BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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SOME POLISH FORGERIES

by Herman Stallberg

Translated from the German by John Gapinski
(Reprinted from STAMPS)

THE FORGERIES OF THE 1919 GNIEZNO PROVISIONALS



1919 Gniezno Provisional



Fake Genuine 81st stamp

Identification Characteristics

1. Strong irregular numerals, especially the "10"; almost all the numerals on the individual stamps of the sheet (of 100) are different, so that their positions may be ascertained.

2. On the genuine stamp, the color of the overprint can be clearly differentiated from the dull green, yellow green, and other green color varieties of the forgeries. The "brown" of the genuine "5" is from bright red to slightly brown, and of the fakes, from red to dark brown.

3. The color of the fakes is more transparent (thinner) as compared with the thicker, in places flaky appearing, color of the genuine overprints.

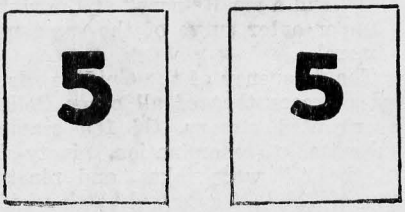
4. The height of the numerals on the genuine overprints differs from that on the forgeries as follows:

"1" in "10":
Height: Genuine 12.3-12.2 mm.
Fake 12.5-12.6 mm.
"0" in "10":
Height: Genuine 12.5 mm.
Fake 12.6 mm. or more.
"5": Height: Genuine 9.25 mm.

5. The width of "0" in "10" differs



1919 Gniezno Provisional



Fake Genuine

greatly from the forgeries, namely:

Genuine overprint 7.25-8.5 mm.
Fake overprint 7.1-7.2 or 7.6-7.9 mm.

6. The overall width of both numerals (10) is: 11.6-11.8 mm. for the genuine, and smaller than 11.6 mm. or larger than 11.8 mm. for the fakes.

7. The numeral "5" on the genuine overprint (part of the issue) has a slight bend backwars in the upper curve.

The irregularities of the numerals are more distinctly noticeable in the "10" than in the "5"; in the latter the main differentiating characteristics are the color varieties and the very clear (most of the time easily visible to the naked eye) differences in the light of the numerals. The "10" was applied by means of a stencil, the "5" was overprinted with type. The forgeries are mostly made with type (also the "10"). A certain number of forgeries were overprinted with printers' type, and the irregularities added to it by hand with a fine camel-hair brush, but fortunately these can be easily detected by means of a quartz lamp.

Typical Marks of Genuineness of Some Stamps

Each overprint in a sheet of 100 genuine stamps, has its own peculiar type differences or characteristics, which are a substantial help in the recognition of the individual stamps, and these were not effectively duplicated on the fake overprints.

Some of the typical characteristics are (see figures)

1st stamp: A distinctive spur (hook) on the lower edge of the "0".

63rd stamp: Small color spots, separated from the head of "1" (damaged stencil).

81st stamp: A salient thickening of the right upper inner curve of the "0" and a small "horn" at the right upper outer curve of the same numeral.

The frequency of the Gniezno forgeries excees that of all other Polish overprinted stamps. Of 100 stamps submitted to examination, ninety-six of the "5" were fakes, and ninety-two of "10." Of a second batch of 100



1st stamp 63rd stamp



82nd stamp

stamps examined less than 10 per cent were genuine overprints. It would be therefore very reasonable to assume that at least 90 per cent of these overprints are forgeries. There were also some very clever imitations on covers tied in with other stamps and cancellations. The reasons for this extensive number of forgeries are that the overprint seems to be easy to fake, and the original stamp may be obtained for a reasonably low price.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

S. A. Sikorski
511 E. 250th St.
Euclid 23, Ohio.

NEW MEMBERS

W. Hermanowski
1125 N. Richmond St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

Joseph Jaskulski
4354 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 51, Ill.

Attention S. P. A. members: when you vote in this coming election remember two good friends of Polonus, J. Edw. Vining and member Ben Reeves, who are candidates for the Board of Directors. Polonus endorses them wholeheartedly.

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.L.



May 3rd, 1927, 10 gr. plus 5 gr., purple, and 20 gr. plus 5 gr., indigo. There is a green burelage on the face of the 10 gr., and a straw burelage on the 20 gr. The design on both stamps showed the face of a woman holding a lighted Roman lamp in her left hand. Below is the inscription "NA OSWIATE (For Education) Gr 5." These stamps were issued for the benefit of the Polish State Schools, the additional 5 gr. going to them. The stamps were printed on thin wove paper and perforated 12x11½.



Kaczkowski

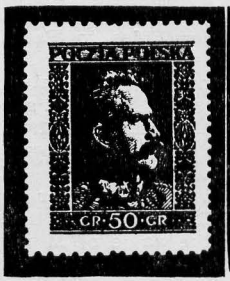


Slowacki

June 1st, 1927, 10 gr., grey-green, 25 gr., scarlet, 40 gr., blue. All three stamps bear the portrait of Dr. Karol Kaczkowski, who was born in Warsaw in 1797, and died 1867. He was Chief of the Polish Army Medical Service in 1831. This issue was made to commemorate the 4th Army Medical and Pharmaceutical International Congress, held in Warsaw on the 30th May until the 4th June, 1927. The stamps were printed on thin wove paper. The 10 gr. and 25 gr. were perforated 12x11½, the 40 gr. 12½.

July 1st, 1927, 20 gr., claret, bearing the portrait of Slowacki.

Julius Slowacki was born in 1809 and died in 1849. A great writer and poet, and creator of the Polish National drama. His dramas and tragedies, derived from Polish history and legends of the past, still form the groundwork of a Polish repertory. The stamps were printed on thin wove paper, and perforated 12½x13.



Pilsudski



Moscicki

February 1st, 1928, 25 gr., brown, yellow-brown, red-brown, bearing the portrait of Marshal Pilsudski. The stamps were printed on thin wove paper, varying in thickness and perforated 12x11½ and 12½x13.

May 3rd, 1928, 50 gr. and 1 zl., sepia, bearing the portraits of Marshal Pilsudski (50 gr.) and President Ignacz Moscicki (1 zl.). These stamps were printed together in small sheets with a space between them inscribed "WARSAWA 1928," and were issued

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to commemorate the National Philatelic Exhibition held in Warsaw on the 3rd May, 1928. The sheets were sold at 3 zl. each, the 1.50 zl. above the value of the stamps paid for admission to the Exhibition.

The stamps were recess-printed on white wove paper and perforated 12½.



General Bem

1928, 25 gr., carmine, bearing the portrait of General Bem, together with four notable dates in his life.

Jozef Bem was born in Burek in 1794 and educated at Cracow University. In 1809, entered Cadet Corps in Warsaw. In 1812 served in Russian Campaign as Artillery Lieutenant. From 1815 to 1825, served in the Army of the Congress Kingdom. In 1830 came to Warsaw, became a Major of Artillery and later a General. In 1831, emigrated with other Poles to Paris. In 1848, directed the Defense of Vienna. In the Hungarian Campaign, proved his great bravery and military gifts, for which Hungarians, in 1880, erected a memorial in Marosz Vasarhaly in his honour. On conclusion of the Hungarian war, retired to Turkey where he adopted the Islam faith and was known under the name of Murat Pasha. He was author of many works on Mathematics and Military History. He died at Aleppo (Syria) on the 10th December, 1850. His remains were brought back to his native town of Tarnow in 1929 amidst great celebrations both by Poles and Hungarians. The stamps were printed on thin wove paper and perforated 12½x13.

October 1928, 50 gr., slate, slate-grey, greenish slate, bearing the portrait of Marshal Pilsudski. 1 zl., slate-blue on cream, black on cream, bearing the portrait of President Moscicki. These two stamps were printed from the same plate as was used for the issue of the 3rd May, 1928.

The 50 gr. was printed on wove paper varying in thickness. There are many varieties of perforation, namely:

10½, 11½, 12, 12½, 10½x11, 10½x11½, 10½x12, 10½x12½, 11x11½, 11x12½, 11½x12, 11½x12½, 11½x13½, 11½x14, 12x10½, 12x11½, 12x12½, 12x13½, 12x14, 12½x11½, 12½x12, 12½x14, 13x12½, 13½x11½, 13½x12, 13½x12½, 13½x13, 14x10½, 14x11½, 14x12, 14x12½, 14x13. But more are undoubtedly to be found.

The 1 zl. was printed on a vertically laid paper, (a) with lines 1 mm. apart, (b) with lines ½ mm. apart, with the following perforations:

(a) 11½, 11½x13½, 11½x14, 12x11½, 12x13½, 12x14, 12½x14, 14x11½, 14x12, 14x12½.

(b) 11½, 12½, 11½x13½, 11½x14, 12x11½, 12x13½, 12x14, 12½x11½, 12½x12, 12½x13½, 12½x14, 13x11½, 13½x12½, 14x11½, 14x12, 14x12½, and probably many more.

I have seen one copy of this stamp on horizontally laid paper (b), perforated 11½.



Sienkiewicz

November 1928, 15 gr., deep blue, blue, bearing the portrait of Sienkiewicz.

Henryk Sienkiewicz was born in 1846 and died at Vevey, Switzerland, November 16th, 1916. He was a celebrated writer and novelist. Author of "With Sword and Fire" (1884), "Quo Vadis" (1896), etc., etc. The Nobel prize for literature was bestowed on him in 1905. His body was removed from Switzerland in 1924 for re-burial in Poland. The stamps were printed on thin wove paper in sheets of 150 stamps (ten rows of 15 stamps each), the control numbers being on the left margin of the sheet. The perforations are 12½ and 12x12½.

January 4th, 1929, 25 gr., red-brown, showing a drawing of the ancient Slav god, "Swiatowid."

Swiatowid was one of the most highly worshipped Slavonic pagan gods. In Arkonia, on the island of Rugen, off the Pomeranian coast on the western Baltic, Swiatowid had a famous temple. He was, however, worshipped

in many other places. Swiatowid was represented with four faces, to face the four points of the compass. This stamp was issued on the occasion of the Polish National Exhibition at Poznan.

The stamps were printed on thin wove paper in sheets of 70 stamps (seven rows of 10 stamps each) and perforated 12½x12.

Early in 1929, and immediately following the foregoing Commemorative, a new issue of low values began to appear, namely, 5 gr., violet, 10 gr., green, and 25 gr., red-brown. The design is the same for all the values, "POCZTA-POLSKA" at the top, the Polish Eagle in the centre, and the value below, with a column containing flowers or ornaments on each side.

The stamps were printed on thin wove paper in sheets of 150 stamps (ten rows of 15 stamps each), and perforated 12½.



King Sobieski

In September 1930, a new value was issued, a 75 gr. purple, a small stamp bearing the portrait of John III Sobieski.

John Sobieski was elected King of Poland in 1674, and, during his reign, he fought and defeated the Turks at Vienna, and saved the capital of Austria. He died in 1696.

The stamps were typographed in sheets of 150, and perforated 12x12½.

On the 20th November, 1930, there appeared the first stamp (5 gr.) of a new series of four values, namely, 5 gr. violet, 15 gr. blue, 25 gr. brown-lake, and 30 gr. carmine issued to commemorate the centenary of the National Insurrection against Russia (29th November, 1830, to 7th Sept., 1831). The design depicts the Polish Eagle between two soldiers of the famous 4th Regt. of Foot, called "The Warsaw Children." This regiment immortalised itself fighting against the Russians at Grochow and Iganie, small towns near Warsaw, where the two principal engagements were fought and won.

The stamps were surface-printed on white wove paper, without watermark, and perforated 12½x13.

This completes the Postal Issues to date.

XVII. POSTAGE DUE STAMPS LOCAL ISSUES

Towns in Southern Poland only were responsible for the issue of "Postage Due" stamps locally. These took the form of an overprint on the then current issues. The overprint was either handstamped, typed, or printed in various coloured inks.

The earliest issues appeared towards the end of 1918, simultaneously with the local provisional postage stamps issued at that time.

Current Austrian "Postage Dues," and in some cases the postage stamps, were adapted for this purpose by overprinting them "POCZTA POLSKA" with or without the Polish Eagle. Few of these stamps were really necessary, and most of them were bought up by collectors and other individuals who got a few passed through the post, or had them "postmarked to order."

The following is a list of towns which issued these stamps, the nature of the overprint, and the stamps overprinted:

1. MIELEC.

(i) "Poczta Polska," rubber-stamped in black, in two lines, on the 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 hal. Austrian "Dues" of 1916.

(ii) "POCZTA, **, POLSKA," rubber-stamped in black, in three lines, on the 5, 10, 15, 15/36, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 50/42 hal., 5 kr. Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17.

(iii) "Poczta Polska," rubber-stamped in violet, in two lines, on the 5, 10, 15, 15/36, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 50/42 hal., 5, 10 kr. Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17. (Fig. 1.)

(iv) Eagle with Crown, rubber-stamped in black on the 5, 10, 10/24, 15/36, 20/54, 30 hal. Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17.

2. MYSLENICE.

(i) "Poczta Polska," machine-printed in black, in two lines, spaced both 1¾ and 4 mm., on the 1, 5, 10, 10/24, 15, 15/2, 15/36, 20, 20/54, 25, 30, 40, 50, 50/42 hal. (Fig. 2.)

(ii) "Poczta Polska," machine-printed in black, in one line, on the 1 hal.



Overprints on Local Postage Dues.

(iii) "Polska Poczta," machine-printed in black, in one line, on the 1 hal.

(iv) Eagle with Crown, 16x22 mm., metal-stamped in black, on the 5, 15, 15/36, 20/54, 30, 40 hal. All on Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17. (Fig. 3.)

3. PRZEMYSL.

(i) "POCZTA," Eagle with Crown, "POLSKA," rubber-stamped in violet or red, in three lines, on the 5, 10, 10/24, 15, 15/2, 15/36, 20, 20/54, 25 (1908-13), 25, 30, 40, 50/42 hal., 1, 5, 10 kr. Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17. (Fig. 4.)

(ii) The same overprint on the 10 hal. Bosnia "Due" of 1916-18.

4. ROZWADOW.

(i) "POCZTA POLSKA," Eagle with Crown, "ROZWADOW," rubber-stamped in violet, in four lines, on the 1, 5, 10, 10/24, 15, 15/36, 20, 20/54, 25, 30, 40, 50, 50/42 hal., 1, 5, 10 kr.

(ii) The same, but without the word "ROZWADOW," on similar values. All on Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17. (Fig. 5.)

5. SWIATNIKI GORNE.

(i) "Polska," six-ray star, "poczta," rubber-stamped in black, on 1 hal. Austrian "Due" of 1916.

(ii) As (i), but with "PORTO," 18x3 mm., added below "poczta," on the 5, 6, 10, 20 hal. Austrian postage stamps of 1916-17.

(iii) As (ii), but with "PORTO," in a frame, 16½x6 mm., on the 10 hal. postage stamp of 1916.

(iv) As (i), but without the star, on the 1, 25, 50/42 hal. "Dues" of 1916-17.

(v) As (ii), but without the star, on the 6, 10, 12, 20, 50 hal. postage stamps of 1916-17.

(vi) as (iii), but without the star, on the 10 hal. postage stamp of 1916.

(vii) "Polska poczta," in two lines, with a six-ray star below, rubber-stamped in red, on the 15/2 hal. "Due" of 1916.

(viii) As (vi), but with "PORTO" added at the foot of the stamp in black, on the 10 hal. postage stamp of 1916.

6. TARNOW.

(i) Eagle without Crown, metal-stamped in black, on the 5, 15, 30 hal., 1 kr. Austrian "Dues" of 1916. (Fig. 6.)

(ii) "Rzp. Polska," machine-printed diagonally on the 5 hal. "Due" of 1916.

The following "Postage Dues" were issued early in 1919:

7. SKALAT.

"POCZTA POLSKA in a curved line, Eagle with Crown, SKALAT," metal-stamped in black, on the 5, 10, 15/36, 20/54, 25, 30, 40, 50/42 hal., 1 kr. Austrian "Dues" of 1916-17.

8. CRACOW.

"POCZTA POLSKA" in two lines, with rhomb between, machine-printed in black on the 5, 10, 15, 15/36, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50/42 hal., 10 kr. (Fig. 7), and, with a scroll between, lithographed in red, on the 1, 5, 10 kr.

Among these are some of the rarest stamps of the country. The following is the number of each denomination that received the overprint:

5	hal	34,000
10	"	100
15	"	76,550
15/36	"	600
20	"	400
25	"	8,620
30	"	220
40	"	1,000
50/42	"	5,970
1	kr.	80
5	"	80
10	"	40
10	" (black ovpt.)	15

NEW ISSUES
by J. J. Domar

A 45 groszy red stamp was released for the 1st of May. It shows a worker facing left and holding an unfurled banner in his left hand and a pneumatic tool in his right hand. In the upper left corner are the words, "1 Maj," in the lower right is the value, "45 gr." and across the bottom "Poczta Polska," It is printed by the photogravure method.

The 45 groszy "Picasso, Dove of Peace" stamp has appeared with a machine overprint of 45 gr. over 15 zloty. The unusual thing about this is that there was no previous information to the effect that this stamp ever was issued in a 15 zloty value. I suppose now some of them will appear without the overprint at very fancy prices. If this is so, I hope that our members will not be foolish enough to buy them, since, in my opinion they are not legitimate errors but, simply printers waste. Remember the 15 zloty, blue, Pres. Bierut stamp? Well, I was informed this week by one of our dealer members that he now is getting them at regular prices. His advice is to lay off the sucker prices.

I suppose the Picasso, 40 groszy blue, will be found overprinted on a 10 zloty value. This is merely supposition not fact at the moment.

A new issue of two stamps made its appearance this past week, a 40 groszy blue and a 45 groszy, black. In size it is similar to all of the recent issues except that it is printed across the wide part.

It was designed by B. Brandt and engraved by E. Konecki. The design is the same on both values. It is an illustration of a steel mill, across the top it reads, "Budujemy Nowa Hute," meaning "We are building new mills." The value is in the lower right and across the bottom "Poczta Polska."

A new 10 groszy Postage Due was released in the current design.

From Dr. H. Fenigstein a member in Toronto a note was received stating that there are two types of the redrawn Scotts #477 (6 year plan). The 1st, the cross hatching goes thru the 4 of 45 gr. and the other has a white outline around a part of the 4.

An issue of six stamps is to be released on May 24 to commemorate the First Polish Congress of Science. The stamps are to honor Polish scientists; values are: 25 gr. Stanislaw Staszic 1755-1826, Scientist and Social Crusader; Marie Curie 1867-1934, Scientist, teacher and author; 45 groszy, Zygmunt Wroblewski 1845-1888 and Karol Olszewski 1846-1915, "The Siamese Twins of Polish Science"; 60 gr. Prof. Nencki; 1.15 zloty Nicolas Copernicus 1473-1543, "The Father of Modern Astronomy" and a 1.35 zloty, symbolic design.



Ministry of Posts and Telegraph, Poland
Joseph Bienecki
Frank Warner (STAMPS)

TID BITS

Poland's newly established Union of Polish Stamp Clubs as yet has not published any philatelic periodicals. They intend to begin publishing activity shortly however, featuring the simple and popular type of philatelic articles. They claim that in the past articles have been too specialized and

over the head of the average collector.

Barney Fialkowski took a third award with his Albania at the recent Austin Philatelic Soc. Show.

At a recent meeting Edwin C. Hopps brought his collection of Thurn and Taxis covers. Lester Jankowski acted as moderator at the discussion that night. Polonus has adopted a new policy which will continue through the year—members bring in collections which they are about to mount and the society decides what is the best way to mount it.

On another meeting night Paul Jakubko brought his Portugal and Jack Domar acted as moderator.

Women invaded Polonus at a recent meeting when Mrs. Viola Kunzendorf of the Chicago Women's Stamp Club lectured and displayed her Vatican City. Polonus played host to her and many of the Women's Stamp Club members by putting on a traditional Beeba.

It is with deep regret we learn that member Frank Prescott and member Tony Banasiak's father passed away.

A net profit of $133.42 was reported for Polpex 1951 by Polpex Treasurer Jack Rux. Incidentally, Jack and his wife Ethel are celebrating 25 years of marriage this month. Congratulations on the net profit and the anniversary!

At the last May meeting Polonus welcomed out of town members Leo Topolinski and Aloysius Paruszynski of Milwaukee, Wis.

A Polish philatelic group in Pittsburgh, Pa., is planning a stamp exhibit November 17 and 18, 1951.

Linn's Weekly issued a special number of their magazine for Polonus.

Among enterprising Chicago Polonus members may be listed two more names: those of Richard Estka and Anton Klocek. Richard opened up an Ice Cream Parlor at 1637 W. 63rd St. and Anton opened up a tavern at Diversey and Central.

John Wendt was a principal speaker at the Hawthorne Stamp Club recently. He showed his film and stamps of Ireland.

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Jack Domar
John Gapinski

MAKE YOUR WORTHLESS STAMPS VALUABLE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

There are many American servicemen in Veterans' Hospitals who need some form of recreation. The "Stamps for the Wounded" campaign was started several years ago, and now, more than ever, there is a need for stamps.

Many of these Veterans are extremely interested in stamp collecting, but because of the lack of material and accessories, are unable to collect. The recreational and occupational values of stamp collecting are great. **Stamps and accessories are needed.**

Recently a campaign was started to raise good material, our purpose is to gather stamps, albums and accessories and distribute them to Veterans' Hospitals having patients interested in stamps. With the co-operation of members we hope to make this project an over-whelming success.

YOU, as members of Polonus Philatelic Society can give our project a great push and afford countless hours of recreation to many young men and women with boring time to contend with.

Send your unwanted stamps now; and we will send them to the veterans immediately.—Please do it now.

"STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED"
c/o Barney J. Fialkowski
2633 N. Emmett St. Chicago 47, Ill.