



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



This unusual cover did double duty. See Page 15 for the whole story.

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The Polonus Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the state of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by the authors of articles appearing in the *Polonus Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40; Electronic Bulletin (via website) North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: **\$10**. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan- Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, PO Box PO Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510

Articles for publication to be sent to Publication Committee co-chairmen

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President

Message from the President

Ed Andrews
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Reminder: Voting on Bylaws Change, March 17 in St. Louis

At the October 25, 2017 board telecon a change to the bylaws was approved for consideration by the membership. Recall that about a year ago we added the word "Polish" to the official name of the society, but to make that change in our corporate registration with the State of Illinois we need membership approval.

The change affects Article 1 of the bylaws, which will be amended to read as follows, the change being bold italicized:

"The organization shall be known as the Polonus ***Polish*** Philatelic Society, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a Non-Profit Corporation."

Per Article 9, Section 2 of the bylaws a vote by the membership will taken during the next annual meeting. That vote will be at the St. Louis Stamp Expo at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 17, 2018, in the Heathrow Room. Additional details regarding the show follow.

Gearing up for St. Louis

Plans are well underway for a great show. The venue is the Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd., near the St. Louis airport. There is a link on the Polonus website for the show. The link also provides access to hotel reservations (<http://www.stlouisstampexpo.org/>). The special show rate is \$89 per night using the group code: slsslsa. Contact the hotel via the link or call 314-429-1100 or toll free 1-800-468-3571.

If you are planning to attend please let our local representative Bob Ogrodnik know (robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net) so we can have a welcome packet ready for you. Our booth is in the corridor immediately outside the show ballroom. We plan to have a nice selection of POLPEX and other philatelic material available as well as literature and catalogs. We will also have a computer for direct access to our Polonus Store Annex eBay site so you can browse through offerings on line.

There are three seminars this year:

- Friday, March 16 at 1 p.m. in the Heathrow Room, *Collecting Poland - A Philatelic Adventure*, Bob Ogrodnik presenting. A general overview of Polish philately from the stampless Kingdom period up to modern topical collecting.
- Friday, March 16 at 3 p.m. in the Heathrow Room, *General Duty Revenue Fee Stamps of Poland. An Overview and Analysis of the Effects of Hyperinflation*, Ed Andrews presenting. This is

a review of the first general duty revenues of Poland following independence in 1918. Covers issued through the 1924 design change. Discussion of designs, perforation types and other varieties. Since hyperinflation occurred in 1923-1924 the stamps provide an insight to effects of inflation on revenue fees for various services.

- Saturday, March 17 at 10 a.m., *Polish Refugees During World War II*, Regis Hoffman presenting. This is the fascinating history of 20,000 Polish refugees who settled in Africa, India and Mexico.

In addition to the seminars we have a no-host members' dinner on Friday night. More details will be provided shortly.

On March 17 there will be a closed board of directors meeting in the morning with our annual members' meeting at 1 p.m. in the Heathrow Room. Your presence at the members' meeting is important not only for the vote on the bylaws change but also to hear details of our future plans. Feel free to bring along a friend.

The Polonus Awards are presented Saturday evening at the Exhibitor's Award Banquet. We are fortunate this year that our member exhibitors have provided 47 frames at the show with 12 different exhibits on all aspects of Polish philately. This is a strong presence and we expect our members will do well with show awards.

On Sunday starting at 1 p.m., there is a tour of all Polish-related exhibits by Polonus member judges. Meet at the Polonus booth.

And, lest we forget, we will be having a Polonus hospitality room Friday and Saturday nights available to members and friends. The room opens immediately following our members' dinner Friday night and again after the awards dinner Saturday night. The location is the hotel's Presidential Suite. Use this time to meet your colleagues, trade material or otherwise enjoy snacks and libations.

This will be a busy and exciting show and we hope you can attend.

Committee Changes

Since the December issue we have had several changes in committees. Hank Bieniecki has stepped down from his activities with the website and expertizing. We have a new webmaster in Allan Clapp, who has 30 years of experience in web design and development and is webmaster for another philatelic website. At the March board meeting we will be discussing future needs for the website as well as our

expertizing service. Also, our *Bulletin* editor, Vickie Canfield Peters has decided to step down from her position, this issue being her last. We are already in the process of seeking a new editor so as not to disrupt the timeliness of issues.

Making Polonus Better

In each issue I remind the membership that we have a number of volunteer positions open. While several have been filled, we still have many others where even minimal assistance can help us improve our operations and services. If you would like to help but are not sure what volunteer opportunity to consider, please send me an email so we can openly discuss what would fit your needs.

Please continue to let us know how we are doing. We are only as good as our ability to service the needs of the membership. So we need to hear from you if we are not providing an activity, service or resource that you believe would help you and other members. Feel free to contact me at any time using the email address above.

Many thanks for your continued support and interest in Polonus and Polish philately.

Letters to the Editor



Misidentification is Common

In Polonus Bulletin Issue 569, "Buyer Beware: Part II," by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler discusses eBay and other sellers misidentifying Port Gdańsk stamps.

This is a reminder that misidentification is also a common problem in World War I Przedbórz locals and probably World War I Warsaw locals as well. Forgeries are common throughout Polish philately. Check out the website www.prz.ginsburgs.org/identifier for help in properly identifying the Przedbórz issues.

Sam Ginsburg

A Small Typo Leads to A Fun Adventure

In Bulletin #569, there's an obvious typo in the last sentence of the article on the Feldpost card from the armored train *Rzepicha* (page 6). The sentence reads "Its weapons included . . . a German revolver (caliber 3.7 mm) . . ." 3.7 mm should be either 37 mm or equivalently 3.7 cm.

3.7 mm would be about 0.146 inches, an even smaller caliber than the BB guns some of us had as kids. They could put out an eye and maybe kill a small bird, but they were certainly nothing to mount on an armored railroad car.

But what was a 37 mm revolver? 37 mm is equivalent to 1.46 inches, clearly nothing like the Colt 45 of the

western movies or the Smith and Wesson snub-nose .38 of 1930s and later crime movies.

The search led me to Wikipedia (of course), Charlie Clelland of Landships.info, two helpful members of the Landships.net forum and some other sites. The story is this:

The "revolver" mounted on the armored train was one in which several barrels rotated during the firing cycle, like the Gatling gun, patented in 1862 and used by various Union forces in the Civil War. That gun lead to the development in 1872 France of the Hotchkiss Revolving Cannon, also known as the Hotchkiss 1-pounder, as that was the weight of its 37 mm shell. This "Hotchkiss Gun" was licensed to the Germans (Krupp), Russians, Americans and who-knows-who-else. One or another Krupp version was very likely the "revolver" mounted on the *Rzepicha*.

Sam Ginsburg

Keep 'em Coming

For two years I have been a member of Polonus. Each quarter I eagerly read the electronic edition of your newsletter.

After reading the December issue of **Polonus**, I decided to write and congratulate you on interesting, professional articles, in particular the article by Raimundas Lapas about the armored train of *Rzepicha*. I was happy to read this article because the train was captured and ran in Wielkopolska, close to where I live.

It is a pity that the article was short. Therefore, I decided to supplement my knowledge about *Rzepicha* on the internet but I did not find too much information there: an article from 1933 and a few photos. I personally made a photo of a plaque commemorating the repulse of the armored train in Rynarzewo (see photo).

As a collector and expert in the Central Lithuania area, I would be happy to read other articles by Mr. Lapas regarding the mail of Central Lithuania. I hope the subject will be continued in the pages of **Polonus**.

Tomasz Napierała



What a 1920 Commemorative Latvian Postal Cancellation Really Reflects

by Raimundas Marius Lapas

A passion for postal history has followed me since childhood: an envelope received in the mail . . . a smudged postal cancellation. Each one has a unique story to tell. Who wrote it? From where did it come? Was it good news or merely a utility bill? Why did the sender forget to affix the proper postage? Why was it wrapped in cellophane marked “damaged?” As an inquisitive youngster, I needed answers to my questions!

“scoop” on top of a sugar-free ice-cream cone . . .



Figure 2

1920 Bulduri Conference site: Hotel Bilderlingen.

The Bulduri Conference (also known as Riga Conference) was held from August 6 to September 6, 1920. The Latvians organized it very enthusiastically. They invited not only Finland, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland but also the Scandinavian countries. The neighbors on the other side of the Baltic Sea did not answer and did not even send observers. This was an indication that the Scandinavian countries should be omitted from the plans for the time being.

Ukrainians and Bielarusians arrived uninvited. The Ukrainian representatives were finally admitted on August 20, but those from Bielarus were not admitted on the grounds that Soviet Russia might be offended. Rumanians declared on August 18 that all the countries from the Baltic down to the Aegean Sea should form a barrier against Bolshevism but they were not invited for this bridge, not a barrier, between the East and West.

The former attitude of the Polish representatives disappeared because their country was in a grave situation. The Soviet troops routed two of their armies and were on the way to Warszawa. More far-sighted Polish leaders were now heeded.

The Lithuanians arrived greatly strengthened. For a while they regained their ancient capital city of Vilnius. The Poles were in no mood, however, to be reconciled to this loss. Estonia and Lithuania signed their peace treaties with Soviet Russia but Latvia signed hers during the conference, on August 11. Finland still had difficulties with the Russians.

There was still great enthusiasm among the partici-



Figure 1

Set of four Latvian postage stamps with CTO cancellations of the conference’s postal substation: Bulduri. Baltic nations conference. Postal telegraph branch. 23.8.1920

Well, a half century has passed and I’m still asking! Recently (merely by chance) I discovered a series of four early Latvian postage stamps with what I would consider a CTO cancellation: bulduri balt.w.konfer. p.t.kant. 23.8.1920 (translation: Bulduri. Baltic nations conference. Postal telegraph branch). What conference? Why did it merit a substation cancellation prior to its opening session? Why can’t we find any information about this marking in specialized philatelic literature? Most important, why should this postal cancellation be of interest to collectors of Polonica? Here’s the



Figure 3
Conference negotiations. At the head of the table is Latvia's prime minister Kārlis Ulmanis.

pants who were influenced by the optimism of their hosts, Kārlis Ulmanis, Zigfrids Meierovics and Hermans Albats. The program was loaded with extremely valuable proposals for international cooperation: postal, telegraph, telephone and railroad conventions; the fight against smuggling; a convention on civil rights; cooperation in banking, insurance, financing, etc.; liquidation of customs duties for goods in transit; protection of works by writers, artists and scientists; exchange of information on customs and systems of transportation, etc.

On August 31, 1920, the following secret political treaty was agreed upon.

- Article 1: Participants in the Conference declare that they are ready to recognize each other reciprocally de jure, in so far as this recognition had not already taken place.

- Article 2: Participating states bind themselves to adjust entirely by peaceful means frontier disputes and other territorial questions which may arise between these states. In case a solution of these disputes should not be arrived at by mutual concessions between the interested states, the states participating in the conference agree to decide such disputes by the mediation of a third authority (arbitration of the League of Nations, etc.).

- Article 3: Participating states bind themselves not to protect in any way, nor to permit on their territories, activities or undertakings which may be directed against one of the participating states, in particular; none of the participating states should tolerate on their territory the passage of the organization of military forces hostile to one or the other participating states.

- Article 4: No state participating in the conference has concluded or will conclude with another state any agreement directed against a state represented at the Conference.

- Article 5: Participating states agree to draw up without delay a defensive military convention.

- Article 6: States participating in the conference guarantee to their minorities belonging to the nationals of the contracting states, all rights and liberties assuring them of the conservation and free development of their languages and of their national organizations.

- Article 7: Until the conclusion of commercial treaties, the participating states agree not to impose restrictions or special charges on merchandise which is coming from one of these states or another country and passing in transit destined for one of the contracting states (with reservations by the delegates from Poland and the Ukraine).

- Article 8: In case one of the participating states should decide to denounce this treaty, such denunciation would go into effect one year after the communication in writing to this effect to all the governments of the other participating states.

- Article 9: Present treaty must be submitted for ratification and will not enter into force until the exchange of ratification, the dates of which should not, however, be later than December 15, 1920.

- Article 10: If up to December 15, 1920, one of the states participating in the Conference does not ratify the present treaty, the latter will nevertheless enter into force between the other contracting states. However, the possibility will be reserved to the states which shall not have ratified the treaty, to adhere later thereto, with the consent of the other contracting states.

The treaty was signed by Lithuanian representatives



Figure 4
Group photo of the conference participants from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Poland.

Dr. Jurgis Šaulys, Dr. Dovas Zaunius, Capt. Vladas Natkevičius and Dr. Vytautas Gylys; Finnish representatives L. Asstrom, Colonel B. Helsingius and Eikki Reijonen; Polish representatives Leon Wasilewski, W. Kamienicki and Adam Tarnowski; Estonian representatives Kaarel R. Pusta, R. Eliaser and Colonel P. Lill; Latvian representatives Zigfrids Meierovics, Voldemars Zamuels and Colonel Radziņš; and the Ukrainian representatives A. Salikowsky and Wladimir Kedrowsky.

Unfortunately the military convention could not be agreed upon even as late as September 6 because the Lithuanians refused to enter into a military convention with a state, namely Poland, which was still at war with another country, namely Soviet Russia, with which Lithuania had signed a peace treaty. The participating countries tried in vain to induce the Poles and Lithuanians to solve their long-lasting problem of Vilnius. Lithuania also did not recognize the Ukraine, whose government actually resided on Polish soil. All the participating countries considered the territories claimed by Poland in the east a security risk that could involve them in a senseless war any time. All these countries, except for Finland and Estonia, also did not have easily defensible borders.

Finally, on October 9, 1920, the Polish General Lucjan Żeligowski marched into Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital city, two days after the Poles and Lithuanians signed a special armistice treaty. Thus nothing came out of this conference with such expectations and enthusiasm. During the conference the participating states had even forgotten that they had not recognized each other *de jure* yet, pending the recognition by the entente and neutral powers.

The Baltic States started to realize that the road to an alliance was a rocky one. An American observer, Evan E. Young, remarked that the participating countries had the noblest intentions marred by jealousies, petty bickering and almost deliberate placing of obstacles in the paths of their neighbors. These were characteristic symptoms of a childhood disease of all emerging young countries.

Do the old ones lack them? It takes luck and foresight to climb above the barriers of the narrow national self-interests and overcome prejudices and jealousies. Fortunately, the Baltic States did not lack broadminded statesmen, men undisturbed by local tumult who were able to overcome almost insurmountable difficulties on their road to the Baltic Entente.

* * *

After submitting this article but prior to going to print, noted Latvian specialist and international exhibitor Vesma Grinfelds of San Francisco forwarded a scan of a CTO (**Figure 5**) from her reference collection. It is a non-addressed cover with the Bulduri cancellation. Both she and I are now of the opinion, that there was no substation and that this cancellation only prepared but was never really used.

References:

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Lehti, Marko. *The Dancing Conference of Bulduri: A Clash of Alternative Regional Future*. In: *Forgotten Pages in Baltic History: Diversity and Inclusion*. Martyn Housden and David J. Smith. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011.

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Addendum and Correction to Buyer Beware: Part II

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

This brief article provides additional information and a correction to a statement made by the editors to my article which appeared in the December 2017 edition of the Bulletin.

Differences in the stamp design can also be used to differentiate similar but not identical issues of certain "Port Gdańsk" overprinted stamps.

For example, in the case of Scott 1K12 and 1K15, the cloud lines in the design need to be carefully checked with a good magnifying glass. The cloud lines either stop before the numeral as in 1K15 which leaves a white space or they appear to go through the numeral as in 1K12. Compare **Figure 2** in my original article to **Figure 3** (Scott 1K15).

A similar situation exists for 1K13. Cloud lines appear to go through the numeral as in **Figure 4** and not with 1K16 in **Figure 5** where the cloud lines appear to stop just before the numeral, creating the appearance of a white space.

The statement on page 8 of the article regarding whether the "Port Gdańsk" touches the numeral should be omitted since this is not always true.

In summary, the careful examination of the Port Gdansk stamps with a good magnifying glass and with the help of a good catalog along with genuine stamps would be helpful to avoid purchasing misidentified stamps. When in doubt, the stamp should be submitted to be expertized.

Moving?

Please send address changes to:
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PO Box 2212, Benicia CA 95410

Poland's 20th Anniversary of Independence Stamps of November 11, 1938

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

I recently purchased a Polish Post Office Souvenir Folder with all 22 of the 20th Anniversary (1918-1938) Independence Day stamps (historical series). The stamps were issued on November 11, 1938. The folder is titled, *POLSKA POCZTA. TELEGRAF i TELEFON XX 1918 II XI 1938—ZNACZKI POCZTOWE WYDANE W 20 a ROCZNICE ODZYSKANIA NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI* (Figure 1).



Figure 1

This folder and its content of 22 stamps are shown in figures 2 through 5. These "historical series stamps," which commemorate Poland's 20th year of independence, are shown on four separate sides (see figures 2-5) of this folder. The stamps canceled at the Warsaw Post Office (figures 2-4) have a special 20th Anniversary Independence Day cancellation as compared to those canceled at the Gdańsk Post Office (Figure 5). The latter are the last four Port Gdańsk stamps not having the "Port Gdańsk" overprint but containing these words in the design itself (Scott# 1K33-36 [1]).

The Scott Catalog (Poland) numbers for the "historical stamps" in Figures 2-4 are:

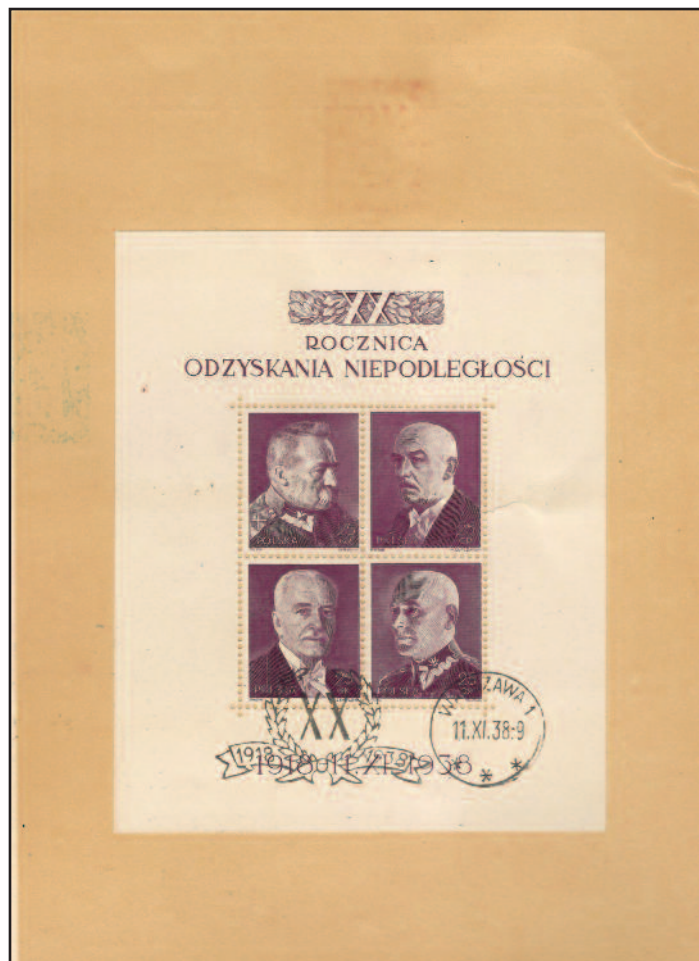


Figure 2

Figure 2 - Scott 333a-d. Sheet with the inscription: XX ROCZNICA ODZYSKANIA NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI 1918 – II.XI – 1938; Figure 3 - Scott 320-25, 334; Figure 4 - Scott 326-332. Figure 5 was mentioned earlier and features Scott 1K33-1K36 to give a total of 22 stamps.

Figure 6 shows the postal use of 13 of these historical stamps on a philatelic registered cover sent from Warszawa to Lwów on November 11, 1938. It is marked with the fancy cancellation used only at the Warszawa Post Office on this date to celebrate Poland's Independence Day.

In an earlier article [1] it was mentioned that Poland's issuance of the last four "Port Gdańsk" stamps (Scott 1K33-1K36) were not meant to provoke Germany or to imply that Port Gdańsk was only Polish. This was made very clear in this 20th Anniversary Souvenir Folder issued by the Polish Government Post Office and also in the cover shown in Figure 7. The latter is a registered and express

cover sent from Gdańsk to Gdynia in one day, as evidenced by the receiving mark on the reverse. This cover shows Scott



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

1K33 along with an attached sheetlet of Scott 333a-d (also **Figure 2**) and further emphasizes that this stamp (Scott 1K33) was part of the historical series to help celebrate in 1938 Poland's 20th anniversary of reestablishing its independence on November 11, 1918.

The sheetlet Scott 333a-d shows the images of important historical figures such as Marshal Piłsudski, Gabriel Narutowicz, President Mościcki and Marshal Śmigły-Rydz along with the wording described above for **Figure 2**. It is noteworthy that Poland continues to celebrate its Independence Day on November 11 each year.

Figures 6 and 7 complete this article and appear on the next page.

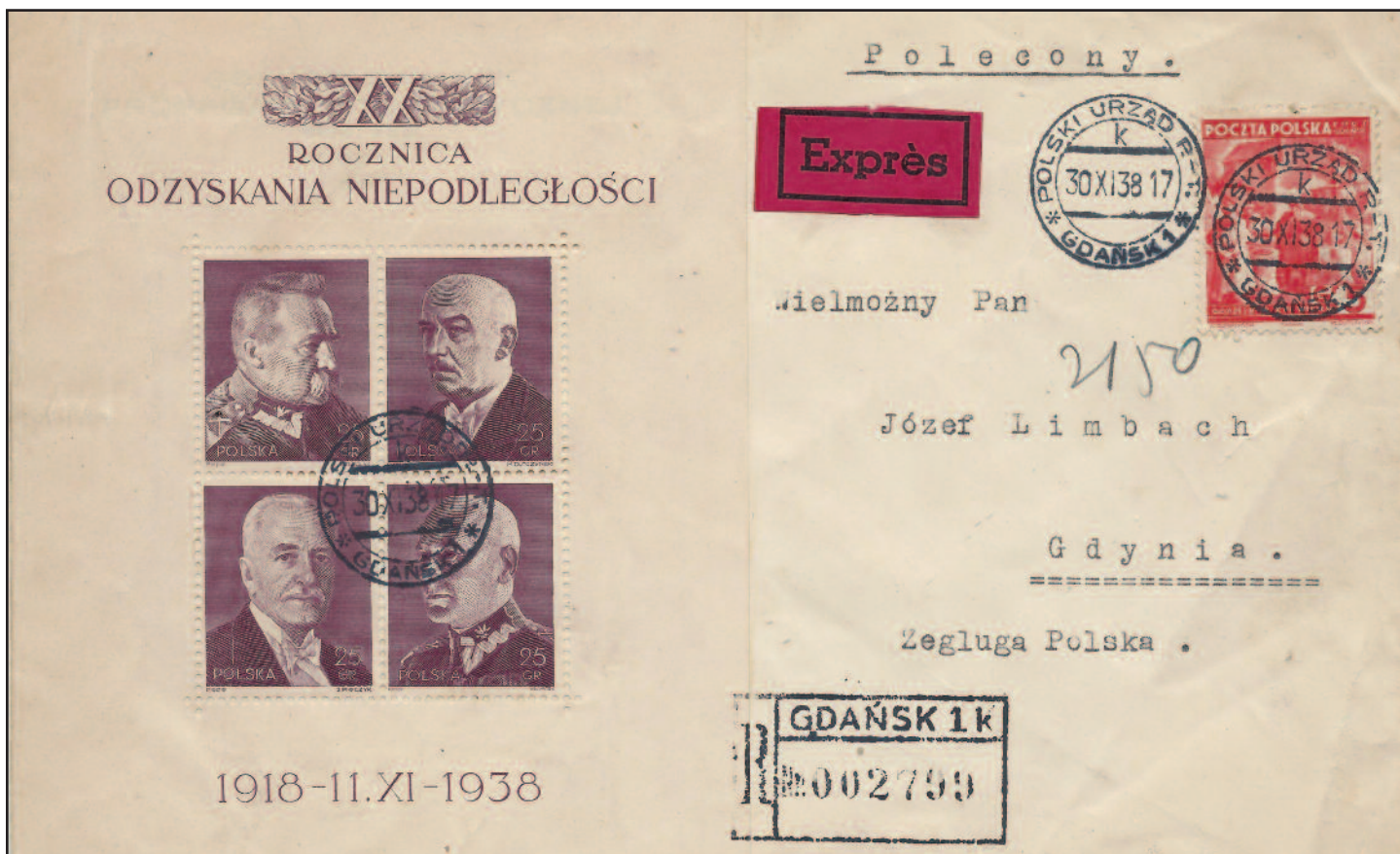
Reference

1. Stanley R. Sandler, "The Significance of the First and Last Four Non-Overprinted Port Gdansk Issued Stamps by Poland in 1938", *Bulletin of the Polonus Polish Philatelic Society*, No. 564, pp.11-12, September 2016.

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Figure 6, top; Figure 7, bottom



New Findings Regarding the 1 Grosz Serif Break of the 1924 Orzeł Issue

by Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

As a student of the 1924 Eagle in Wreath new currency issue of Poland (often referred to as the Orzeł issue), I have written several articles on various printing flaws and plate defects, most of which were not previously reported (1-3). One such plate flaw is a break in the left serif of the left numeral "1" on the 1 grosz stamp (Figure 1). The flaw was previously reported (3); my subsequent article confirmed the flaw and showed both early and late state breaks (1).



Figure 1 (stamp enlarged)

In rare cases one is lucky enough to have a large multiple with sufficient plate markings to be able to identify a plate position for any given stamp. While I have seen this plate flaw many times I have never been able to identify its plate position. Recently I had the opportunity to purchase a large partial sheet of the 1 grosz with the 1925 Port Gdańsk overprint (Fischer 1y1; Scott 1K1). The overprints were made on the Orzeł issue from the same plates as the original printings in 1924. The partial sheet (Figure 2) is from the upper left of the full plate and contains all except the bottom row resulting on a partial sheet of 90 stamps.

The full printing plates were divided into six sections, each of which represented a sales sheet of 100 stamps. The far right margin of each sales sheet had a selvage tab with the total value stated in groszy for that row. In the case of the 1 grosz stamp, the margin imprint tabs are, top to bottom, 10 groszy to 1 Złoty (100 groszy). The plate position of stamps on the sales sheet is read from left to right,

top to bottom so the upper left stamp is position 1 and lower right stamp is position 100. Having these margin tabs allows one to identify plate positions of flawed stamps on a sales sheet.

On inspecting the partial sales sheet I found seven examples of the broken serif plate flaw. In researching the older literature there was no mention of the defect on Port Gdańsk overprints (5). The plate positions for my findings are indicated on the graphic in Figure 3.

There is no specific order to these positions but we can say that the flaw is known to occur in plate positions #16, 33, 44, 48, 66, 73 and 85. It obviously is also a fairly common plate flaw on the 1 grosz stamp.

Richard Drews, a knowledgeable scholar of philatelic printing methods, has argued that flaws such as defective numerals or other aspects of the design on typographic printings can often be attributed to missing color (flaking

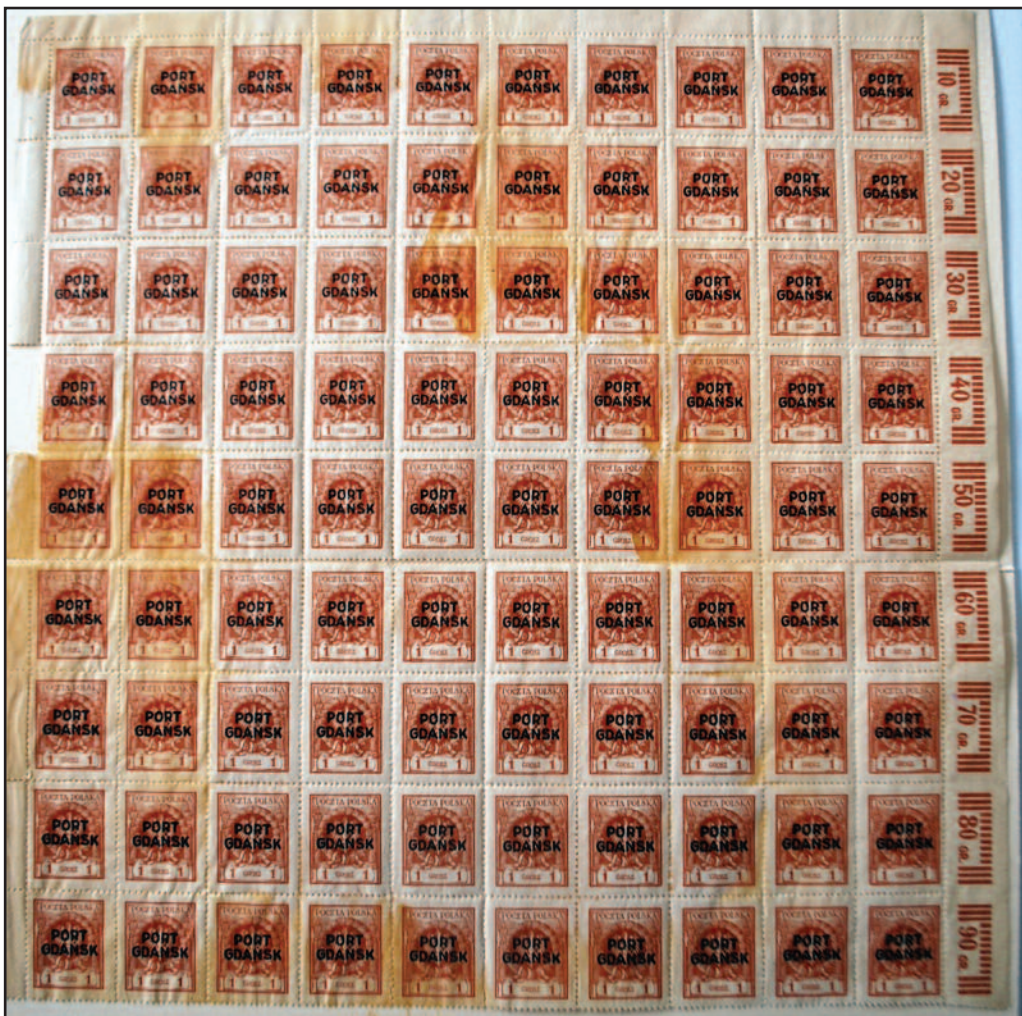


Figure 2

									10 GR.
				16					20 GR.
									30 GR.
		33							40 GR.
			44				48		50 GR.
									60 GR.
					66				70 GR.
		73							80 GR.
				85					90 GR.

Figure 3

ink or any deterrent to ink adhesion on the cliché), rather than to a damaged cliché. However, in the case of this flaw, I have reported two clear examples of early breaks and have seen multiple examples of the full break (1), including one used on cover. Accordingly, these are true plate flaws resulting from damage to zinc clichés.

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1. Andrews, E.J.: *Production Flaws and Defects of the 1924 "Orzeł" issue Part 1. Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society*, 558, pp 12-15, March 2015.
2. Andrews, E.J.: *Production Flaws and Defects of the 1924 "Orzeł" issue Part 2. Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society*, 559, pp 16-19, June 2015.
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Want to read about it? Write about it in the Polonus Bulletin!



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Polish Priests in Russian Captivity 1915-1918

by Jan Niebrzydowski

On the eve of World War I, Catholic Archbishop Józef Bilczewski of Lwów secured an agreement that candidates for the priesthood studying in local seminaries would not be drafted into the army but would serve as auxiliary medical staff in hospitals. Poland at the time remained partitioned between three occupying powers: Russia, Germany and Austria, with Lwów remaining under Austrian control. The seminarians received appropriate training and were assigned to hospitals in Tarnopol, Trembowla, Czortków, and Zleszczyki.

In August 1914, after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian nationalist, Austria declared war on Serbia. Russia joined the war in support of her ally Serbia. In the first phase of the war Russia invaded Polish territories under Austrian occupation and made great advances. More than 100 Polish seminarians were taken prisoner and sent to Kiev, which at that time had a Polish population numbering 100,000. The seminarians

were treated as prisoners of war or as hostages, as they described themselves in their correspondence.

Initially the seminarians enjoyed a degree of freedom, but as the fortunes of war turned against Russia, they were moved to the region of Tomsk, one of the oldest towns in Siberia, and eastern Siberia. They were housed in army barracks, but unlike other POWs, were not required to work.

After some time they moved to lodgings rented for them by the local Polish committee.

Thanks to the efforts of Polish church authorities they were subsequently transferred to Saratov (in southern Russia on the Volga River) and ordained as priests. They were then sent back to minister to the inmates of the POW camps. The Russian revolution of 1917 took Russia out of the war and with the help of the International Red Cross most of the priests returned to Lwów in mid-1918.

I have been trying to track down any correspondence



Figure 1



Figure 2

Correspondance des Prisonniers de Guerre.
Kriegsgefangenensendung.
PORTOFREI.

КОРРЕСПОНДЕНЦИЯ
ВОЕННОПЛЕННЫХ

ОТПРАВИТЕЛЬ NADAWCA
JENIEC
(po polsku).

ВЪ АВСТРИИ
ГАЛИЦИЯ Dalszy adres po polsku.
AUTRICHE
GALICYA

Imię i nazwisko
Jeniy - Klercy

Pułk Komp.

Miejscowość Tomsk
Jefremowska 4
Rzym. kat. Kościół

Gubernia

Rota j. w.

Przedruk wzbroniony. Wyłącznie do użytku jeńca. Nachdruck verboten.

ul. Czarnieckiego 1. 32.

Figure 3

from these particular POWs for more than 50 years and have found just six items. Three are reproduced here.

Figure 1 is a POW card from alumni of the second and third years of study at Lwów seminary and their spiritual guardian Dr. X. Widacki to Archbishop Józef Bilczewski with the information that the Russian authorities had transferred some of the prisoners to Irkutsk in eastern Siberia. The

card is dated March 22, 1916.

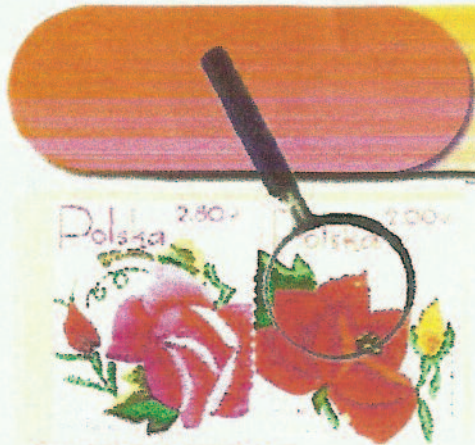
Figure 2 is a special issue preprinted official card for POWs sent from Kiev to Archbishop Józef Bilczewski on December 12, 1916 by Father Jan Czyrek. The priest wrote he was being held as a hostage and wanted to return home.

The card in Figure 3, provided by the International Red Cross for POWs, was sent by seminarians in Tomsk, Siberia, to Archbishop Józef Bilczewski. The seminarians wrote to thank him for the money he sent and to report that they had also received support from the local Polish committee.

Reference

This article is based on information from my own sources and the newspaper, *Listy do Polaków* (Letters to Poles), USA

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CANADA

Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-1939)

Part 14 (1 of 2): LOT Polish Airlines: Joint Flights with Foreign Carriers to the Southeast

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński

19751 One of the noteworthy episodes in the airmail history of the 1930s was the competition between the major European air carriers to explore new routes for passenger, mail and freight services. The goal was to dominate the far reaches of the British, French and Dutch colonial empires.

The Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraphs directive of September 11, 1931 (Nr. 6174/9) authorized a new airmail service to Siam, Straits Settlements and Dutch East Indies (present day Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, respec-

tively). Effective October 1, 1931, mail collected at the Warsaw 19 P.O. in a special pouch marked "Amsterdam C.S. avion" was carried by the French carrier CIDNA to Amsterdam. It was then flown by Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM; *Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij*) via Budapest (or via Marseille and Rome in the winter season) to Athens, and then on via Cairo, Gaza, Baghdad, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Medan and Palembang to Batavia and Bandung.

The route of more than 8,700 miles, encompassing 18 countries, was the longest in the world, with transit time from Amsterdam to Siam and Straits Settlements/Dutch East Indies of nine and 10 days, respectively.

Three-engine F.XII and F.XVIII Fokker monoplanes were flown from Amsterdam each Thursday morning (every Friday from Batavia for Holland). Besides the mails, the aircraft could carry four passengers on the route. Even after Imperial Airways opened its route to Singapore in 1933, the Dutch regular weekly service continued to be used by the British Royal Mail, despite being more expensive, as it was significantly faster.

Figure 1 shows combined front and back images of a commercial registered cover addressed to Soerabaya, Java, posted on October 4, 1933 in Sambor, a Polish town near Lvov (present day Ukraine). Transported surface to Cracow (transit marking of October 5), it was flown by LOT Polish Airlines to Warsaw (12:50 p.m. departure; 2.40 p.m. arrival; Airport 19 P.O. cancellation of October 5, 3 p.m.). Consistent with the sender's endorsement: "Amsterdam – Nederl. Indien via Budapest," this item was carried by LOT from Warsaw to Athens where it was picked up by KLM's weekly service from Amsterdam to the Dutch Indies. A transit cancellation of Thursday, October 5, 1933 (3 p.m.) from the Warsaw airport precludes its timely delivery (by CIDNA) directly to Schiphol, from where the Amsterdam – Batavia (Java) flight departed earlier that morning (Thursday).

Hence, according to postal markings, this cover was flown by LOT on Friday, October 6 (8 a.m. departure) from Warsaw to Lvov, continuing via Bucharest to Athens. The Athens airport backstamp of Saturday, October 7, 1933 (8 a.m.) confirms this item was in time to be transferred to KLM's Southeast Asia service (departed Amsterdam on Thursday, October 5). Arrival canceled in Batavia (October



Figure 1

20, 1933), the letter was then flown by Royal Dutch Indies Airways (KNILM; Koninklijke Nederlandsch-Indische Lucht-

vaart Maatschappij) to destination, evidenced by Soerabaya arrival marking (October 21, 1933). The postage paid was the



correct foreign letter rate for an item weighing less than 10 grams (0.60 zł surface fee plus 0.60 zł registration and 2 zł 10 gr airmail surcharge to Dutch Indies via Athens), making it total of 3 zł 30 gr.

Figure 2 is a letter addressed to Batavia (present-day Jakarta), which was posted August 15, 1934, in Katowice. It was flown by LOT to Warsaw ("Challenge" cancellation of August 16) and then on to Athens (transit postmark of August 18) from where it was picked up by KLM service to Batavia (arrival cancellation of August 30, 1934). Transit time from Warsaw to Batavia was 14 days.



The cover is franked with 2.80 zł postage to pay the 60 gr foreign letter rate (per 20 grams) and airmail surcharge to Dutch East Indies (2.00 zł per 10 grams, effective January 15, 1934). This item was overpaid by 20 gr, most likely by an inexperienced postal clerk who thought Batavia is in Indochina, requiring air surcharge of 2.20 zł (1.10 zł per 5 grams).

The Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraphs directive of October 7, 1931 (Nr. 6591/9) authorized airmail service from Poland to French Indochina (Battambang, Phnom Penh and Saigon) by the Dutch carrier. Mail, collected at the Warsaw 19 P.O. was to be flown by

Figure 2

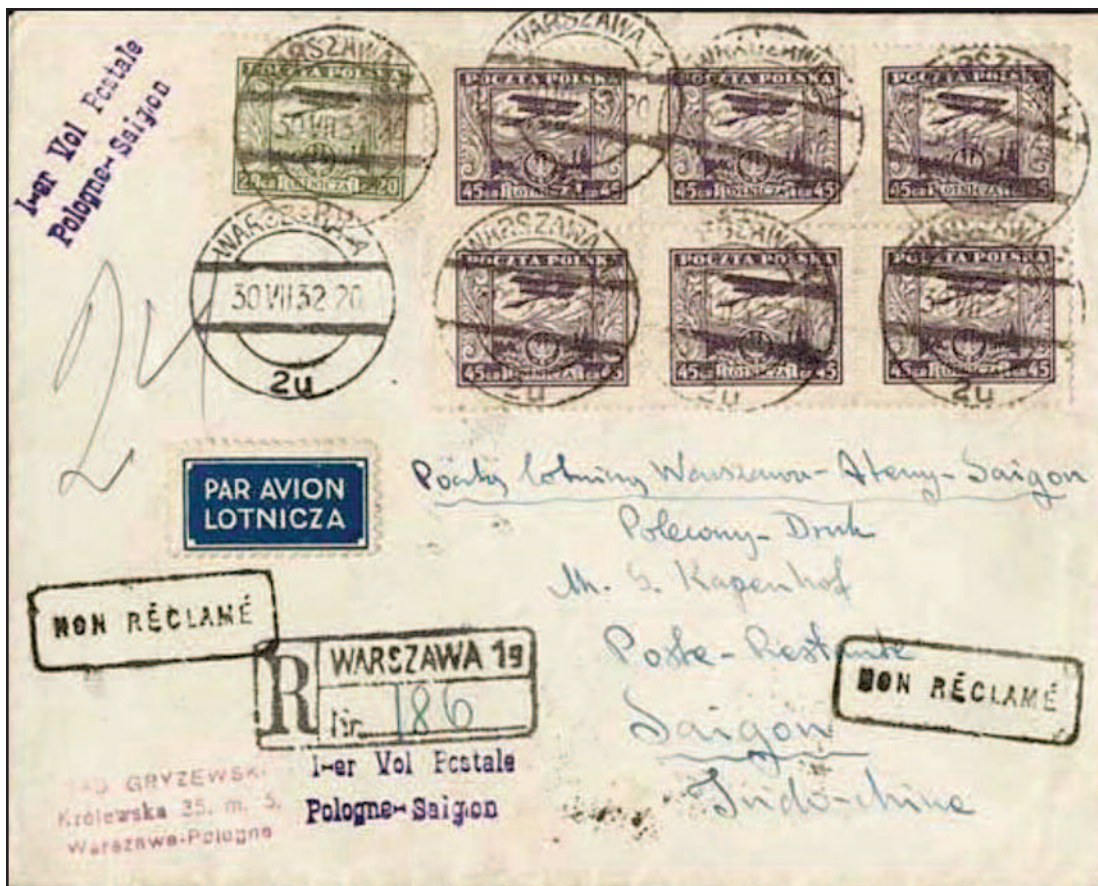


Figure 3

CIDNA to Amsterdam (Tuesday), continuing by KLM to Bangkok (every Thursday; 06:00) where it connected with the French Air Orient service from Bangkok to Saigon. Air

two hours later. There was a bi-weekly (Sunday and Wednesday) air service from Damascus (at dawn) arriving in Baghdad five hours later. A triple-engine Fokker VII was

Orient started its operations on the Paris – Marseille – Saigon route on January 17, 1931. The airmail surcharge to Indochina was set at 1.70 zł per postcard or 10-gram letter weight. This service shortened the transit time from Amsterdam to Saigon by 20 days.

Effective August 1, 1932, the Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraphs authorized a new airmail service to French Indochina. Mail was flown from Warsaw to Athens by LOT where it connected with Air Orient. The route was Paris surface to Marseille, then by a twin-engine seaplane CAM-53 via Naples, Corfu and Athens to Beirut (Thursday – Saturday). A special car service ran from Beirut (an hour after landing of the plane) arriving in Damascus



Figure 4, front



Figure 4, reverse

flown on Sunday from Baghdad via Bushire, Djask, Karachi, Jodhpur, Allahabad, Calcutta, Akyab, Rangoon and Bangkok, arriving in Saigon on Friday night. The France – Syria – Indochina Route, spanning some 7,500 miles, was covered in 10 days twice monthly.

A rare philatelic item is illustrated in **Figure 3**: a registered Warsaw cover carried on the first postal flight by Air Orient to Saigon (August 1, 1932). It features a two-line private cachet (I-ER VOL POSTALE – POLOGNE – SAIGON”) in violet, a transit Athens (August 3) and Saigon arrival (August 13) markings. The trip from Warsaw to Saigon was recorded as 12 days. Unclaimed, it was returned three months later (Warsaw, November 14, 1932).

The postage of 2 zł 90 gr is: 10 gr - foreign printed matter rate (per 50 grams), 60 gr – registration fee; and 2 zł 20 gr – air service to Indochina (per 10 grams; effective August 1, 1932 – March 7, 1933).

The cover in **Figure 4** is unusual as it did double duty. Addressed to Kowloon, Hong Kong, it is dated March 10, 1937 in Warsaw, and flown by Polish LOT to Athens (March 14) to await Air France weekly service from Paris to Hanoi (Flight 486). It was then placed on an Air France flight from Athens via Baghdad (day 1); Djask (day 2); Jodhpur (day 3); Calcutta (day 4); Bangkok (day 5); to Hanoi (day 6; Tonkin, March 19 cancellation).

The Air France feeder service left Hanoi delayed (cachet) and via Canton (March 23) arrived in Kowloon/Hong Kong on March 24, 1937 (14 days in transit). Several weeks later, it was reposted as registered from Hong Kong to Paris on May 12, 1937, King George VI’s Coronation Day. The

Hong Kong coronation omnibus stamps (issued on May 10, 1937) and special seal (designed by Cesario M. Xavier, the sender) were attached. Transported by surface and redirected at Paris (backstamp), this well-traveled item arrived in Geneva on June 15, 1937 (33 days in transit). The cover bears Polish stamps valued at 2.45 zł against the foreign letter rate of 0.55 zł (per 20 grams) and 1.90 zł air surcharge for the Hong Kong leg of the route (2nd weight increment; 0.95 zł per 5 grams; effective January 1, 1936–July 28, 1937).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Zygmunt Kopel (London) and Jacek Kosmala (Warsaw, Poland) for sharing philatelic items from their collections (figures 2 and 3, respectively).

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Gems of Polish Philately



First Warsaw Provisional Issue 50 Fenig

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

Poland regained its independence on November 11, 1918, after 125 years of occupation by Germany, Russia and Austria. One of the first tasks of the new republic was to establish or continue the postal systems in the various administrations.

The Warsaw Administration, which had been occupied by Germany, was the largest postal administration. In order to provide postage stamps, the authorities overprinted two German issues into Polish stamps. We know these as the First and Second Warsaw Provisional Issues; they are the first stamps of the new country.

The First Warsaw Provisional Issue was made by overprinting the four values of the 1915 unissued Warsaw City Post Stamps. The Germans did not allow these City Post stamps to be issued because they considered the themes depicted too nationalistic and they were retained in the vaults of the post office. These four stamps were overprinted with

the words "Poczta Polska" and new values which corresponded to existing rates.

The 50-fenig stamps paid the letter rate plus the registry fee. This stamp saw limited use because of its high value and probably only 15 to 20 commercial letters can be found with this stamp. Most were used in Warsaw and Łódź. Those used from other towns are very difficult to find, especially with provisional cancellations.

The letter shown here was sent from Pabianice on March 27, 1919. The 65 fenig rate is for a letter weighing more than 20 grams plus registration fee. The postmaster used an old German registry label and added the town name to it with a provisional postmark. This is the only known example of the 50-fenig stamp used in Pabianice.

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Obituary

Zbigniew Mikulski

On December 28, 2017, after a long illness, Zbigniew Mikulski, RDP, died in Switzerland at the age of 92. He was



one of the most distinguished Polish philatelists of our time.

Mr. Mikulski was born April 30, 1925, in Stanisławów in present day western Ukraine. He began to collect stamps at school. At the age of 13, at the local post office he bought, for two month's worth pocket money, a famous Polish souvenir

sheet "flight into the stratosphere" and sent it to himself. Since his youth he was also interested in Russian stamps. He recalled years later that as a Home Army soldier, in 1944 he exchanged two automatic guns, ammunition and morphine for two expensive Russian stamps from an Italian military doctor passing through Stanisławów.

After the war, Mr. Mikulski graduated from the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków and worked as a mining engineer in Polish Silesia. He was a co-founder of the Polish Philatelist Union (PPU) in 1950, co-founder and member of the *Philatelist* editorial board (1954-1964), and the initiator (1956) and organizer of the PPU Scientific and Research Committee. Until 1961, he chaired the Expert Section of the PPU.

Since 1961 he has been a member of the International Union of Philatelist Experts (AIEP) as an expert in Polish and Russian philately. He was a member of the Experts Committee of the Polish Philatelist Association in Great Britain and the Austrian Experts' Union. He was honored with the Hunziker medal by AIEP for his work as an international expert and the H. Kohler medal for research.

Mr. Mikulski co-organized the first FIP World Philatelic Exhibition "POLAND 60" on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first Polish postage stamp. He was the initiator and co-editor (with A. Laszkiewicz) of the monograph *Polish Postal Marks* (1960-1973).

In 1964, he left Poland with his family for Switzerland, where he settled permanently. He was the author of several hundred research articles on Polish, Russian and Ukrainian stamps and postal history. His work has been published in Polish, English and German philatelic maga-

zines. For his outstanding research achievements and significant contributions to the development of Polish philately, he was thrice (1994, 1999, 2007) awarded the medal "For Merit for the Development of Philatelic Publications."

Mr. Mikulski received several Large Gold medals for his exhibits of the *Kingdom of Poland* and *Poland and Russia*. These allowed him to present his fabulous collections in the FIP Honorary Class starting with ITALIA 85. Polish philatelists could admire his exhibits in the Honorary Class during the World Philatelic Exhibition POLAND 93 in Poznań, the European Philatelic Exhibition EUROCUPRUM 2001 in Lublin, as well as at many other national philatelic shows.

In 1994 and 2004, his military collections were presented in the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw. In June 2010, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first Polish postage stamp and Mr. Mikulski's 85th birthday, a retrospective exhibition of his vast collections took place at the Warsaw Royal Castle. In 2002, he was granted the title of Honorary Member of the PPU at the 18th General Meeting of the PPU in Ciechocinek.

He was a member of the Polish Academy of Philately. In 2002, he was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the highest international philatelic honor, created by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1921.

A legendary Polish philatelist has passed away. May he rest in peace!

Dr. Ludwik Malendowicz
Polish Philatelist Union
Polish Academy of Philately

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Polonus Society News



Kosmala Captures Grand Prix in Warsaw

Polonus member Jacek Kosmala captured the Grand Prix for the best exhibit in the competitive class at a National Philatelic Exhibition in Warsaw on November 3 - 10, 2017. The show commemorated "100 Years of Polish Army in France."

In addition to the Grand Prix, Kosmala received a Large Gold (93 points) and the top prize sponsored by Poczta Polska for his exhibit, *Postal Documentation of the Polish Army in France 1917-1919*.

Linn's Features John III Sobieski Article

by Bob Ogrodnik

In the January 1 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* author Rick Miller presented a two-page article titled, "John III Sobieski: warrior, statesman and king on Polish stamps" in the Stamps of Eastern Europe section.

The article summarizes the life and accomplishments of John III Sobieski with text and stamps issued by Poland and allied countries that also hold this king in high esteem. Sobieski's most notable accomplishment was defeating the Ottomans at the gates of Vienna on September 12, 1683, because it saved Christendom. "I came, I saw and God conquered" was Sobieski's statement following his great victory.

If you missed the article or do not receive *Linn's* and wish to have a copy of the piece, send me a note (email or snail-mail) and I will mail a copy free of charge.

Sandler Wins Best Article Contest

Congratulations to Dr. Stanley R. Sandler for his article, "The 'Polish Corridor' Between Germany and Poland that Eventually Led to World War II." This article received the most votes in the 2017 Polonus Bulletin Best Article competition.

The Polonus Polish Philatelic Society will submit this article to the American Philatelic Society for inclusion in their Articles of Distinction archives.

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

1875 **George Stawniczy**, 11804 La Costa Ct., Yucalpa CA 92399

1876 **Stanley Golabek**, 1567 E 34th Street, Brooklyn NY 11234

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"To purchase the additional block, contact us by e-mail at: philately@poczta-polska.pl.

"We remind that the shipment of the order outside Poland, regardless of the value and weight of the order, is done at the expense of the buyer as mail sent via Poczta Polska S.A. The block can also be added to an order that has already been placed.

The Christmas block will not be sold to the general public."

"Dear customers,

"The Philately Office would like to inform you about the decision of the Philately Office Director to provide all subscribers that purchase a one-year subscription of non-cancelled (group A) or cancelled (group E) stamps for 2017 with the right to purchase the special issue - imperforate block of the 'Crown of Polish Mountains' issue. The decision to buy the imperforate block is voluntary, and the purchase should be made by 30 June 2018.

The issued "Crown of Polish Mountains" block will not be sold to the general public."



Literature Review

LESZEK S. OŚRÓDKA

HISTORIA POCZTY W ŁODZI 1824-1918.

ALBUM ZNAKÓW POCZTOWYCH STOSOWANYCH
W PLACÓWKACH POCZTOWYCH ŁODZI DO 1918 ROKU

THE HISTORY OF POST IN ŁÓDŹ, 1824-1918.

THE ALBUM OF POSTAL STAMPS
USED IN ŁÓDŹ POST OFFICES UNTIL 1918



The History of Post in Łódź, 1824 - 1918
(*Historia Poczty w Łodzi, 1824 - 1918*)
by Leszek S. Ośródtka

Review by Bob Ogrodnik

This is a 370-page book for philatelists concentrating on Łódź from 1824 - 1918. Published in 2017, this book is bilingual (Polish and English) with illustrations in full color. It is divided into three parts: history of the Łódź postal system through 1918; album of postal examples, and; in-depth analysis of some of the more interesting topics covered in the first section.

The city of Łódź originated as a village in the 13th century with rights granted in 1423 by King Władysław Jagiello. The city's inclusion into the boundaries of Prussia after the second partition of Poland in 1793 resulted in an influx of German settlers — weavers, dyers, tailors — who initiated the transformation of Łódź into a textile producing settlement. Postal services established in 1815 were to pro-

vide communications and transport services, as well as administer this branch of services in the Kingdom of Poland. There are 28 pages devoted to the "History of Post in Łódź, 1824 - 1918" with an explanation of the postal system during this period.

The second part of the book covers the period of the Kingdom of Poland under Russian management from 1871-1914 and the period of German occupation 1914 - 1918. Included are postal examples of covers, postmarks and seals; scout mail; mail delivery by the volunteer fire brigade; and auxiliary stamps. This part contains more than 200 pages of text with illustrations.

The third part covers supplementary material such as money orders in the Kingdom of Poland, postal cards during this period, post offices and the authority at railway stations in Łódź.

Leszek Ośródtka is a graduate of the Military Academy of Łódź where he received a doctorate in medicine. He joined PZF in 1962 and is a member of numerous other philatelic societies, including Polonus. He has authored 11 articles for philatelic publications. As an exhibitor, Ośródtka received numerous medals including a Large Gold for his exhibit, *The Post of Łódź 1824 - 1918*.

This book will prove to be an invaluable reference for collectors, especially those interested in the period of the Kingdom of Poland and those intrigued with the history of Łódź. Members interested in purchasing this book can contact Leszek Ośródtka at [ciemiorek.c8@wp/pl](mailto:ciemiorek.c8@wp.pl). Price of the book is \$56 plus shipping costs of \$24.50 to U.S. destinations for a total of \$80.50.

Polonus Annual Meeting / Exhibition Schedule

Polonus has made arrangements with the organizers of the following APS World Series of Philately shows to participate as a "convening" or "featured" society:

2019 - CHICAGOPEX

November 22 - 24

Westin Chicago Northwest

Itasca, IL

www.chicagopex.org

2020 - BALPEX

September 4 - 6

Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn

Hunt Valley, MD

www.balpex.org

New Issues

100th Anniversary of Birth of Erwin Axer



This 2.50 zł stamp, in a pane of 12 stamps printed tete-beche, honors the Polish theater director Erwin Axer (1917-2012), one of the most important figures in Polish post-WWII theater.

Born of a wealthy Jewish family in Vienna, he spent his early years in Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). His directorial debut was at the National Theater in Warsaw in the late 1930s in the Eugene O'Neill play *Moon of the Caribbean*. His other early directorial work included *Nędza is Grateful* by Maciej Kamieński and *The Tidings Brought to Mary* by Paul Claudel.

After graduating from the State Institute of Theatrical Arts in 1939 in Warsaw, he directed *Miss Julie* by August Strindberg. He participated in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, and was sent by the Germans as a slave laborer to the Harz Mtns. in Germany.

After the war, Axer returned to Poland to become head of the Chamber Theater of the Soldiers' Home in Łódź, an institution that relocated to Warsaw in 1946 and was re-

named the Contemporary Theater (Teatr Współczesny). He headed that theater for almost 40 years.

Axer staged the plays *Major Barbara* by George Bernard Shaw and *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams in 1947, as well as *The Respectful Prostitute* by Jean Paul Sartre.

Because socialist realism became the required artistic norm in Poland beginning in 1949, his plays then often had strong propagandistic overtones. In the early 1960s Axer directed plays abroad and remained prolific into the early 21st Century. His later work included the plays of Mrożek, reflecting an absurdist approach to reality.

Date of Issue	January 2, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan

Epiphany (*Święto Trzech Króli*)

This B denominated stamp (2.50 zł) portrays *The Adoration of the Magi* painted by Santi di Tito in 1596. The three kings are shown at the birth of Jesus, an event referred



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to as the Epiphany in Christianity, symbolic of the realization that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (The word epiphany derives from an ancient Greek word that describes an enlightening realization that allows for a greater understanding, eg. Newton's realization about gravity after he observed a falling apple.)

The Epiphany is based on the biblical account in Matthew 2:1-22: *After following a bright star, the three kings offered Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and worshipped him.* Their traditional names are Melchior (from Persia), Caspar (from India) and Balthazar (from Arabia).

The painting shown is housed at the Church of St. Martin in the town of Krzeszowice, about 16 miles west of Kraków; it was purchased by Artur Potocki in 1832.

Western Christian churches celebrate Epiphany on January 6, while most Eastern Christian churches, following the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar, celebrate Epiphany (or Theophany) in conjunction with Christ's baptism by John the Baptist on January 19.

Date of Issue	January 6, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

Year of the Vistula

This 6 zł stamp recognizes Poland's longest and largest river, the Vistula (Wisła), flowing from the western Carpathian Mountains a distance of 651 miles north to the Baltic Sea.



Most of Poland's major cities are located on the river, including Warsaw, Kraków, Gdańsk, Bydgoszcz, and Płock. Many Polish legends are associated with the Vistula, including the tale of Queen Wanda who sacrificed herself in the river for her motherland. The stamp depicts waves on the river covered by six short statements on its significance; these include a reference to its first year of open and free sailing in 1467 in accordance with the Second Toruń Peace that followed King Casimir IV Jagiellon's victory over the Teutonic Knights, thus concluding the Thirteen Years War; and a recognition that the Vistula basin occupies more than half of Poland's territory.

Four earlier Polish stamps have recognized the river in 1979,

1981, 1982, and 1984. The official first day cover shows a poetic tribute to the river from Janusz Korczak.

Date of Issue	January 30, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of four-
Printing Method	Photogravure & screen printing
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

150th Anniversary of Birth of Mariusz Zaruski



This B denominated stamp (2.50 zł) recognizes the accomplishments of Mariusz Zaruski (1867-1941), a brigadier general in the Polish Army, pioneer of Polish sports yachting and accomplished mountain climber.

Zaruski was born in Dumanowo, in the Kamieniec region, and in his early years traveled the world as a seaman. At the start of World War I he organized the 11th Polish Cavalry Regiment, and was widely recognized for his leadership and bravery.

In 1926 he retired from the military and actively promoted sports yachting on the Baltic Sea. Along with Antoni Aleksandrowicz, he organized the Yacht Club of Poland and later became president of the Polish Sailing Association.

As a hiker, he was the first to climb the Kozi Wierch (elevation 7,516 feet) and Kościelec (elevation 7,070 feet) mountains in Poland. He organized the Tatra Mountain Rescue Service and wrote on the beauty of the Zakopane region.

In 1939 he was arrested and imprisoned by the Soviet Secret Service NKVD and deported to Siberia where he died of cholera in 1941. His ashes were returned to Poland and buried in the Zakopane Cemetery in 1991.

The stamp shows him at the helm of a sailboat with mountains behind. The official first day cover shows photos of him climbing and skiing in the mountains.

Date of Issue	January 31, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

The Year of Tadeusz Kościuszko

The famous Belarusian, American, Polish and Lithuanian military hero Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kościuszko is honored on the 200th anniversary of his death with the issuance of this 3.20 zł stamp.

Born in 1746 in Mereczowszczyzna, near Kosów (now Kosava, Belarus), he fought in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's struggles against Russia and Prussia and with the colonists in the American Revolutionary War.



As an accomplished military architect, colonel in the Continental Army and friend of Thomas Jefferson, he designed and oversaw the construction of various military fortifications, including those

at West Point, N.Y., in 1783. In recognition for his services, the Continental Congress promoted him to brigadier general.

Returning to Poland in 1794, Kościuszko participated in the Polish-Russian War of 1792 as a major general for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Army. Later, after the Second Partition of Poland, he organized an uprising against Russia in 1794, serving as commander-in-chief (*Naczelnik*). However, the uprising failed and the Third Partition of Poland occurred in 1795, thereby ending the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Kościuszko returned to the U.S., which he considered his second home. As a strong believer in equality, in 1798 he prepared a will dedicating all his American assets for the education and freedom of slaves. He eventually returned to Europe, died in Switzerland and was buried at Wawel Castle.

Following many years of legal delays, the funds in his will were allocated in 1826 to help African Americans at a Newark, New Jersey institute bearing his name. Numerous stamps of Poland and the U.S. have honored him.

Date of Issue	February 4, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jarosław Ochendzan

World Day of the Sick

This unusual stamp, denominated at 5 zł, recognizes the world day of the sick (*światowy dzień chorego*), an annual event instituted in 1992 by St. John Paul II. On this day, February 11, Roman Catholic believers may offer prayers for all those suffering from illnesses.

The date coincides with the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. The day was chosen because many pilgrims visiting the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France have reportedly been healed by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. John Paul created the special day one year after his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 1991. He believed that human suffering was a redeeming process through Christ.

The stamp shows two individuals clasping hands.



Date of Issue	February 11, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

500 Years of Reformation

This 3.20 zł stamp recognizes the Protestant Reformation, considered to have begun



with the publication of Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* in 1517 in Wittenberg, Saxony. The stamp appears to show a portion of Luther's text.

Luther criticized the Roman Catholic Church and the papacy on the sale of indulgences, insisting that the pope had no authority over purgatory; he also questioned church doctrine on the merits of the saints, stating that there was no foundation for this in the Bible.

In the early 16th Century the enormous Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a country of many creeds, with the Roman Catholic Church dominant. In the 1520s the Reformation reached Poland, gaining popularity among German-speaking people in major cities in the north, including Gdańsk, Toruń, and Elbląg.

The Duchy of Prussia, a Polish fiefdom, emerged as a key center of the Reformation where bibles and catechisms were printed in German, Polish and Lithuanian. Calvinism also caught the interest of the nobility in other parts of the commonwealth. In 1565 the Polish Brethren appeared as another segment of the Reformation movement.

Although the commonwealth was widely tolerant of religious belief early in the 16th Century, such acceptance ended during the rule of King Sigismund II Vasa, who was strongly influenced by the Jesuits. By the mid-17th Century the Counter-Reformation began. In 1658 the Polish Brethren were expelled from the country and in 1666 the Sejm banned apostasy from Catholicism to any other religion, under punishment of death.

Today's Poland remains a predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Date of Issue	February 27, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

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Soldiers of the Trenches

These two 6 zł stamps show the patriotic military medals (or gorgets) worn around the necks of two of Poland's so-called cursed soldiers, Mieczysław Dziemieszkiewicz (otherwise known as Swarm or Rój) and Franciszek Majewski (otherwise known as Salty or Słony).

Both stamps have an adjacent tab showing a photograph of each man. Each of the gorgets shows Poland's Black Madonna and the Polish Eagle. The soldier Swarm (1925-51) was an anti-communist activist in the Polish Underground. He was born in Zagrody and died in Szyszki. His struggle against the communists was presented in the 2016 Polish movie, *Historia Roja*.

The soldier Salty (1919-48) was in the Polish armed forces all his life fighting in World War II against the Germans and Russians. He continued fighting against the communist regime after the war. Born in Bielsko, near Płock, he also is buried there.

The selvage of the souvenir sheet and official first day cover identify the men as soldiers of the trenches (*ryngrafy żołnierzy wyklętych*). In addition, the lower selvage of the sheet includes a short abstract quotation from the Polish poet Zbigniew Herbert, who wrote during the rule of both the Nazis and later the communists. He was known for drawing constructive conclusions from his destructive experiences.

The quotation shown: . . . *nie dajmy zginąć poległym* (*Let's not die to perish*) is in the second verse, line 16, of his poem *Three Lines of Memory*.

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Date of Issue	March 1, 2017
Sheet Format	2 different stamps with tabs in SS
Printing Method	Offset and dry printing
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

100 Years of Our Lady of Fatima Apparitions

This 6.80 zł stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the reports of unusual sightings at the Cova da Iria in Fatima, Portugal. Three shepherd children reported seeing an angel and a woman "brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal goblet filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun," the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The children, Lúcia Santos, and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, reported a total of six visitations in the spring 1917. Later in October, after their sightings became known, a huge crowd of pilgrims gathered at the site and many reported observing the miracle of the sun or very unusual solar activity event.

Bishop Jose da Silva declared the children's observations worthy of belief in 1930, officially permitting devotion within the Roman Catholic Church. In 1946 Pope Pius XII granted a canonical coronation to the venerated statue at the site.

Lúcia Santos published her memoirs in the 1930s, revealing secrets from the Mary. She served in the church for many years and died at age 97, long after her two cousins who perished in the international flu pandemic in 1919.

In March 2017 Pope Francis canonized two of the children, Jacinta and Francisco, now the Catholic Church's youngest saints who did not die as martyrs.

The stamp shows the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue at the shrine of Fatima, and was issued in cooperation with the post offices of Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovakia.

Date of Issue	March 12, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Túlio Coelho (Portugal)

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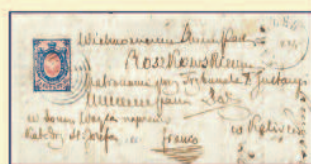


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