he seemed quite concerned that the Ministry of Posts ordered a new 1.20zl. stamp for foreign registered letters with the same design as the current 80gr. stamp which showed the center panel of the altar in St. Mary's Church in Krakow sculptured by Wit Stwosz, whereas it would be far more appropriate to issue a 1.20 zl. commemorative stamp with a reproduction of Jan Matejko's famous painting "Sobieski at Vienna" with the forthcoming 250th anniversary of the victory in September, 1933. Mr. Vacek undertook to complete the die

within three weeks on his own spare time without pay for his work. Mr. Neumann, the director of the Bureau of Engraving was present at this conversation and was very favorable to the project. He declared that if Polish philatelists would send an appeal to him for a Sobieski issue, he would see to it that such a stamp would be produced within the limits of the budget established by the Ministry of Posts, and that the Bureau would absorb the costs of preparing new dies, which amounted to about 10,000zl. at that time.

As president of the Association of Philatelic Clubs in Poland, I decided right then and there to prepare the required appeal to the Bureau of Engraving in the name of the country's philatelists and asked for a stamp of 1.20zl. in accordance with the above motives. At the same time, I also referred to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs with a request to issue a new stamp of the proposed design, explaining that we already had one stamp with the altar of Wit Stwosz and that the glorification of Stwosz was far less important than celebrating the victory of King Jan Sobieski at Vienna which constituted a glorious episode in the history of the Polish nation. Director Neumann referred to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs with an appropriate appeal on his part.

It appeared at this time that nothing stood in the way of issuing the new stamp featuring a fragment from the painting of Jan Matejko. However, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Colonel Kalinski, who took over this office just two months previously, after the death of Minister Boerner, with reasons understood by no one, took a stubborn stand and absolutely refused his approval in the matter, although both the Director and the Superintendent of the Ministry tried to convince their superior without avail.

It was therefore necessary to find another way, and with the advice of friendly persons, I referred to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom I knew very well. This Minister was



Reproduction of the original drawing of the 1.20zł Sobieski at Vienna stamp. A photograph of the original drawing, released by P. A. T. in Warsaw, was presented to Col. Larking in London, 1933 by Mr. B. Korewa, Chancellor of the Polish Embassy, and now forms a part of the Larking Collection. The large original drawing, measuring 14 x 7½ inches, by R. Kleczewski, however, as a result of peculiar war activities, is now in Chicago. (Cut courtesy STAMPS).

very favorable to the idea and immediately prepared an appeal to Colonial Kalinski with the declaration that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for political reasons and publicity purposes, positively needed a new commemorative stamp honoring the victory of King Jan Sobieski at Vienna. The cause was won because Colonel Kalinski, whether he wanted to or not, had to issue the suggested stamp. A few days after the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I received almost at the same time two telephone calls, one from the Superintendent of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and the other from the Bureau of Engraving with the brief but very important announcement "Congratulations, the Sobieski stamp will be issued."

This was in the first days of July, 1933—just two weeks before I was to leave for the exhibition—quite a short time for making a suitable drawing and engraving of the proposed stamp. It developed, however, that in the meantime, the artist R. Kleczewski had prepared a suitable drawing "just in case," and that Mr. Vacek even had the master die partly finished so that on the evening of July 20th, the day before my departure for Vienna, I received together with the exhibit of the Bureau of Engraving, the first proof of the new stamp on Whatman's paper.

At the WIPA Exhibition this proof was located in a special display case. The following Sunday, nearly all daily and weekly papers of Vienna featured large reproductions of this stamp with sincere acknowledgements and high praises of its beauty. This stamp met with universal approval not only from philatelic spheres, the general public and official sources, but also from the President of the Austrian Republic, Doctor W. Miklas, who visited the exhibition on opening day.

In this way, thanks to the efforts of a few people, especially those of Mr. Vacek who conceived the idea, Poland received its most beautiful postage stamp which popularized not only its creator but also brought glory to the Bureau of Engraving in Warsaw.

(Note: See "Sobieski at Vienna" in the Tenth Anniversary Issue of STAMPS magazine for October 3, 1942, or in Issue No. 20 of "Polonus Bulletin" for April, 1944.)

1949 GRYZEWSKI CATALOG

The 1949 Catalog of Tadeusz Gryzewski of Lodz, goes a little further than just listing the stamps of General Poland. Local issues as those of Warsaw, Zawiercie, Przedborz, etc., and all private printings are covered.

These catalogs may be obtained from V. Rachmanov, 214-17 47th Ave., Bayside, N. Y., for the price of \$1.50.

INFO FROM POLONUS MEETINGS

Work is progressing on the compiling of an index of all the previous BULLETINS of the Society. Chairman of the Publications Committee Chester Makowski undertook the job of the compilation and preparation of the index for publication. He is continuing a job started by Jack Domar with a card index some years ago.

There are 240 members in the Society at the present time.

Polpex 1950 was brought up and a suggestion to the theme of the souvenir sheet was presented by Myron Steczynski. He said that 1950 is the 90th anniversary Polish Philately. Poland No. 1 was issued in 1860.

In line with this 90th anniversary, a discussion followed about Polonus sponsoring the publication and translation in English of a book on Poland No. 1 written by Rachmanov and Polanski. A committee of Dr. L. Kozakiewicz, Myron Steczynski, and Jack Domar was appointed by the President to go ahead with this project.

The July 22nd meeting ended at 10:00 P.M. but it was not until 2:30 A.M. that members started in homeward directions on Ashland Avenue outside the Falcons Hall. A group including Jack Domar, John Wendt, Roman Reinowski, Dr. L. Kozakiewicz, John Gapinski, Larry Zleler, Chester Mikucki, Myron Steczynski, Chester Schafer, Jack Rux, and the new caretaker's assistant gathered in the little room adjoining our clubroom and had a merry time. "NatzeK" was revived once again when Jack Domar got started with his stories in different dialects. The caretaker's assistant who is also a professional violinist, brought out his fiddle and played and played. The July 22nd meeting was one good meeting.

Belated congratulations to Jack Domar and his wife on their 25th Wedding Anniversary June 6th.

NEW ISSUES

By Jack Domar

It has been reported that 2,255,500 of the 100 zloty and 2,258,750 of the 150 zloty postage dues were issued on February 15th.

Two additional values of the Pres. Bierut series have been released by order of the Postmaster General on April 29th. They are a 3 zloty (green) and 10 zloty (violet). This now makes 9 in the series.



The 3 zl. red of the Trade Congress Issue (cut courtesy STAMPS)

The long awaited Trade-Union Congress issue was released on May 31st. It consists of three values, 3 zl. red, representing "Socialism" 5 zl. blue, "Works," and 15 zl. "Peace."

The designs were by Mr. E. John. 500,000 sets were printed.

A 500 zloty Airmail stamp was scheduled for June, however, it has not yet made its appearance.

None of the "Famous Men" series have been released as far as we know, although April 3rd would have been a natural for the release of the Julius Slowacki stamp since it was the 100th anniversary of his death. It is reported in "Przegląd Filatelistyczny" that it still is intended to issue one in his honor in addition to one for Chopin and Mickiewicz. Later in the year, about October 1st when the Month of Soviet-Polish Friendship begins another with Mickiewicz and Pushkin is to be issued.

And still no word is heard of the 30th Anniversary of the Postal Workers Trade Union Series—any further delay will make it the 31st Anniversary.

One encouraging news item from the G. P. C. is that they have prom-

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Jack Domar, Lester Jankowski

ised to issue stamps of greater artistic beauty. This is one of the reasons for the delay of some of the proposed issues—most of the proposed designs have been rejected.

It is planned to use both the offset and steel-engraving processes in printing.

Czechoslovakia marked the centenary of the death of the Polish pianist and composer Frederic Chopin, with a commemorative set showing a portrait with the Polish National Theater in the background. A first day cover was illustrated in Western Stamp Collector, July 26, and shows a pictorial cancellation used at Praha when the stamps were issued June 24, 1949, and a cachet reproducing Chopin's manuscript for one of his famous Preludes.

A hitherto unreported variety in the Overrun Nations series issued by the United States, a sheet of the Poland flag stamps without the country name in the upper margin, is reported in STAMPS of July 23, 1949.

It is surprising to see the agitation which the Brazil Roosevelt sheet is creating. Strange isn't it. The conditions are the same as those which we protested against when the Poland Roosevelt sheet was issued yet no one seemed to be interested. The Big Boys in New York, I mean.

MEMBERS MART

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