



THE POST HORN AND POST SIGNALS*

An Historical Sketch of Its Use and Origin in Poland

by Włodzimierz Polanski

(reprinted from STAMPS of 3/4/50)

The Post Horn, long a symbol and emblem of the Post, had to fight for its right as such emblem of postal institutions of almost the entire world. We see the Post Horn on official postal shields, mail boxes, caps and buttons of the letter carrier's uniform, on coaches and almost all printed matter as well as on stamps themselves. Since the invention of the telegraph and the joining in some countries of the telegraph with the Post, the symbol of the Post has been embellished with lightning flashes. However, this innovation did not alter the position of the Post Horn as the Postal symbol.

For stamp collectors the Post Horn is especially interesting, since they find it on postage stamps, stamped envelopes and other philatelic objects, i.e., the stamps and envelopes of Poland, Finland, Russia, Romania, Nor-

way, Hanover, Hungary, Switzerland, etc.

There are some postage stamps which are watermarked with the Post Horn design (Poland, Holland, Brunswick, Norway and Sweden). There are stamps where the shape of the horn plays a most important and deciding role in the value and classification.

As an example, Russian stamps of 1884 of the 3½ and 7 ruble value are sought where the special shape of the horn "without flashes" are the identifying mark of the older issue and gives them additional value in the catalogs as compared with similar valued stamps of the same design of a later issue. Another example are the stamps of Finland of 1856-1858, where the size of the opening of the Horn determines the first or subsequent issue, and the lack of the opening indicates that it is a cut square from an envelope of the same period. Or in the case of Norway's stamps of 1877 and 1882 the two issues differ only in a graphic showing of the Horn, however the later issue differs in that it

* This article taken from a reprint of "IKAROS" (1938) and was translated by Chester W. Makowski and Lester Jankowski.



Figs. 1-2, left to right, are markings impressed on postal correspondence, time of King Stanislaus Augustus. Nos. 3-4, seals impressed on receipts in receipt books, General Post, 1817-1831, during Polish uprising 1831. No. 5, postage due stamp of 1924.

has a shadow.

The known Russian counterfeit stamp of $3\frac{1}{2}$ rubles erroneously printed on horizontally laid paper, instead of the vertically laid paper, where the flashes were eliminated and the Horn stands alone, tried to imitate the rather scarce change of the stamp of 1884, since only a few copies are known on the horizontally laid paper. The same may be said of more easily detected falsifications of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 ruble value stamps of 1884 on vertically laid paper made over from the original stamps of 1904 issue by adding the flashes. It is not difficult to detect the difference by comparison of the size of the measurements of the Horns on the original stamps of 1884. Although many types of Horns were used to sound the Postal signal, the emblem used is almost exclusively of the rounded type (either German or Austrian).

The musical instrument, the Post Horn, reaches into antiquity. It was used in the so-called Butcher Post, "Metzgerpost" in Germany. The butchers, pioneers of the German Post had a custom, on nearing a group of inhabitants, of sounding various melodies on a Horn, thus giving notice of their arrival. This is mentioned by S. in his article, "The Horn as a Symbol of the Post" (from the magazine "Poczta" 1919 Nr. 4, page 17):

"In 1516 the ambitious Postmaster Francesco de Taxis, instituted, on the strength of an agreement with Ruler Maximilian I, the first regular postal service between Innsbruck, Vienna and Brussels, and for competitive reasons as well as to popularize this innovation, the Carriers were given metal horns. This use gave the Post Horn a special meaning and increased the importance of the establishment of the postal system of Taxis. Taxis, seeing how well the Horn served his enterprise, took steps to have this instrument placed under a monopoly for Postal use only. He naturally encountered energetic resistance, especially from the Butcher post; this quarrel, however, lasted 300 years, and ended with a victory for the Nationalized Postal Systems, so much so that decrees of the rulers provided for penalties, which were quite heavy for unauthorized use of the Post Horn."

In Poland the first mention of the Post Horn is in the Postal Ordinance of July 8, 1667, in the following words:



Watermark of Polish Stamps 1932-35

"... The Postmaster should arrange to have a pewter coat of arms with an eagle for all Postal carriers as a sign of their immunity and also a coat of arms on the front of the house (Post Office) of the Postmaster ... And on Thursdays the Horn will be sounded publicly in the street, in the morning, at noon and in the evening to notify the people that the mail is being collected for shipment on Friday. ..."

In the times of Stanislaus Augustus the reforms in the postal institution were brought into full bloom. This is confirmed by historical souvenirs, as well as memoirs of foreign travelers who visited Poland. Buildings which housed the Post were free from the duty of housing members of the Army and were decorated with shields bearing the National Coat of Arms as well as the postal system—the Post Horn. Besides the foot carrier and the mounted carrier, there came into being the special delivery, couriers, and express couriers; the mail being transported by armed postilions and couriers, all having special badges and equipped with Post Horns. Rules of the road required that all private vehicles, upon meeting with these postal couriers, yield the right of way, upon a given signal sounded on the Horn. A special mention is made in "Instructions for the Honorable Gentlemen Post Magistrates of the Crown Post and Principality of Lithuania" in the year 1764. Paragraph fourteen of the instructions reads as follows:

"... every postal magistrate should
(continued on page 89-3)

POLAND

The Postal Issues During and After the Great War
by the late COL. R. N. W. LARKING, C.B.E., F.R.P.S.I.

Values issued for use in Southern Poland.			HALERZY.							KORONY.				
			3	5	10	15	20	25	50	1	1½	2	2½	5
Thick	Imperf.	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
wove	Perf.	10½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
"	"	10 × 11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
paper	"	11½ × 10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
(1919).	"	11½ × 10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Horiz-	Imperf.	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ontally	Perf.	10 × 11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ribbed	"	10 × 11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
paper.	"	10 × 11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Verti-	Imperf.	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
cally	Perf.	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ribbed	"	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
paper.	"	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Thin	Perf.	11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
wove	"	10 × 11½	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
paper	"	11½ × 10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
(1920).	"	11½ × 10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

15 hal. Scarlet, rose-red, vermillion, bright red.

2 hal. Grey-brown, deep brown, drab.

25 hal. (on thick wove). Pale blue, blue, deep blue, grey-blue.

(on thin wove). Slate-blue, pale blue, blue.

50 hal. Chestnut, deep chestnut, red-brown.

1 kr. Green, deep green, grey-green.

1½ kr. Brown, dull brown, deep brown.

2 kr. Blue, deep blue, light blue.

2½ kr. Purple, deep violet, brown-violet.

5 kr. Grey-blue, slate blue, deep slate-blue.

The following proof shades exist on wove paper, imperforate, and usually without gum:—

3 fen. Orange, olive, olive-bistre, purple, sepia, drab.

5 fen. Grey-green, deep blue-green, myrtle, dull green (on thin paper with printed squares on the back).

10 fen. Pale bluegreen, slate, yellow, purple.

15 fen. Scarlet, blue, grey-olive, black.

20 fen. Blue, lemon, red, pale violet.

50 fen. Red.

1 mk. Carmine, deep violet.

2½ mks. Violet.

5 mks. Red, sepia, black.

3 hal. Lemon, carmine, orange-brown, lilac-brown.

5 hal. Dark green, greenish grey.

10 hal. Buff.

15 hal. Carmine-red.

20 hal. Blue-green.

25 hal. Dark blue, sepia.

50 hal. Light blue, violet-blue, carmine, yellow on blue card.

1½ kr. Carmine, yellow, lemon.

2 kr. Scarlet.

2½ kr. Myrtle.

5 kr. Carmine, lemon.

LIST OF VARIETIES

I list only those plate varieties which are constant on two or more sheets, or which I have seen on two or more single copies. With few exceptions the same varieties do not appear on all

Reprinted from GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY — Oct. 1929 to Aug. 1932
by POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY — Chicago, Ill. — U. S. A.

printings of that value.

3 fen.

- (a) Dot in right "3," No. 5.
Dot against top serif of right "3," No. 20.
Dot between "SK," No. 37.
Bottom frame-line and "K" broken, No. 71.
- (b) Varieties Nos. 5 and 20.
Dot over "Z" and "LS," No. 14.
Two dots over left "F," No. 38.
- (c) Variety No. 20.
Blob of colour over the small "T" at foot of shield, No. 10.
Small vertical stroke through the top of "P" of "POLSKA," No. 79.
- (d) Varieties Nos. 5 and 20.
- (a), (b), (c), (d) are four separate printings.
Dot after "POCZTA."
Imperforate between, vertically.
Imperforate bottom margin.
Double perforations, horizontally.
Blind perforations, horizontally.
Deep brown gum.

5 fen.



On all papers and printings:

A coloured vertical stroke against the right "F," giving it the appearance of a "y." In some printings it looks like an inverted "4," No. 33.
Dot against top serif of "L," No. 45.

On thin wove:

Dot in top serif of "S," No. 27.
Dot to left of right "F," No. 64.
Bar of "A" in "POLSKA" broken, No. 66.
Dot over "T."

Imperforate top margin, on thick wove.
Imperforate bottom margin, on thin wove.

Issue of February 1920 (thin transparent paper) on a thicker and opaque paper. This is a late issue.

Offset on thin wove.

10 fen.

Dot in "Z," No. 37 on thick wove.

The following varieties occur on a sheet of the thin wove paper, 1st printing only:—

Stop against top serif of "P" in "POCZTA," No. 14.
Coloured stroke to left of "O" in "POCZTA," No. 32.
Bottom right serif of "A" in "POCZTA" touches the frame-line No. 70.
Dot between "PO" of "POCZTA," No. 95.

The whole stamp doubly impressed, on thin wove, perf. 10x11½.
Issue of February 1920 (thin transparent paper) on thicker and opaque paper. This is a late issue.

Double perforations vertically on thick wove.

15 fen. (Carmine)

The following two varieties occur on a sheet in some printings:—

Thick shading at foot of shield on the right, No. 9.
Diagonal stroke through top serif of "S," No. 19.
Dot against "S," No. 31. Occurs on all printings.
Blob of colour between left "1" and "5," No. 45 on some printings.
Imperforate top margin.
Imperforate between vertically.

15 fen. (Scarlet)

On thick wove:—

Dot against "S," No. 31. Occurs on all printings.
Diagonal stroke with blob of colour above it on left of "A" of "POLSKA," No. 45. Occurs on some printings.

On thin wove. The following varieties occur on the same sheet:—

Thick shading at foot of shield on right, No. 9.
Diagonal stroke through top serif of "S," No. 19.
Dot against "S," No. 31.
No top serif to "A" of "POLSKA," No. 80.

On thick wove:—

Imperforate between horizontally and vertically.
Double perforations horizontally and vertically.
Perforated horizontally only (a sheet perf. 10).

On thin wove:—

Imperforate top margin.

Very thick bluish paper.
Dull white gum.
Offset on thick and thin wove.

20 fen.

On all papers and perforations:—

- (a) No stop after right "f," Nos. 5, 7.
No stop after either "f," No. 6.
No stop after left "f," Nos. 8, 9.
Small blob of colour against top of "A" of "POLSKA," No. 66.
- (b) No stop after left "f," No. 2.
Dots on top of both "A's," No. 5.
Small dot on right of "T," No. 90.
Minute dot over "2," No. 80.
Small blob of colour against top of "A" of "POLSKA," No. 66.
- (c) Same as (b) except that all stops after "f" are present.
- (d) No varieties except the one on No. 66.
- (a), (b), (c), (d) are four separate printings.

Two stops after left "f," on ribbed paper, imperf.

Imperf. top margin, on ribbed paper.

Imperf. between vertically on ribbed paper.

Double perforations vertically, on ribbed paper.

Offset on thin wove.

25 fen.

On thick wove:—

- (a) No stop after left "f," Nos. 4, 5, 14, 17, 18, 49, 57, 59, 69, 72, 76, 77, 78, 87, 89.
No stop after right "f," No. 23.
Dot in top curve of left "f," No. 45.
Two stops after left "f," No. 92.
- (b) No stop after right "f," No. 5.
Dot between "5" and "f," No. 21.
Dot in top curve of left "f," No. 45.
- (a) and (b) are two separate printings.

Two stops after left "f," No. 24, on thick wove.

Colon after left "f," No. 73, on thick grey paper.

Dot top of right "f," No. 21, on thick wove.

Dot under left "f," on thick wove.

Dot before "2" on ribbed paper.

Broken frame-line at top, on ribbed paper.

On vertically laid:—

No stop after left "f," No. 18.

Colon after left "f," No. 73.

No stops after left "f," Nos. 18, 60, 64, on pale olive.

No stops after left "f," Nos. 1, 7, 54, 57, 64, 86, on deep olive.

Perforated 5 by sewing-machine, on thick wove.

Imperforate between vertically, on ribbed paper.

Double perforations vertically, on thick and horizontally laid.

Double perforations horizontally, on horizontally laid.

Worn plate, vertically laid.

40 fen.

The following two varieties occur on the same sheet in some printings:—

"P" of "POLSKA" damaged, No. 73.

White spot in "S," No. 91.

Imperforate between horizontally.

Double perforations vertically.

50 fen.

On thick and thin wove:—

Spot of colour on top of right "f," No. 37.

Dot under "0" of "50," No. 67.

Dot in "5," No. 82.

No stop after right "f," No. 33, on thin wove only.

Bisected (postmarked RABKA 1, 26.11.20), on thick wove.

Imperforate and perforated by a sewing-machine, on thin wove. These varieties originated from a theft of unfinished stock from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. They were sold in small shops in Warsaw, but most of the stamps were sold with the sewing-machine perforation. Very few imperforate copies are known.

On horizontally laid:—

Top of left "f" broken off, No. 12.

No stop after right "f," No. 33.

Heavy line of shading on left thigh of eagle, No. 64. (This variety also occurs on some printings on the vertically laid.)

The right marginal stamps of a sheet perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 10, in a sheet perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, on horizontally laid.

Imperforate bottom margin, on vertically laid.

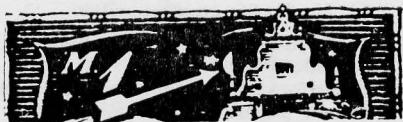
Worn plate, vertically laid.

1 mk. (Violet)

The following two varieties are on first printings only:—

Triangular spot in front of first

"M," No. 91.



Spot like a half-moon to left of granary, No. 92.
Curved stroke after stop of second "M,"
Curl to foot of "1."

Error of colour: red instead of violet, imperf. and perf.

1 mk. (Grey-lilac)

Curved stroke after stop of second "M."
Triangular spot in front of first "M," No. 91.



Scratches to left of granary in the shape of a stag's head, No. 92. It is said that this variety is the result of trying to obliterate the "half-moon" from the plate.

Very worn plate.

1 mk. (Grey-black)

Nos. 91 and 92 as for the grey-lilac.

Spot at left of the foot of "1."

Imperforate left margin.

Double perforations horizontally.

1½ mk.

Two oblique parallel scratches over "M."

Five small coloured dots among the letters in the shield. This stamp has a vertical coloured scratch down the stamp.

Semicircular spot on top of "1." "1" has a hump instead of being straight.

Stroke to right of "Z" and a dot above it.

Dot above "M."

Broken top to "5."

Accent over "0" of "50."

Tail to "M."

Tail to "S."

Double impression, imperforate.

Imperforate between, horizontally.

2 mks.

On thick wove:—

Large circular dot instead of star on left of granary, No. 40.

Dot in front of "Z."

White dot in right upper corner near frame-line.

White irregular spot below stop of first "M."

White irregular spot below stop of second "M."

Double impression, imperforate.

Worn plate.

Imperforate between, horizontally.

On vertically laid:—

White dot in right upper corner near frame-line.

Circular spot on top of "2," No. 13.

Dot above shield in centre near frame-line, No. 23.

Dot against left upper serif of "M," No. 56.

Imperforate.

2½ mks.

Dot after "P" in "POLSKA," No. 61.

Dot in front of "O" in "POLSKA," No. 73.

Imperforate.

Double perforations horizontally.

3 mks.

Imperforate.

Double perforations, right margin.

5 mks.

On thick wove:—

Upward projection from middle of sword-arm of Uhlan, No. 51.

Bomb in front of horse's knees, No. 61.

Both "A's" worn, No. 73.

"A" in "POLSKA" worn, No. 93.

Dot over "L," No. 81.

White spot under point of sword.

Bomb on scabbard.

Coloured blob at top of left lower panel.

Diagonal cut through first "M."

Flaw under heel of Uhlan.

Stop after "POCZTA."

White semicircular spot above line under horse's hind legs.

On vertically laid:—

Double impression.

Imperforate.

Imperforate left margin.

(to be continued)

display the postal coat of arms, and have the postilion wear the uniform of the Kingdom's Post and have a post horn; in transacting the business of the post the postilion should not be sent out without the sign of the post and the horn. . . ."

Further detailed information is found in a somewhat later document of the same period, "Instructions for Postal Officials within the Crown as well as the Principality of Lithuania," 1773, namely:

"Par. I ". . . As soon as the ordinary Post is heard arriving, the Postilion who will carry the post further, shall immediately bring his mount fully saddled. . . ."

Par. V ". . . Each Postmaster should diligently see that the Postilion whom he is sending is sober, in proper uniform, that he carries his Horn, and that the saddle bag is securely strapped and attached to the saddle. . . ."

Par. X "Postmasters should see to it, that their Postilions know how to play the Horn well, and sound it each time they pass through a city, town or village, whether by day or by night, so that the people can warn the Postilion of bad roads or any dangerous passages. . . ."

At the same time special seals appeared in different cities of the Kingdom and Lithuania. These were hand-impressed on correspondence sent thru the Post of the Kingdom. Such seals, having the name of the city with the King's Crown at the top, and the Post Horn below, belong today to philatelic rarities; these are the prototype of present postage stamps. (Figs. 1 and 2)

The epoch of the Principality of Warsaw brought changes in the equipment of the Postilion. This equipment consisted of a hat decorated with the Polish Coat of Arms and badge of the Post, a short monkey coat, britches, boots, cape and Post Horn, worn over the shoulder. The number of postilions in this period was six hundred.

"Rules of the Post approved by the Board of Administration of the Kingdom of Poland July 8, 1817" gives the following pertinent articles:

Article 1. Marks of the Post are: Horn and badge with the Coat of Arms of the Kingdom. These marks are restricted to use by the Post only, under penalty of 300 Polish zloty for unauthorized used.

(continued next month)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

The score at the beginning of our membership drive contest is as follows: Each of these members have secured one applicant apiece—Frank Jancowski, Jack Domar, Adam Kloskowski, and Barney Fialkowski.

You still have a chance to participate in this contest and win some of the many valuable prizes. Prizes include a leather bound mint sheet file, stock books, mint sheet #251, Konapski block, etc. The contest closes January 31, 1951.

Application forms can be gotten from C. J. Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

"HEAR MY PLEA"

A Polish collector writes from Saigon, Indo-China, asking for some Polish philatelists in the U. S. A. to correspond with him in the Polish language. Write to Krutul Eugene, 2cie-Mle55929, S. P. 99714-B.P.M. 414, Via Saigon, Indo-Chine, T. O. E.

FOR SALE

We received a letter from member Fred C. Engerman in regard to the disposal of his stamp collection of Poland. He writes:

"I have collected Poland for some time now, except for recent issues, and have the country almost complete in mint, used, first day covers, first flights, imperforates, locals, etc. I also have quite a few duplicates, but due to circumstances beyond my control I am intending to sell the collection.

"Would any member of Polonus be interested in the collection? I have them all mounted and in some instances written up. I have them in two loose leaf albums."

(Signed) Fred C. Engerman
52 J Street
Turners Falls, Mass.

NEW MEMBERS

I. Gust
364 Barclay St.
Elwood S. 3
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Robert Mitchell
3833 S. Oak Park Ave.
Berwyn, Illinois
Wencel J. Jankiewicz
Verdigre, Nebraska
Henry Stephen Milosz
487 Hudson Ave.
Rochester 5, N. Y.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

By order of the Postmaster General there were put on sale and into circulation April 26th, two stamps commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the May Workers Holiday. The 10 zl. violet is designed by E. John. Total quantity issued—4 million.



The 15 zl. dark olive was designed by M. Bylina. Total quantity issued—8 million. Both were printed in roto-gravure at the P.W.P.W., Krakow.



In the Sept. issue of the BULLETIN, mention was made of the release of additional values of the President Bierut reengraved stamps. The additional values of 20, 40 and 50 zl. were put in use on June 25, 1950. In addition, new values were released—a 5 zl. olive green, a 10 zl. carmine, and a 25 zl. brown.

The 15 zl. blue 6 Year Plan described in the July-August BULLETIN, and illustrated in the Sept. issue, was released about July 20.

A 25 zl. new design Postage Due was also released about this time.

A 15 zl. grey was released on Sept. 1st for a Polish Peace Congress held in Warsaw. The design depicts a worker carrying a heavy mallet over his right shoulder upon which is resting a dove of peace. The design is by T. Gromowski and engraved by M. R. Polak.

Przegląd Filatelistyczny
Joseph Bieniecki

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Associate Editors this issue

Jack Domar
Lester Jankowski

TID BITS

Member Larry Zieler who was in the U. S. Air Corps Reserve, was called up and is again wearing his uniform.

At the Sept. 22nd meeting another small scale Beebe was held—Polonus fashion. Food including herring and black rye, was donated by Chester Makowski.

The Society now has 18 easels for the mounting of frames, which were made possible through the untiring efforts of Barney Fialkowski and Adam Kloskowski. They donated a great amount of time and labor to do this. To these fellows is due the deepest thanks of the Society.

Dr. Luigi Mazzini, our member from Genoa, Italy, writes us from Vienna where he is vacationing.

Our Polpex 1951 Director Adam Kloskowski appeals to members for ideas for our next Polpex. Any suggestions for a historical theme for our souvenir sheet, any new ideas on classifying the exhibits, judging, will be welcome. Write to Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47.

The Society owes Jack Domar a debt of gratitude for furnishing the Secretary with addressograph plates for new members and changes of address. These plates are used for addressing all Society mail.

Tony Banasiak received his registered embalmers certificate and is now ready for business.

Member Derek Palmer, Casilla 2393, Santiago De Chile, writes that he'd like to contact members who collect Polish Postal Stationery.