



Meets every 4th Friday at Polish American Congress, 5844 Milwaukee Av., Chgo.

Issue No. 408

Price \$2.00

Jan.-Feb., 1985

Polpex honors Polish Scouts 75th Anniv.

Polish Scouting, started in 1910, continuing through the war years in Poland, and in exile until the present time—will be the theme of POLPEX 85. A special cancellation and cacheted covers were designed for this occasion by former Chief of the Polish Boy Scouts in America, Scoutmaster Ed Link. These will be available at the Polonus Stamp and Coin Exhibition POLPEX 85, March 23-24, at the Polish Highlanders Home, 4808 S. Archer Ave. in Chicago. A U.S. postal station and a 30 dealer bourse will operate on the premises.

Polish Scouts have been invited to participate in the exhibition in a special Junior section. The exhibition is open to members and non-members who collect Poland, Polonica, associated material & foreign. Topical collections on scouting are especially welcome. Entries close March 1st. Applications are available from Entry Chairman, Art Walinski, 7353 West Estes, Chicago, IL 60631.

Polish Scout groups, the 'Lechici' dancers and 'Wichry' singers will provide entertainment at the Beebe-Banquet Saturday night, March 23,



One design of the special cacheted covers will show the patron saint of Scouts, St. George, slaying a dragon.

at 7:00 p.m. A family style dinner, prepared by the Polish Highlander ladies will be served with a bottle of champagne on every table. The presentation of awards will be made at this time. Tickets at \$10 each, are available from Stanley Rusin, Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656.

Executive Polpex Chrm., Ed Link, is planning the exhibition to be an outstanding cultural event. For more information write him at 4952 No. Nordica, Chicago, IL 60656.

The following items will be available at the Polpex:

Set of 2 cacheted covers ...\$1.50
 Souvenir sheets (pair) 1.00
 Souvenir card mint 1.50
 " " cancelled 2.00
 Program Catalogue 1.00
 Plus postage 50

For mail orders write John Bartczak, 10428 S. Avenue 'O', Chicago, IL 60617.

NEW MEMBER

Henryk Opiela
 137 Gay St., Box 4650
 Philadelphia, PA 19127

LAST CHANCE for FREE INDEX

Over 60 Polonus members have requested their copy of the 'Index'. This 200 column is the key to unlock the treasure of information contained in the first 400 issues of the Polonus Bulletin. Current members in good standing may have a free copy of the Index until March 10th only. After that date, members and non-members will have to pay the established market price. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the INDEX FUND to help defray the \$4500 printing cost of the Index, which is the most significant advance in Polish Philately of the decade. Do not miss your copy! Send your request (and donation) to: James Mazepa, Ph.D., Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

Let's Get A Polish Costume On A U.S. Stamp



Polonus member Joseph Janecka of Riverside, Illinois has started a campaign to have a postage stamp series issued honoring the Statue of Liberty and the emigrants who came to our shores from nations throughout the continents. He proposes a set of stamps depicting the national costumes of Czechoslovakia, Poland and other foreign countries represented in our population.

The Stamp Advisory Committee already has a Statue of Liberty stamp proposal under review for 1986 when the statue is to be rededicated and honored. The stamp series should be given separate consideration.

If you feel that the idea is good and deserves some consideration, write to the Postmaster General to help promote this project. Write to your senator, congressman or any influential person who is proud of his ancestry and their contribution to the United States.

Send all mail to Paul N. Carlin, Postmaster General, Washington, D.C. 20260.

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The Polish Navy and Merchant Marine – An Update

By THOMAS J. GOBBY

In issues 395 and 396 of the *Polonus Bulletin*, James Mazepa, Ed., did a good job in bringing together several sources of information regarding the Polish Naval and Merchant Marine Fleets of the World War II period. These articles described the postal devices of both fleets. Cancelling and registration devices were similar in design, but distinct as to sea arm, Navy or Merchant Marine.

War-time conditions demanded that both naval and merchant vessels be identified by code numbers rather than by the names assigned to these ships. In both categories there were gaps in the code numbers assigned to these ships, and a logical assumption is that there were other ships which have not been reported. Mazepa, in each of the articles, asked if anyone could furnish additional information, it would be welcomed.

I cannot claim that I have all of the answers, but do feel some additional pieces in the jigsaw puzzle of the Polish Forces in the W.W. II period have been found.

My principal source is a small book which I purchased some years ago. This was on the way to other things, as is so often the case in my style of collecting.

The book is: *"Poles On The Seas, 1939-1945"* by Edmund Kosiarz, Interpress Publishers, Warsaw 1969". Within its 135 pages is a wealth of information, especially with regard to the Polish Navy and the battles in which it was engaged. It is particularly helpful for the postal historian in terms of matching postal unit numbers and dates to specific

battles and engagements.

Now, with regard to the gaps in the numbers for the ships of the Polish Navy. No. 15 may have been the number assigned to Polish Naval Headquarters (Shore Station) at Plymouth (Devonport), England. This is recited in Mr. Ron Negus' article in *Polonus Bulletin* No. 203, and repeated by a correspondent friend in England.

Numbers were not assigned to the Polish submarines: 'Sęp', 'Żbik', and 'Ryś' which escaped to Sweden in 1939 and which were interred, together with their crews (about 180 men) at Vaxholm. Interred also was the 'Dar Pomorza' (tall ship). For a brief period in 1940 they were transferred to the M/S *Johannes* (Swedish registry?). Supposedly they were interred for the duration of the war, and mail to and from these internees is said to exist. Though I have been trying to locate such items for the past several years, I have yet to encounter a single item.

The listing of "Ships of the Polish Navy in World War II" on p. 395-7 of the *Polonus Bulletin* contains some typographical errors.

First, typographical corrections. Under the classification "Destroyers" it is ORKAN instead of Orkaw. Under the classification "Submarines" it is SOKÓŁ instead of Sokal.

Second, Kosiarz's book gives the following information regarding other ships of the Polish Navy.

Additional ships were provided to the Polish Naval Command by the British government under a lease agreement and special protocol signed on December 5, 1940. The terms spelled out that the British

government owned these vessels and that they would revert back to the English. However, maintenance, repairs, armaments, etc. were the responsibility of the Polish Navy while in its lease possession.

Some especially interesting information is the fact that for a period of time the Polish Navy had in its fleet the followingg French vessels:
Destroyer:

"Ouragan" - July, 1940 to April, 1941.

Patrol Boats:

"Pomerol" and "Medoc" - July, 1940 to October, 1941 (?)

The "Medoc" was torpedoed by a German aircraft and sunk on November 26, 1940. The Polish Captain and two of his crew were lost.

From June to October, 1940 the Polish Navy had twelve (12) fishing cutters in its fleet. These were armed with machine guns and used for patrolling British off-shore waters.

In the second half of 1940 the first of ten (10) motor torpedo boats entered service. The following list gives the designation of these boats and dates of service.

"S-1"—Ordered and paid for by the Polish Navy before WW II.

"S-2"—Ordered and paid for by the Polish Navy before WW II.

"S-3"—Leased from Royal Navy. Returned to Admiralty in May, 1943.

The first of the ships leased was the destroyer "Garland." Other destroyers were the "Piorun", "Krakowiak", "Kujawiak", "Ślęzak", and "Orkan." The submarines "Sokół", "Jastrzęb", and "Dzik" were also leased from the British.

"S-4"—Replacement for "S-3".

"S-5"—Leased in Oct., 1944 till ?

"S-6"—Leased in Oct., 1944 till ?

"S-7"—Leased in Oct., 1944 till ?

"S-8"—Leased in Oct., 1944 till ?

"S-9"—Leased in Oct., 1944 till ?

"S-10"—Leased in Oct., 1944 till ?

Given the number of known assigned postal numbers (12), and possibly a 13th for the Polish Naval HQ, in a range of #1 to at least #33, and at least 23 ships (the listings on p. 394-7 and 395-7, Polonus Bulletin 395) there is a shortfall of 21 to 22, i.e., field post numbers against ships.

Of the 23 ships listed by Mazepa to which numbers could have been assigned, there are at least 12 known in the range of 1 to 33. Add the 13 vessels above (excluding the fishing cutters) and it is my feeling that the unassigned numbers are likely to match up with many of these vessels. How will that be proven or disproven? Through something called persistence and further research.

Some words on the Polish Merchant Marine. Kosiarz does not go into the same detail as he did with the Polish Navy. The only addition to Mazepa's list in Bulletin 396 is the M/S "Rozewie."

Kusiarz says this: ... "Rozewie" which after breaking away from Dakar, was plying between New York and the ports in the mouth of the Amazon. In the summer of 1942 the M/S "Rozewie" left the Brazilian port of Para for Trinidad in order to join a convoy there. On August 6th, the ship, sailing alone, was spotted by a Nazi submarine, torpedoed and sunk."

Does the "Rozewie" fit into the scheme of things? Maybe

Some years ago I had a conver-

Continued on page 408-13

Poland 2nd Provisional Issue 1918-19, Part II

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

This second article describes how the overprinted precursor issue, i.e., "Gen. Gouv./Warschau" on the basic German stamps may assist in identifying, not only the color and ink varieties of this issue, but in the discovery of new "Poczta Polska" printings, not previously reported in the literature by Mikstein¹ or Włodarski.²

By way of background information, the characteristics of the flat plate and rotary press printings are reviewed. The flat press printing (Fig. 1) has jubilee lines along the left, bottom, and right selvedge, and accounting numbers along the top selvedge. Along the left and right selvedge, the basic German Hausauftragsnummern (HAN) is indicated in the color of the stamp. The numbers read upward on the left and downward at the right. This number consists of an H, followed by four numbers, which represent the basic order number, a centrally located period, and two additional numbers which indicate the year of printing. For example, the basic HAN on the flat plate printed sheet shown in Fig. 1 is located along the left selvedge and reads upward as follows: H2169·16, and shows a horizontal 13, which identifies the pane position. The printed sheet consisted of eight panes (2 x 4) each containing 100 stamps (10 x 10), arranged as follows:

9 10	1 2	2 1	2 1
12 11	3 4	4 3	4 3
13 14	5 6	5 6	? ?
16 15	7 8	7 8	8 7
Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV

The sheet shown in Fig. 1, therefore, has the Type I arrangement of pane positions. Incidentally, the literature indicates 16 pane positions for the 2 1/2 pf value; however, I have never seen any pane positions other than those indicated, i.e. 9 through 16. The misinformation may have arisen inasmuch as some of the printings of pane 11 appear as pane 1, due to the incompleteness of the printing. However, all measurements of this pane correspond to those of pane 11.

Each flat plate pane has dots in the color of the stamp located in the selvedge above position 5 and below position 95, as well as along the right and left selvedge. Even though the dots are not positioned in the same location on all sheets, the dots are punctured and were probably used to align the sheets for cutting or perforating. Two perforation varieties of the flat press printing exist: 1) perforations cover a single pane, and 2) perforations cut through the selvedge of two adjacent horizontal panes. Thus, with stamps perforated across two panes, the left pane shows perforations across the right selvedge, and the right pane across the left selvedge.

The rotary press printings, on the other hand, come in several settings. Three are known with the "PP/GGW" issue: in setting I the numerals, in the color of the stamp, are located along the left selvedge opposite the perforations; in setting II they are in the color of the stamp and are located above or below the perforations in the single-

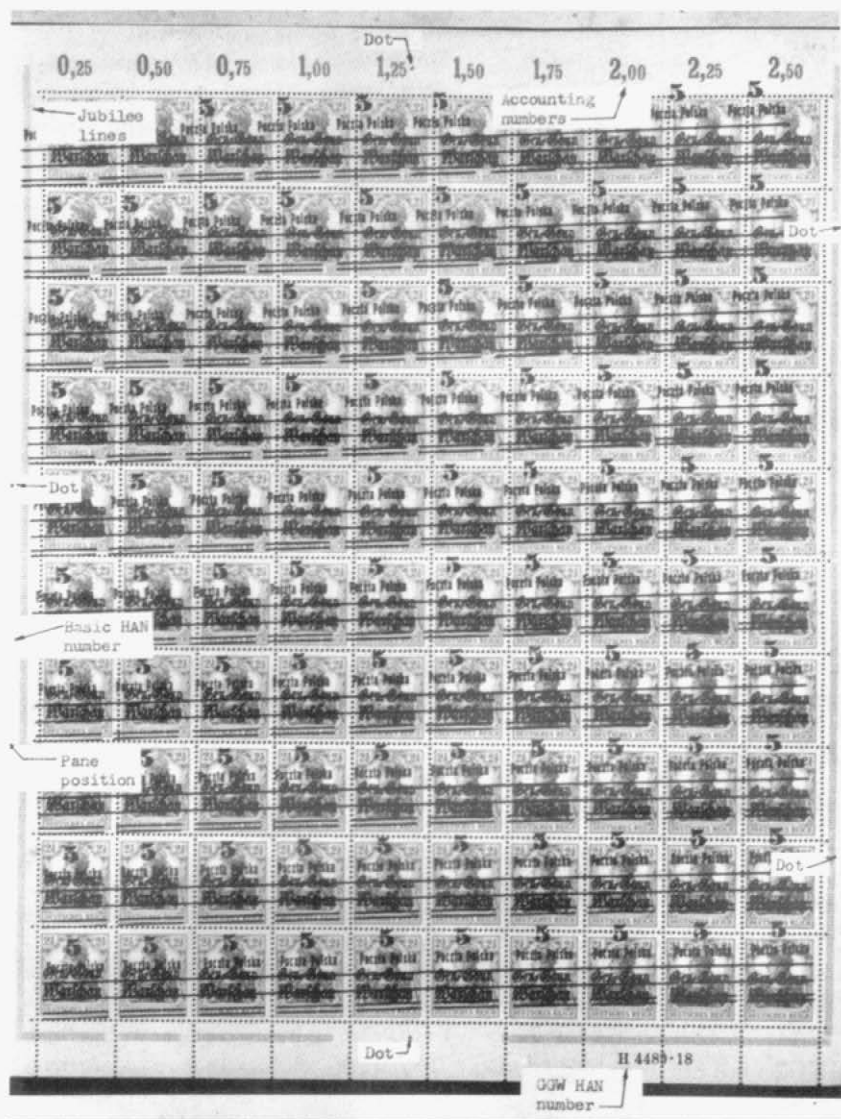


Fig. 1. A sheet showing the various markings which identify the flat press printing. First printing, error grouping IAa.

colored stamps, and above and below the perforations in the colors of the bi-colored stamps, which I have designated as settings IIa, IIb, and IIc, respectively; and in setting III they are located above and below the perforations. This latter setting is found only with the 30 pf

denomination (III-1915; H3123-15 93/94), which is an exceedingly rare type in the "PP/GGW" overprint. Włodarski² illustrated the three different setting of numerals denoting the sectors (German: Gruppenpaar Nummern) as follows:

GRUPPENPAAR NUMMERN	SHEET					
	TOP			BOTTOM		
Start at	9	8	11	4	3	6
Missing number	None	6	9	11	1	4
Setting	I	II	III	I	II	III

All settings of the rotary press printings (Fig. 2) have accounting numbers surrounded by vertical bars in the colors of the stamp (single-or bi-colored) along the top selvedge, similar vertical lines along the bottom selvedge, and the Gruppenpaar Nummern along the left selvedge, as indicated above, and a registry number. A single rotation of the rotary presses printed two sectors identified as top and bottom, with the bottom selvedge of the top sector and the top selvedge of the adjacent sector equalling the height of the printed stamp. The position of the registry numbers and the Gruppenpaar Nummern are useful in identifying specific printings. Figure 2, which shows the bottom sector of setting IIa, indicates that Gruppenpaar Nummern 1, which should be opposite position 41, is missing.

When the basic flat press and rotary press stamps were overprinted "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau," a booking number was assigned to each printing and is found along the bottom selvedge in various positions beneath stamps 91 to 100. This number was in the same ink

used in overprinting the stamps, i.e., black, and consisted of an H, four numbers, a centrally-located period, and two additional numbers as before. At times a single number precedes or follows these numbers.

Below are several examples of how knowledge of precursor information assists in the identity of existing or in the discovery of new varieties of the "Poczta Polska" overprinted issues.

30 PF - FIRST PRINTING

According to the listing of sheets overprinted "Poczta Polska", thus far only the sheets with booking numbers H1762:17.1 & H2293:17.1 have been identified as being used in the first printing.² I have a pair, positions 97 and 98, that can be identified as coming from a sheet with booking number H1762:17 92/93. This is how it was identified. As is well known, position 97 in the first printing shows a missing third line. Any pair showing positions 97 and 98 should show the HAN numbers indicated above, i.e., H1762:17.1 98 and H2293:17.1 98. As shown in the top pair of Fig. 3,

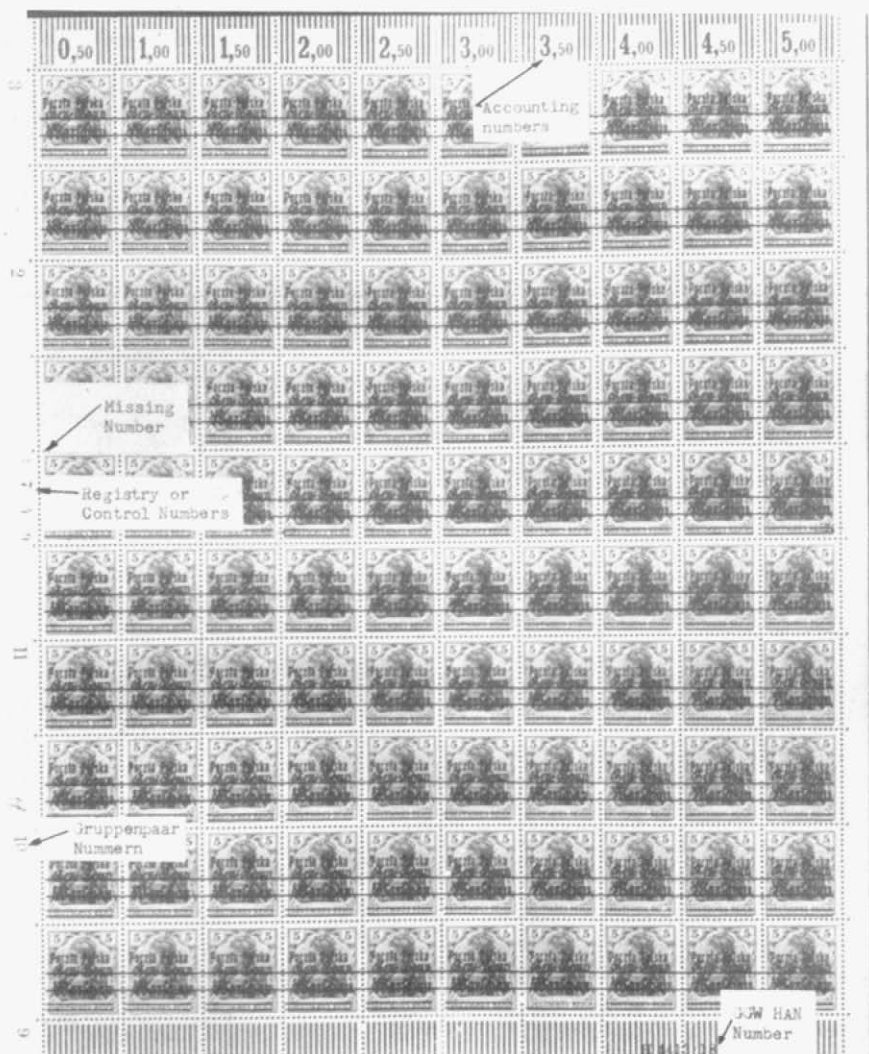


Fig. 2. A sheet showing the various markings which identify the rotary press printing. First printing, error grouping Ibb.



Fig. 3. Booking number varieties of the 30 pf first printing showing the missing third line (position 97). Top pair: HAN H1762-17 92/93; middle pair: HAN H1762-17.1 98, 100; and bottom pair: HAN H2293-17.1 98, 100.

there is no evidence of any HAN in position 98. More than enough selv-edge exists at the bottom to guarantee the appearance of either of the two numbers indicated; therefore, the numbers have not been cut off. The pair had to come from a "PP/GGW" sheet with HAN H1762-17 92/93. A new discovery!

5 PF - SECOND PRINTING

This example involves a similar finding, but the manner in which the discovery was made was somewhat different. Information available indicates that there was only one "GGW" overprinting of the 5 pf flat press printing that was overprinted "Poczta Polska," i.e., basic German HAN H2614-15, booking GGW overprint HAN 2 H3123-15 under positions 92/93, and showing error grouping IIaG for the "Poczta Polska."

Some years ago I purchased a sheet of the 5 pf flat press PP/GGW error grouping IIaG with no booking number along the bottom selvedge. The selvedge was cut at an angle with 9.3 mm showing below stamp 91 at the left and 6.7 mm below stamp 100 at the right. I could have assumed that this was the flat press printing with booking number 2 H3123-15 92/93, but I compared this sheet with "GGW" overprinted precursors with booking numbers H3123-15.1 98/99 and 2 H3123-15 92/93 (see Fig. 4). Earlier Włodarski and I had shared information on the distance from the bottom of "GGW" and the top of the HAN numbers for the various booking numbers in our collections and from other sources.³ The first 2 of HAN 2 H3123-15 is under stamp 91 and the remainder of the book-



Fig. 4. 5 pf flat press printing, second printing, error grouping II Ag, with GGW blocks of eight with HAN 2 H3123-15 91, 92/93, and HAN H3123-15.1 98/99, 100, respectively, superimposed on the PP/GGW sheet.

ing number under stamps 92 and 93. HAN H3123-15 is located under stamps 98 and 99 and the third 1 is located under stamp 100. The distance from the bottom of the "s" in stamp 91 to the top of the 2 measures 11.7 mm. With a distance of 12.3 mm from the bottom of the "s" to the bottom edge of the selvage (stamp 91) in the unidentified sheet, at least a portion of the 2 should be visible. Since this was not the case, the sheet must have come from booking order H3123-15.1 98/99, 100. Hence, another confirmed discovery!

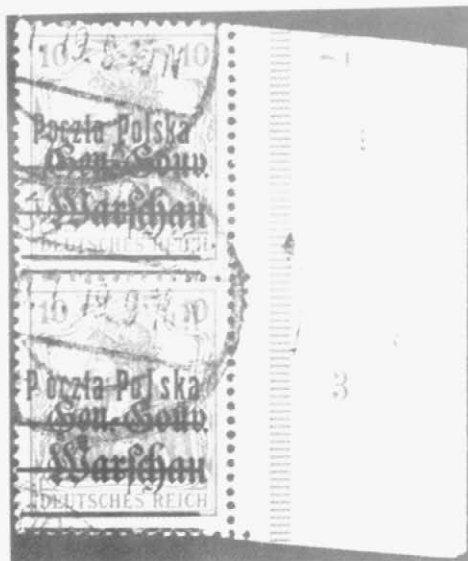
10 PF - SECOND PRINTING

This example involves a knowledge of the various pane positions for the flat press printings as cited earlier. Three basic HAN numbers are reported for the 10 pf "PP/GGW," namely: H2707-15, H2700-17, and H4396-17, with only the last identified with the first printing. All three were used in the second printing. Two pairs of stamps (Fig. 5) show the expanded "P-o and o-l-s" variety (position 80) along with a pane number in the right margin. The upper horizontal pair shows a 1, and the lower vertical pair a 3 with the number 17. From



Fig. 5. Pane position varieties of the 10 pf, second printing, both showing the expanded P-o, o-l-s variety in position 80.

Top:
horizontal pair,
HAN H2707-15,
pane 1;
bottom:
vertical pair,
HAN H2700-17,
pane 3.



a knowledge of the pane positions and printings, the former has to be from a sheet with the basic German HAN H2707:15 and the latter could be either from basic German HAN H2700:17 or H4396:17. It could not be H4396:17 because pane 3 is on the left side. This pair, therefore, has to come from a sheet with basic German HAN H2700:17.

20 PF - COLOR VARIETIES

Information concerning the various printings of the 20 pf "GGW" used in overprinting the "Pocztą Polska" issue have been reported by Włodarski⁴ and Kronenberg.⁵ However, an unfortunate error appeared in the Kronenberg article. A tabulation of this issue taken from Włodarski^{2,4} is given below:

Color	Basic German HAN	Booking Number	Under	GGW a Ovpt.	Error Groupings
Ultramarine	I-1915	H3123-15	93/94	g-b	IIAg
Prussian blue	H3593-17	H3930-17	93/94	g-p	IBb
Sapphire	II-1917	H4312-17	91/92	c-p	IBb, IIAg
Light blue	H4513-17	H4821-17	97/98	c-p	IBb, IIAg, IIC1 (?)
Light blue	H4513-17	H4821-17	99/100	c-p	IBb, IIAf, IIAg, IIC1 (?)
Violet blue	H1807-18	H3093-18	98/99	c-m	IBb, IIAg, IIC1

a) g-deep black; c-reddish black; b-shiny; p-half shiny; m-matt

The simplest way to differentiate these stamps is that the ultramarine is rotary press printed and appears ONLY in the second printing, the remaining issues appeared in both the first and second printings. The Prussian blue and sapphire can be differentiated most easily of copies show selvedge. The Prussian blue is a flat press printing and the sapphire a rotary press printing. Most of the ultramarine copies offered for sale on the open market are either Prussian blue or sapphire shades, and even on occasion the light blue variety. Deficiencies in the Scott catalog account in part for the confusion. An entry to be added to the above tabulation is that the Prussian blue exists in error grouping IIC1, a sheet which I have. The existence of the second grouping was known but the error grouping was not reported in the literature until now.

From the above the value of studying the precursor material in

identifying additional varieties of this most interesting issue is obvious. If members have sheets or parts of sheets showing either the basic German HAN or booking number HAN, I would like to have them communicate with me.

REFERENCES:

- 1) Mikstein, S. *Drugie polskie wydanie prowizoryczne dla b. okupacji niemieckiej*. Nakładem II. Fil., Lwów (1932-1934).
- 2) Włodarski, Zb. *Second Polish Provisional Issue*. Bulletin of the *Polonus Philatelic Society*, Issues 205 (Nov. 1962) and 206 (Dec. 1962).
- 3) Włodarski, Zb. *Personal communication* (1967).
- 4) Włodarski, Zb. *Drugie polskie wydanie prowizoryczne dla b. okupacji niemieckiej*. *Filatelista*, 11 (14):295-298 (1964).
- 5) Kronenberg, St. *Poland*, Scott No. 21. *The American Philatelist*, 96 (10):898, 963 (1982).

Polish Navy/Merchant Marine

(Continued from page 408-4)
sation with a Polish non-collector. He was emphatic in his statements that the Poles operated a large merchant fleet during WW II. Because of the war these ships were of British registry(?). Liverpool was mentioned as one home port. Other ships supposedly used New York, Boston, Miami, and New Orleans as ports. Many of these ships sailed in convoys including the Murmansk run.

He mentioned South America, but could not say if any ships under the Polish flag used these ports. Brazil would be the most likely country as it entered the war with the Allies.

But of special interest were his

claims that Polish merchant vessels sailed from the North African ports of Alexandria and Port Said, Mombasa in East Africa, and Bombay in India. Because all of these were within the British Commonwealth, it tends to support the possibility of British registry for such vessels.

The point of all this is that it is these kinds of bits and pieces, random items of information, which can lead one to philatelic discovery. It certainly has been my experience.

Given the above, these would seem to be good jumping off points for someone with patience, persistence, and willingness to dig and seek out new information.

Good hunting.

GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY

The city of Odessa was occupied by the Russian White Army General Deniken in September, 1919. At this time, a Polish Consulate was opened in the city. The Russian authorities refused to forward letters to Poland, and so to insure the delivery of mail to Poland, a Post Office was installed in the Consulate. Letters were then dispatched by diplomatic pouch to Poland.

At first, regular Polish stamps were used, but in late 1919, five values were overprinted "Odesa." These stamps were used until January 31, 1919, when the Consulate closed due to the advance of the Red Army.

The 1 Mark value was made in a 10 x 10 sheet of 100 stamps. The overprinting form consisted of a 5 x 10 overprint block, so each sheet had to go through the press twice. Thus, the overprints in columns five



and six are always somewhat misaligned.

The "block" shown here was separated at one time into two horizontal pairs, the left stamp being from column five and the right stamp from column six. The two Polonus members who own the pairs, temporarily reunited them after 65 years, to reconstruct the original block of four.

Unissued 1945 Krakow Overprints & Their Forgeries

By STANLEY KRONENBERG



Figure 1.
Genuine
overprint
(left) and
forged over-
print (right).
The back-
ground is a
millimeter
grid.

The Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs authorized the Postal Directorate in Kraków by means of the order No. 28/45, dated January 29, 1945 to overprint left over German occupational stamps into Polish stamps of 50 gr., 1 zł., and 2 zł. denominations. While the overprinting was in progress, the Ministry revoked its order. The already

overprinted 50 gr. stamps were then sent on April 4, 1945 to the Main Postal Warehouse in Warsaw. From there a small number of these unissued stamps found their way into the hands of philatelists.

These overprinted stamps exist in sets of overprints on basic "General Gouvernement" Hitler stamps, with the denominations: 6 gr., 12 gr., 16 gr., 20 gr., 24 gr., 32 gr., 40 gr., 48 gr., and 50 gr. The denominations of: 60 gr., 80 gr., 1 zł., and 1.20 zł. with 50 gr. overprints are proofs. Some of these unissued stamps have the guarantee mark "S. MIKSTEIN" applied in black ink vertically on the bottom center of their reverses.

Forgeries of these overprints exist. The figure 1 shows on the left side a genuine overprint and on the right side a forgery. They can be distinguished by differences in the shape of some of the letters. For example, the horizontal line of the "T" is somewhat shorter in the forgery; the lettering lines of "50 gr." are of a uniform thickness in genuine overprints and of a variable thickness in the forgeries. Other

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characteristics which distinguish the genuine and forged overprints are listed in table 1.

OVERPRINT CHARACTERISTICS	GENUINE	FORGERY
Height of the entire overprint	22.6	22.1
Length of the thick horizontal bar	20.5	20.35
Length of "POCZTA"	17.8-17.9	17.8-17.9
Length of "POLSKA"	17.9	17.6-17.7
Length of "50 gr."	12.0	12.45
Period after "gr"	square	round
Overprint ink	glossy black	glossy black
Overprinting technique	typographic	typographic

TABLE 1. Differences and similarities of genuine and forged overprints. All dimensions are given in millimeters.

These forgeries exist in full sets of nine stamps. All such forgeries which I have seen so far have a forged "S. MIKSTEIN" guarantee mark imprinted in violet ink on their reverses as is shown in figure 2.

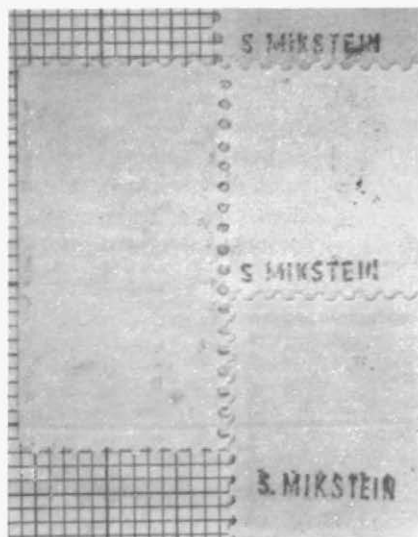


Figure 2.

Top: A genuine "S. MIKSTEIN" (in black) on a genuine 1945 Kraków stamp.

Center: A genuine "S. MIKSTEIN" (in black) on a genuine stamp overprinted in 1944 by partisans in Pin-czów.

Bottom: A forged "S. MIKSTEIN" (in violet) on a 1945 Kraków stamp with forged overprint.

The background is a millimeter grid. The lettering in the forged guarantee mark is sharper and its corners are more pronounced.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRI.-SUN., MARCH 1-3rd:

MILCOPEX at Mecca Convention Center, Milwaukee, Wisc.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8th:

Last meeting before the Polpex. Polish American Congress Building, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd:

Polpex set-up night, Polish Highlanders Home, 4808 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, starting at 7:00 p.m. Chicagoland members are asked to help mount up the exhibits. Bring along wiping cloth & glass cleaner.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd:

Polpex exhibition open 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. U.S. Post Office and Bourse open for business. Beeba Banquet at 7:00 p.m. with Awards presentations.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24th:

Exhibition, Post Office & Bourse open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dismounting of exhibits at 4 p.m.

POLAND OFFICES IN DANZIG

After the end of World War I, the free city of Danzig was created by the treaty of Versailles and, in order to give Poland access to the Baltic Sea, part of the port city of Danzig was given to Poland. A person wanting to mail a letter from that Polish section had to use special stamps issued by Poland, which were surcharged for use in Danzig. Of a total of 36 stamps issued for use in Danzig, the most difficult stamp to find is the 1 Złoty stamp surcharged vertically "Port Gdańsk", Scott number 1K24. Printing was 108,600 copies. The reason this stamp is difficult to find, is that many were used as revenues on various kinds of documents. Scott for 1984 did not change its price

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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— Annual Dues are \$12.50 —

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from last year's Catalog. It still lists for \$100. Recently I have noticed a few buyads for this stamp in German stamp magazines with dealers offering to pay about \$50 for one. I believe this stamp is definitely worth picking up. It is difficult to find and if demand increases just a little bit, prices are bound to shoot up. Scott mentions that collectors should be careful of forgeries. I have never seen a mint stamp with a faked surcharge, but be careful if you buy a used copy. The used stamp without surcharge is worth just a few cents; with the surcharge it's scarce and valuable.

—John G. Ross

—Reprinted from "Stamp Market Tips"
in STAMPS Magazine

PANA Program Meeting

The Polish American Numismatic Association will hold a program meeting at the Chicago International Coin Fair, Saturday, March 17th at 2:00 P.M. at the Water Tower Room of the Chicago Hyatt Regency West Tower, 151 E. Wacker Dr. A slide presentation will be made by Louis Koncza on the "Miracle of the Vistula" battle victory against the Bolshevik Army in 1920. A medal, coin and souvenir exhibit on Marshall Pilsudski will be prepared by V. Gawron. Coffee and cake served.