



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue No. 106

July-August 1952

The Tourist Issues of Poland

by **Myron E. Steczynski**

(Reprinted from STAMPS)

Little effort was made to attract tourists to Poland before 1930 due to limited hotel facilities, lack of improvements at resorts, and inadequate communication in the newly organized country. By 1935 great strides were made in economic and internal conditions so that the attractions of Poland began to be publicized abroad. Several organizations and clubs prepared and distributed views and maps of Poland. Booklets, posters and photos were widely circulated and a set of postage stamps was issued between August 5, 1935 and January 15, 1936 to attract tourists, both from Poland and abroad. The 15 gr. was the first value to be issued August 5, 1935, showing that a trip by sea could be made in a Polish boat. The lower values portray beauty spots—the higher values show buildings. A portrait of the President of the Polish Republic on the highest value (3 zloty) completes the issue. Because of the natural wonders portrayed on the 5, 10 and 20 gr. stamps, this series is sometimes referred to as the National Parks of Poland.

The four lower values were typographed, while the seven higher values were steel engraved. All stamps were printed on wove paper without a watermark at the P. W. P. W., (Polska Wytwornia Papierow Wartosciowych), Polish Printery of Valuable Papers.

After the initial issue of this set

of eleven stamps, the P. W. P. W. procured a new GOEBEL rotary machine for printing engraved stamps. The steel cylinder was made up of two sectors of 100 impressions each and the machine also perforated the stamps, trimmed the sheets and numbered them at the bottom margin under the 95th and 96th positions.

In order to capitalize on the huge capacity of this new machine, the problem was to convert the above tourist issue to cylindrical, steel-engraved forms. The lower four values of the original set, which were typographed, would require entirely new dies and plates. It was, therefore, decided to create new designs with architectural subjects, which would supplement the higher values (with buildings) of the original tourist set. The four stamps of the 1937 series were thus created, and the flat-engraved plates of the 25, 45, 50 and 55 gr. stamps of the 1935 series were curved to fit the new cylindrical press, thereby producing the required stamps of the higher values. Further quantities of the 30 gr., 1 Z. and 3 Z. stamps apparently were not needed. In column 6 of the tabulated data, all flat-bed printings are denoted by I, and all rotary printings are denoted by II.

It should be noted that the 25 gr. value was printed from two different cylindrical plates which were somewhat larger than the original flat-

plate issue, and which differ somewhat in size from each other. The 45, 50, and 55 gr. rotary stamps are likewise larger (especially higher) than the flat-plate stamps of corresponding values, so that these four rotary stamps are in a way the continuation of the lower four architectural stamps of 1937.

There were 250,000 each of the 30 gr. and of the flat-plate 55 gr. imprinted in 1936 for the Gordon Bennett air races (see Scott Nos. 306 and 307). These overprints have been counterfeited, some better than others, but the 55 gr. counterfeits are usually on the rotary stamp and not on the flat-plate.

A total of 250,000 of the original 5 gr., 363,000 of the 15 gr. and 619,000 of the flat 25 gr. (Type I) were imprinted in October, 1936 for use in Port Gdansk (see Scott Nos. 1K28 to 1K30).

There were 367,000 of the new 5 gr., 150,000 of the new 15 gr., and 350,000 of the rotary (Type IIA) 25 gr. imprinted in June, 1937 for similar use in Port Gdansk (see Scott Nos. 1K31 and 1K32).

Limited quantities of Scott Nos. 295, 296, 298, 308, 309 and 310 of these series were bound in booklet form by taking the left-hand margin and the first two columns of stamps from full sheets, separating them into blocks of four and stapling them at the marginal stubs between glassine interleaves and suitable covers.

Full data on the stamps are given in the tabulation, and information on each subject depicted on the stamps is given under the respective illustrations. It might be mentioned here that notable tourist attractions are shown on Poland's First Pictorial Issue, Scott Nos. 227-241, but to avoid repetition, entirely new subjects were chosen for this series.

Scott 294—Pieskowa Skala (Dog Cliff)

This natural tourist attraction is located near Olkusz, about 15 miles northwest of Krakow. It is in the northern part of the Ojcow Valley, formed by the Jura-Krakow mountains. The farthest of the two rocks



which rises skyward is called "Hercules Mace." The mediaeval castle in the far distance is still inhabited.



Scott 295—Morskie Oko (Eye of the Sea)

This picturesque lake is located in the Polish Carpathians along the Czechoslovak border, known as the TATRAS, and is reached by a beautiful highway from Poland's most famous winter resort ZAKOPANE. Numerous lakes such as Morskie Oko are situated deep in the valleys directly below the high rugged mountains. This deep blue Lake is at the foot of Mount Rysy (8,200 ft.) and is a foremost tourist attraction.



Scott 296—the M. S. Pilsudski

This modern motorship with Gdynia in the background was one of the several vessels of the proud Polish merchant fleet. The 14,294 ton M. S. Pilsudski and its sister ship the M. S. Batory were built in Italy for Poland in exchange for Silesian coal and were put into successful tourist service with America until the outbreak of World War II. The M. S. Pilsudski was sunk by a German mine in the



Scott 297—Pieniny National Park

This tourist attraction consists of comparatively small wooded mountains and rugged terrain (not over 3300 feet high) set aside as a national park to preserve its natural beauty. The particular view on the stamp shows CZORSTYN, a health resort. It is near here that the Dunajec River flows through a deep winding ravine for about 8 miles and tourists are taken for a trip down the river on a raft along the steep rocky walls.



Scott 298—Belvedere Palace, Warsaw

Belvedere, erected in 1818-1822, is typical of classical treatment of traditional design of a Polish country mansion and is a tourist attraction for its historical background. It is known first of all as the scene of the beginning of the famed Polish national insurrection of 1830. The Russian governor of Poland lived here and on the night of November 29th, 1830, it was taken by patriotic cadets struggling to regain freedom for Poland. Secondly, it is known as the residence of the first two presidents (Gabriel Narutowicz and Stanislaus Wojciechowski) as well as of Marshal Pilsudski who lived and died here in 1935.

Mir is way up in northeastern Poland near the old Russian border, the mediaeval castle was built as a stronghold by George Illinicz, Mar-



Scott 299—Zamek W Mirze
(The Castle at Mir)

shal of the Lithuanian Court and Starost of Brzesc, in the 15th century. It was later acquired by the Radziwill family. Tourists visiting Mir are impressed by the heavy construction of the brick walls with decorative use of plaster, and by the imposing towers, which are an impressive sight on the shore of the adjoining lake.



Scott 300—The Castle at Podhorce

This magnificent castle at Podhorce, a village east of Lwow, was designed by a Venetian architect, Andrea del Aqua, and built about 1630-40 by the Polish Hetman Stanislaus Koniecpolski, who beat the Swedes and Turks in their invasions of Poland. The castle later was acquired by King John Sobieski, who appointed it most elegantly. Tourists are attracted not only to this splendid castle itself, but to the rich collection of art objects and to the various relics relating to King John Sobieski.



Scott 301—Sukiennice (The Cloth Hall)
Krakow

Right in the center of Krakow's

TOURIST ISSUE - LANDSCAPES AND BUILDINGS

METHOD	DENOMINATION	SCOTT NO.	DESIGNED BY	ENGRAVED BY	TYPE	SIZE	PERF.	DATE AUTHORIZED	ISSUED		DATE WITHDRAWN
									DATE	QUANTITY	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
T Y P O G R A P H E D	5 gr.	294	R. Kleczewski	W. Vacek	I	28.6 x 21.8	13 x 12½	July 6, 1935 Oct. 3, 1936 Feb. 6, 1937	Aug. 16, 1935	80,910,000 22,000,000 10,600,000 113,510,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	10 gr.	295	R. Kleczewski	M. R. Polak	I	28.4 x 21.7	13 x 12½	July 6, 1935	Dec. 1, 1935	39,400,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	15 gr.	296	R. Kleczewski	W. Vacek	I	28.5 x 22.0	13 x 12½	July 6, 1935 Oct. 3, 1936 Jan. 2, 1937	Aug. 5, 1935	49,460,000 16,570,000 10,920,000 76,950,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	20 gr.	297	L. Sowiński	M. R. Polak	I	28.1 x {21.6 28.4} x {22.0	13 x 12½	July 6, 1935	Dec. 1, 1935	14,840,000	Nov. 15, 1937
E N G R A V E D	25 gr.	298	L. Sowiński	M. R. Polak	I	28.2 x {21.4 28.4} x {21.6	13	July 6, 1935	Dec. 1, 1935	Type I+IIA=	World War II
					IIA	28.4 x {22.0 28.6} x {22.2	13 x 12½		April, 1937	104,720,000	
					IIB	28.6 x 22.4	13 x 12½		Aug. 8, 1938 Aug. 27, 1938 Apr. 1, 1939		
	30 gr.	299	L. Sowiński	W. Vacek	I	28.6 x {21.6 21.9}	13 x 12½	July 6, 1935	Dec. 1, 1935	10,410,000	World War II
	45 gr.	300	L. Sowiński	M. R. Polak	I II	28.6 x 22.0 28.8 x 22.8	13 13 x 12½	July 6, 1935	Jan. 15, 1936 October, 1938	5,305,000	World War II
	50 gr.	301	R. Kleczewski	W. Vacek	I II	28.4 x 21.6 28.6 x 22.3	13 13 x 12½	July 6, 1935 May 27, 1936	Jan. 15, 1936 October, 1938	5,170,000 5,265,000 10,435,000	World War II
	55 gr.	302	L. Sowiński	W. Vacek	I II	28.6 x 21.8 28.8 x 22.4	13 13 x 12½	July 6, 1935 May 27, 1936	Jan. 15, 1936 April, 1937	8,378,000 5,180,000 13,558,000	World War II
	1Z	303	L. Sowiński	M. R. Polak	I	27.8 x {21.4 21.6}	13 x 12½	July 6, 1935	Jan. 15, 1936	2,135,000	World War II
	3Z	304	(photo)	W. Vacek	I	21.0 x 28.0	12½ x 13	July 6, 1935	Nov. 5, 1935	510,000	World War II
	10 gr.		Postal Cards			28.3 x 21.7 28.5 x 22.0					

ENGR.	30 gr.	306	Gordon Bennett on 299	I	28.6 x 22.0	13 x 12½	Aug. 15, 1936	250,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	55 gr.	307	" " " 302	I	28.6 x 21.9	13	Aug. 15, 1936	250,000	Nov. 15, 1937
TVPOG.	5 gr.	1K28	Port Gdańsk on 294	I	28.6 x 21.8	13 x 12½	October, 1936	205,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	15 gr.	1K29	Port Gdańsk on 296	I	28.5 x 22.0	13 x 12½	October, 1936	363,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	25 gr.	1K30	Port Gdańsk on 298	I	28.2 x 21.4	13	October, 1936	619,000	Nov. 15, 1937
	25 gr.		Port Gdańsk on 298	IIA	28.4 x 21.6				
ENGR.	5 gr.	308	W. Borowski	II	28.4 x 22.0	13 x 12½	June, 1937	350,000	World War II
	10 gr.	309	M. R. Polak	II	28.2 x 22.0	13 x 12½	April 1, 1937		World War II
	15 gr.	310	M. R. Polak	II	28.2 x 22.0	13 x 12½	April 1, 1937		World War II
	20 gr.	311	J. Piwczak	II	28.1 x 22.0	13 x 12½	April 1, 1937		World War II
	5 gr.	1K31	Port Gdańsk on 308	II	28.2 x 22.0	13 x 12½	June, 1937	367,000	World War II
	15 gr.	1K32	Port Gdańsk on 310	II	28.2 x 22.2	13 x 12½	June, 1937	150,000	World War II
	15 gr.		Postal Cards		28.0 x 21.8				

fine and large market square stands the mediaeval Cloth Hall with its market stalls within and high class shops along the outside. Here tourists have a golden harvest in their quest for Polish handicraft and souvenirs. The hall was built in the 14th century to house the shops of cloth merchants and was reconstructed in the 16th century according to a design by Gian Mario Padovano.



Scott 302—The Raczynski Library, Poznan

The building shown here, characterized by 24 huge, cast-iron Corinthian columns along the front, was erected in 1829 and presented with a magnificent book collection to the city of Poznan in 1845 by Count Edward Raczynski, a patron of the arts and sciences. This cultural institution was completely absorbed by the Germans in the later years of the partition of Poland and most of the treasures faded away. After the independence of Poland, the library was restocked with many collections of books, manuscripts, documents, and the like, dealing mainly with Polish literature and history, and numbering about 90,000 volumes. Tourists are impressed with the elegance of the building itself and with the treasures that it holds.



Scott 303—The Cathedral at Wilno

The classical cathedral shown on this stamp is the work of Lawrence Gucewicz (1753-1798), who gave a

new and uniform appearance (starting in 1777) to an old structure having walls of different epochs. He left untouched though, the harmonizing royal chapel of St. Casimir, erected in 1636 by Constantine Tencella. Tourists find unusual interest in the tombs of Polish kings and in the old pagan altar, located at the back and under the high altar, at which Perkun, the god of light, was worshipped until 1283.



Scott 304—President Ignacy Moscicki

Ignacy Moscicki was born on Dec. 1, 1867 in Poland, where he was educated as a scientist. In 1892 he left for London where he remained for 5 years before going to Switzerland as an assistant at Friburg University. He returned as professor to Lwow in 1912 and by this time distinguished himself as an inventor in the field of electro-chemistry. He was elected the third president of the Polish Republic in 1926 and was re-elected ten years later. His administration was both constructive and progressive. At the outbreak of World War II, he escaped through Rumania to Switzerland, where he died on October 22, 1946.



Scott 308—The Church at Czestochowa

Czestochowa is the holy place of Poland, northwest of Krakow, where pilgrimages of the faithful are made the year round reaching a climax on

August 15 and on September 8 when over 100,000 worshippers wend their way up the hill of Jasna Gora. Tourists are attracted not only by the church and monastery, but also by the colorful costumes from all parts of Poland. The faithful pray before the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary, Holy Queen of Poland. Legend has it that this painting is by St. Luke. The church, the monastery and the fortifications date from the 14th century. The Pauline Fathers under Prior Kordecki defended themselves here in 1655 against the Swedish invasion. The old gothic church burned in 1690, but was rebuilt in highly decorative style and it was not until 1901 that it was crowned by the highest steeple of any church in Poland.



Scott 309—The Maritime Terminal, Gdynia

Until after World War I, this location was merely an uninhabited and sandy coast. The Poles relied on Gdansk as its outlet to the seven seas, but the Free City imposed such hardship on Polish transports, that Poland was forced to develop its own port along the limited coastline. Today the facilities at Gdynia are among the most efficient in the world and the city itself is laid out and built up along the modern and impressive lines. Passengers and light cargo dock at the terminal depicted on the stamp which shows the M. S. Batory at the left and huge cranes at the right. Entire cars of coal are lifted at nearby yards to permit direct loading of their contents into the ships. Within a few years Gdynia became the largest port on the Baltic, the most modern one in Europe and the 9th in the world.

The University of Lwow was founded in 1661 but was closed as



Scott 310—Lwow University

such by the Austrians with the partition of Poland. In 1877 a polytechnic was founded in Lwow and expanded with the years, leaving the need for a general university less pronounced. The building shown on the stamp was erected as the seat of the old Chamber of Deputies of Austrian Poland (Sejm Galicyjski) and served as such from 1881 to 1914. The political territory of Galicia ceased to exist with the independence of Poland after World War I and the building was ultimately converted to house a portion of the revived University of Lwow, named in honor of King Jan Casimir.



Scott 311—The Provincial Building, Katowice

The great industrial and mining region of Silesia developed manifold after World War I—furthermore some territory was added after the plebiscite. This expansion required additional handling and management, so that a modern Administration Building was erected in Katowice, the capital of Silesia, to handle the specific affairs of the Silesian region or province (it is not a municipal building). The edifice will be remembered by philatelists as the locale of the Pan-Slav Exhibition at Katowice from May 5 to 13, 1934, for which stamps 280 and 281 were issued. Note the flag at half mast on the building. The stamp was designed from a photo-

graph taken while the nation was in mourning for Marshal Pilsudski (died May 12, 1935).

TID BITS

Member Stan. G. Radgowski, 1423 Bryn Mawr St., Scranton 4, Pa., is interested in making a contact with other members of Polonus who may collect Tibet.

Member Jos. C. Zoransky, 75 Church St., Plymouth, Penna., would like to trade stamps with members who are interested.

Marian Zinsmeister was the speaker at our June 27th program meeting and did a wonderful job with her Hungarian Permit Stamps, showing the inflation trend from 1943 to 1946.

Program Chairman John Bobo provided us with another Beebe July 25th with donations he received from C. Makowski, R. Reinowski, L. Topoliski, S. Shayman, C. Mikucki, L. Haska, A. Szebel and Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz. He also states that on August 22nd John Waksamanski will speak on Tab Stamps, and on Sept. 26th Chester Mikucki will talk on Montenegro.

Polonus received a valuable gift from a well known stamp dealer from Shrub Oak, N. Y., Mr. Herman Herst Jr. It consists of a medal struck in 1833 in commemoration of the first partition of Poland, by the Polish Association of Great Britain. It shows allegorical figures of Britannia and Poland embracing and the inscription "Poland, thou art not lost." The reverse side reads "The Polish Association of Great Britain to Unhappy Heroic Poland, 1833." Polonus intends to put this medal up for auction and money derived from its sale will be put in the treasury.

Member Barney Fialkowski was selected as Airpex Chairman by the Jack Knight Airmail Society.

Member Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz informs us that the White Eagle Philatelic Society of Buffalo, N. Y. is reorganizing. Their correspondent is Mr. Stefanik, an Assistant Editor of Buffalo's Polish newspaper "Dziennik Dla Wszystkich."

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Most of the issues that were reported would be released during the second quarter have been issued.

We have no information at present as to what is contemplated for the remainder of the year, however, two stamps were released during June on which we had no advance information.

The first, issued on June 1st, is a large stamp 10x42 mm. rotogravured in blue. It shows President Bierut standing in a field of flowers—surrounded by a group of children. Across the top is the legend "1. VI—Miedzynarodowy Dzień Dziecka, 1952" which means International Children's Day. Across the bottom are the words "Poczta Polska" and then the value 45 plus 15 gr.

The other is similar to the stamp issued on Dec. 10, showing workers on a housing project. Its value is 80 plus 15 gr. sepia in color.

POLONUS HOSTS TO S. P. A. CONVENTION IN 1954?

At the July 25th meeting it was decided that Polonus try to get the 1954 S. P. A. Convention to be held in Chicago, in conjunction with our Polpex and 15th Anniversary. A letter of invitation was sent to the S. P. A. Convention in New York inviting the S. P. A. to Chicago to be our guests in 1954. If our invitation is accepted it will be a great honor to our Society.

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