

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave.

Issue 125

December 1954 - January 1955

PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT

For the first time in the history of the Polonus Philatelic Society, a Past Presidents' Night was held at our Dec. 10th program meeting. Program Chairman Zdzislaw Obara contacted all the past presidents of Polonus and asked them each to present a short talk on the highlights of Polonus during their term of office.

Our first president Lester Jankowski was unable to attend. Henry Choynacki sent a letter of regret at not being able to make it but sent his heartiest best wishes.

Jack Domar told members of how early meetings were held till 3 and 4 a.m. He cited experiences during Polonus' golden era when members visited Philadelphia and Detroit shows and told of the national reputation our society enjoyed. He urged members to use and appreciate the services of the Experts Committee.

Dr. M. E. Uznanski spoke of the trying wartime years — when our members entered the armed services and worked in defense plants. Meetings were held regularly and the work was carried on.

Adam Kloskowski portrayed Polonus in retrospect. He said: "The word 'Polpex' had reached the world over. Widespread publicity established Polonus at the forefront of philately." He asked members to devote a little time to some of the many activities of the society.

Chester Mikucki, the founder of our stamp club, spoke on "What Polonus had done for him." He was enriched with the friendship of many new fellows. When Polonus first began, members new little of stamps. They pooled their knowledge and developed into advanced specialists.

Dr. Galaskiewicz — who didn't know much about his office — received wonderful cooperation. At the 10th Anniversary Show, for the first time in philately, a Court of Honor was presented. In keeping with our Chopin theme, a concert pianist performed on our Falcon Hall stage. Col. Larking's articles were reprinted in our Bulletin. A Poland No. One block of six was shown for the first time in this country. The Dr. told how Barney Fialkowski volunteered and built easels which to this day are producing money for the society.

Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz brought to mind the first meeting held at Veterans Hall, 1239 N. Wood St. From then on we developed into a democratic club. He was glad to see members, through their interest in Polish stamps, learn more of Polish history and of the Polish language.

John Bobo brought this lengthy meeting to an end by extending the seasons greetings to all.

Past presidents Myron Steczynski and Leo Haska could not attend.

A Beeba and Christmas Party then followed with food and liquid refreshments aplenty, thanks to the generosity of members S. Bor, A. Banasiak, J. Banasiak, J. Bobo, Z. Obara, Doc Kozy, J. P. Rux, C. Schafer, Wm. Górky, Dr. Uznanski, Z. Wagrowski and S. Kochanski.

TIME TO PAY YOUR 1955 DUES!

Your membership in the Polonus Philatelic Society expires Jan. 31, 1955. Please help the society from doing much additional work and from extra expense by sending in your 1955 dues promptly. Remittances for dues go to Treasurer Joseph Banasiak, 3016 W. 41st Stret, Chicago 32, Ill.

SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES!

Deadline for the 1955 Polpex entries is Feb. 15th. Members, especially out-of-town members, are urged to prepare their exhibits and get in that entry form. Don't wait too long—you may be left out!

POLPEX PROGRAM BOOK

An impressive Catalogue of the 1955 Polpex Exhibits is being prepared by John Bobo of the program book committee. The traditional two-color cover will illustrate the theme of our Polpex which is—in conjunction with the Marian Year, the Madonna at the Holy Gate of Wilno.

Members are asked to help out with the expense of printing this program book by contributing a dollar and having their name printed on the Patron page. Send your dollar to Chester Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

For those wishing to advertise, prices for a full page ad are \$15.00, half page \$8.00, quarter page ad \$4.00. Send copy and check to John Bobo, 2318 Augusta Blvd., Chicago 22, Ill.

NEW MEMBER

Sgt. John Jasinski
529th M. I. Plat.
A.P.O. 26, N.Y., N.Y.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Robert J. Owen
1540 No. Leavitt St.
Chicago 22, Ill.
Billy Couch
43 Paris Hill Ave.
Brantford, Ontario, Canada

TID BITS

Our January 14th meeting was well attended—30 members and 5 visitors showed up. This was the meeting at which the annual nomination of officers took place. In fact, in the past years, this meeting was very prolonged and dreaded; this year's nomination of officers took three minutes—the shortest on record. Doc Kozy got up and made a motion to retain the executives for another year. After a short huddle, they all agreed to stay. Dr. Uznanski then seconded the motion and a rousing chorus of 'ayes' brought the meeting to a quick end.

* * *

The Rossica Philatelic Society (composed of collectors of Russian stamps) has moved its headquarters from Belgrade, Yugoslavia to Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Gregory B. Salisbury is the present editor of the Rossica Journal—English edition. We understand it is contemplated to publish this journal in Russian and later in French. Messrs. Archangelsky and Rachmanov are to help as co-editors.

* * *

Did you know that member Ben Reeves (President of the S.P.A.) is the only regular member of Polonus who is not of Polish descent, and this is noted in our by-laws.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Set of three stamps commemorating the 160th Anniversary of Kosciuszko's Insurrection.

Date of issue: November 30, 1954.
Values: 40gr grey—Battle of Racławice
60gr dark violet—Kosciuszko after Racławice
1.40gr blue black—Warsaw Insurrection.

Perforation: 12¼ x 12¾.
Paper: white, unwatermarked.
Gum: white.
Process: steel plate engraving.
Measurement: 51 x 31.25 mm.
— Prasa i Książka

Set of eight stamps showing Warsaw Monuments.

Date of issue: Beginning of February.
Values: 5gr Syrena; 10gr. F. Dzierżyński; 15gr King Zygmunt III; 20gr Brotherhood Defense; 40gr Nicholas Kopernik; 45gr Marie Curie-Skłodowska; 60gr Adam Mickiewicz; 1.55 zł. Jan Kiliński.

Process: steel plate engraving.
Measurement: 25.5 x 31.25 mm.
— Inż. Z. R.

Set of three in honor of the Fifth Chopin International Pianists' Competition, Feb. 22—March 21, 1955 at Warsaw.

Values: 45gr brown, 60gr green and 1 zł blue showing bust of Chopin alongside a grand piano.

— G. Kukiz

SEND IN YOUR DUES NOW!

RUSSIA NUMBER ONE

by V. RACHMANOV

The following is reprinted from THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, the publication of THE COLLECTORS CLUB, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N.Y., which publishes six times a year philatelic research articles from outstanding students. Membership in THE COLLECTORS CLUB is open to qualified philatelists all over the world.

Russia is one of the few countries that issued postal stationery before adhesive stamps. As early as 1845 envelopes with an impression of a 5 kopeck stamp had been issued for the St. Petersburg and Moscow City posts. On September 27, 1848, (1) Czar Nicholas I issued a decree authorizing envelopes for use throughout Russia, effective December 1, 1848. Finally on November 12, 1856 Czar Alexander II agreed to a proposal that the State Council introduce adhesive postage stamps for the use of the populace. The denominations were 10 kopeck, 20 kopeck and 30 kopeck for use of letters on 1, 2 and 3 loth (2) weight respectively. The details of manufacture of the stamps and the date of issue were left to the discretion of the Chief Director of the Post Office Department in collaboration with the Minister of Finance.

The Post Office Department for some time previously had shown considerable interest in the new method of using adhesive stamps for payment of postage. An official of the Department, Councillor Tcharukowsky, made a two-year trip to Great Britain and Germany to study the methods of stamp production. After his return, the engraver Kirchner of the Printing Office for Government Obligations at St. Petersburg produced a number of essays for 10 kopeck stamps. All these essays were circular and showed in the center in typography, on a netted background, either a Mercury head, or the Rus-

sian coat of arms, a double-headed eagle. These essays were cut to shape and pasted on envelopes of yellowish-white paper, 138 x 118 mm. in size. They are known in dark green, blue, carmine and black, as well as in blue with a black center.

These essays were not accepted. So the printing office on August 10, 1857 submitted new ones. They showed the circular design of the 10 kopeck envelopes (Fig. A) of the 1848-49 issue, and were embossed in black on white, yellow, straw, rose, red, dark blue and green papers. There was a roulette around each design. On the insistence of Councillor Tcharukowsky, a number of bi-colored essays are known namely:

Frame

Green
Green
Brown
Brown
Brown
Carmine
Carmine
Carmine

Center

Olive-brown
Rose
Rose
Gray
Yellow green
Lilac
Lilac rose
Green



Fig. A The circular design used on the 10 kopeck envelope.

(1) All the dates in this article conform to the Russian (Julian) Calendar which was twelve days behind the Gregorian Calendar used in Central and Western Europe.

(2) A loth is equivalent to about one half of an ounce.

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Aside from these essays officially produced by the Government Printers, but which were not considered satisfactory, there also exist essays made by the printing firm Gottlieb Haase's

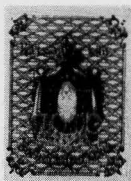


Fig. 1 One of the Haase essays in actual size.

Sons at Prague (Bohemia) which were probably manufactured in 1856. These essays can be considered the origin of the first Russian stamps, as their size and features were rather similar to the issued stamps. The center, embossed in color on white ground had the Austrian coat of arms (which was somewhat similar to that of Russia) showing a double-headed eagle, surrounded by a band with the firm's name "GOTTLIEB HAASE SOHNE / PRAG" in the center of a crowned coat of arms. A network background covers most of the

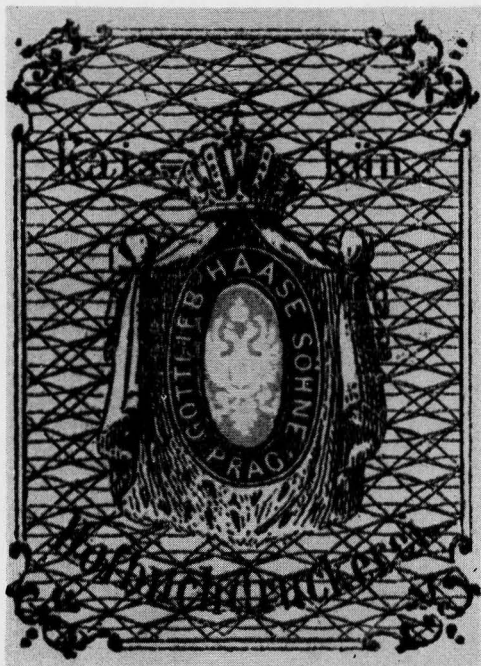


Fig. 2 An enlargement of the essay shown in Fig. 1.

frame, with the inscription "Kais. Kon. / Hofbuchdruckerei" which means "Imperial Royal Court Printing Works", above and below the coat-of-arms. Four

such bi-colored essays are in the collection of Sir John Wilson, London, who has kindly permitted us to illustrate the design (Fig. 1, original size, and Fig. 2, enlarged). The color combinations are:

Frame	Center
Blue	Carmine
Carmine	Green
Green	Carmine
Brown	Blue

The last combination eventually was accepted. A fifth combination, blue frame with orange center, is believed to exist.

These privately manufactured essays, were presented to the Post Office Department to be used as models for fur-



Fig. 3 The painted model, a prized possession of the late Agathon Faberge, shown in actual size.

ther work. The engraver Franz Kepler of the Government Printing Office produced a painting of the proposed design which was eventually used for the issued stamps. The coat-of-arms in this painting, namely the double-headed Russian eagle, was shown as it appeared before 1857. In that year, the coat-of-arms was changed, so the issued stamps showed the eagle in the new form. Kepler made the painting in the actual size and colors, brown and blue, with gouache pigments. For several decades, this painting except for slight changes was used as a model for Russian stamps. The original painting had been in the possession of the late Agathon Faberge, the great Russian collector. We illustrate it here for the first time. (Fig. 3, actual size, and Fig. 4, enlarged).

Kepler engraved the design—the frame and the center separately—on steel. A number of proofs were then made from these dies. Three die proofs in black of the frame of the 10 kopeck stamp are known. Two of them are on

ordinary paper, one stamped in black "F. KEPLER" in Russian letters above and below the design; below the inscription "F. Kepler" at the bottom is the pencil notation "first impression" in Russian. The third copy is on chalky paper, also stamped in black "F. KEPLER" above and below the design; below the inscription at the bottom of the design is "second impression", also in pencil. These proofs are now in the collection of Mr. H. C. Goss of London. In the same collection there is also a margin block of ten in the 10 kopeck frame on ordinary paper with a trial perforation 15, as well as twenty color proofs, on paper watermarked "I", in the following combinations:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 11. Indigo | Yellow orange |
| 12. Indigo | Yellow green |
| 13. Indigo | Milky blue |
| 14. Violet blue | Dark brown |
| 15. Bright yellow green | Carmine |
| 16. Dark yellow green | Orange |
| 17. Dark green | Violet |
| 18. Dark green | Brown |
| 19. Bottle green | Carmine |
| 20. Bright green | Rose |

These color proofs were originally bought by Agathon Faberge from the estate of M. Zarubin, an official of the Post Office Department. When purchased each was mounted on a separate sheet with a watermark "WHATMAN 1849" and had a protective cover of pelure paper. It may be noted that

the color combinations of the proofs numbered "5", "10" and "3" are the same as those used later for the issued stamps of 10, 20 and 30 kopecks.

In the collection of Sir John Wilson are die proofs of 10, 20 and 30 kopecks in original colors on pieces of regular paper, as well as such die proofs on glossy chalk-surfaced paper, the latter each with a small circular hole in the center. In addition the collection has a 10 kopeck with dark blue frame and brown carmine center, perforated 15, and three proofs of the 20 kopeck all perforated 15, with green frame and violet center, on regular paper as well as on paper with watermark "2", and in the issued colors on so-called "Prussian paper", in use at that time by the Prussian State Printing Works.



Fig. 4 The enlargement of Fig. 3.

- | Frame | Center |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Deep carmine | Yellow orange |
| 2. Bright carmine | Violet |
| 3. Carmine | Yellow green |
| 4. Brown | Yellow green |
| 5. Brown | Blue |
| 6. Orange | Yellow green |
| 7. Orange | Violet |
| 8. Violet | Yellow green |
| 9. Violet | Orange yellow |
| 10. Blue | Orange |

All preparations for the first Russian issue were made at the Printing Office for Government Obligations at St. Petersburg, where all printing material was manufactured and also the stamps themselves were printed. Even the paper with a large watermark "I" on each stamp, showing the watermark as a thickening instead of the usual thinning of the paper, was manufactured

there. (3) For the 20 and 30 kopeck denominations, which were issued only perforated, a similar paper, but with watermark "2" and "3" respectively, was used. Of the 10 kopeck, an unused copy with inverted watermark is known. This rarity was sold unrecognized in a Corinthia Auction at Zurich in December, 1950. No other example of this variety has ever been found, although collectors of Russian stamps have anticipated that it existed, having unsuccessfully sought it for a long time. Prior to printing, the surface of the paper was coated with a special preparation which sometimes penetrated the paper itself. This coating was intended to make forgeries more easily detectible, and also to prevent curling of the sheets due to gumming or atmospheric conditions. This process seems to have succeeded in these respects. The preparation consisted of Arabic gum with various added chemicals. The gum on the back of the stamps was also Arabic gum.

For the printing of the stamps two different presses were used, one for the frame and one for the colored embossing of the center. As the printing office had no press suitable for the latter operation, a special one had to be purchased in Berlin. The sheets consisted of 100 stamps, in four panes of 25 stamps (5 x 5) each, separated by gutters of unknown width.

A perforating device was ordered from the Austrian State Printing Wks. to apply a perforation similar to that used for the first perforated Austrian stamps which were about to be issued at that time. Its delivery was delayed, but eventually it arrived in such bad condition that an immediate and thorough repair was required. To meet the announced date of issue of the stamps, 3,000,000 copies of the 10 kopeck stamp had to be placed on sale imperforate.

The printing of the stamps was accurate and clean. No major printing varieties, especially no inverted centers, are known. Even a copy with a pronounced shifting of the center has not been found. An interesting plate variety, obviously a retouch, was found by Dr. G. Fulpius of Geneva, Switzerland.

(3) This is known as an "opaque" watermark, in contradistinction to the usual watermark called "translucent".

land, and described in the "Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung", No. 10 and 11 of 1947. It shows the numeral "1" of the figure "10" in the top right corner redrawn. The numeral is smaller and of different shape, and there was also a redrawing of the small dots of the background at the left of the figure (Fig. 5, enlarged). A few copies of the imperforate 10 kopeck as well as a number of perforated copies with this interesting retouch have since been found.

After Czar Alexander II had approved the new stamps on November 20, 1857, the Post Office Department on December 10, 1857 issued a circular which announced the introduction of adhesive stamps for general use on private mail. The post offices were ordered to start immediately with the sale of stamps,

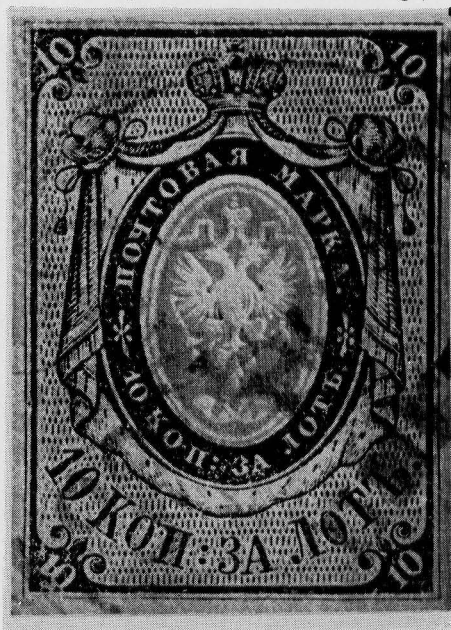


Fig. 5 The 10 kopeck retouched.

but they were not valid for postage in European Russia until January 1, 1858, and not until March 1, 1858 were they valid in Siberia, Caucasia and Transcaucasia. The circular had, as an appendix, instructions for the sale, safekeeping and use of the stamps, including one stating that the new stamps were valid only for regular domestic mail, for which their use was obligatory (Article 29) while the fees for all other mail, such as money let-

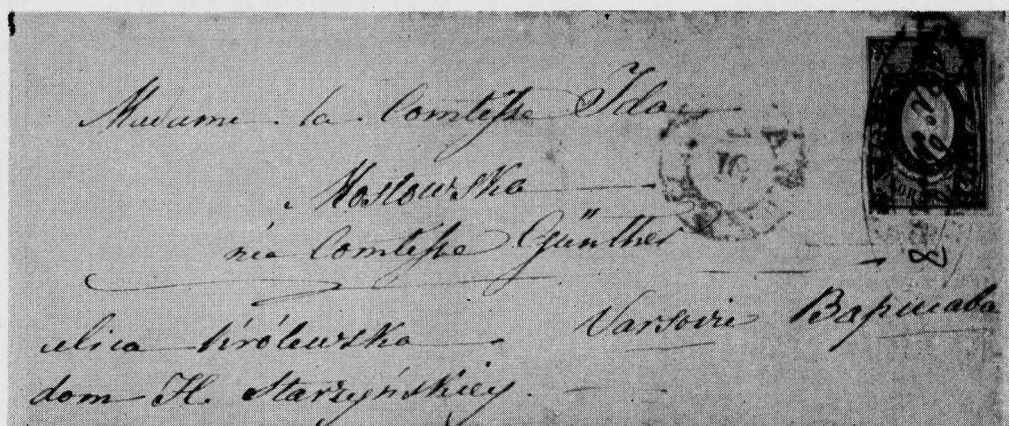


Fig. 6 A cover showing the postmark cancel used after the decree of Feb. 26, 1858.

ters as well as all foreign mail had to continue to be paid in cash as before (Article 33). The stamps were to be affixed on the face of the letters, but stamps on the reverse side of the envelope were tolerated (Article 25). Until the introduction of special cancellers the stamps were to be defaced by drawing a cross on them in black ink. (Article 31).

The various catalogs give different dates for the first day of issue of Russia No. 1, either December 10, 1857 (Moen, Michel) or simply 1857 (Scott, Zumstein and Yvert) or 1858 (Stanley Gibbons and Senf). There is no doubt that the sale started in December, 1857—Mr. Hansen gives the number of copies sold in that month as 10,510 ("Ros-sica" 1934, No. 15). However, their use did not start until January 1, 1858 (January 13, 1858 by the Gregorian calendar). Two copies are known with the date January 1, 1857 in the cancellation, undoubtedly the result of carelessness on the part of the postmaster, who forgot to change the year date on the first day of the new year. The stamps in question actually were used on January 1, 1858.

Russia Number One was demonetized together with the perforated bi-colored stamps, after the 1883 issue was introduced. It ceased to be valid for postage on December 31, 1884.

CANCELLATIONS

Three kinds of cancellations are found on Russia Number One:

1. **Manuscript Cancellation.** Paragraph 6 of the circular of the Post

Office Department introducing postage stamps ordered the post offices to cancel the stamps by pen crosses on all posted letters. In cases where this had been omitted by the post office when the letter was mailed, paragraph 7 ordered the post office delivering the letter to cancel the stamps.

2. **Cancellation with Town or Franco postmarks.** In a decree of February 26, 1858 (No. 138), the Post Office Department abolished the bothersome pen cancellation and ordered all post offices, until special cancellers were introduced, to cancel the stamps with postmarks. (Fig. 6). These were required to show the town name and the date. Another decree dated September 10, 1858 stated that these postmarks were to be supplied by the Post Office Department. But the postmarks which were used from that time on by the various post offices differ so much in design, size, ornaments and inscriptions that there can be no doubt that at least a large majority of them were manufactured locally. A number of postmarks were of pre-stamp origin, having already been used on letters thirty years before stamps were introduced. At that time, the manufacture of postmarks was left to the initiative of the individual post offices, resulting in much more variation than in later years.

The same black ink generally used for the pre-stamp markings was now ordered for the cancelling, but nevertheless red and blue cancellations are not very rare. The Post Office Department had to remind the postmasters in several circulars (No. 58 of April

12, 1860, No. 18 of May 21, 1860 and No. 72 of January 10, 1861) that only black ink should be used for cancelling and that the use of ink in other colors was not permitted.

The various types of postmarks used as cancellers can be classified by their design. In this way we can distinguish several main groups. In each group are placed the names of the post offices of which we have found the postmarks of that type used as canceller on Russia Number One. We have refrained from listing those postmarks seen only on perforated stamps although their existence on the imperforate 10k in a number of cases is very probable. Unfortunately, all of our reference material, assembled over thirty years by checking specialized collections, auction catalogs and the available philatelic literature containing hundreds of pictures of postmarks, was burned in Warsaw during the uprising of 1944, so that now only the material which we were able to assemble in this country (4) during the past five years can be listed. Therefore, the following lists are rather incomplete and many later additions can be expected. Great help was given by Mr. H. C. Goss of London, the owner of a large specialized collection of Russia, who submitted his file of drawings of postmarks and permitted its use in this article. We thank him for his very valuable assistance which greatly helped us in our task.

Most of the postmarks show the inscription in Cyrillic letters and only a small number have Latin inscriptions. We have marked the latter in the following list with an asterisk (*). A few postmarks, all from the Baltic provinces, have the town name in Cyrillic as well as in Latin letters. Some of the postmarks have, aside from the town name, additional Russian inscriptions, especially "OTPRAVLENO", meaning "dispatched", and "POLUCHENO", signifying "received". In a few cases the town name was preceded by a "V" which signifies "at", or by "IZ" which means "from". The abbreviation "LIF." means "Liflandski" which stands for "Livonian Gouvernement". "P.S." is the abbreviation for "Post-Station" (Postal Agency).

(4) The author is now a resident of the United States.

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Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

I. STRAIGHT LINE TOWN POST-MARKS WITHOUT DATE INDICATION:

ГОГЕНКРЕИЦЪ

Fig. 7

EPIFAN
FELLIN
JACOBSTADT
HOHENKREITZ (Fig. 7)
ILLUKS
KERCH OTRAVL
MITAVA
*MOISEKILL
NIZHNIJ LOMOV
PSKOV
SARANSK
SLUTSK
VLADIMIR

Ia. SAME, BUT IN SCRIPT LETTERS:

Fig. 8

BELTSY
BERDICHEV (Fig. 8)
PROSKUROV
WINNITZA

(Continued in next issue)