BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue 222 May, 1964

POLONUS TO HOST RAVENSWOOD STAMP CLUB

On the night of June 26th, Polonus will be host to the Ravenswood Stamp Club at our program meeting. The President of Ravenswood, Mr. Holton, informed us that their members will attend in a body and that they will feature a guest speaker for that night — Ed Hopps, whose topic will be "Polish Military Mail."

Chicagoland members of Polonus are asked to turn out for this program meeting and to extend their usual Polish hospitality to the Ravenswood members. Of course, there will also be a Beeba.

POLPEX 1964 IN "FILATELISTA

The May 1st edition of "Filatelista" from Warsaw has a reproduction of our souvenir sheet and small description of our Silver Anniversary, concluded with best wishes to Polonus on our Anniversary with "Sto lat, sto lat . . ."

TID BITS

Chester and Mrs. Makowski visited the New York World's Fair and met up with our New York member, A. Schwanderla and his wife. They spent a pleasant evening together discussing Polonus and stamps.

It's nice to have members in different parts of the country and abroad.

* * *

Congratulations to member Henry J. Kufel of Muskegon, Mich. on receiving the first place blue ribbon in the foreign division at the Muskegon Stamp Club's annual show held April 24-25. Mr. Kufel exhibited five frames of Historical and Commemorative Issues of Poland.

Mr. and Mrs. Myron Steczynski will be leaving soon for the Paris Philatelic Exhibition PARIS 64. They will then journey on to London and Copenhagen and are looking forward to meeting Polonus members there.

IN OUR MAIL BOX . . .

Polonus Philatelic Society
Gentlemen:

This is just a few words to say that I'm pleased at being accepted in the Polonus Society. I believe it will be a freat help to me in my collecting of Poland Philatelic Issues.

The "Bulletin" is very interesting reading. The new issue section will help in writing up my album pages.

Henry J. Kufel
Muskegon, Mich.

* * *

Polonus Philatelic Society
Dear Mr. Schafer:

I have been collecting Polish stamps since 1936, general, and feel as though I haven't been collecting them in vain. I do not speak, read or write Polish. Somehow, for the past two years, since I've been receiving your "Bulletin" I feel as though I am a little closer to Polish history. Your bulletin of January depicting errors in the Polish Ancient City Halls issue was absolutely interesting. Wish that you had more issues like that.

Reginald L. Olivier
Lewiston, Maine

STAMPS OF THE WARSAW LOCAL POST – 1915

By I. Braunstein

Reprinted from The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately — Nos. 62-63

(Continued from April Issue)

The 10 gr. stamp had six printings, and were printed until July 1916. They were in use until October 1, 1916. The total quantity of the aforementioned stamps was 1,660,000, of which approximately 282,000 went through the mails, and approximately 93,000 received various overprints (See Nos. 8, 10 and 11 listed on page 221-2). The rest of the stamps were used as revenues on various documents issued by the police department. The stamps were usually used in pairs on documents, with a round cancellation on which there is a number of the Commissariate of Police.

On the day of the opening of the post office, the post office had stamps of 5 gr. blue black and 5 gr. olive green and 10 gr. red, but as I said previously it was necessary to have 6 gr. for ordinary letters and 2 gr. for newspapers, therefore an overprint of "6 groszy" was prepared immediately. In some cases, the postal clerks forgot to apply this overprint on 5 gr. stamps, but the purchaser still had to pay 6 gr. for the 5 gr. stamp.

Thus letters can be found with 5 gr. stamps Nos. 1 and 3 without overprint, but they must be cancelled before October 21, 1915, and of course, have the additional marking "WRĘCZENIE OPŁACONE".

With the exception of usage described in previous paragraph, we must consider stamps No. 1 and 3 as stamps not put officially in circulation without overprint.

Stamps with overprints No. 2 and 4

The overprint of "6 groszy" without frame on 5 gr. blue-black and 5 gr. olive-green was applied on all varieties of No. 1 and No. 3 and for this purpose 2 rubber dies were made, which were more or less alike, except that the rounded portion of "6" was of the same height as the rounded portion of the letter "g", while on the other type the letter was smaller.

The overprint, because of its small size, was hard to see, and therefore on September 30, 1915, a new one was made, likewise of "6 groszy", but with a frame. Nevertheless, the overprint without frame remained in use until the middle of October, 1915, together with the framed overprint. Let us note here, that the continuous use of the first overprint without frame (IId type) caused a crack to appear in the letter "y", and therefore oveprints are found where the bottom part of this letter is partly broken or is entirely missing.

Issue of September 30, 1915

No. 1 & 3 overprinted "6 groszy" (framed), size 27.5 x 13.5 mm.

No. 6. 5 gr. blue black or olive green (red overprint).

No. 6a. 5 gr. blue black or olive green (purple overprint).

No. 6b. 5 gr. blue black or olive green (black overprint).

Forgeries exist in great quantities and can be distinguished by careful comparison of the different letters and figures for the genuine and the counterfeit overprints. Moreover, the genuine overprints have a small spot above the letter "S", while the counterfiets do not. There also exist other false overprints, with and without the frame, but they are very crude and very easy to detect.

Colors

Both overprints are found in various shades, some of which are very rare. The variations in colors can be explained by the fact that the postal clerks had two pads with purple and red ink, and as both colors were continuously in use, the stamps were not completely dry and often gave prints of mixed colors of different shades. As an exception black stamps were found as besides the colors indicated above writing ink or indian ink were used.

Issue of October 20, 1915

This is the 5 gr. blue black on brownish or greenish background with typographic overprint "6" of round shape (No. 7). The overprints described above were made by hand and were in use until October 30, 1915. Beginning from that day, a new overprint was made by the typographical method onn 5 gr. stamps with brownish background. The overprint was composed of figure "6" in both lower corners.

The overprints were made at once on a whole 40 stamp sheet (8x5), but in the last vertical row of 5 stamps the numerals "6" were wider. There were two printings: for the first a dark blue ink with black gleam was used, for the second the ink used was intensely black.

The total quantity of stamps printed was approximately 100,000, and three weeks later, on November 22, they were completely sold out. As this numeral was hard to see on the dark color of the stamp, the Committee decided to prepare a new issue, but to change the color of the stamp.

Most often these stamps are found cancelled in blocks of four with cancellation requested by collectors, with the date October 15, 1915.

No. 7 5 gr. blue-black on greenish (blue overprint).

No. 7a 5 gr. blue-black on greenish (black overprint).

No. 7b Nos. 7 or 7a with wide "6" overprint.

Issue of November 10, 1915 (No. 8)

This was the 10 gr. (no. 5) with typographic overprint — two numerals "2", large size.

No. 8 10 gr. dark red on buff (No. 5) (Black overprint "2 — 2").

No. 8a 10 gr. dark red on buff on (No. 5a)

No. 8b 10 gr. dark red on buff on (No. 5d).

No. 8c Same, except imperforate (on Nos. 5a and 5b)

No. 8d Without vertical perforations on (No. 5f).

The total number of stamps with this overprint was 92,000 but only about 12,000 were used for letters; the rest were sold at the post office to collectors. The supplies were exhausted by December 18, 1915 and in order to refill them it was decided to continue the overprinting of 10 gr. stamps, but with a change in the overprint using the same type of figures as the small surcharge "6 — 6" (No. 9). We shall describe it later, under No. 10. It is noteworthy that overprint No. 8 was carried out uniformly and without any variations appearing on every sheet; thus all "varieties", which can be found on the stamp market, are to be considered as falsifications or fantasies.

Note: We advise collectors to avoid halves of 5 gr. or 6 gr. stamps on letters or envelope fragments, with a cancellation date later than November 10, 1915. It is hard to believe indeed that postal clerks enjoyed cutting these stamps in halves as it had been done before, at the time when a special stamp for printed matter already existed (No. 8).

Stamps printed, but not issued without overprints.

C1 5 gr. light green on grayish-yellow (Nov. 25, 1915), Perforated 11½.

C2 5 gr. light green on grayish-yellow, imperforate (Only one sheet of 40 stamps known).

D1 5 gr. light green on buff (Jan. 10, 1916), Perforated 11½.

D2 5 gr. green on light buff, imperforate.

Although the stamps C and D were not officially issued without overprints, nevertheless a few stamps were used and went through the mails. The total quantity of stamps C and D printed reached 720,000; 308,000 received the overprint "6 — 6" in small numerals (No 9) and "6 gr." with rosettes (No. 12). Let us note that on March 22, 1916 — 40,000 which have not been sold, were returned to the office of the Committee.

Issue of November 22, 1915

No. 9 5 gr. (C) with lithographic overprint "6 — 6" in small numerals.

These stamps exist perforated 11½ and imperforate. No varieties of the overprints are encountered, therefore all double, inverted, etc. overprints are to be considered as counterfeits or fantasies. Let us also note that the counterfeits are often found with a revenue cancellation and not a postal one.

Issue of December 18, 1915.

10 gr. (No. 5) with a lithographic overprint "2 — 2" in small numerals.

No. 10 10 gr. red on yellowish, buff or grayish-yellow, overprint "2 — 2", perforated 11½ (overprint on No. 5, 5b and 5d).

No. 10a Same, but small sawtooth roulette instead of perforation

The committee could not give any particulars regarding the rouletted stamps, although they were sold officially at the post office. It is thought that they were perforated thus because of the breakdown of the perforating machines.

Although the Local Post of Warsaw had been functioning for 7 months, the lack of experience of its management was still felt. Stamp issues followed one another and it was often found that they did not satisfy the needs of the post office. This was the case of the last mentioned surcharges, which were found to be unclear, and because of difficulty of seeing the overprint on the dark stamp more liable for errors. To avoid this and to make the overprints more noticeable, it was decided to issue 10 gr. (No. 5) and 5 gr. (D) with new overprints of "2 gr." and "6 gr." between two rosettes, which covered the former value.

Issue of February 2, 1916

10 gr. (No. 5) with overprint "2 gr." between two rosettes, with 8 rays each

No. 11 10 gr. red with this overprint perforated 11½.

No. 11a 10 gr. red, but used for overprinting are Nos. 5a, b, c & d

No. 11b 10 gr. red overprinted on imperforate Nos. 5 b, c and d.

It is quite possible that the imperforate stamps sold at the post office were leftovers from the typographical stocks, which could not have been perforated in time.

No. 11c 10 gr. red — inverted overprint.

No. 11d 10 gr. red — double overprint

No. 11e 10 gr. red — right rosette has only 6 rays

No. 11f 10 gr. red — as No. 11e but corrected right rosette.

Variety No. 11e is located in the fourth horizontal row of the 40 stamp sheet and is number 28 in the pane. The fact that this error is not found on all of the sheets of 40 (8x5), plus the typographical markings on the margins of the sheets, allow us to conclude that stamps No. 11 and 12 were printed in sheets of 320 stamps composed of 8 panes (4x2) of 40 stamps. The error is found in the first pane. Its appearance led to speculation and the authorities hurriedly corrected this error by touching up the irregular rosette: its rays are thinner and the spaces between them are more noticeable.

Forgeries:

The stamps with a 6-ray rosette led to many falsifications which are not difficult to distinguish. Below I am listing the differences beween the forgeries and the genuine:

1. The interior circle is not round on the counterfeits.
2. The whole rosette is smaller and the rays vary in length.
3. On one of the counterfeits the rosette is rather well made, but the numeral "2" has a shorter base than on the genuine stamp.

Same Issue, February 2, 1916

Overprint "6 gr." between two 8-ray rosettes on a 5gr. (D).

No. 12 5 gr. green on light buff, with overprint, perforated 11½.

No. 12a 5 gr. green on light buff imperforate.

No. 12b 5 gr. green on light buff, double overprint.

No. 12c 5 gr. green on light buff, with strongly displaced background

Stamps No. 12 and especially No. 12a, without background, are the result of the worn out plate. Sloped, displaced, and other errors such as double prints, etc. are either typographical rejects or left over trial printings.

Stamps No. 11 and 12 remained in use until October 20, 1916, after which time the use of all stamp issues was prohibited and the stamps taken out of circulation and replaced by seals with the indication of value.

Cancelling of Stamps

Committee stamps were cancelled only with special cancellers created for that purpose. Three different types used are listed below:

1. Circular — 28½ mm. dia.
   Bust of siren in the center. Around the perimeter, at top — Committee name abbreviated, below — "POCZTA MIEJSKA". **Counterfeits** — 2 mm. space between the head and sword while on genuine it is only 1 mm., likewise the letters are thicker and larger.
2. Circular — 29 mm. dia.
   Double lined circle with a space in between for the date (day, month, year and hour) and around the perimeter same as Type 1 cancellation.
3. Oval — 37x24 mm. Text same as above, except "WARSZAWA", added at the top. The date, without the indication of "hours" is in the middle of the frame. **Counterfeits**— Smaller with smaller letters.

All cancellations on genuine stamps are in black, except Type I cancellation (siren) which may be found in purple or red.

By an order of the occupation authorities, on October 19, 1916 the use of all aforementioned stamps was prohibited and the stamps were withdrawn. The same order introduced, starting October 20, the use of special cancellations with value indication, which replaced the postage stamps, and whereby the postage fee was to be paid by the addressee. The description of these cancellations and the new postal regulations will be given in a future article.

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Poland's 8th General Exhibition "The 20th Anniversary of the PPR"

By Dr. Antoni Laszkiewicz

From April 4, to May 5, 1964 a philatelic exhibition under the above name was held in Warsaw in the Palace of Culture and Science.

The exhibition was officially opened by its sponsor Eng. Z. Moskwa, minister of Communications and honorary member of the Polish Philatelic Federation.

Because the exhibition's purpose was to honor the 20th Anniversary of the Polish Peoples Republic, its organizer, the Central Administration of the Polish Philatelic Federation, restricted the show only to stamps of Poland issued between the years 1944 - 1964 and in this manner present a review of the achievements of Polish philately during the 20 years.

Consequently, many of the exhibits were built up in a short period of time, just before the exhibition.

Despite this obstacle, there were 10 exhibits in the non-competitive class, 190 for competition and 60 junior exhibits. In addition there were 20 entries of literature and very interesting exhibits of filumenics (match box label and cover exhibits) and numismatics. The whole exhibition consisted of over 1000 frames plus dozens of cases suitably installed in the halls of the Palace of Culture and Science, displayed with good taste and artistic setting.

The judging of the exhibits was the task of an 11 man jury. Gold medals were awarded to: **Stanisław Adamski** (2) for a collection of provisional overprints "grosze" from the period of monetary reform in 1950 and for a collection of provisional cancellations of 1944-47; and to **Joseph Leszczynski** — for a collection of stamps of 25 and 50 groszy printed in Moscow and the later overprints on the same issue.

Maciej Perzynski for a collection of "Forgeries and speculative issues of 1944-64; and to **Joseph Cwiertnia** — for a collection of prov. overprints "groszy" from 1950.

Tadeusz Trzebski — for a collection of provisional cancellations from 1944-1945.

In the topical field, Gold Medals were received by: **Wlodzimierz Goszczynski** for "Stamp Day" in Poland; **Henryk Brancewicz** and **Jerzy Wieczorek** for collections of "400th Anniversary of Polish Post and "100 Years of Polish Postage Stamp". The trophy from the president of the PZF was received by **Stanislaw Adamski;** Special award from the minister of Communications for collections best illustrating the social and economic transformation in the PPR — went to PZF local Poznań for their exponant "Labor movement in Poland", and for the best illustration of postal activities in the PPR to **Andrzej Myslicki** for a collection of commemoratives "for the occasion", postal markings and cancellations from 1945 to 1964.

Particpating in this exhibition were collectors from abroad.

Among foreign collectors who distinguished themselves with silver medals and honor diplomas were **Johannes Franz** from Dresden and **Gregory Wasilenko** from Rotterdam with collections of "groszy" overprints.

The junior collections were neatly presented. The young collectors revealed much self-reliance in working out their topics.

The exhibition presented a review of philatelic gains for the 20 years, and was well enjoyed by the visiting public, the exhibitors and organizers.

— POLAND —

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NEW ISSUES

J. J. Domar

Scheduled for June is a 7 value set of stamps having as the subject "Water Fowl of Poland."

The values are as follows:

30 gr. Lapwing (Vanellus vanellis), a bird very common in all of Poland.

40 gr. Bluethroat (Luscinia Svecica) rare, but found in all parts of Poland.

50 gr. Black Tailed Godwit (Lemosa Lemosa), rare, found only in the north-western territories.

60 gr. Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) prey bird, living in small numbers thruout Poland.

90 gr. Heron (Ardea cinerea), water bird, small numbers thruout Poland.

1.35 zł. Little Gull (Larus minutus), found in small numbers in northern part of Poland.

1.55 zł. Shoveler (Spatula Clypeata), rare wild duck living in small numbers all over Poland.

5.60 zł. Black throated Diver (Gavia artica) a true waterfowl, unable to move on land; found only in small numbers only in the northern part of Poland.

6.50 zł. Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps Crestatus), a common bird living everywhere in Poland.

Printed in small sheets of 20 on chalky paper by rotogravure, multicolored.

Quantities to be printed are:
30 gr., 50 gr. — 6,000,000
40 gr., 60 gr. — 8,000,000
90 gr., 1.55 zł. — 5,000,000
1.35 zł. — 4,500,000
5.60 zł. — 1,300,000
6.50 zł. — 1,000,000

The designs are by Jerry Desselberger.

Also to commemorate the Fourth Congress of the Polish United Workers Party, the Polish Post is preparing an issue of 4 stamps all of them of 60 gr. value.

1. A red flag on the background of a wall under construction.
2. A hammer girdled round with a white-red ribbon.
3. Two hands holding a red flag.
4. A hammer and stylized ear of corn.

The inscription on every stamp reads "Fourth Congress of the Polish United Workers Party".

Printed in sheets of 30 stamps on chalky paper by Polychrome offset method.

Stamp 1 designed by A. Heidrich Stamps 2, 3 & 4, designed by R. Dudzicki.

—Ruch

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 12, 1964 —

Business Meeting. Auction to follow.

Friday, June 26, 1964 —

Program Meeting. Ravenswood Stamp Club Night. Guest Speaker: Ed Hopps. Topic: Polish Military Mail. Beeba.

POLONUS PINS STILL AVAILABLE

Beautiful enameled pins, in three colors, with the official Polonus emblem, have been made up as per the wishes of our members.

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CHICAGO COMPEX '64 MAY 29-31

Among the 1000 frames to be exhibited at COMPEX '64 by twelve component stamp societies, there will be on view a special J. F. Kennedy Memorial display as the Court of Honor of the Austin Philatelic Society, and an official government exhibit from the state of Israel, the United States and the United Nations.

COMPEX '64 (Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland) is to be held Memorial Day weekend, May 29-31 at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

Participating with exhibits are the Scandinavian Collectors Club, German Philatelic Society, Jack Knight Air Mail Society, Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of America, Israel-Palestine Philatelic Society of America, Philometer Society of Chicago, North Shore Philatelic Society, Vatican Philatelic Society, Roosevelt Philatelic Society, and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society.

It is interesting to note that the Grand Trophy of the Israel-Palestine Philatelic Society of America will be a silver bound Hebrew-English Bible printed in Jerusalem and generously donated by the Israeli Ministry of Posts.

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