

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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ORIGINAL AND FALSIFIED OVERPRINTS ON PROVISIONAL POLISH STAMPS FOR FORMERLY AUSTRIAN OCCUPIED TERRITORY

LUBLIN ISSUE 1918-1919

by Prof. Stan. Mikstein

In the overprints of the so-called Lublin Issue, put in circulation Dec. 19, 1918, we must distinguish two parts, namely: (1) the upper fixed portion of the overprint, repeating itself in overprints of all the values, consisting of the words "Poczta Polska" set up in arch fashion over the Polish eagle set in a circle on a black background surrounded by a single line circular border, and (2) the lower portion, varying with different stamps, the overprinted stamps value between two dashes or stars expressed in numerals and denoting the monetary units ("HAL" or "hal").

Dimensions of upper portion are—length of both words "Polska Poczta" placed arch-like, joining upper left corner letters "P" of the word "Polska" with right corner letter "A" in "Poczta"—17 mm.; height of letters—2½ mm.; the bending outwards at top (distance of bottom of letter "P" of word "Poczta" from horizontal line joining the bottom of letter "P" in "Polska" and "A" in "Poczta")—2½ mm.; diameter of black circle with eagle—9½ mm.; diameter of this circle together with single line border—11¼ mm.

This article is a translation by B. Jaworski, J. J. Domar and C. Schaffer. The original article appeared in the Polish monthly IKAROS, May-July 1935, No. 46/47.

The length of the lower portion of the overprint, including both stars and valuation, measured from outward ends of both stars—18 mm.; distance between line joining upper points of both stars, and the lower border surrounding circle with eagle—2¾ mm.

On the basis of these identifying findings in overprints of all the values, we must accept that overprints of all forms of this issue were acquired from one basic design by means of a lithographic method (i.e. "umdruk") where for a particular form, only the numeral denoting value was changed, and where by omitting the entire lower portion, the additional printing did not change the original stamp's denomination.

As we know from the bibliography, on the first denomination put in circulation the 45/80 hal. gray-blue, the original value was overprinted with dashes. The later values had stars instead of dashes. On the 50 and 90 hal. stamps there was no lower portion of the overprint, because on these stamps—after nationalization—it was not necessary to change the original denomination.

In the overprints which changed the original value we distinguish large and small overprinted letters "HAL" and "hal", into two groups, namely: (1) overprints with small letters

"hal" on the stamps 3/3 hal. gray and 3/15 rose colored; and (2) overprints marked with large letters "HAL", on stamps of 10/30 hal. with black or violet overprint, 25/40 hal. olive colored, 45/60 hal. lilac-red, 45/80 hal. blue and 50/60 hal. reddish-lilac.

On the basis of the above characteristics appearing on the overprints of all values, we may now establish the number of forms used in overprinting stamps of this issue. This account is shown in the following table:

Form No.	Upper Part of Overprint	Lower Part of Overprint
I	Poczta Polka eagle - 45 HAL. -	
II	ditto	* 3 hal. *
III	ditto	* 10 HAL. *
IV	ditto	* 25 HAL. *
V	ditto	* 45 HAL. *
VI	ditto	* 50 HAL. *
VII	ditto	lower portion missing

Only this way would we classify the overprints and establish the quantity of basic forms of the Lublin Issue. Their order however at this time is not yet definite.

Further, regarding the quality of overprint appearance, we must realize that this depends (1) on the quality of the printing of the basic stamps; (2) on the technical preparation of overprint forms and method of overprinting; and also (3) on the care and technical precision when overprinting.

Regarding this issue also, Austrian Fieldpost stamps of the third issue used as the basic issue, were engraved and did not have an ideal smooth surface, and this apparently affected the transferring of the overprint impression from the lithographic stone on to the stamps.

We have a similar circumstance in the stamps of the Krakow 4 and 10 crown and the postage dues 1, 5, and 10 crown. On all these latter mentioned stamps Polish overprints were made with the same lithographic form and in the same print shop. In spite of this, the appearance of the overprints on the engraved 4 and 10 crown stamps is completely different,

from those on the 1, 5 and 10 crown postage dues which were typographed (cynkotyp). Overprints applied lithographically on engraved stamps, disclose certain imperfections of print, damaged, broken or unprinted letters, often losing the thinness of fine dashes and dots, and this quite evidently is verified by the issue this article is written about.

The lithographic process also produced widespread fine discrepancies of the design. The first basic design finished on stone, was then trans-

Used to Reprint	Stamps of Former Val.	For New Val.
	80 hal.	45 hal.
	3 and 15 hal.	3 hal.
	30 hal.	10 hal.
	40 hal.	25 hal.
	60 and 80 hal.	45 hal.
	60 hal.	50 hal.
	50 and 90 hal.	50 and 90 hal.

ferred to paper. After the many transferrings from stone to paper, and back again because of the denomination changes in the printing forms, variations in copying appeared, principally due to hurried work, incomplete corrections and poor printing ink. These ever so little seemingly minute changes in detail added up, and changed the original detail of the design.

Likewise, unfamiliar to this kind of work and unschooled personnel, hasty production, lack of suitable good grade material, and further, the release of printer's waste and poor copies are the cause also, that among the stamps of that issue are found copies varying from the average normal overprints.

For these reasons variations in the design of fine details of the various overprints are often very pronounced, and in the normal printing we do not encounter stamps identical in the detail of the design in full sheets. These variations arise primarily in the original design of the eagle: in the appearance of the crown, eagle's eye, shading of feathers and above all the design of dots and dashes on the

eagle's trunk is not only very variable, but even on almost every stamp of the sheet is changeable to such a degree, that it is possible to detect the exact position of the stamp in the sheet insofar as existing full original comparing sheets will show. The arranging of these varieties in some kind of table or index is impossible inasmuch as they are too widely heterogeneous. As an example of this average normal overprint I submit for illustration one of the overprinted stamps—the 25/40 hal.



Besides these minor discrepancies in the original design of the various stamps we find also a two-fold variety of a very pronounced deformity, definite abnormal design of the eagle and that only on the first row of stamps (1, 11, 21, 31, and 41 stamps of the sheet) and last (10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 stamps of the sheet) vertical row as follows: 1) in forms II-VI on stamps 3/3, 3/15, 10/80, 25/40, 45/60, 45/80 with stars, and 50/60 hal., coming about accidentally during overprinting of half-sheets of stamps, resulting in inexact reprinting. On sheets of these stamps are respective right or left half-eagles as well as titles partly not reprinted or imperfect (lack of part or whole words "Polska" and left star, also "Poczta" and right stars, streak of ink or blots, etc.) These deformities are variable, and therefore occasional, arising at the time of overprinting the stamps. 2) probable constant appearing already in forms and arising at the time of their preparation. These come out only in form I on stamps of 45/80

hal. with dashes and form VII, that is on stamps of 50 and 90 hal. To these deformities of design, existing probably already in the form of the lithographic stone, subjoined are not constant varieties as under 1). I am determining the hypothetical existence of these deformations in the printing form upon the basis of study of complete sheets of the 45/80 hal. with dashes, and the 90 hal., and the study of a vast number of single stamps and pairs from my own collection as well as widespread material sent to me for expertization by collectors, which continually showed identical imperfections.

As an example of such a deformity, known to me from the 90 hal. and the 50 hal., I have seen 30 overprints of form VII—as per illustration 2.



Since we know that stamps of 45/80 hal. with dashes instead of stars were first placed in circulation, and furthermore, most likely the first reprinted according to my designation of Form I, on the basis of the latter given facts it may be supposed, that Form VII for reprinting of the 50 and 90 hal. stamps without changing the former value is, as to time of origin, second in line, obtained directly from Form I by transferring to the new stone and omitting the denomination 45 HAL. between two dashes. In favor of this belief is the large conformity in the details of design of the eagles on the individual stamps corresponding to their position in the half sheets of both denomination, that is on the 45/80 h. with dashes and the 90 hal.



As a further example of such a deformity in the overprint existing already in the printing form, that is, on the lithographic stone, I can submit as a true fact a printing error on stamp 10/30 hal. with black as well as violet overprint "10 HA" instead of "10 Hal." between stars, as shown in illustration 3. Observing this overprint closer, looking at the right wing of the eagle, we see it is joined with the neck and separated from the trunk with only a series of slanting dots. Further, the circle surrounding the eagle, and its border, because of the deformation, took on an egg-like appearance of elongation, slanting centerwise and shorter horizontally. Also, the eagle has a missing right foot with claws; the distance between "HA" and the right star is reduced by 2 mm, resulting in the complete absence of the letter "L" in shortening "HAL" as well as the left star.

How can we explain the arising of this error in regards to the deformity in overprint existing already in the printing form? The only explanation is the following:

At the preparation of the printing form, that is in transferring the design of overprint from whitish paper on to the lithograph stone under press pressure, there arose on that spot a rumple or fold (crease) starting near the letter "A" of the word "Polska" and running towards the bottom obliquely through the letter "L" of word "HAL." As the result of the forthcoming of this crease the distance was narrowed between the wing

and the trunk of the eagle, furthermore this rumple covered the whole letter "L" taking up in this place a width of 2 mm.

These creases and folds are found frequently on stamps: by pushing under and pressing out the fold on creased stamps they appear to be torn at the turned over portion. We find similar results also on stamps of P. K. L. series Ikaros I, No. 56-66, in the remarks on page 27 of the handbook "Stamps are also found folded over as a result of printing on crushed or rumpled paper." Thus, these stamps which are also lithographed, are the best proof of the above belief and explanation of the origin of the error. Because in this concrete instance or case the curving, because of the fold, originated on whitish paper with the design of the overprint before, or not later than the time of transferring on to the lithographic stone, the curving was also transferred, deforming the design in the printing form. All sheets printed from this stone must include this error which is clearly accidental, originated in the preparation of the printing forms.

A second error occurring on the 50/60 hal., "HAI" instead of "HAL.", is also accidental. It arose either from not carrying over on the stone of the lower horizontal line, part of the letter "L" or by losing this part during printing because of weakness. A third error, deformed letter "S" of the word "POLSKA" also on the 50/60 hal. originated either by a poor molten form at time of transferring the design, or by a poor correction.

This presentation makes it evident that overprints of this issue showing marked discrepancies in the detail of the design, require the examination of a vast amount of comparative material on original whole sheets.

Falsifications of Overprints and Speculative Products

The first group consists of speculative products manufactured from the reused original form VII, whereby was discovered a series of values of the third Fieldpost printing with normal overprints as well as reversed,

principally the stamps of 1, 2, 5, 6 and 12 hal. as well as partly other values i.e., 60 hal., and 3 hal., frequently occurring cancelled with occupational cancellations dated prior to December 1, 1918, with the unremoved word "K. u. K. Etappenpostamt." This reuse we cannot list for the nonprofit of the same official issue because at that time practically in all the issues of all countries which had changes of government and revolutions, this sort of reuse was widely practised and was an everyday occurrence.

Falsifications with intent to defraud the collector may be divided to those produced lithographically and those produced typographically.



Of the lithographic falsifications the most popular, widespread, and frequently found even in the rarer collections is reproduced in illustration 4. A characteristic of this falsification is the zigzag line extending down from the top to the bottom on both wings and supposing to imitate the feathering of the wings. To produce this type of falsification required setting up several forms. I saw them on stamps 3/3, 10/30 hal. with violet overprint, and 50 hal. green, on the most sought after values. For basic stamps they used both mint as well as used with cancels of various places without the omission of "K. u. K. Etappenpostamt." These falsifications, as produced by lithography, show likewise a vast amount of deviation in the detail of the eagle, and the characteristic of the zigzag line on the wing once appears more

prominent on the left and another time on the right wing.



Of the typographical falsifications there are several. One is shown on illustration 5, which I found on stamps of 50 and 90 hal. These falsifications are distinguished by the words "Polska Poczta" pressed on paper with sharp contours of letters and design, and irregular and ragged wings of the eagle.

I saw another type of typographic falsification on the brown stamp 3/10 hal., characterized by irregular letters in the word "Polska Poczta" and completely changed drawing of the eagle. Furthermore, stamps of 10 hal. in brown were never reprinted in the new denomination of 3 hal.



Finally, falsifications shown on illustration 6, the most inapt, are very easily recognized by the cut of letters above and by the design of the eagle with ravelled wings and the lack of any kind of shadowing or dotting of the trunk and wings.

As a whole, the Lublin Issue, in view of the many varieties, abundance of rarities, and yet rather low price in spite of their quantities issued, offers an interesting study to the collectors of the stamps of Poland, and should encourage them to further study and make known their findings so that collectors who are not in a position to obtain this information may benefit from their studies.

TID BITS

We apologize for being absent last month with this column but we could not help it—the Airpost History article was too long.

At the many recent philatelic exhibitions in the Chicago Area the following Polonus members emerged with major awards:

Ben Reeves won a Grand Award at the Chicago Philatelic Society Show with his Heligoland. Barney Fielkowski won a Gold Cup at the Jack Knight Airpex with his display of Albanian classics. Colonel Schrader also won a Gold Cup at this show.

Jack Domar took the Grand Award at the Hawthorne Club Show with his Sower Type exhibit. Jack Rux won a Silver Award at this show with his First Day Airmail Flights.

Leo Haska was awarded a First Prize for his Trieste and William Gorki a Second Prize for his Semi-Postals at the recent Ravenswood Club Exhibit.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to member Joseph Bieniecki and his family upon the death of his father, and to Stanley Kucharz and family upon the death of his mother.

Membership Drive Contest awards were announced at the last November meeting by Contest Chairman Mikucki. Roman Reinowski was given the first prize but declined to accept it. He asked that the prize be kept for the next such contest. Jack Domar received the second prize and he promptly turned it over to Stamps for the Wounded.

At the November program meeting a Donation Auction was held. The

Auction was made possible by Roman Reinowski who donated 15 lots. An old-time Beeba followed with food donated by John Bobo.

Just a line or so about the high caliber of men we have as members in our Society. One of our Krakow experts Frank Wolosewick who has contributed many articles to our Bulletin is a brilliant mathematician and engineer. He has had many articles about his field published in the national engineers' journal.

Our Larking collection owner Myron Steczynski who also is an engineer, is writing a handbook for the U. S. Government on thread gauges.

The Dec. 28 meeting night was turned into a Christmas Party. A rousing spirit of good fellowship among the many members and their wives was displayed who came despite the bad weather conditions. An elaborate feast of Polish sausage, ham and herring was put out by Chairman Tony Banasiak, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz and members' wives, made possible by the many money donations of the members.

Among those present was our oldest Chicago member John Jarosz who is in his 80th year.

Dr. M. E. Uznanski appeared at the Hawthorne Stamp Club Christmas meeting and presented an illustrated lecture on Christmas Seal Collecting.

NEW MEMBERS

Stanley Jendrusik
Stop 23, National Road
Bridgeport, Ohio
Stanley M. Misewicz
63-17 Boelsen Crescent
Forest Hills 74, New York
Stanley J. Grondalski
46 Fulton St.
Lowell, Mass.
Aloysius J. Paruzynski
2066 So. 8th St.
Milwaukee 4, Wisc.
W. Galczynski
5027 W. Agatite Ave.
Chicago 30, Ill.
Andrew J. Goszczynski
2027 W. Evergreen Ave.
Chicago 22, Ill.

HERMANOWSKI NOTES

At a past Polonus meeting, Victor Hermanowski the publisher of Poland's IKAROS was asked many questions by Polonus members. His interesting answers (as many as room permits) are printed here for members who could not be present:

Q. How do American collection holdings compare with Poland holdings?

A. They do not have exceptionally large holdings there. Prof. Laszkiewicz had blocks of all the Krakow issues except the 10 K.; Rachmanov had 300 varieties of No. 1; Prof. Mikstein did not have a wide collection of material. There are few collections there of extensive studies of classifications as compared with Jack Domars Warsaw Locals.

Q. Were there many Philatelic Societies?

A. There were from thirteen to nineteen but only two were really active; the Krakow Society which had Mikstein, and the Torun Society.

Q. Since you were with the British Eighth Army, can you tell us of Polish Forces mail bearing other foreign stamps?

A. The Polish Second Corps used stamps from the nearest source. For two months in the Summer of 1944, United States Airmails were used. For a first class letter a three pence British stamp was used but as no British Airmail stamps were available, the Polish Forces used the 5¢ U. S. Airmail stamp. The orange Airmail envelopes were popular also. Polish "Poczta Polowa" cancellations may be found on mail with stamps of Egypt, Iraq, Liban, Palestine, Indian, British, and U. S. stamps.

Q. How many IKAROS monthlies were there printed and why at Bialystok?

A. IKAROS had a 3000 printing, and it came from Bialystok as the cost of printing was cheaper there.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

#411 Thomas J. Zebrowski
164 Washington St.
Gardner, Mass.

- #416 Jos. A. Jozefowski
154 Meserole Ave.
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- #436 Henry Stephen Milosz
33 Mark St.
Rochester 5, N. Y.
- #462 Stanley Fadz
2113 Webster St.
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Chicago 51, Ill.
- #467 Stanley A. Sikorski
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NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Poland—Two stamps of similar design were issued towards the end of October to mark the month of Polish-Soviet Friendship. Values are 45 gr. red and 90 gr. blue, and the stamps show a portrait of Stalin.

Two stamps of similar design were issued on December 4, 1951 to commemorate Miner's Day. The design shows the mechanical aspects of coal mining and the values were 90 gr. and 1.20 zł.

On December 10, 1951, two stamps of similar design were issued calling attention to new dwellings. The design shows bricklayers at work on a new housing project. Values were 30 gr. and 1.15 zł.

Electricity has been extended into Polish countryside and this was commemorated by two stamps issued on December 15. Values are 30 gr. and 45 gr. and the design shows installing electric wires in a village.



A miniature sheet showing four imperforate stamps of the Six Year's National Plan set now in use was issued on November 17 to commemorate the Polish Philatelic Association Congress in Warsaw. Values of the stamps are: 45 gr., 75 gr., 1.15 zł.,

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Jack Domar

B. Jaworski

and 1.20 zł. Price of the sheet is 5 zł.

The souv. sheet has appeared in a special folder with a special red cancellation "Warszawa, Nov. 18, 1951."

The Festival of Polish Music commemorative has appeared. It is a 45 gr. black and shows the portraits of Chopin and Moniuszko.

Also issued are postage dues of 50, 60 and 90 groszy and 1 and 2 zloty values.

—Varimex, Jos. Bieniecki
and Charles Cwiaka'a

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Some of our members may have overlooked the payment of their dues for the years 1951-1952. The treasurer is now sending statements to delinquents. However, you can save much time and expense to the Society by sending in your dues to J. J. Domar, 3715 S. Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

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BULLETINS - SEALS

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Prices on request

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