

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Polish Constitution Medals at POLPEX 91

Polish Constitution medals to be issued by the Polish American Numismatic Association will be awarded to all gold medal winners at POLPEX 91. The exhibition will be limited to 100 frames. Entry applications are available from Arkadiusz Walinski, 7353 W. Estes Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631.



POLPEX 91 will take place on March 15, 16 & 17th, 1991 at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle in suburban Niles, Illinois. Dates were selected that would not conflict with any other philatelic events in the Chicagoland area. Consequently the bourse is practically filled with dealers.

Czesław Stania, one of the world's most prominent stamp engravers, will be on the Honorary Committee for POLPEX

91 which will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Poland's Constitution of May 3rd, 1791. Thus far committee members include Jan Witkowski, Nestor of Polish Philately; Dr. Edward C. Różański, historian; Edward C. Dykla, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; & Louis Koncza, President of the Polish American Numismatic Association. Other prominent personalities are being contacted and will be announced later.

P.A.N.A. has promised to participate with numismatic exhibits. The U.S. Postal Service will have special cancellations for the three days. Cachets, souvenir cards and sheet design are in the making.

There will be many celebrations in 1991 on this important event in Polish history. Outstanding in Chicago will be the May 3rd downtown parade, church mass and banquet presented by the Polish National Alliance. Polonus' contribution, POLPEX 91, will be the first such event of the year.

—Romuald Odrowski, Polpex Chairman

THE "RUSSISCH POLEN OVERPRINT ON THE 3 pf. "GERMANIA" STAMP

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

In *Deutsche Kriegsmarken 1914-1918, Kohl's Briefmarken-Handbuch*,¹ on page 381, Walter Richter notes that the basic "Germania" 3 pf. stamp was printed from plates with the Hausauftragsnummer (HAN) H2564-14 and that the stamps printed from this plate were also overprinted "Russisch Polen." Two printings of the overprint are listed from plate HAN H1360-15; namely: one with the HAN under positions 91/92, and the second with the HAN under positions 99/100. I have copies of HAN H1360-15 (shown in Figure 1) with this number, which I assumed to be the reported positions 91/92 and 99/100, respectively.



FIGURE 1.

Positions 91/92

Positions 99/100

Recently, while examining covers of this period in my collection, I found one with the overprint HAN __60-15 (H1360-15). It can be seen (Fig. 2) that the HAN is located in a different position from the previously reported types. The position of the HAN in question is on a registered cover postmarked SIERADZ/-6.4.18.3-4N/** to Munchen, and is backstamped MUENCHEN 2/8/APR/18/*1-2N. On the basis of this cover can we assume that there were three printings of the overprint "RUSSISCH POLEN" on the 3 pf. value rather than the two currently identified?

All three HAN numbers are located at different distances from the bottom of "POLEN" as given below:

HAN	Under positions	Distance from bottom of "Polen" to top of HAN, mm.
H1360-15	91/92	11.45
	99/100	14.1
	?	13.55



FIGURE 2.

Can anyone provide further information to resolve this question?

Just incidentally, the cover from SIERADZ also shows a 2½ pf. "Germania" stamp overprinted "Gen. Gouv. / Warschau" with HAN H390_— (H3904-16).

REFERENCE

1. Kohl-Briefmarken-Handbuch (Nachdruck), Deutsches Reich 1872-1925, Deutsche Kriegsmarken 1914-1918, Herausgeben Arbeitsgemeinschaft "Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde e.V." mit Unterstützung der Stiftung zur Förderung der Philatelie und Postgeschichte e.V. Düsseldorf, 1974.

OFFICERS' P.O.W. CAMP MURNAU 'TELEGRAM'

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

During World War II in P.O.W. camps in Germany it was not possible to send or to receive telegrams. A one of a kind London-Murnau "telegram" arranged by officers imprisoned in that camp Murnau is illustrated and described here.

Cpt. Leon Flegler, one of the imprisoned Polish officers, bought from German guards illegally and secretly a radio receiver. A special underground room was constructed where this receiver was installed and where officers listened in great secrecy to the British broadcasts to keep abreast of the news. A message directed at one of the officers in camp Murnau was received from England. Officers who heard this message

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TELEGRAMS		Counter Number 1310
Words 45	Sent H.	For Postage Stamps.

TO: Mr. Stanislaw Kwast, Murnau, Oflag VII A
Germany

By sending to my most celebrated colleague
my sincere wishes of great and famous future, I am
in the opportunity to thank him for this precious attempt
to popularise my humble work among the Poles

Faithfully your
Jaworidge

Signature and Address of Sender C. A. Jaworidge, London S.W.1
4, Belgrave Square

decided to send it to its recipient, Mr. Stanislaw Kwast, via a contrived telegram forwarded to him through the camp mail.



The British telegram form was artfully drawn with india ink to imitate printing and the message was written in with bluish ink in English. The "counter number" 1310 and other official looking details were invented and added in pencil to give it an authentic appearance.

The telegram was then forwarded to its recipient through the camp mail. It is franked on its reverse with two 20 fenigi camp mail stamps: the brown "altar" stamp and the green "mountains" stamp which is the "dark sky" variety, one of the 98 stamps imprinted before the wood die was re-engraved. The Murnau OFLAG VII A postmark has the written date: 13 November 1943.

"FILATELISTA" PUBLISHED AGAIN

The Polish Philatelic Association (P.Z.F.) announced in May of 1990, that the monthly "Filatelista" would be published again. The first issue was scheduled for the end of June, the second for August, and subsequent issues would follow monthly.

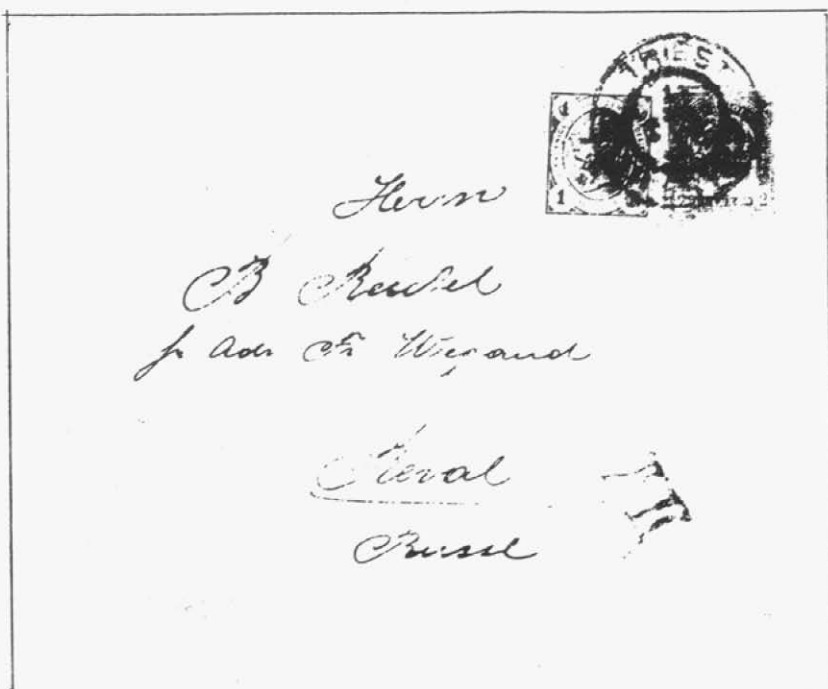
Each edition of 5000 copies is distributed to district PZF branches according to their number of subscribers registered prior to June 30th, 1990. The cost of a single copy is 2,400 zl.

There was no mention made about subscriptions for foreign readers. I wonder whether U.S. readers will have to go through their philatelic clubs? For further information write to: "Filatelista" Al. 3 Maja 12, 00-950 Warsaw 1, Poland.

—E. D. Wolski

RARE WARSAW CENSORSHIP MARKS

By: JAMES MAZEPA



Triest to Reval, via Warsaw, printed matter rate of 3 Austrian Kreuzers.
Censored at Warsaw.

Until recently it was not well known that Imperial Russia carried on an intense censorship of its mail from the 18th into the 20th century. This included the censoring of foreign printed matter and newspapers. It is now known that Warsaw had a special office for the censoring of foreign periodicals. Such material directed to or through Warsaw received a censorship mark "D. Ts." in Russian (Inspected by Censor) and "Warsaw" in Russian beneath these letters. There are at least five different types now known, and all are rare since most printed matter was discarded.

SIBERIAN SURVIVORS SOUGHT

The Alliance of Siberians in Warsaw, Poland, is organizing an effort to list and document Polish immigrants deported to Siberia from the start of World War II. A form is available to those victims who emigrated from Poland. There are hundreds, maybe thousands, living in the United States.

Questionnaires are available from Roman W. Rybicki, 28 St. Margaret Street, Boston, MA 02125 or writing directly to: Związek Syberników, Par. Św. Andrzeja Apostoła, 00-891 Warszawa, ul. Chłodna 9, Poland.

A LITTLE KNOWN "UKRAINIAN" PROVISIONAL

By PETER BYLEN

Reprinted from UKRAINIAN PHILATELIST

What properly defines Ukraine philately is subject to certain debate. Some accept as Ukrainian only those postal issues strictly authorized by a Ukrainian government (e.g. that of the Ukrainian National Republic, Western Ukrainian National Republic, etc.). I would go a step further, accepting a less restrictive definition which encompasses occupying administrations of whatever length or legitimacy.

This second approach would encompass all postal issues that served or were valid on Ukrainian territory; these would include postal emissions from the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires, as well as issues from the Polish administration of eastern Galicia and environs (1919-1939). Of course, preference would be for Ukrainian usage—stamps, covers, or cards clearly postmarked in Ukrainian towns and villages—but mint stamps and postal stationary available on Ukrainian territory should not be excluded. Under this less restrictive criterion, the Romanian issues for the Pokutia region and other lesser known issues would also fall under the domain of Ukrainian philately.

One such "lesser known" is the Skalat local or provisional issued by Polish authorities in November 1919. Skalat is located near what was the eastern border of Western Ukraine. Dr. Stanley Kronenberg furnished some of the background to the issue in an article that appeared in the *Polonus Bulletin* in March of 1977: "During the Polish-Ukrainian war of 1919-20, the town of Skalat in eastern Galicia was surrounded by Ukrainian troops from late August until December 2, 1919. In November, 1919 the Polish post office in Skalat ran out of Polish stamps; none could be brought from the outside and so with the permission of the postal directorate in Lwow (Lviv), the postmaster overprinted invalid Austrian stamps into Polish stamps."



FIGURE 1

Figure 1 depicts an example of the Skalat overprint; it was made from a single metal handstamp which read POCZTA POLSKA / SKALAT around a Polish eagle with crown. The overprint measures 18 x 21½ mm, SKALAT measures 2½ x 19½ mm.

and the gap between the eagle and SKALAT measures 1 mm. Note the "beaked" end of the S in SKALAT. All overprints were applied in black ink. Even though this issue would not seem to be popular enough to warrant forgeries, they do exist; material should be expertized by competent authorities.

I would like to share several examples of the Skalat provisional from my collection. Figure 2 shows an early usage on a registered cover. The two-ring/bridge SKALAT/**b** datestamp of November 5, 1919 ties a 40 heller Skalat provisional with a 10 heller Polish stamp paying the 50-heller rate for a single-rated registered letter. It should be noted that this datestamp type is the only cancellation used in Skalat during the life of this issue. Figure 3 is a 10 heller Polish stamp on piece tied



FIGURE 2

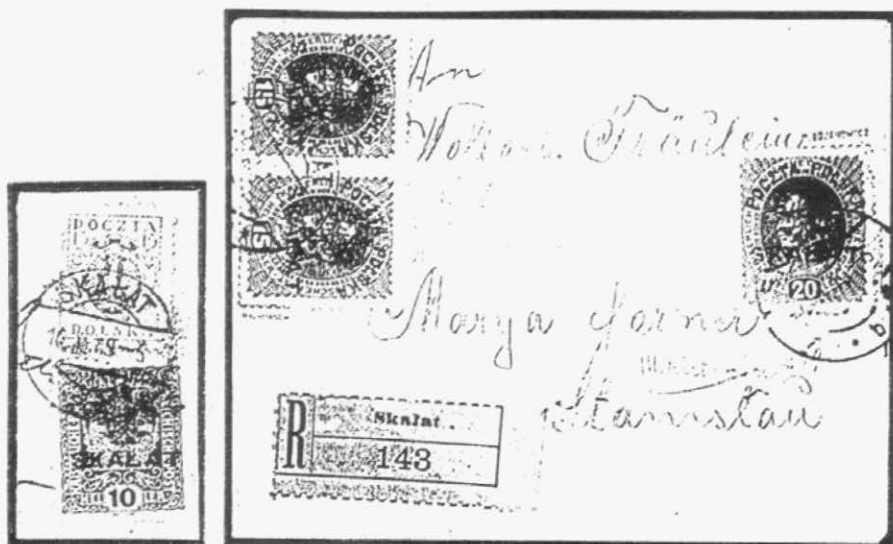


FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

with a November 15, 1919 postmark. Figure 4 illustrates a cover sent to Stanislawiv tied with a November 14, 1919 postmark. On this specimen the 50 heller rate is made up exclusively of Skalat issues.

Figure 5 shows a cover from Potutory (postmarked Nov. 17, 1919) a village in western Ukraine near Berezhany, sent to Skalat unfranked with the recipient paying double the 25 heller single rate with Skalat postage due stamps. (postmarked November 19, 1919). Finally Figure 6



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

displays a money order receipt which bears a Skalat overprint and is post-marked Nov. 17, 1919. This receipt is one of only two recorded examples.

In conclusion, I feel that the Skalat provisional is an indispensable addition to any comprehensive survey or exhibit of Western Ukraine

postal history; it provides a "postal pause" within this turbulent period of Ukraine's history.

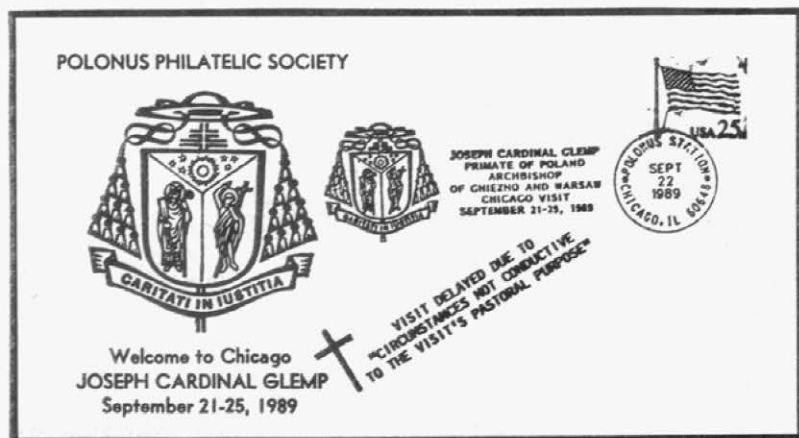
For the record, the following is a listing of Skalat provisionals with numbers issued in parenthesis. Regular postage stamps: 3h violet (2002); 5h green (1300); 10h red (402); 15h red (1306); 20h green (2150); 25h blue (204); 30h violet (279); 40h green (651); 50h green (2); 60h blue (160); 80h brown (170); 90h purple (40); 2k blue (6); 3k red (45); 4k green (20). Postage due stamps: 5h red (390); 10h red (100); 15h on 36h violet (250); 20h on 54h orange (200); 25h red (40); 30h red (3); 40h red (5); 50h on 42h brown (40); 1k blue (72).

I wish to thank Dr. James Mazepa for sparking my interest in this subject area and Dr. Stanley Kronenberg for his invaluable assistance.

REFERENCES

- BULAT, JOHN, *Illustrated Postage Stamp History of Western Ukrainian Republic, 1918-1919*. Yonkers, NY: Philatelic Publications, 1973, p. viii (map).
HALL, A. *Poland Locals*, European Philately 6. York: J. Barefoot (Investments) Ltd. (1981): 115.
Katalog Specjalizowany Znakow Pocztowych Ziemi Polskich 1990, Volume One. Warsaw: Krajowa Agencja wydawnicza (1989): 277-278.
KRONENBERG, STANLEY and ERIC. "Overprints from Skalat in Poland." *The American Philatelist*. Vol. 88, No. 8 (August 1974): 739-741.
KRONENBERG, STAN. "My Favorite Cover." *Polonus Bulletin* (March 1977): 6-8.

POLONUS COVER FOR CANCELLED CARDINAL GLEMP VISIT



Polonus prepared to issue a special cacheted cover for the Cardinal Joseph Glomp visit to Chicago. A design for the postmark was submitted to the Postal Service and a cancellation was made. Covers were printed in a 500 quantity. With the news that the Cardinal's visit was cancelled, Polonus decided to still go ahead with the project, but only had 200 covers cancelled by the post office. A rubber stamp was made and applied to each cover showing a cross and the inscription, "Visit delayed due to 'circumstances not conducive to the visit's pastoral purpose'." These covers are available to Polonus members at \$1.50 from Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, Illinois 60171. Enclose a large self-addressed and stamped envelope for return.



Warszawa, 29 czerwca 1990 r.

N. 1964 /90/P.

Józef Kardynał Glemp
Prymas Polski

Szanowny Panie Arkadiuszu,

Serdecznie dziękuję za list z 8 czerwca 1990 r. wraz z miłą niespodzianką w formie nadesłanych okolicznościowych kopert z okazji mojej niedoszłej wizyty w Chicago. Wdzięczny jestem Zarządowi Stowarzyszenia Filatelistów Polonus i Panu osobiście za ten miły upominek. Na wskazanych kopertach chętnie złożyłem mój autograf.

Szanownemu Panu i całej Rodzinie oraz Stowarzyszeniu Filatelistów Polonus przekazuję prymasowskie błogosławieństwo.

+ Józef Kardynał Glemp

Józef Kardynał Glemp
PRYMAS POLSKI

STAMPS TO LOOK FOR AND STAMPS TO AVOID

By J. M. S. KALUSKI



All values of the 1918 WARSAW ISSUE can be found with inverted overprint and 5 Fen./2 Gr. also double overprinted, but rare one is the 50 Fen./20 Gr. - priced at about \$200.00. The most rare is the "52 FEN." instead of "25 FEN." This error was quickly discovered and only a small number was sold to the public - valued at about \$300.00. WARNING: these stamps were forged.

Reprinted from the POLISH PHILATELIC REVIEW, October 1990 edition, the official bulletin of the Polish Philatelic Federation of Great Britain.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Editor:

While I visited one of the major Post Offices for some information, I was surprised to find that the Washington Postal Service issued a booklet entitled the "Mailer's Guide To The United States Postal Service" listing 73 Divisions, of five Regions, with their respective addresses, telephone numbers, and general maps of each field division. Also added, are the names and telephone numbers of the: General Manager/Postmaster, Marketing / Communications Director, MSC Manager / Postmaster, and others. I find this information extremely important for various reasons, particularly when I am submitting special postmarks for various organizations. This booklet consists of approximately sixteen pages.

I believe that each postal facility receives just one copy, therefore, I recommend that you request a copy from: Meg Harris, Editor, Memo To Mailers, U.S. Postal Service, Room 5300, 475 Lenfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, DC 20260-3122, and ask for the "Special Issue - Summer 1990". I am sure that it will be mailed to you without charge.

I have noticed some interesting names, such as: David J. Mateja is an Operations Support Director, in Indianapolis; William R. Wotczak, MSC Manager/Postmaster in Minneapolis; Peter Matuszak is the TMSC Manager in Oak Brook, IL; Carolyn B. Drury, is the Marketing/Communications Director in Charleston, WV; Frank Piotrowicz, Operations Support Director in Cincinnati, OH; Richard A. Kubick, MSC Manager/Postmaster in White River Junction, VT; Robert Daruk, the Operations Support Acting Director in Mount Vernon, NY; Cheryl Pawlowski, Marketing/Communications Director in Jacksonville, FL; Gerald K. Kubota, General Manager/Postmaster in Honolulu, HA; William M. Kobus, MSC Manager/Postmaster in Salt Lake City, UT. I am sure that there are other persons that may interest us.

—Eugene J. Dreger, PE, USNR Retired

A NEW PHILATELIC PUBLICATION

The first issue of "Filatelistyka" came out in May of 1990. This philatelic monthly will contain articles, research studies, contributions about Polish stamps and foreign stamps used in Poland, Topical philately and new issues (Polish and foreign).

The monthly is published in Wroclaw by the firm "Miszczak and Wincewicz." Subscribers were asked for a down payment of 16,000. zł. for the year 1990.

The address of the chief editor is: Mr. Tadeusz Wincewicz, P.O. Box 2072, 50-954 Wroclaw 1, Poland.

—E. D. Wolski

KATYN STAMP

The Marshall Islands, a former U.S. Trust Territory in the Pacific is undertaking an ambitious stamp-issuing effort with the release of a 100 stamps noting key events of World War II.

One tragedy of the war portrayed on the commemorative stamps will be the Katyn Forest Massacre. The design, dominated by somber grays and browns, features a pair of bound hands over an open grave. It was designed by David K. Stoone, a noted American artist of U.S. postage stamps who served with the U.S. Infantry in the Asian Theater during World War II.

POLES WERE HERE FIRST

In the book: "Strange Stories, Amazing Facts of America's Past" published by **Reader's Digest**, a

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY A.P.S. Affiliate #119

ROMAN STRZELECKI, President
7006 West 29th Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI, Vice Pres.
7353 West Estes Street
Chicago, IL 60631

TED KWIECINSKI, Secretary
3 North Forrest Avenue
Arlington Hgts., IL 60004

STEFAN CZARNIECKI, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82
River Grove, IL 60171

FRED SZEBEL, Membership Chrm.
1615 E. Central Rd.
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Board of Directors:

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864 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the 'Bulletin' are \$12.50 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to: St. Czarniecki, Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New 'tins' for the year in which they join. members will receive all the 'Bulletin'. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

short essay acknowledges America's first settlers. "The First Polish Immigrants," describes the arrival of the Poles in Jamestown, Virginia, a full year before the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Mass.