

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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WORLD'S GREATEST POLISH RARITY!

by Bert Powell

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Ever since philatelists have collected Polish Stamps, one unique item has blazed its colorful trail through the pages of the Polish philatelic record! Almost legendary in character, this philatelic gem of the first water has now found a new home with an internationally known Chicago Polish specialist.

The item is a beautiful MINT BLOCK OF SIX OF POLAND NO. 1—the ONLY one known, and the largest multiple piece of either mint or used—in existence! The new owner is Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz, SPA 9501, and a charter member of the Polonus Philatelic Society, as well. Dr. Kozakiewicz purchased the classic piece for a reported \$1,000.00 in a Harmer auction during Cipex 1947. Ezra Cole of New York acted as the agent in the momentous transaction. Interest in the unique piece was world wide and bids were received from Polish specialists everywhere.

The importance of this rare Block lies not so much in the fact that it is the largest multiple known—which is a fact that would add plenty of distinction in itself—BUT..of paramount importance are the margins which are a part of the block! These margins render indisputable proof of the rather unusual plate layout of Poland's first stamp. It became necessary here to mention the plate layout referred to, in order to establish the importance of the margins previously mentioned. Poland No. 1 was laid out in a plate of 100 subjects. However, these subjects were divided into 4 panes of

25 stamps each (5x5). Center horizontal and vertical gutters divided the sheet into the 4 panes—or blocks—previously referred to. The Dr. Kozakiewicz block is from the lower right hand "block" and has the bottom margin and...the entire left gutter margin as well, which easily enables the Polish student to reconstruct the plate lay-out. The unique piece is three stamps wide and two stamps deep. The stamps contained in the block are from the 86-87-88-96-97 and 98th positions; that is, if the stamps are counted from left to right in the entire sheet irrespective of the previously mentioned gutters.

This rare block is also extremely interesting for another very important reason. Because of the lack of perforations in the actual margins, the piece more or less establishes the means of perforation used. This phase of the block's history is very thoroughly gone into, in the very ably written and scholarly report by Messrs. Vincent Domanski Jr. SPA-LM-45-7046 and Stephen G. Rich SPA-LM-88-6280 in the Blue Book of Harry Lindquist's Stamp Specialist's Series.

As far as is known, a photo of this unique gem was first published in the beautifully illustrated treatise written by Count W. de Polanski and published in the French language in 1920. The same elaborate work was again published in Polish in 1922 and also contained the photo of this rarity. Again, a German version of the work was published in 1935 by Mr. W. Rachmanow and once more a like-

ness of the famed block graced the pages of the work. Messrs. Domanski and Rich also depicted the block in their article as mentioned above. It appears on page 144 of the Blue Book of the Stamp Specialist series. The former owner of the famed gem was a Mr. J. Tislowitz, a well known Polish specialist of Warsaw, who was one of the famed collaborators of the Polish handbook, Ikaros, of which about 2 dozen copies exist in this country. It is generally believed that Mr. Tislowitz purchased the unique piece in a London auction when the famed Polish collection of Agathon Faberge of Helsinki, Finland, was placed on sale in about 1940.

Faberge was the court jeweler to Czar Nicholas II of Russia and produced many beautiful creations for the Russian royalty. We, here in Chicago had the privilege of viewing many superb examples of Faberge's extremely talented handwork, when Marshall, Field & Company had a breath-taking exhibit of the Russian Crown jewels in their store. One, very unusual piece which this scribbler particularly recalls was a wondrously wrought egg of solid, heavy gold, elaborately ornamented with many precious stones. It was also artistically incrustured with beautiful enamel. A secret catch could open the egg so that both halves would expose the inner portion which contained exquisitely painted miniatures of the Czars family. The egg was an Easter gift from the Czar to the Czarina, in happier days. Faberge had a fabulous collection of the classic Poland No. 1's and when his holdings were released for sale, the Polish philatelic world was truly enriched with many magnificently historical specimens of which the block now owned by Dr. Kozakiewicz was considered by many as the rarest gem.

FROM THE SEAL DIRECTOR:

Since the end of 1950 Polpex exhibit, the response for the 1950 seals has been great. Requests for previous seals (first issue 1940) which continue throughout the year, indicate a want for the various items Polonus has issued throughout the years.

Should you be lacking some of the Polpex items we can still supply a majority of items.

Polonus has been complimented in

the past on the various sheets it has issued and each year about Polpex time I receive many inquiries about the new sheet.

The BULLETIN with its wealth of information on the stamps of Poland is also sought by Poland collectors.

Should you be lacking some of the Polpex items or Bulletins, we can still supply you with most of them.

Prices of Bulletins:

#2 to #12 inclusive—20c per copy; From #31 on, but not including the last 12 issues—15c per copy; Last 12 issues at 10c per copy.

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1940—25c per set; 1941—25c per set; 1943 to 1947—15c per set; 1948 to 1950—20c per set.

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1944—15c per sheet; 1945—5c per sheet 1946—15c per sheet.

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Anthony Banasiak announces that at the May 26th meeting a lecture is scheduled on "Polish Philately Outside Poland" by member Sam Ray. Chicago members—be sure to attend that evening.

Polonus Bulletin, May 1950

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.

6 groszy

Since the use of a 5 gr. value was found insufficient to defray expenses, it was decided to use up the large remainders of the 5 gr. blue-black on greenish (Sept. 20th, 1915, issue), by hand-stamping a surcharge of "6 groszy." This stamp was issued on September 23rd, 1915. It is known bisected and used as a 2 gr. value.

The surcharge is found in many different positions on the stamp, but usually slanting upwards from left to right. It is found inverted, double, double (one inverted), etc., and in the following coloured inks: red, carmine, violet, black, and blue. The stamping was done either on the whole sheet or on stamps already stuck on a letter. Owing to constant use, the rubber stamp got damaged, the left side of the "y" of "groszy" being broken off. This variety is found on the red and carmine surcharges only.

The same surcharge is found on the 5 gr. blue-black on brown-buff (Sept. 20th, 1915, issue) in carmine, violet, black, and blue. These are scarce.

It is also known on the 5 gr. grey-green on light buff (Sept. 14th, 1915, print) in carmine, violet, black, and blue. These are extremely scarce.

6GROSZY

As the small rubber stamp used in the preceding issue was not always quite clear, it was decided to replace it by one with larger lettering. Accordingly on September 30th, 1915, the 5 gr. blue-black on greenish was issued,

handstamped "6 groszy," measuring 28 mm.x12½ mm. inside an oblong frame. In the genuine surcharge the "s" of "groszy" has a small blob of colour on the top of it. Both the small and large rubber stamps were used from time to time after the next issue was in circulation.

The surcharge is found in all positions on the stamp, and in the following colours: red, carmine, reddish-violet, violet, violet-grey, black, and blue. Those with red and violet surcharges are known bisected and used as a 2 gr. value.

The same surcharge is found on the 5 gr. blue-black on brown-buff (Sept. 20th, 1915, issue) in carmine, violet, black, and blue. These are scarce.

It is also known on the 5 gr. grey-green on light buff (Sept. 14th, 1915, print) in carmine, violet, black, and blue. These are extremely scarce.

I have also the same surcharge on the 5 gr. green on brown-buff and the 5 gr. grey-green on buff, issued unsurcharged on February 2nd, 1916.

The 10 gr. value, with colour changed, was issued on October 23rd, 1915, and continued to be issued until October 20th, 1916. Each issue produced a different shade. The basic shades are given below, but many intermediate shades may be found.

- (a) Brown-red on buff.
- (b) Aniline-red on yellowish.
- (c) Dark red on buff.
- (d) Red on pale cream.
- (e) Bright red on yellowish.
- (f) Red on greyish, thin paper.
- (g) Red on greenish.

In shade (d) the colouring is matt, and the border design is finely drawn. In shades (e) and (f) the colouring is glossy and the border design is coarsely drawn.

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The perforation is 11½, and is usually clean-cut, but copies may be found with a rough perforation 11½. Shades (e), (f) and (g) are also found imperforate or imperforate between both horizontally and vertically.

The above issues as they appeared, very soon received a surcharge denoting a 2 gr. value, and not many stamps remained unsurcharged, owing to the small demand for a 10 gr. value. Proofs are found in various shades of red on white paper, imperforate and without gum.

6 6 6 6

On October 30th, 1915, the 5 gr. blue-black on greenish and blue-black on buff was issued, surcharged "6-6" by machine printing. In the first printing of this surcharge, which was small in quantity, the ink used was of a grey to blue-black colour, and can be easily distinguished when the stamp is held up against the light. The surcharge of the remainder was in black ink.

There are two types of this surcharge; 35 stamp in each sheet have narrow "6's," and 5 stamps (the end stamp in each row) have broad "6's."

All are known bisected diagonally, vertically, or horizontally, and used as a 2 gr. value.

Copies of this issue may be found with the surcharge at the top or in the middle of the stamp instead of in the two lower corners.

2 2

Since at this time a 2 gr. value became necessary for printed matter, and as the German Occupation Authorities prohibited an issue with a new design, the existing 10 gr. stamps were surcharged. So on November 10th 1915, this stamp was issued surcharged "2 2" by machine printing in the lower corners over the "10." The surcharge is found on the following shades: brown-red on buff, aniline-red on yellowish, and dark red on buff. The stamps are known bisected and used as a 1 gr. value.

There are two types of the figure "2." In the normal type the "2" is upright, in the other type it slants backwards. I have not so far been able to get any information about this latter type. It may be a fake or it may occur

on the sheet with the normal surcharge. I have single copies of it both mint and postally used.

6 6

On November 22nd, 1915, the 10 gr. red on yellowish was issued, surcharged with small numerals "2 2" by lithographic printing, in the two lower corners. The 5 gr. printed in various shades of green on buff and surcharged "6 6" was also issued at the same time.

Both are known imperforate and imperforate between. I have also a pair of the 6/5 gr. showing a double perforation between. The 6/5 gr. is also found bisected and used as a 2 gr. value.

Of the 2/10 gr., 250,000 stamps were issued, and 300,000 of the 6/5 gr.

2 gr. 6 gr.

The last issue of the Warsaw Locals was on February 2nd, 1916, the 10 gr. being surcharged 2 gr. and the 5 gr.,

6 gr. by lithographic printing.

In the first issue, the 2 gr. was surcharged on the following shades of the 10 gr. (a) Red on greenish, (b) dark red on greenish, (c) bright red on greenish, the colouring being matt. Shade (a) is found imperforate as well as perforated 11½.

Two varieties of the surcharge are found in this issue only, (a) the right star on the 28th stamp on the sheet has 6 rays, the left star being the normal 8-ray star, (b) a 6-ray star on the right, the left star having 8 rays splayed out; also the base of the figure "2" is thin and slanting, and the bottom of the letter "g" is cut off. The 6-ray star was soon removed from the stone and replaced by the normal 8-ray star. This latter differs from the others, having thinner rays.

Two kinds of forged 6-ray stars are known:—

- (1) The star is slightly larger than the original, the rays are thinner and the stop in the centre of the star is not quite round. As a rule these forgeries appear only as single stamps and not in pairs.
- (2) The star is smaller than the orig-

inal, the rays are of unequal length, and the base of the "2" is shorter than in the original. This forgery is usually found in pair with normal.

Forged surcharges were made on shades (d) and (e) of the September 23rd, 1915, issue. The stamp on which the genuine 6-ray star is found always shows plate variety (5), a small coloured dot over left ribbon.

The second issue of this surcharge is on the 10 gr. (a) red on yellowish, (b) dark red on yellowish, (c) rose on yellowish, the colouring being glossy. shades (a) and (b) are found imperforate as well as perforated, also imperforate between, both horizontally and vertically. The stamps are also found with clean-cut and rough perforation 11½.

Several varieties of the surcharge exist in this issue, but not the 6-ray star variety:—

- (1) The surcharge at the top of the stamp instead of at the bottom.
- (2) An inverted surcharge at the top of the stamp.
- (3) A double surcharge at the bottom of the stamp.
- (4) A double surcharge, one being inverted at the top of the stamp.

These varieties are found on shades (a) and (b) only.

The first issue of the 6 gr. surcharge is on the 5 gr. green and dark green on brown-buff. It is found bisected for use as a 2 gr. value. It is known without the surcharge, but I have never come across any postally used copies.

The second issue is on the 5 gr. grey-green and deep grey-green on buff. This issue is known imperforate, also imperforate between both horizontally and vertically, and without the surcharge both perforated and imperforate. The same four varieties of the surcharge which are found on the 2 gr./10 gr. exist in this issue.

The third issue is on 5 gr. light green on cream, the paper of this stamp is thinner than the other 5 gr. values. I have not seen any varieties of this issue.

I have a copy of the 5 gr. (Sept. 14th 1915, print) surcharged "6 gr." only, in black-blue ink. So far, I have not been able to find out anything about it.

This completes the Local issues for Warsaw.

PRZEDBORZ

The next important Local issue emanated from the township of Przedborz, in the province of Kielce, Southern Poland.

A branch of the Austrian Field Post Office existed in Przedborz, but all civilian correspondence was dealt with by the military post office at Konsk, the nearest railway station, 23 miles away. Therefore a local post between Przedborz and Konsk was constituted under the immediate control of the Austrian Military Authorities, who provided the couriers. The stamps were cancelled with the postmark of the Austrian Field Post Office, lettered "K U K ETAPPENPOSTAMT PRZEDBORZ, KRIES KONSK." These Locals are found on covers franked with current Austrian stamps from towns in Southern Poland. From Northern Poland, and mainly from Warsaw, the German issues overprinted "Russisch Polen" and "Gen. Gouv. Warschau" were used.



The first issue on December 18th, 1917, consisting of two values, 2 gr., red, and 4 gr., blue, showed the Polish Eagle and 1917 in a rectangle, and inscribed "MIASTO PRZEDBORZ" on the left and "STADT PRZEDBORZ" on the right, the value being in all four corners. The stamps were lithographed in sheets of 32 stamps, and were issued both imperforate and perforated 11½.

Three thousand of the 2 gr. were issued, and 5000 of the 4 gr. The 4 gr. is known bisected and used as a 2 gr. value.

Originals are clearly printed, the tongue of the Eagle being well-defined. There is also a short coloured stroke touching the edge of the left wing in the centre. Postmarks should be in greenish black oily ink, and there should be no stops after "K U K."

The 2 gr. is known printed in orange



Second issue of Przedborz

and the 4 gr. in brown, both imperforate. These are proofs.

The second issue appeared on February 26th, 1918, and consisted of four values. The 2 gr. olive-green on pale olive-green gives a view of the Town Hall, the 4 gr. violet on buff the Bridge over the river Poliza, the 6 gr. blue on pale-olive the Market Place, and the 10 gr. red on buff the Town Arms. Beneath each is inscribed "MIASTO PRZEDBORZ" ("Town of Przedborz"). The date "1918" is in a semicircular label at the top, and the bottom label gives the value. The issue consisted of 5000 of the 2 gr., 10,000 of the 4 gr., 3000 of the 6 gr., and 10,000 of the 10 gr. The stamps were issued imperforate, and perforated 10 and 11½.

Forgeries of this issue are coarsely executed and easily distinguished from the originals. In the 10 gr. the forgery shows the initials "R M P" on the mallets and bunch of crops; these



Third issue of Przedborz

initials do not appear in the originals of this issue, though they appeared on later issues.

An error on the 4 gr. is to be found in the inscription "PRZEDBORZ" which reads "PRZEDBORK."

The third issue on March 15th, 1918, consisted of the same four values but with the designs transposed and printed on white paper. Beneath the date "1918" on the three lower values rays have been added with "RADA MIEJSKA" ("Municipal Council") printed across them. In the 10 gr. there are no rays, and this inscription fills the labels on each side of the date. The inscription at the bottom reads "MIASTA PRZEDBORZA." The colours and number issued are: 2 gr., green, 7000; 4 gr., red, 8000; 6 gr., violet, and 10 gr., blue, 3000.

The stamps were issued imperforate, and perforated 10 and 11½.

The forgeries are very coarsely executed and the lettering of "RADA MIEJSKA" is much smaller.

The fourth issue on March 27th, 1918, shows the currency changed from "groszy" to "halerzy." The same four designs appear as in the preceding issue. The values and colours, however, are different, the 5 halerzy appearing in red, the 10 h. in green, the 15 h. in blue, and the 20 h. in violet.

The forgeries show the same characteristics as in the preceding issue.

The fifth and last issue appeared on July 27th, 1918. The same values, designs, and colours as in the preceding issue, except that the rays in the three lower values have been removed. The 20 hal. can be distinguished from that value in the preceding issue by "RADA MIEJSKA" being in smaller lettering, and there is a small coloured dot under the "A" of "MIEJSKA."

There are two types of forgeries, one is very coarsely printed, the other shows a cross instead of a dot on each side of the date in the three lower values and in each corner above "MIASTA PRZEDBORZA" in the 10 hal.

The Postal obliteration on the 3rd 4th and 5th issues shows the Town Arms in a circle and inscribed "RADA MIEJSKA MIASTA PRZEDBORZA" in greenish black oily ink, or in violet ink.

(to be continued)

NEW DISCOVERIES

(Reprinted from STAMPS)



Scott No. 344 imperf between



Pair Scott's No. 393 imperf between

Charles Cwiakala has submitted the accompanying newly discovered varieties in Polish stamps.

Polonus Bulletin, May 1950



Block of Scott's No. 441 with first vertical pair imperf between, and next vertical pair partially imperf.

Illustrated are a vertical pair of Scott's No. 393, and a vertical pair of Scott's No. 344, each of which is imperf between. Scott's No. 344A, the dull red, was previously known to exist imperf.

Also shown is a block of four of Scott's No. 441, with the first vertical pair completely imperf between, and the next vertical pair partially imperf.

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

We reported in the last issue that Scott's D12 was reissued in perforate form on the 25 zloty value. Just at press time we were informed that the 2, 3, and 15 zloty values were also released early in February.

Also of a new design, a 10 zloty



postage due was released on February 25th, it was designed by R. Kleczewski and engraved by S. Lukaszewski.

ski. Printed in the Government Printing office. A 15 zloty regular postage printed in red showing a portrait of President Boleslaw Bierut was also



released on February 25th. It was designed by W. Borowski, engraved by M. R. Polak. Printed in the Government Printing Office. The issue is 15,000,000. On March 22nd, a 15 zloty black stamp bearing the portrait of Julian Marchlewski on the 25th An-



niversary of his death. The printing was done by photogravure, this being the first departure from recess printing this year.

Under date of March 11, 1950, we were informed by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, Poland that two new issues were soon to be released.

The first, of 15 zloty value is to be issued to mark the inauguration of the "Six-Year Plan." On this stamp will be depicted a peasant and a carpenter. An inscription will read "Ahead towards victory for the Six-Year Plan."

It is to be steel engraved and several million copies will be printed. More definite information later.

The second has already made its appearance, although nothing official other than the announcement has been received. It is very small 27 mm x 22

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mm. It is a 5 zloty value, and roto-gravured in sepia color, perforated 12. I have seen both smooth and rough perforations. The design depicts three masons working under some scaffolding, at a distance in the background is the statue of Sigismund. In the upper left is the inscription, "Odbudwa Warszawy" (Rebuilding of Warsaw)—upper, right, the value "5 zl"—lower left in a double lined panel "Poczta Polska," and the lower right, the Warsaw Siren.

Although this is not official, Joe Bieniecki informs me that it is not valid for postage but it is obligatory on all "letters," proceeds apparently go towards the rebuilding of Warsaw.

Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs

Joseph Bieniecki

Roman Reinowski

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