BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Issue #69 December 1948

German Propaganda Forgeries

by "Spying Eye"

After the end of the first World War, the German Government, in an attempt to influence the people living in the territory where a plebiscite was going to decide the fate of the population, as to who will rule over them, the Germans or the Poles, struck on a novel idea. They printed imitations of certain types of stamps current at the time in Poland and overprinted these bogus labels with German text, propaganda that was to belittle the strength of the Polish currency. The overprint in German, "Deutscher Wert / Gleich 140 Pfg./Wahlt Deutsch!" on the 20 Marks imitation of the Poland, Scott's type A14, freely translated means "German Value / Only 140 Pfennigs / Vote German!"

These imitations were made of the Scott's A12, A13, and A14 types of Poland's postage stamps for distribution to the population. Each of these fake labels was printed with a different face value and with a corresponding value overprint, not taking into consideration whether or not the value or color exist in the genuine issue of this set.

Collectors, as well as dealers, often turned to specialists in the stamps of Poland for information on these labels which could be found in collections and accumulations, but which no stamp catalog listed. Polish specialists, on the other hand, for many years have tried to assemble a representative collection of these labels. For the basis of this article, use was made of the material in three collections, the largest holdings known in this country at this time, and a chart was drawn of the existing values and overprints for use of the collector who may find interest in these issues. They are indeed unique, in the sense of word that one government saw fit to create propaganda by this means against another government.

As shown by the illustrations, there was more than one printing of this imitation, or they were printed in



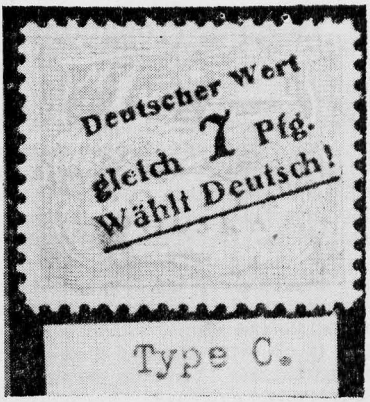


Scott Type	Description	Ovprt. Color	Stamp Color	Types A	A-1	B	C	D	E
A12	7 Pfg on 1 Mark	Black	Orange	x	x	x			
A12	7 Pfg on 1 Mark	Black	Blue						x
A12	10½ Pfg on 1.50 Mark	Black	Lt. Green	x					
A12	14 Pfg on 2 Mark	Black	Lt Brn.	x					
A13	21 Pfg on 3 Mark	Black	R. Violet					x	x
A12	21 Pfg on 3 Mark	Red	Lt. Blue	x		x	x		
A14	42 Pfg on 6 Mark	Black	Rose					x	x
A14	70 Pfg on 10 Mark	Black	Red					x	x
A14	140 Pfg on 20 Mark	Black	Gray Green					x	x

more than one place. The printings or types can be distinguished by following the illustrations as to the different fonts of type used for overprinting the labels. No attempt is made to differentiate varieties in paper, shades, or perforations, of which there are many.

Type AI is an interesting variety, a break in the lower case letter "f" of 'Pfg." The top part of the letter "f" separated from the vertical part of the type and gives a perfect illusion of a setting of the word "Pig." instead of the abbreviated "Pfg." Up to date this variety was found only on the 1 Mark value overprinted "7 Pfg." but it is possible that it exists on other values too.

Type "E" is not illustrated but this should not cause difficulty to segregate from type "D" which is definitely another setting of the overprint. While the type used to overprint both, types "D" and "E", the type font being somewhat similar, a difference may be noted in type "D" in that the letter "W" of the word "Werth" is over the letter "f" of "Pfg." while on type "E" the letter "W" is practically over



the letter "P".

We suspect that types of settings exist that are not included in the above chart, and in this regard the author would welcome any additional information on this subject. Correspondence is invited through the editor of this BULLETIN, and due credit will be given to collectors making such reports. The additional information will be published at some future date.





POLPEX 1949

Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Director of Polpex 1949, has announced the dates of our Tenth Annual Polpex as March 4, 5, and 6th, 1949, to be held at the Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

From the looks of things this event will far surpass anything that has taken place in the past, the usual BEEBA, a few surprises, and the promise of outstanding exhibits by POLONOUS members. In this respect, the entire show is by POLONUS members, and as such, co-operation from all is assured. Prospectus of the exhibit shall be in the mails shortly, and a prompt return by participants will enable the committee to carry out the plans without encountering any unforeseen difficulty.

The much coveted "Larking Memorial Award" will go to the exhibitor of the most outstanding collection of Poland stamps or associated countries. The "Dr. Kozakiewicz Research Trophy" is earmarked for the exhibit to be judged best in original research, or a continuation of a research where substantial additional information has been added on the stamps of Poland or associated countries.

In addition to the above awards, three additional trophies, with appropriate inscriptions, will be given for the following:

1) Outstanding Poland or associated country exhibit.

2) Outstanding Historical Exhibit of Poland or associated country.

3) Outstanding Non-Poland Exhibit.

Four Gold Medallions will make up the 1st Awards, four Silver Medallions the Second Awards, and four Bronze Medallions the Third Awards.

It has been decided by the Polpex Committee that the exhibit will be judged "on the no class system by qualified and competant judges," thus allowing each and every participant a fair chance at any trophy or award. However, any exhibit which receives a major award shall be ineligible to compete in subsequent (to the 1949) Polpex Exhibits, except in a class to be known hereafter as the "Championship Class." Further: Any exhibit awarded the Larking Memorial Trophy shall be inelligible for further competition in any future Polpex. In this way the winners are eliminated from repeated awards on the same exhibits, and must turn to new material for future showings.

POLISH BIOGRAPHIES

by Thaddeus E. Gasior

JAN MATJKO—"A half-blind Polish painter who kept the spirit of Independence alive by depicting glorious episodes of Poland's past."

He was born in Krakow on July 28, 1838, and at an early age he was handicapped by a delicate constitution which exerted a strong influence on his personality; forcing him to seek a different medium for self-expression instead of speech or writing, namely art. He studied the history of Poland and it created such a deep impression upon him that it became the basis for his artistic creativeness. A thorough study of the Wawel and his numerous cross-country trips gave him great inspiration as subject matter to portray on his canvases. In 1853 he entered the Institute of Technology where he devoted most of his time to the study of Art and he became acquainted with the great styles of the Renaissance and the Rococco. Stattler, a Swiss, who marveled at Poland's glorious past and her national traditions, became his instructor, and he gained a thorough knowledge of perspective and anatomy from him.

In 1858 he went to Munich to continue his studies, but he did not remain there long, because he was in disagreement with the instructors of the Academy. He formulated his own philosophy of art, that it should be more than a creative imagination and that it should also be a social function generated by and forming part of life. This ideal won for him honorable distinction for painting "The Poisoning of Queen Bona Sforza." He also studied at the Viennese Academy under Prof. Ruben, but here again he only remained for a short while mainly because his highly original and powerful individuality was not accepted here.

In his beloved city once more he found a stimulating atmosphere in which he embarked on the road to great artistic productions. The first of his paintings was "Stanczyk," which is a philosophical portrait of the King's jester meditating while Poland's fateful future that was fore-

told by the Polish philosopher, Skarga, is forgotten by the gayly dancing courtiers....In the buffoon's eyes are expressed all the suffering and sadness of the Polish people. His "Sermon by Skarga" won him the Grand Medal and the honor of associate membership in the French Academy by unanimous consent. His works were not well received in Poland, but he didn't care because he immediately entered into the second cycle of his painting which achieved greater artistic production and a stronger emphasis on nationalism. These works included the following: "Union of Lublin," "Batory at Pskov," "Battle of Grunwald," "Battle of Varna," "Prussian Homage," "Sobieski at Vienna," "Battle of Raclawice," and "Constitution of May 3rd."

While working on "Vows of Jan Kazimierz in the Cathedral of Lwow," a phychologically compelling and forceful work, in 1893, he died, leaving it unfinished. All of his works are first rate pieces of art and contain much patriotism. His famous work "Sobieski at Vienna" has been used many times as subject matter for postage stamps and historical and patriotic commemorations. His last three paintings were a trilogy on the development of democracy in Poland. "The Battle of Raclawice" showed the recognition of the peasant freed from serfdom brings victory to the nation. Matejko evoked emotions in the people of his paintings and constantly portrayed instances of civic generosity, bravery, enthusiasm and heroism. He opened new fields of Polish cultural life, and as a painter he contributed enormously to Poland's art and finally made the world realize that Poland has an individual and native culture all her own, that is perfect and beautiful. He achieved great admiration and fame when he founded the first Modern School of Fine Arts in Krakow. However, he was deeply disappointed when his dream of National School never materialized and when his students never reached artistic perfection.

On November 1, 1893, he died, and the nation paid him a solemn tribute. All Poland and especially Krakow sobbed as his ashes were being taken to rest at the family mausoleum in Rakowice, while the solemn peals of the bells of the Wawel mourned the death of Poland's greatest artist.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Joseph A. Tylke, #236
R. #1, Elmhurst, Illinois
Robert A. Wilson, #369
American Legation
Pretoria, Union of South Africa
Charles Burke
1124 Connecticut Ave., N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.
Stephen Stecki, #89
2261 Diversey Avenue
Chicago 47, Illinois

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Stanislaw Dragonowski
13a Parsberg, DP Camp, Hohelfels
Hohenfels, Germany
Leo John Zaikowski
232 E. Front St.
Grand Ledge, Michigan
Alex. M. Zarzycki, Jr.
416 W. Grand Avenue
Rahway, New Jersey

The Society has recently received 300 copies of the "PRZEGLAD FILATELISTYCZNY (Polish Philatelic Review) for distribution to our members. It is a very elaborate publication in the Polish, English and occasional French language. It is richly illustrated with photos of new issues, feature articles, etc. If you desire a sample copy, write to Larry C. Zieler, 3120 So. May St., Chicago 8, Illinois, enclosing a self addressed, stamped envelope, and a copy will be mailed to you.

MEMBERS MART

POLAND, mint, used and on cover, new issues, FDC, Germany, Austria, etc. Everything on approval to members of POLONUS. Conditions and prices guaranteed to satisfy.

WANTED, offers from members in Poland. Joseph Bieniecki, 2509 East 23rd St., Granite City, Illinois, U. S. A.

SCOTT'S 1949 Postage Stamp Catalogs, Vols. I, II, or U. S. A. specialized, $3.50 per copy, postpaid with commemoratives. Combined edition, $7.00. LARRY-BOBS KRAFTS, 5906 W. 88th Street, Oaklawn, Illinois, U. S. A.

WANT LISTS of Poland, Danzig, Germany solicited. 40% off Scott's prices. A very fine stock available. LARRY-BOBS KRAFTS, 5906 W. 88th St., Oaklawn, Illinois, U. S. A.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

With reference to the Workers' Parties Merger Congress on December 8, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph will issue a series of postage stamps in commemoration of this event.

One of the stamps shows the picture of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin with an inscription in the upper left corner.

The second series bears the picture of Ludwik Warynski with the same inscription.

The third series shows two workers holding the mast of a banner unfolded over their heads. The same inscription is in the upper left corner. These stamps will be of 5, 15 and 25 zloty denominations.

"Glos Ludu" Warsaw—11-19-48
R. A. Wilson

The previously announced Anti-Tubercular issue is to appear in December (with a small addition to the value). Another series is to be issued on the 30th Anniversary of the Polish Post reestablished after 150 years of Russian, German and Austrian occupation and the same anniversary of the origin of the Post-Workers' Trade Union. This set is to consist of four values (3, 6, 15 and 20 zl) separated as well as in a block, (nominal value 100 zl.) In the designs we shall see the work of the post officials; the loading of post parcels on a ship, the emptying of post boxes in town, a rural postman and the receiving of telegrams on a background of a broadcasting station. The designs are by Mr. Hempel. Next year will be issued a special series on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the UPU-World Postal Union (October 9, 1874). It will probably consist of three denominations in three conventional colors—green for foreign printed matter, red for foreign post card and blue for foreign letter.

For the next year there is also planned a series with the drawings of Polish historical monuments and relics on the West Territories.

Przeglad Filatelistyczny, 10-31-48

The remaining 5 stamps of the President Bierut stamp of Poland were released December 10, 1948. This completes the set of 6 originally reported to be released. The initial release, the 15 Zloty, bright crimson was on October 15, 1948.

All were lithographed on very white paper, perf. 11½, size 16 x 22 mm with portrait of President Boleslav Bierut framed, racing front. Caption "Poczta Polska" across the bottom appr. 3 mm high and just above on the lower right side is the value. They were designed by M. Wotorski, and printed in the National Printing Office in Krakow.

The values, colors, and for what purpose is as follows:

5 Zloty, brown, for inland postal card.

6 Zloty, black-bluish, for foreign printed matter.

15 Zloty, bright Carmine, inland letters.

18 Zloty, dark green, foreign cards.

30 Zloty, blue, foreign registered due

35 Zloty, purple, for inland registered letters.

24 Million copies of the 15 Zloty value were ordered and 4 million each of the other denominations. As these stamps are placed more and more into circulation the stamps of the "Polish Culture" and "Working World" series will be withdrawn as will all other special and occasional series. So next year, one shall be able to purchase only the ordinary (President) stamps, airmails, and occasional new issues.

Rayall de Ragan
Roman Reinowski
Przeglad Filatelisty zny

Since receipt of above releases, the following issues have been received,

5 Zloty, shows two workers, one with banner, other with hammer, printed in red.

15 Zloty, shows Mark Engels, Lenin and Stalin, printed in green.

25 Zloty, shows Ludwing Waraszynski, printed in blue.

J. J. D.

The 50 Zloty Centaur Air Mail of Poland has been received imperforate.

J. J. D.

Member Vinc. Domanski, Jr., got a second for his "United States other than regular postage" at SEPAD held in Philadelphia, November 15 to 20, 1948. Member S. F. Kunicki got a third in the "Specialties Class." Congratulations to you both.

One of the judges of the show was member Stephen A. Rich.



The "Old" Polonus Magazine

Some of our members have been inquiring as to how they can obtain copies of the original Polonus Magazine published several years ago by member Henry J. Choynacki. The following letter written to President Mikucki is self-explanatory:

"Dear Mr. President:— Your letter received today in reference to the "Old Polonus Magazine" is timely, indeed, because I have just got thru delving into some of my stamp accumulations and into neglected cartons containing issues of the original Polonus Magazine, with the result that I have been able to complete exactly 25 complete volumes—containing the 13 issues—unbound.

"Your suggestion that Polonus' many new members will be interested in obtaining these volumes may be correct. In the disposal of them I, too, would prefer to give Polonus the first opportunity to obtain them.

"If you believe this service would be appreciated by the members, you have my permission to insert an item in the PB to that effect. The price will be $2.00 per volume postpaid and the orders should be sent to me direct. Of course it will be—'first come, first served.'

"Further search reveals several copies of each of the 13 issues with the exception of No. 6. This No. 6 issue is extinct except for the copies contained in the above mentioned 25 volumes. Any of these individual issues will be sent singly or in groups of any combination at 25c per copy postpaid. Here again I am sorry to say that there are just a few copies of some of the issues.

"I might mention that issue No. 2 has a photo (and identifying diagram) of that memorable organizational meeting of POLONUS which took place on February 26, 1939, at the Veteran's Home on Wood Street in Chicago. A group picture of members of the Pulaski Philatelic Club of Detroit is also in this issue. Issue No. 11 is the one and only 'Special Edition'—it is the Polpex III 1942 Exhibition Number containing a detailed list of Exhibitors and a description of their exhibits. It also contains a complete list of POLONUS members of that year—some of whom, as you know—were killed in the late war.

"Then there are the incomparable Wolosewick-Gapinski articles on the Krakow issues which are a 'must' reading for every collector of the stamps of Poland. However, as those of us who have a complete volume know—every issue is an interesting issue.

"With best wishes, I remain, (S) Henry J. Choynacki."

So there you have all the necessary information fellow - members. Make your remittances direct to: Henry J. Choynacki, 5049 W. 29 St., Cicero 50, Illinois.

"Dear Dr. Galaskiewicz: Please accept our sincere thanks for the splendid information you sent us regarding the Brother Albert Chmielowski stamps. We enjoyed reading the Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

"We regret that situated as we are it will be impossible for us to join the Society but we appreciate your kind invitation to do so. We are just 'hobby collectors' on a small scale, Sister Matilda and I, but occasionally we come across a strange stamp and try to ascertain its history.

"Thanking you again for your courtesy, and with best wishes, I am, Very truly yours, (S) Sister M. Assumpta (Loretto, Ky.)

I have given much thought to the question, how can we make the BULLETIN serve our members better and are we taking every advantage of its use? Without a doubt, good articles are hard to obtain. In glancing through the Bulletin we find that the same men are writing the articles month after month, and yet, when we look at the membership list and find the names of most of the best informed collectors of Poland in philately, we begin to wonder why should it be so difficult to get good articles?

"The failure of the BULLETIN cannot be charged to the PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE or the EDITOR if sufficient material is not given to them to do a decent job, but with 300 members on our roster it should not be such a job should it? But it is! And here are some of the reasons we get: 'I'm too busy,' 'I don't write well,' or 'If the editor would tell me what to

translate, I would do it,' etc.

"It never seems to occur to some that the work being done is by members who probably have less time than those saying 'I am too busy.' To those who say; 'I do not write well enough,' the editor will take care of that—that is what he is there for, and to those who would like to translate, why not use a little initiative and surprise the editor?

"Now to those who sincerely would like to help. I recently received a letter from a member, the digest of which is as follows:

"For some years I have been trying to make an intensive study of the plate flaws of the First Definitive and Small Eagle Issues, without being able to give any scientific explanation as to their origin. There seems to be nothing definitely known as to the exact methods employed to produce the printing plates. The authorities so far are almost silent on this basic matter. The IKAROS handbook, I believe, in the introduction makes reference to the subject of photography, but it is not clear how the photographs were etched or transferred to a printing plate. Incomplete knowledge is in some ways worse than no knowledge. Also, it is not known how the sheets were printed. There may have been a succession of plates for each value which produced sheets of 100 stamps, but I am inclined to think that this is not the case and that a very large initial printing was made of each value from plates which contained two or more panes of 100 subjects and subsequently cut up into Post Office sheets of 100 stamps. As a guess I would suggest the lower values of the First definitives were printed in panes of 4 with possibly 2 panes for each of the higher values, although I'm quite prepared to believe that I may be wrong so far as the Mark and Korona values are concerned. I base my views on the fact that in the lower values there are certain flaws which appear to have been reproduced in every sheet. To quote a few examples: 'there is "the ball on the serif" of the figure 3 in the 20th position of the sheet of the 3 Fen value,' 'the Y or "inverted 4" flaw in pos. 33 and the defective "L" in pos. 45 of the 5 Fen, the capped 'A,' pos. 66 and the color line in the left spear of pos. 83 of the 20 Fen....More examples could be given, but this is sufficient to indicate my meaning. On the other hand, there are a vast number of flaws which, although contained in original sheets appear to come in one particular pane, such as the 'no stop' varieties in the top row of a sheet of the 20 Fen or both 'A's' capped in pos. 5 of another sheet of the same value. There is, of course, a multitude of others, as you no doubt know.

"This does, I think, indicate that there must of been some sort of master plate for each value from which each and every pane was produced. Also, there seems to be some indication particularly in the higher values that certain flaws are definitely corrected or removed from the plates. I can find no other reason which will account for the apparent scarcity of certain well known flaws, such as the 'half moon' variety or the 'stag' head variety in the One Mark, as compared with the comparative commonness of many of the other flaws. In years gone by, I acquired a large number of these stamps from the late Colonel Larking. Unfortunately, in those days I did not know so much about the problem as I do today and, therefore, I never took up this matter seriously with my old friend. I have an idea, however, that he knew more about these things than is printed in his long series of articles, which, of course came out many years ago (Ed: Gibbons Stamp Montaly, Oct. 1929 to Aug. 1932). An examination of the Larking collection may provide a solution to the points I have raised.

"I have said very little about the Small Eagles, but the same problems exist there, complicated by the fact that sheets with or without marginal rule appear to contain identical flaws. Here again, flaws were corrected and I have one or two pieces which I think prove this in a rather pretty way. I will give you details of this later on should you be interested. You might like to place my letter before a meeting of the Society. Even if the premises are based on intuition rather than fact, they might, I think, provoke an interesting discussion which might yield some hard facts. Hard facts seem to be in very short supply as far as these matters are concerned."

"Analyzing the above letter it would seem that these are the four questions that must be answered:

1) Exactly how were the printing

plates made and at what stage did the plate flaws develope?

2) What is the full size of each value?
3) Which flaws are common to all sheets and which are constant on only one of the panes?
4) An analysis to show which flaws come together in conjunction on each particular type of pane.

"Possibly, no one person has all the answers, so if any of our members can answer all or part of this letter I shall be happy to act as a clearing house to tabulate all returns and write up a consensus. This has the makings of a good series of original research, and I am sure that greater results can be obtained by asking all of you to co-operate, rather than limit the problem to members here in Chicago.

"Members like Vincent Domanski Jr., V. Rachmanov, Myron Steczynski, Jack Lobsenz, Rayall de Ragan and Stanislaw Mikstein probably can answer all of these questions, and then maybe one of our silent members has the answer. In any event, let's start a new innovation in philately. A club forum by mail with a published result of the opinions.

"Remember! All questions need not be answered by any one individual. You answer only those you know.

"Address all letters to J. J. Domar, 3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Illinois, U. S. A. P. S. Maybe you have a question you want proposed to the forum. Let me have it also." J. J. D.

TID BITS

North Shore P. S. is to hold its annual NORPEX show and bourse Friday thru Sunday, February 4, 5, 6, 1949 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Admission will be free.

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Attention is called to the membership that the first meeting of POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY for 1949 will be on January 14. This meeting is a very important one in that nominations for officers for the ensuing year will be held.

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The best of luck to our President, C. Mikucki, who just recently opened a Shoe Store at 1943 No. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill. We are sure he will be happy to welcome any of our members who may be in the vicinity.

This is what burns me: In the December 11 issue of Stamps there are 3 ads advertising a "complete set" of the General Government issues for sale—one states 170, the other 168 and one 165—as the complete set. Scotts' list 164.

* * *

It is with regret that we learn that member Robt. A. Wilson, who has been at the American Embassy in Warsaw, has been transferred to the American Legation, Pretoria, Union of South Africa.

Mr. Wilson was one of our faithful contributors of NEW ISSUE information.

* * *

We noticed that at the IMABA 1948 held in Basle, Switzerland, a specialized collection of Polish post-war stamps exhibited by the Polish Museum was awarded a Gold Medal (official class). In addition Polonus members Mr. Tadeusz Gryzewski, Lodz (entires 1944-1948) and Mr. Rayall de Ragan, Poznan (the fight of Upper Silesia against the Germans in 1920-1921 on the pages of a specialized collection). I wonder if they will exhibit at Polpex?

* * *

I noticed that another Specialist group has been organized in New York for the collectors of Austria. The Polonus Philatelic Society extends to their officers and members our sincere good wishes for a successful organization. Anyone interested may write to Joseph F. Bush, 61 West 74th St., New York 23, New York.

* * *

Prof. Stanislaw Mikstein, Tarnowskiego 7, Krakow 14, Poland, sent a very newsy letter to our Chester Mikucki and wishes to be remembered to all members of Polonus. The professor has just returned to Krakow from Krynica, where he spent several weeks recuperating after a recent illness.

* * *

The officers of POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY and PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE wish to take this opportunity to wish all the members a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

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The Poznan Philatelic Society also extends the Season's Greetings to all members of the POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.