

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Annex,
5800 W. Diversey Avenue, Chicago, IL

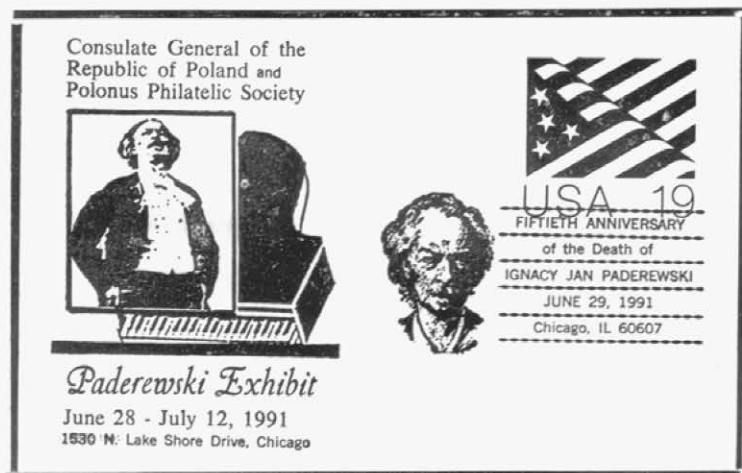
ISSUE NO. 447

Price: \$2.00

May-June, 1991

PADEREWSKI 50th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT

For the first time in Polonus history the society put on a philatelic exhibition together with the consulate representing the new Republic of Poland. The showing was held June 28th thru July 12th at the Consulate building, 1530 N. Lake Shore Dr. in Chicago. On display was the largest known topical collection of Paderewski in philately, prepared by Stanley Dobrzycki, who augmented his collection with photos, programs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia pertaining to the famed pianist, composer and statesman. The Polish American Numismatic Association participated with a frame of Paderewski medals.



Paderewski Commemorative Postal Card issued by Polonus

Over two hundred invited guests attended the opening ceremony on June 28th with the consul general, Hubert Romanowski, as master of ceremonies. After his welcome address the consul introduced various Polonus officers and important guests. In the absence of president Roman Strzelecki due to illness, treasurer Stefan Czarniecki delivered a wonderful talk on Polonus stressing the fact that our society was responsible for the



The joint venture Paderewski Committee consisted of: (l. to r.) Chester Schafer, Slawomir Wroblewski, Stefan Czarniecki, Romuald Odrowski, Consul Hubert Romanowski, Andrzej Jaroszynski and Stanley Dobrzycki. (Photos: Mark Dobrzycki)



M. C. Hubert Romanowski telling of Polonus' participation. Walenty Poniecki (seated) watches as the Consul introduces vice president Ted Sokolowski and treasurer Stefan Czarniecki.

drive resulting in the issuance of the U.S. Paderewski Champion of Liberty commemorative stamps. Stanley Dobrzycki spoke on Paderewski's accomplishments; PANA president, Louis Koncza, told of the Polish monuments on Chicago's lakefront.

Fourteen special award certificates were prepared by the exhibit coordinator, Romuald Odrowski, which were presented to those responsible for this special event.

The program was concluded with a premiere performance of an original composition, "Homage To Paderewski" by concert pianist Jaroslaw Golembiewski. All present were invited to a reception prepared in the adjoining room with an enormous table laden with fresh fruits and a bar serving wine, orange juice and soft drinks. This went over well as that evening the temperature outside was well in the nineties.

In conjunction with this mini exhibit, Polonus issued a postal card with a cachet and special cancellation dated June 29, 1991, the 50th anniversary of the passing of this noted Pole. Priced at \$2.50, it is available from Al Rybarski, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Enclose 50¢ for postage and handling. Proceeds from the sale of this commemorative postal card are for the expenses incurred in the presentation of this special event.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

June 29th, 1991, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, a great Polish patriot, politician and maestro. The Polonus Philatelic Society commemorated this event with a Paderewski Exhibit arranged as a joint venture with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, and held June 28-July 12th at 1530 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

Because of illness, I was unable to attend, but would like to commend the coordinator of the exhibit, Romuald Odrowski, for a job well done. A big "thank you" to the other members who helped in this endeavor.

An exhibit of this nature is expensive. We are sharing the costs with the Consulate. To help defray this expense, Polonus issued a postal card which received a special Paderewski cancellation, permission for which was granted by the U.S. Postal Service for use on the anniversary date of Paderewski's passing on June 29, 1991 (illustrated on page 1).

The commemorative cards are on sale for \$2.50 each at the meetings, with out of town members asked to include an additional 50¢ for mailing costs. Send orders to Al Rybarski, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, Illinois 60171.

I am also appealing to you for individual donations. Am already gratified by the response of member Walenty Poniecki, who pledged a donation of \$50.00. Bóg Zapłać!

—Roman Strzelecki



The Polish Consular Mail in the Ukraine, 1919-20



ODESSA OVERPRINTS

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

During the Soviet Revolution, the counter revolutionary Army of General Denikin occupied a large part of the Ukraine. At that time due to the conclusion of World War I numerous displaced Poles were in that area. To assist them, the Polish Government opened consulates in several Ukrainian cities, among them one in Odessa in September, 1919 at 25 Zofiowska Street. There was no postal connection with Poland. To alleviate this situation the Polish Postal Agency at the Polish Consulate in Odessa accepted letters to Poland from the public. These letters were transported by diplomatic couriers to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw and were then forwarded to addressees via regular Polish mail. All this mail was censored by the consulate and two rubber stamps were used to confirm censorship: "Czytano w Konsulacie Polskim w Odesie" (read in the Polish Consulate in Odessa) and "Komendant Etapu" (figure 8).

At first this service was free but soon franking became required in the form of current Polish postage stamps which were sent for this purpose from Poland to the consulate. These stamps were of the 1919 issue, their denominations were: 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 fenigi, 15 and 25 halerzy and 1 Marka. They were perforated 11½ but there were also some imperforate 5 fen. and 15 fen. stamps among them (reference 3). The postage rates were: Postcard - 20 fen.; regular letter up to 20 grams - 50 fen and 30 fen. for each additional 20 grams; registration - 50 fen. (reference 4).

On October 11, 1919, Dr. Urbanski of the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs wrote the official letter Nr. 29588/1582 to Mr. Stanislaw Srokowski, General Secretary of Congressional Works, Kronenberg Palace, Malachowski Square, Warsaw (Ref. 4). This letter asked for similar procedures for the Consular Mail in Odessa as were then in effect for the Polish Consular Mail in Constantinople. It was requested that Polish stamps be overprinted "ODESA". With this letter postal



Czytano w Konsulacie Polskim
w Odesie
Komendant Etapu

Figure 1: Censorship rubber stamps used by the Polish Postal Agency in Odessa were imprinted in violet ink. Their dimensions are 49.3 x 8.0 mm. and 33.5 x 3.2 mm.

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THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST



ODESA
ODESA

Figure 2: The overall dimensions of the two "ODESA" overprint forms are 12.7 x 2.6 mm. and 14.0 x 2.9 mm. respectively. The thickness of the lettering lines is more uniform in the second form than in the first and the serifs of "S" differ in the two forms.

forms were enclosed for the forwarding to Odessa; also record books, postal paraphenelia and ten sheets of Polish postage stamps of each of the denominations of 10, 20, 50 fen. and 1 Marka. A date stamp for cancelling these stamps was promised but never delivered.

On November 10, 1919 (October 28 in the Julian calendar) the chief of the office in the Polish Consulate in Odessa delivered Polish stamps for overprinting to the printing shop of E. I. Fiesienko Co., Odessa, Ryszeliwska Street 49. Among these stamps some were from the previous supply in the consulate and some from recent shipment from Poland. Some were in sheets of 10x10 stamps, some in half sheets, and some in the form of blocks or even single stamps. The receipt given by the Fiesienko Co. to the Polish Consulate lists the stamps delivered for the overprinting as: 10 fen. - 598; 20 fen. - 601; 25 fen. - 213; 50 fen. - 612; 1 Mark - 706. Total number of stamps: 2730. (Ref. 6).

The overprinting was done typographically by means of two different forms (Figure 1). One form was used for the small size stamps and consisted of five rows of ten overprints. The other form was for the larger, 1 Mk. stamps and consisted of ten rows of five overprints. Thus each sheet of 10 x 10 stamps had to be fed two times into the printing press (figure 2). Fragments of sheets were fed in the press individually, some of them having been fed in the press upside down received inverted overprints (figure 3).



Figure 3: One-mark "ODESA" stamps from the vertical center of the sheet of 10 x 10 stamps: The overprints on the left side are positioned lower than on the right side because the sheet was fed into the printing press twice. These two horizontal pairs once formed a block of four and are reunited in this photograph. The top pair is from my collection, the bottom pair from the collection of Dr. James Mazepa of Chicago.

Overprinted stamps were delivered to the consulate which received the bill from the Fiesienko Co., dated December 12, 1919 (November 29 in the Julian calendar), for the overprinting of 27 sheets (see figure 4). Tadeusz Januszewski, the clerk of the consulate, counted the overprinted stamps. His results were reported later by J. Januszewski (reference 1):

- 10 fen. - 598 (548 overprinted in black including 3 with inverted overprints and 50 overprinted in red).
 - 15 hal. - 6 (overprinted in black).
 - 20 fen. - 601 (overprinted in black incl. 5 with inverted overprints).
 - 25 fen. - 213 (overprinted in black incl. 5 with inverted overprints).
 - 50 fen. - 612 (562 overprinted in black including 6 with inverted overprints and 50 overprinted in red).
 - 1 Mk. - 706 (overprinted in black incl. 6 with inverted overprints).
- The total reported number of overprinted stamps was thus 2736.

This discrepancy, by six stamps, from the number of stamps submitted for overprinting clarifies the origin of the 15 halerzy, red "ODESA" stamps, the rarest postage stamps of Poland (figure 5, reference 8). Polish 15 hal. stamps were available at the consulate. A unit of six such stamps must have gotten stuck to the back of a sheet of other denomination stamps and was thus missed during the counting at the delivery to the printing shop. It separated later and was promptly overprinted and included with the shipment to the consulate together with the other stamps. The statement found in some literature (e.g. in reference 4 and in some catalogs) that the 15 hal. stamps are proofs is absurd. It is based on a thank-you note dated April 23, 1920 sent by Chelminski, the director of Section III of the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to Tadeusz Januszewski in Warsaw who donated samples of "ODESA" stamps to the Polish Postal Museum. Among them was one 15 hal. to which Chelminski refers in his letter as a "Proof" (ref. 5). Jerzy Tokar explained and corrected this in his article (reference 9). According to



Dr. Stanley Kronenberg, a physicist/radiologist, works for the U.S. government as a research scientist. He has been collecting stamps since childhood, and specializes in the area of Poland. In addition to his collecting activities, he expertizes stamps of Poland for the APS Expertization Committee and the APS Sales Division.

Figure 4: The Complete set of "ODESA" stamps with inverted overprints.

ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО
ТИПО-ХРОМОЛИТОГРАФИЯ

Е. И. Фесенко.
ОДЕССА, Ришельевская, с. д № 49.
Учрежд. в 1883 году — Телефон № 63.

Вручаю. 27 Января 1917 г.

Счет № 263
Почтовому Управлению
Врусь.

Во исполнение кн.
27 января 1917 г. издан
слова, Одесса

1200 -
Рр. 1200

Вручи. тысячу рублей

Достоинство германских войск
германские сборы р. 200. Р. 200.
слова из Одесского Канцелярии.
изданные слова ст. № 157.

Получены от нас
одну тысячу рублей
руб. 2/10 - 1917
Кассир А. Бринга

Расписан А. 263.
Polskemu Konsulatowi
La nadrodi na 27 arkułach mianem konsula
słowa „Odesa”
№ 1200 -
Luzyski Lwowski /
określenie 2 XII - 1917
Kaspr / podpis /

Polonus Bulletin, May-June, 1991



Figure 6: The pair of 15-halerzy stamps overprinted "ODESA".



Figure 8: This postmark, used to cancel stamps at the Polish Consulate in Odessa, was imprinted in black, dark violet, or dark red ink. Its overall dimensions are 26.7 x 14.0 mm.

All overprinted stamps are perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. 10 fen., 15 hal., 25 fen. and 1 Mk. are printed on medium, smooth paper and 20 fen. on horizontally striped paper. Some 50 fen. stamps are on medium, smooth paper and some are on horizontally striped paper. Most of the 1 Mark stamps are indigo but some are of the earlier printing in grayish blue.

I have in my collection a 50 fen. stamp whose overprint is black except for a part of the "D" in "ODESA" which is red. The same red ink as on stamps overprinted in red. Dr. Jozef Kuderewicz of Manchester, New Hampshire also owns a 50 fenigi stamp overprinted in black where a small part of the "A" in "ODESA" is red. This indicates that first one half sheet of the 10 fen. stamps and one half sheet of the 50 fen. stamps were overprinted with red ink. This did not appear to the printer to be adequate and all remaining stamps were then overprinted in black without first completely removing the red ink from the printing plate. Gryzewski (reference 4) describes the stamps with red overprints as proofs and bases his opinion on the fact that he has never seen them postally used. This opinion is wrong. Stamps with red overprints of both, 10 fen. and 50 fen. denominations were postally used and exist on authentic covers. For example the cover shown in figure 6 is franked with a pair of 50 fen. stamps overprinted in red. They are normally issued stamps, not proofs or errors.

Due to the Red Army offensive, the Polish Consulate in Odessa was closed on January 31, 1920 and its personnel returned to Poland. During its existence the Postal Agency at the Polish Consulate transported according to its official records, 599 registered letters and 135 regular letters (references 2, 4 and 9). Almost all of these letters were sent without any philatelic motivation and many were thus destroyed after being read. Therefore "Odessa" covers are rare. The Postal Agency in Odessa did cancel to order some of the overprinted stamps as well as some Polish stamps without overprints.

The unsold stamps with and without overprints, together with the consular archives were returned to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw (ref. 2). Many of the overprinted unsold mint stamps were

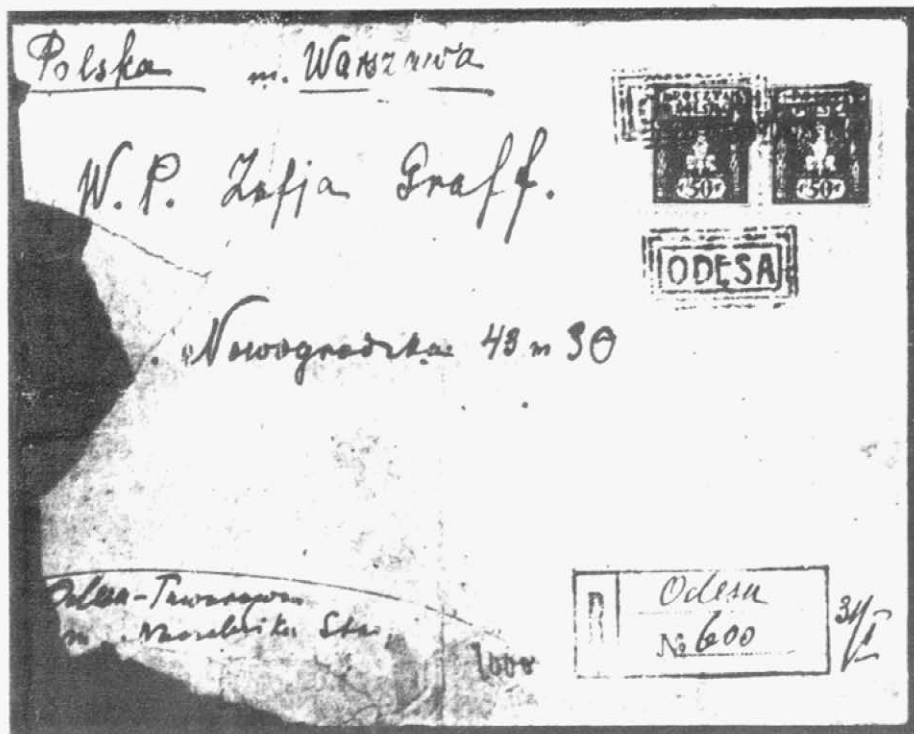


Figure 7: This registered cover franked with a pair of 50-mark stamps with red "ODESA" overprints was mailed on January 31, 1920, the last day of the Polish Postal Agency in Odessa.



Figure 9: On the reverse side of this cover mailed from Odessa on January 9, 1920, is the arrival postmark of Tomaszow Rawski dated February 24, 1920.

acquired by Dr. Urstein from Warsaw, later Mr. A. Eger from Czestochowa obtained them. In the 1970's Mr. Kolpak in Warsaw owned many "ODESA" stamps including the 15 hal. mint pair and the full set of stamps with inverted overprints.

Forgeries of "ODESA" overprints exist but are not often seen. To expertize these overprints, compare the lettering details, measurements and overprint inks with overprints known to be authentic.

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5. Tadeusz Gryzewski "Odessa Polish Agency After WW I provided 'Used Abroad' Service and Cancel". *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* 23, 1959, 21.
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7. *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, RUCH*, Warszawa 1962, Vol. III, p. 734-736. (in Polish).
8. Jozef Kuderewicz, "Poland - Odessa". *Journal of Rossica Society of Russian Philately*, No. 73, 1967, p. 26. Reprinted in *Polonus Bulletin*, 1968, p. 256-3.
9. Jerzy Tokar, "Odessa 15 h. - the Polish Mauritius" *Filatelista* 1987 p. 531-533 (in Polish).

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NEW ISSUES

By ROMUALD ODROWSKI

Polish Constitution Bicentennial commemorative sheet of 3000 zloty value issued May 3, 1991. Designed by A. Heidrich.

NEW DISCOVERIES FOUND on SCOTT'S #2954

By ROMUALD ODROWSKI



DOUBLE OVERPRINT



INVERTED OVERPRINT



INVERTED OVERPRINT ON COVER

POLONUS OFFICERS - 1991-1992

At the election of officers at the May 24th meeting, the following were elected: Roman Strzelecki, President; Ted Sokolowski, Vice President; Teresa Lederer, Secretary and Stefan Czarniecki, Treasurer. The Board of Directors: Stanley Dobrzycki, Chester Schafer, Al Rybarski.

WINNERS CIRCLE

At a recent Chicagoland COMPEX, held at O'Hare Expo Center in Rosemont, IL, member Ed Link walked away with a gold medal for his exhibit of "Beginning of Polish Scouting, World Jamborees and Warsaw Uprising."

NEW MEMBER

Rev. Bruno Janik
5345 W. Roscoe Street
Chicago, IL 60641

Congratulations to Fr. Janik on his 25th anniversary as a priest, celebrated July 7th, at St. Ladislaus Parish in Chicago.