

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 133

November 1955

The First Polish Postage Stamps in Złoty Currency

by V. Rachmanov

(Translated by Walter Szymlek)

The Polish Government wanted to put złoty currency in circulation starting in 1922. In April of 1921 it held a contest of postage stamp designs in the new currency. Rules and regulations were announced in the Daily Official of the Posts "Dziennik Urzędowy Poczty" April 2, 1921 No. 16. Submitted were 114 different proposed designs, of which five won the first prize award and five the second prize award. However, the result of this contest was unsatisfactory, mainly because sitting on the jury with voting voice were mostly artists unfamiliar with the art of engraving, specifically with postage stamps. Influence played a great role, as evidenced by the fact that the second prize was awarded for a design that did not even show the value—thus not meeting one of the requirements of the contest. It should have not been recognized as a proposed design for a postage stamp. So it was, that in 1924 when the first Polish postage stamps in the złoty currency were to be issued, the Ministry of Posts could not use any of the contest designs and selected an entirely new design.

The new design for the first złoty currency postage stamp was executed at the Government Printing Works "Państwowe Zakłady Graficzne" which printed banknotes and postage stamps at that time. The name of the designer is not known—it is taken for granted that it was one of the staff designers of the Government Works. From the



accepted designs 9 matrixes were made in values of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, and 50 groszy. From these nine small sheets were printed, containing one stamp of each of the nine values, which served as patterns for the Ministry of Posts. These sheets were made in the following colors: light-brown, dark-brown, orange, olive-green, dark bluish-green, carmine-red, prussian-blue, wine-red and violet-red. Some of these colors were accepted for the actual issue. Eight of these sheets were in the Postal Museum's possession—the Museum bought them from a private collection. The ninth sheet never was discovered and most likely remained in private hands.

The first nine values were released for circulation by authority of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which had jurisdiction over the General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs by a directive of April 14, 1924 No. 1288/IX effective May 1, 1924. This directive was published in the Official Daily of the General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs "Dzien-

nik Urzędowy Pocht" on April 26, 1924 No. 18. Due to an increase in postal rates two additional values of 25 and 40 groszy were released by order of the General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs of July 9, 1924 No. 1790/IX "Dziennik Urzędowy" July 26, 1924 No. 30.

PRINTING

These stamps were printed in the Government Engraving Plants from zinc plates in sheets of 6 x 100 stamps, with the exception of the second and third printing of the 50 groszy value which was printed in single sheets of 100 in the second and in sheets of 2 x 100 in the third printing. The sheets of these two printings, from new plates, have account numbers on top and a colored band at the bottom. All other printings from large 6 x 100 pieces always have the account numbers on the right-hand margin of the sheet.

GUM

The gum was applied after the printing to the whole printed sheets by a motor driven gumming machine: consequently the gum is not always evenly distributed over the sheets.

PERFORATION

This issue was perforated with a variety of perforating appliances of early construction with worn-out sheer-rails, making accurate measurements of this issue impossible. The best practical approach for measuring the lineal perforations is to establish them in three groups:

Perf 10 x 10½; 11½ x 12½; and 12½ x 13½; also 11½ comb-perforation exists. In each group we find the following values: Line-perforation 10½ x 11½ all values on thin paper, and 5, 10 and 15 groszy on ordinary, heavier paper.

Line-perforation: 11½ x 12½ and 12½ x 13½ all values on thin paper with the exception of 40 groszy and 5, 10 and 15 gr. on ordinary paper. The 15 groszy value on thin paper is also known with compound perforation 12½ x 13½ by 10½ x 11½. The 3 groszy value of the first printing in a partly imperforate sheet was sold at Łódź. From these came the copies originally not perforated. But since the stamps of this issue have a wide margin, later fabrication of "imperforates"

from perforated stamps was done with a loss to the unwary collectors. In the Postal Museum's collection were kept whole sheets of imperforated stamps of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 groszy on thin paper; also sheets of the 15 groszy in the 5 groszy color olive-green.

PAPER

The first printings up to December 1924 were printed on thin paper. After that, common, sometimes little heavier paper was used.

ERRORS

On sheets of the 40 groszy stamp we find a very interesting error. In one of the six groups—each composed of 100 cuts made up for the printing sheet 6 x 100, accidentally a 25 groszy cut was inserted, thus causing an error—a 25 groszy stamp in the 40 gr. color, which is a blackish-blue. This error is the 35th stamp in the sheet (the 5th stamp in the 4th horizontal row). The error was discovered immediately in the printing plant and the stamp was removed from the sheets. However some sheets eluded the authorities and were sold at the Post Offices. One sheet with this error discovered in the stock of a Post Office was turned over to the Postal Museum. The wrong cut was removed from the plate and substituted with a normal one.

A small part of a printing of the 30 groszy on thin paper was done with a printing ink of a wrong color of violet blue instead of violet. These erroneously printed stamps should never have been released; accidentally some got to the Post Office in Wrocław, where unnoticed, were sold and used up on mail.

Complete list of all printings of this issue with dates, colors and quantities

A — on thin paper

Color	Order date	Quantity
1 gr Light-brown	4/1/24	20,300,000
2 gr Chocolate-brown	4/1/24	20,100,000
3 gr Orange	4/1/24	20,200,000
5 gr Olive-green	4/1/24	25,200,000
5 gr Olive-green	6/30/24	5,100,000
5 gr Green-olive	8/13/24	10,100,000
5 gr Green-olive	9/13/24	4,940,000
10 gr Dark bluish-green	4/1/24	30,350,000
10 gr Bluish-green	6/30/24	10,200,000
10 gr " (x)	9/13/24	9,750,000

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15 gr Cinnabar	6/30/24	15,000,000
15 gr Cinnabar	8/13/24	10,000,000
15 gr Red	9/13/24	14,690,000
20 gr Blue	4/1/24	30,150,000
25 gr Brown-red	4/24/24	10,000,000
30 gr Violet	4/1/24	19,640,000
30 gr Violet-blue (xx)	"	"
40 gr Black-blue	4/24/24	10,100,000
50 gr Red-lilac	4/1/24	25,350,000
B — on common, heavier paper		
2 gr Dark-brown	3/3/25	5,100,000
2 gr Dark-brown	7/6/25	6,000,000
3 gr Orange	3/2/25	5,030,000
5 gr Yellow-olive	1/12/25	10,000,000
5 gr Yellow-olive	2/20/25	15,000,000
10 gr Bluish-green	12/3/24	5,040,000
10 gr Bluish-green	1/12/25	10,000,000
10 gr Dark bluish-green	2/20/25	15,000,000
15 gr Cinnabar	12/3/24	5,010,000
15 gr Cinnabar	1/12/25	14,960,000
15 gr Cinnabar	2/20/25	20,000,000
30 gr Violet	7/6/25	4,700,000
50 gr Red-lilac (xxx)	11/18/27	6,170,000
50 gr Red-lilac (xxxx)	2/15/28	10,400,000

x — clear print
xx — wrong color printing ink
xxx — printing sheet of 100 stamps
xxxx — printing sheet of 200 stamps
2 x 100

As the highest value of this issue a 1 złoty stamp with the likeness of President S. Wojciechowski was issued.



Authorized by the directive of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of September 26, 1924 No. 2111/IX. Released for use October 1, 1924 — as per "Dziennik Urzędowy Generalnej Dyrekcji Poczty i Telegrafów" from October 18, 1924 No. 39. An order for this stamp was placed with the Government Printing Works on August 10,

1924 for the printing of 3,500,000 copies. It was printed from one plate composed of 100 cuts on chalky paper. Account numbers are placed on the right-hand margin of sheets. Comb-perforation 11½.

The Postal Museum was in possession of two proof copies of this stamp made with the help of a matrix individually, in different colors: orange on chalk paper and dark greenish-blue on thin paper, both imperforate.



"PORT GDAŃSK" OVERPRINT

On January 5, 1925 the Polish Post Office in Gdańsk was opened. By the directive of the Minister of Commerce and Industry December 31, 1924 and "Dziennik Urzędowy Poczty i Telegrafów" from January 17, 1925 No. 3, eleven values of current stamps were issued with a black overprint "PORT GDAŃSK". Receiving an order for 500,000 sets the Government Printing Works made a special printing of the stamps, with a slight variation in color and paper, from the normal issues. The colors are somewhat brighter and the paper stronger. Specialists are distinguishing also thinner and thicker paper, but the difference is very slight with the exception of the 10 gr. which comes also on a very thin paper. All stamps have comb-perforation 11½.

TID BITS

Member John Wendt was re-elected President of the Ogden Hill Stamp Club, his second term.

Doc Kozy was guest speaker at the Midway Stamp Club, 5718 Archer Ave., Chicago, Oct. 19. Poland No. 1 was his subject. "Kielbasa and kapusta" were served.

Members at the Nov. 11th meeting were indeed pleased to see Ben Reeves in attendance. Leo Topolinski journeyed in from Milwaukee to attend also.

OUR COMING POLPEX

Polpex Chairman Roman Burkiewicz announces that the following committee members have been selected for the coming 1956 Exhibition to be held March 9, 10 and 11:

Co-chairman—Anthony Banasiak
5526 So. Kolmar Ave., Chicago 29.

Finance—J. P. Rux

6136 Addison St., Chicago 34.

Arts—Myron E. Steczynski

4154 N. LeClaire Ave., Chicago 41.

Program & Entries—Chester Makowski, 2215 W. Cortez St., Chicago 22.

Publicity—Jack J. Domar

3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

Polish Release—Walter Szymlek

2341 W. Moffat St., Chicago 47.

Special Issue of "STAMPS"—Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland, Chicago 22.

Patrons—Chester J. Mikucki

1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22.

Bourse—Roman Reinowski

9031 W. 24th St., North Riverside, Ill.

Beeba—John S. Bobo

2318 Augusta Blvd., Chicago 22.

Award Presentation—Dr. L.P. Kozakiewicz, 1530 N. Damen Ave., Chgo. 22.

Have You Got These In Your Collection of Poland?

	Mint	Used
Scott No. 1	\$25.00	\$10.00
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Sigmund Bor, Secretary
5326 S. Laramie Ave.

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Joseph A. Banasiak, Treas.

3016 W. 41st St.

Chicago 32, Ill.

Publications Committee

Chester A. Schafer, Editor

864 N. Ashland Ave.

Chicago 22, Ill.

Walter Szymlek

2341 W. Moffat St.

Chicago 47, Ill.

Associate Editors this issue

V. Rachmanov

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Seals—Adam Kloskowski

2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 22.

The Chairman is anxious that our coming Exhibition be better than ever. Any ideas, suggestions or information regarding the coming Polpex would be welcomed. Send your correspondence to the respective committee chairman or to the Polpex Chairman Roman J. Burkiewicz, 3553 W. Shakespeare Ave., Chicago 47, Ill. Telephone CApitol 7-4635 evenings.

TID BITS

From Dr. M.E. Uznanski we learned that Warsaw Locals were the only locals approved by the German government and the Przedbórz Locals were the only locals approved by Austria. The Doctor has been invited again this year to exhibit his Christmas Seals at the International Show at Oslo.

We were surprised to learn that our youthful President Anthony A. Banasiak had a son 17 years of age—and in the Army too...

NEW MEMBER

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