

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 84 Honors Summer Olympics

POLPEX 84, the annual philatelic exhibition of the *Polonus Philatelic Society*, will take place March 31-

April 1, 1984 at the SWAP Polish Veterans Hall, 6005 West Irving Park Rd. in Chicago. The theme of the show is the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California. At the Board Meeting of January 11, 1984 the following com-

mittees were appointed: John Bartczak, Executive Chrm.; Tob Gobby, Entries; Roman Strzelecki, Bourse; Stanley Rusin, Finance; Al Rybarski, Sales; Chester A. Schafer Program Book.

As in previous shows there will be a U.S. Postal Station operating on the premises with a special cancellation. A souvenir card, souvenir sheets and cacheted covers will be available. Awards to be presented at the traditional Beebe to be held Saturday evening on the 2nd floor of the exhibition hall.

Due to the limited amount of space, the show will be limited to

112 frames (9 pages per frame), at \$4 per frame. Poland and foreign exhibits accepted. A special award

will be given for the best sports topical exhibit. Entry applications available from Tom Gobby, 5713 West Warwick, Chicago, IL 60634. Bourse tables are available from Roman Strzelecki, 1620 N. Latrobe Ave., Chgo., IL 60639.



Design for Polpex cancel submitted to Postal Service. Space under rings is for date.

A souvenir program catalog will be printed for the event. Prices for ads in this book are \$50 for a full page, \$40 for a half, \$25 for a quarter page. Well Wishers at \$2. Copy for the program catalog should be sent to Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.

The Polish American Numismatic Association will participate with a showing of coins and medals. The best numismatic exhibit will be awarded a PANA medal.

NEW MEMBER

Walter Madura
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A LETTER FROM KAJETAN*

A Follow-up On The Warsaw Crown Postmarks

By RYSZARD Z. PODDUBIUK

"To have another language is to possess a second soul"

Charlemagne

On the 7th of March, 1983, died suddenly in Montreal, Mr. A. Kovacevic. His knowledge of the Italian language and willingness to share it with others, provided me with insights into 18th century correspondence between Poland and Italy that I would have been unable to gain otherwise. I mourn his passing and would like to dedicate this article to his memory.

The study of the postal history of the 18th century Poland is most interesting and most frustrating. It was a period of reforms, innovations, great administrative and technological changes, which should have in their wake produced a wealth of material for the future postal historians. Unfortunately, many destructive wars that followed, coupled with partitions, rapacious foreign occupations and other upheavals, resulted in massive and sometimes systematic destruction of all documents.

Nobody really knows how many 18th century letters originating from Poland survive, but it would not be unreasonable to suggest that outside the major archives the number is below 1000 and perhaps as low as a hundred. It is precisely for these reasons that a discovery of each "new" letter should be treated as a major event.

Two years ago, I have encountered one such "new" letter, that is a letter which, to the best of my knowledge, has never before been described in the philatelic press. It was a folded letter written in Italian, on a typical, hand made paper of the period, bearing the Warsaw I postmark. It reads as follows:

*) Kajetan - Gaetano in Polish

Varsavia 24 Gennaio 1781

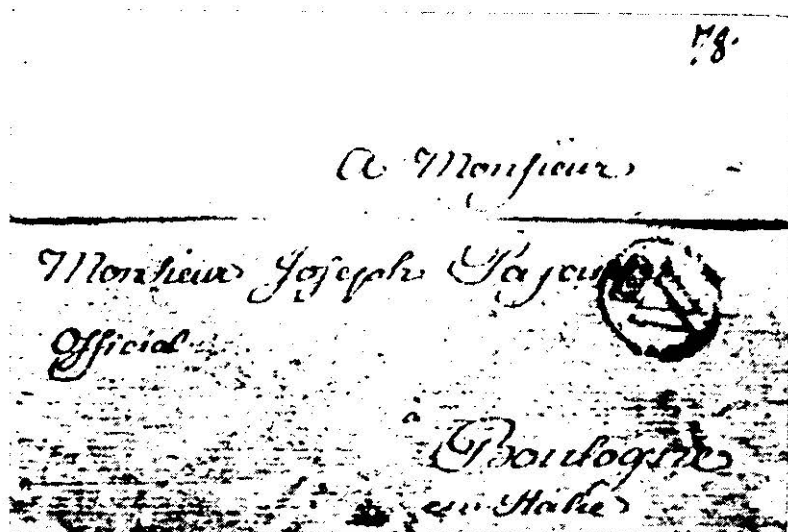
Stimo Signore

Dopo usate tutte le imaginabili diligenze in Varsavia per la ricupera della cassetta inviatami per cotesto Ufficio della Posta da S:E il Sig: Marchese Giuseppe Zagnoni, sono obligato nuovamente avvertirla come non è qui capitata, e che inoltra questa Regia Posta non ha alcuna corrispondenza con Montova. Tutto ciò che di qui parte per l'Italia e vice versa fa capo a Bilitz; onde se V:S: vuole che la cassetta giunga a Varsavia conviene che dia ordini a Mantova che si spedisca a Vienna, e di là a Bilitz per Varsavia. La troppo lunga tardanza mi obliga a porgerene avviso al Sig: Marchese Zagnoni come faccio in questo istesso. Ordinario, ma per non pregiudicare a cotesto Ufficio di Posta gli faccio altresì sapere come non è prevenuto l'occorso da mancanza alcuna di esso ma bensì di non esservi corrispondenza tra Varsavia e Mantova. Mi lusingo che ella troverà il modo accomodare il tutto, e intanto con vera stima mi confermo.

mo mo

Suo Riv: Oblig: Servitore
Gaetano Ghigiotti

Sig: Giuseppe Pajani
Officiale della Posta
Bologna



TRANSLATION:

Warsaw 24 January 1781

Esteemed Sir

Having used all the imaginable diligence to recover in Warsaw a package sent to me through that Post Office by His Excellency Marquis Giuseppe Zagnoni, I am obliged to notify you, once again, that it has not turned up here and moreover that this Royal Post does not have a direct connection with Mantua. Everything that is sent from here to Italy and vice-versa, goes through Bielsko. Therefore, if you, Sir, wish that this package should reach Warsaw, you must give instructions to Mantua to dispatch it to Vienna and from there, through Bielsko to Warsaw. This much too long a delay obliges me to send notice to Marquis Zagnoni similar to the one I am writing now. Simply, yet without prejudice to that Post Office, I will let him know also that the package is not expected here, not because of any blunder on the part of the Post Office but in fact, because direct connection between Warsaw and Mantua does not exist. I hope that you will find a way to accom-

modate everybody in this matter and for the moment I remain with true esteem
Your most respectful
and obliging servant
Gaetano Ghigiotti

Mr. Giuseppe Pajani
Official of the Post
Bologna

Gaetano Ghigiotti was a man of the cloth and very much a courtier of his times. He was a Roman Catholic prelate and also a member of masonic lodge in Warsaw, Bouclier du Nord, privy councillor to the King of Poland and also as a Canon of Warmia, a subject of the King of Prussia.

He was born in Naples in 1728 and arrived in Poland in 1760 as a secretary to the papal nuncio, Antonio Eugenio Visconti. In 1763, King August III sent him to Rome as the Polish Crown agent in matters of the church. Ghigiotti returned to Poland at the beginning of the reign of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski, to renew his mandate but instead, finding the city of Warsaw and the court of the new king congenial, settled there permanently.

(Continued on page 104-10)

Second Polish Provisional Issue

SOME NEW VARIETIES

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

Professor St. Mikstein's classical study of the Second Polish Provisional Issue Poland 1918-1919, published in 1932-1934,¹ established the chronological order of the various error groupings of the first and second printings of this issue. This issue was further described by Dr. Tislowitz.² In a more recent article, Mr. Zb. Włodarski confirmed that error grouping IIE_n followed error grouping IID_m.³ He also identified additional "Gen.-Gouv. Warschau" sheets used in overprinting this issue.

Even though this issue, which appeared some 56 years ago, has been studied and reported as above it is still possible to identify new varieties and to expand our knowledge of this issue. In this, and subsequent articles, I intend to describe some of these new varieties.

As is well known, before release of the actual overprinted stamps, two proofs were prepared. On the proofs, the overprint consisted of the numeral "5", below it the words "Poczta Polska", two horizontal lines to obliterate the overprint "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau", and a third horizontal line to obliterate the words "DEUTSCHES REICH." The characteristic differences in the two proofs are the distances between the bottom of "Poczta Polska" and the first horizontal line and between the second & third horizontal lines. These distances are 1½ mm and 2½-3 mm in the first proof and 2½ mm and 3-3½ mm in the second proof, respectively.⁴ (See Fig. 1 and 2). Errors in both proofs included "Pocata" in place of "Poczta" in position 2, and an inverted "I" in



Fig. 1. First Proof.

"Polska" in position 63. With the addition of a fourth horizontal line, the second proof resulted in the first printing of this issue.

In classifying the first printing of the 5/2½ pf. value, Professor Mikstein identified two groupings: IA_a and IA_b. Grouping IA_a included the following errors and varieties: Pocata in position 2, o'c in position 16, inverted I in position 63, and third line partially present or missing in position 97; grouping IA_b included the above and a dot in the P of Poczta in position 57. In my collection, I have a block of 4, positions 6, 7, 16, and 17, with upper margin showing accounting numbers 1,50 and 1,75, first printing which does not have the characteristic o'c in position 16 (see Fig. 3). If the entire sheet were available, the errors and varieties would be listed as Pocata in position 2, inverted I in position 63, and possibly the third line missing in position 97. The absence of



Fig. 2. Second proof, positions 1 and 2. Position 2 shows the Pocata error.

the o'c in position 16 would indicate that a grouping other than IAa and IAb exists. Tentatively, I would identify this as grouping IAo in order to avoid changing the existing nomenclature of the error and variety groupings.

There is need for confirmation of the further existence of stamps in position 16 without the o'c variety. It would be greatly appreciated, therefore, if collectors of this issue would examine their material to determine the further existence of this variety. It may be possible, but highly improbable, that the o'c variety in position 16 occurred simultaneously with the very first sheets that were overprinted for postal

use. Similarly, there is the question as to whether the partial presence or absence of the third line also occurred simultaneously with the initial printing of this issue. All marginal copies of the 5/2½ pf. denomination should be examined to determine the possible absence of this variety.

Two varieties, described by Dr. Tislowitz,² are the 5/2½ and 5/3 pf. values of the first printing with overprints shifted upwards. These two varieties are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. As can be seen, if the shift is sufficiently great, the surcharge values do not appear on the bottom row of stamps in the sheet, and two new first printing varieties oc-



Fig. 3. First printing, positions 6, 7, 16, and 17. Position 16 does not show the p'c variety.



Fig. 4. First printing, positions 85, 86, 95, and 96, overprint shifted upward. Bottom two stamps do not show even a trace of the surcharge 5 (pf.)



Fig. 5. First printing, positions 89, 90, 99, and 100, overprint shifted upward. Bottom two stamps do not show the surcharge 5 (pf.)

cur. The varieties result in overprinted 2½ pf. and 3 pf. stamps (first printing), which are not listed in specialized catalogs. Obviously, these varieties can be identified only as a result of the upward shift of the overprint.

Other interesting varieties occur as a result in shifts of the overprint to either the right or the left during the printing process. One of the most unusual shifts that I have seen is that shown in Fig. 6 in which the

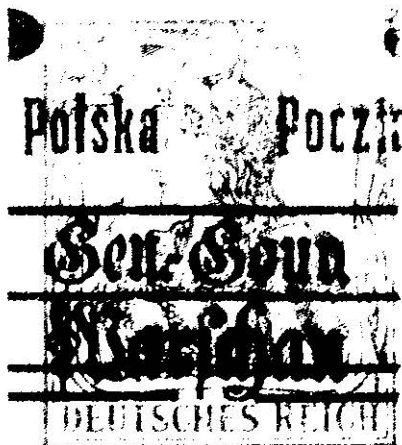


Fig. 6. First Printing, overprint shifted horizontally.

overprint is shifted upward and either to the right or the left. The numeral 5 shows up partially in all four corners, Poczta Polska is reversed reading Polska Poczta, and the third and fourth lines are separated in the middle of the stamp. Other varieties can occur from a shift downward in contrast to the upward shifts described earlier, producing varieties without the third and fourth lines from the top row and varieties from the other rows showing the third and fourth lines at the top as shown in Fig. 7.

Subsequent articles will identify



Fig. 7. First Printing, overprint shifted downward, third & fourth lines at top

additional varieties of the two printings. Correspondence from collectors concerning this issue would be welcomed.

References:

- 1). Mikstein, S., *Drugie polskie wydanie prowizoryczne dla b. okupacji niemieckiej*. Nakładem II. Fil., Lwów 1932-1934.
- 2). Tislowitz, J., *Drugie polskie wydanie prowizoryczne dla b. okupacji niemieckiej*. *Filatelista* 4(5): 83-87; (6): 108-113; (7): 123-129 (1957); 5(17): 322-327 (1958).
- 3). Włodarski, Zb., *Second Polish Provisional Issue*. *Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society Issues* 205 (Nov. 1962) and 206 (Dec. 1962).
- 4). *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, Tom I*. Biuro Wydawniczo-Propagandowe "Ruch", Warszawa (1960), page 103.

IN MEMORIAM
WALTER SZYMLEK
Techy, IL

(Continued from page 104-3)

In 1768 he attained Polish knight-hood and in 1775 became secretary of the foreign affairs department of the Permanent Council of State.

In spite of numerous benefices, coadjutorships, the titles of apostolic protonotary and bishop in partibus, which he received largely due to the support of King Stanislaw August, and which brought him a handsome income, he was constantly in debt. This, while it somewhat complicated his life, did not seem to interfere unduly with his lavish life style or his popularity in Warsaw society.

A sampling of his contemporaries' opinions confirms this.

Giacomo Casanova, who met him during his brief sojourn in Warsaw found him an agreeable and a charming person. They shared an interest in the good life, arts, literature and beautiful women, and both were constantly running short of money.

Count Lehndorff, a chamberlain at the Prussian court thought of Ghigiotti as a kindly and a helpful person.

Ignacy Krasicki, a fellow-Churchman and one of the greatest Polish literary figures of the time, nicknamed Ghigiotti "Mandarin", perhaps in tribute to his qualities and his wisdom.

A not entirely complimentary description of Ghigiotti, comes from Lars Engelstrom, a Swedish government representative in Poland:

"... he was an Italian by birth, vily and shrewd. He looked quite pleasant, he was not old but broken and sickly. It was clear that he lived to the full and squandered his health. He did not deny himself any pleasures and he paid for them generously out of the king's pocket, who (the king) when he was short

of cash would give him (Ghigiotti) promissory notes and Ghigiotti, in order to obtain the cash sooner, used to sell them at a tremendous discount..."

I have not established who was Marquis Zagnoni and what were the contents of the package he was sending to Ghigiotti, however, it must have been something of importance to merit a letter of complaint to an Italian post office official. Even now the letters of complaint addressed to the foreign post offices must be relatively rare. Two hundred years ago they must have been exceptionally rare because the total volume of mail was considerably lower, the cost of postage was high and because complaints were more likely to be made personally by the sender at the post office from which a letter or parcel was sent.

Interestingly, Ghigiotti advises the dispatching post office on the postal route that should be followed, placing particular emphasis on Bielsko, a small town on the border of Austria and Poland but not mentioning at all Cracow, an important junction of many postal routes through which the parcel from Italy would have to pass.

The specialized Polish catalogue, "Katalog Specjalizowany Znaków Pocztywch Ziem Polskich 1981" indicates the existence of three covers with the Warsaw I postmark. While these covers are not illustrated in the catalogue, the information as to the total known number of covers with the Warsaw I postmark is out of date since I have seen six covers with this postmark, either in the original or in facsimile (photocopy), all addressed to Italy. Five out of six covers in addition to the Warsaw I postmark and manuscript number of entry in the "Way Book"

have manuscript rate markings on the address side of each cover.

The sole exception is the letter described above. It could be simply an oversight on the part of the post office, however, if it was delivered free of charge, it could make it unique.

NEW MEMBERS

Stanley Dzierzak
8814 Lee Street
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8558 N. Olcott
Niles, IL 60648

Polish Forces in Belgium in the 1830's

By JAMES MAZEPA

In December, 1982, an International Philatelic Exhibition was held in Brussels. Belgium is a beautiful country, even in the midst of winter, and has a political history which has many similarities to Poland's. Belgium has a rich military tradition and excursions to the battlefield of Waterloo and to the Royal War Museum were exciting and a rewarding historical experience.

The Royal War and Air Force museums are absolutely huge, covering several acres, and a day is barely enough to view the many exhibits. I was very much surprised to enter one of the vast display rooms and see the white and red flag of Poland and a crest with the White Eagle. What followed was a true historical and philatelic "find." There beneath the Polish flag and Crest, was a plaque honoring the Polish forces who fought with the Belgians in the Belgian war for independence from the Dutch.

The plaque written in French, told how Polish soldiers were being forced to fight against their countrymen by the Russian Czar during the Insurrection of 1831. They refused and were given an ultimatum by the Czar: Fight or face imprisonment. They had 24 hours to decide. But there was no decision to be made, they elected to leave Poland rather than to fight their country-

men. They marched west across Europe and joined the Belgians who were engaged in a similar struggle against a foreign occupying army.

The plaque went on to say that they fought with honor and distinguished themselves in many battles. As a reward, these ex-patriates were granted Belgian citizenships and parcels of land. The names of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers were engraved on the plaque. The General of the Division was Jean Skrzynecki who served until 1848, and the General of the Cavalry was Ignace Kruszewski who served from 1832 to 1852.

From the philatelic standpoint, there were contained in several frames on the wall about a dozen outstanding philatelic treasures. Several were letters sent from Poland to the soldiers in Belgium. I recall seeing one with a circular date stamp of Plock addressed to a Lieutenant of Horse Artillery. Other letters were field documents sent between the several Polish contingents. Others were documents bearing the cachets of several different units of the Polish forces. One wonders if others were in the museum archives and not on display to the public!

This was my first encounter with such Postal History documents. If any of our members have such letters, we would like to record them in the Bulletin.

NEW MEMBERS

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Silver Spring, MD 20902
Walter Kusnarowicz
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PULASKI CLUB

The Pulaski Stamp and Coin Club meets twice monthly, the first and second Wednesday, at 7:00 pm, in Building 1704, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

PHILATELIC ADVERTISEMENT ON A POLISH STAMP

In the 1920's a stamp dealer in Poland had an idea on how to reach the interested audience with his advertisement: He removed the gum from sheets of current postage stamps, printed his advertisement in English on the reverse of each stamp



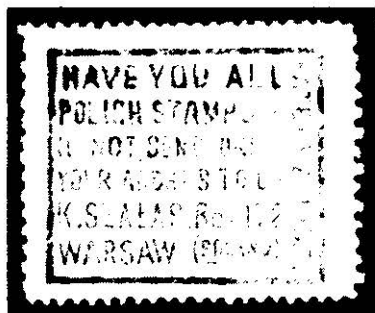
regummed the sheets and then sold them to companies for postage to foreign countries. If the recipient of a letter franked with such a stamp happened to be a philatelist, he or she would take the stamp off paper and would be confronted with this advertisement.

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Stanley Rusin, Treasurer
P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656



The illustration shows the front and the back of such a stamp. The note in Polish on the side of the inscription reads: 'Patent Applied For.'

—Stanley Kronenberg

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