

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 200

May, 1962

POLAND NUMBER ONE Double Frame Variety

By M. Bojanowicz assisted by S. J. Capes

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In 1948 a considerable stir was caused in Polish philatelic circles by the announcement of the discovery of a major variety which has since become known as the "Double Frame Variety". It was first noticed in 1944 by Mr. V. Rachmanoff, now resident in the U.S.A., the value of whose research in connection with the first Polish adhesive stamp needs no comment here.

The delay in disclosing the discovery was caused by wartime conditions, and the first announcement in this country was made in a magazine devoted to Polish philately "Wiadomości Filatelistyczne, London", No. 6/7 of 1948, edited by myself.

This stamp has been, in the past, subjected to a great deal of serious study by many philatelists and it seems incredible that so obvious a variety should not have been noticed before. Even so careful a student as Polanski makes no mention of the variety in either edition of his standard work on Poland No. 1, although the color reproduction of the single stamp shown on plate IX of this work reveals the variety in all its glory. In all probability the irregularity of printing had not been noticed at that stage of study of the stamp itself. More about this color reproduction will be included later.

The variety consists, as may be seen in Fig. 1, of an extra oval line, colored blue, supplementary to the normal red oval which surrounds the white eagle.



Variety Fig. 1 Normal

This means, in effect, that there are two oval lines surrounding the white eagle instead of one: the inner of the two being red and the outer blue. A number of such copies are known and it is of sufficient importance to warrant a place in the catalogue. Its omission should be remedied in all future catalogue printing.

The double frame variety exists not only in singles but also, according to Rachmanow, in pair with a normal. So far we have never heard of a pair with both stamps showing the variety. On a count from his own collection Rachmanoff estimated the variety to exist in about 4 per cent of all copies; using the same method with my own collection I arrived at a figure of about 2 per cent.

A careful study of the stamp itself has revealed three types of the variety and I estimate that at least three stamps showing the double frame could

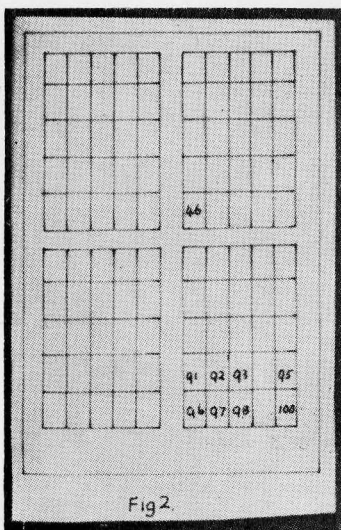


Fig. 2

be found in each hundred stamps, and possibly more.

Examination of the copies indicates that double frame examples probably exist on all types of paper and in all shades, from which it is reasonable to assume that it may be found in the earliest printings of 1860 and remained uncorrected to the end.

No sheets of Poland No. 1 are known and very few blocks or strips. As a result of this, plating is proving a very difficult task and has not yet in fact been accomplished. This makes it almost impossible at this stage to locate the positions on the sheet of the double frame variety, although one position is known beyond all doubt.

The sheet of 100 stamps consisted of four panes of 25 stamps (5 x 5) with gutter margins of 8.9 mm. between panes and a wide margin around the edge of the sheet (Fig. 2). One stamp showing the variety exists with gutter marginal paper still attached to the left side and bottom, which shows this to be stamp No. 46 on the sheet and positioned in the top right hand pane (Fig. 3).

Examination of the unique block of six margins, which comes from the bottom right hand pane, reveals the fact



Fig. 3

that the double frame variety does not appear in the equivalent position, therefore the panes are not in any way related one to the other. (Fig. 4).

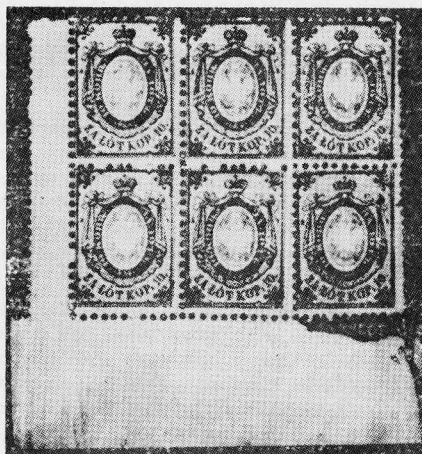


Fig. 4

Some account of the preparatory work in connection with the dies would not be out of place here. In the initial stage two master dies were prepared, one for the red print and one for the blue. The red die was for the center of the design and the underprint, and the blue die for the frame. Photographs of these original dies are shown in plate viii of Polanski's book, and the imper-

forate color reproduction included as fig. 2 in plate ix is the result achieved by combining these two dies and making a print. It will be seen immediately how much this differs from the stamp as issued. The red underprint persists throughout the design including the cloak and surround (Fig. 5) and the

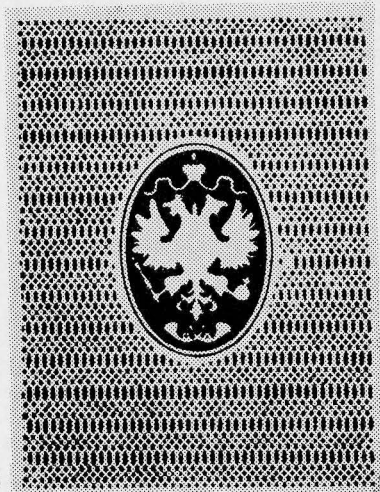


Fig. 5

double frame shows to perfection (Fig. 6). Examination of the master die photographs shows up the two ovals quite plainly (Fig. 7). It confirms, therefore,

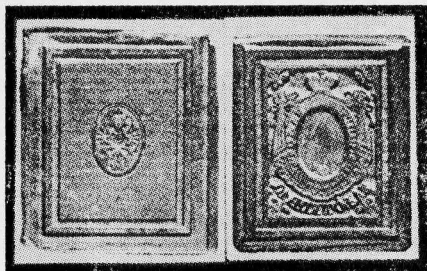


Fig. 7

that the final shape of the red die, at least, was not shown in the photograph (Fig. 8). The color reproduction was produced by Polanski to illustrate his book, and as the accompanying certificate shows (included in the first edition only), it was prepared by Richter of Geneva and imprinted by Vollet, also of Geneva. Five hundred colored copies were produced, two hundred for the earlier edition and three hundred for the following edition (see Figs. 6 and 6a). Included on this same plate ix is a



Fig. 6

Nous soussignés certifions par la présente que les fac-similés en couleurs du timbre-poste de Pologne de 1850 ainsi que ceux des timbres des enveloppes timbrées de 1850-1860 figurant sur les planches IX et XVI de l'ouvrage "Timbres-poste de Pologne aux XVIII^{ème} et XIX^{ème} siècles (1780-1870) de W. de Polanski ont été tirés au mois de juin 1920, d'après les clichés préparés par Mr. Richter dans l'imprimerie de Mr. Vollet à Genève, au nombre de 500 exemplaires correspondant à celui de l'édition. Cela fait, tous les clichés-fac-similés et matricule ont été détruits en notre présence.

Fait à Genève, le 1^{er} juillet 1920.

W. de Polanski, auteur
E. Nowak, éditeur
H. Richter, imprimeur
J. Vollet, éditeur

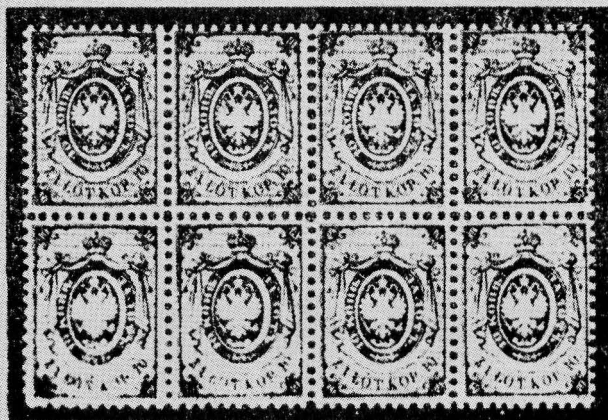


Fig. 6a

reproduction in color of the stamp as printed, repeated eight times to make up a block of eight (Fig. 6a). It will be seen here that the red underprint conforms to that of the issued stamp; in addition there is not the slightest sign of a double frame.

It seems a fair assumption that there were at least two versions of the red die because one version was found in the effects of the original engraver, Henri Meyer, which later passed into the possession of Mr. Polanski, to be used for reproducing the imperforate color essay used for the book illustration. A second version must have existed, however, in order to produce the stamp as issued which is minus the overall red underprint and there may,

of course, have been further intermediate dies (Fig 9). The blue master die may well have remained unchanged from the original, although if this be accepted some explanation is needed regarding the extra blue line which makes the double frame variety — the study of which is the sole subject of this article. I consider the following to be the most logical explanation as to how the variety came into being.

A trial printing would have shown immediately the presence of the second oval, particularly as, in the circumstances under which the stamp was printed, it was unlikely that the two ovals would have coincided with any precision. The problem then would have been to remove one of the ovals, leaving

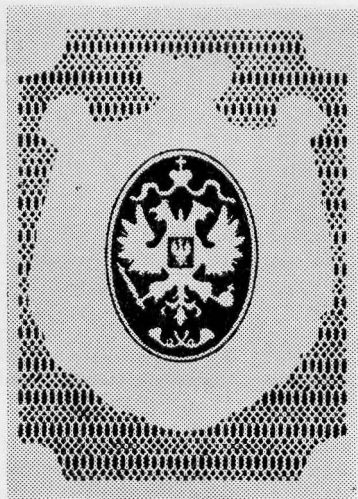


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

the design with one and not two.

The plate comprised one hundred clichés and therefore one hundred ovals of the "blue" clichés had to be removed. In the circumstances it would have been a simple matter for two or three to have been missed.

We know from an official document, reprinted in the "Illustrierter Briefmarken Journal" No. 6-654, of March 16th, 1906, relating to the confiscation of printing equipment in October 1864, that included were "one machine with about 100 galvanised impressions with eagle and inscriptions", etc., and the

job of removal could hardly have been completed in one session without the possibility of omissions.

As previously stated, a study of these stamps has shown me that at least three different types of the variety exist, each of the three stamps concerned showing itself to differ from the others in some way.

Type I (Fig. 10a)

This shows the double frame variety on a stamp with no obvious plate flaw—in point of fact, a normal stamp. I have a copy on cover from Parczew to Warsaw, dated the 21st of November, 1860. Another cover in my possession which was sent from Biala to Minsk on August 30th, 1864, bears an identical stamp without flaw. The absence of any development of damage or flaws on the stamp itself indicates that Type I probably existed throughout the lifetime of the issue. No copy has turned up to date with sheet margins or other evidence that would enable us to fix the sheet position.

Type II (Fig. 10b)

The second type of the variety shows a white flaw on the blue design. This flaw starts from a little above the letter P of "KOP" and extends in the direction of the posthorn. Of this type, I have the only mint copy recorded so far (ex Faberge collection). The sheet margin attached to the used example illustrated on the next page allows us to fix the exact position, as stated earlier, as number 46 on the sheet (Fig. 3). This stamp is also ex Faberge collection.

The white flaw on this example indicates that a different cliché from that which produced Type I was involved as any supplementary flaw which developed after 1860 would have shown on the copy on cover dated 1864. I have Type II on cover addressed from Warsaw to Pinsk and dated November 24th, 1861.

Type III

The third type shows in addition to a very clear double frame, a white flaw on the red underground of the white eagle (Fig. 10c). This flaw is situated to the left of the crown. As the flaw is not present on any of the dated covers mentioned above I consider this a

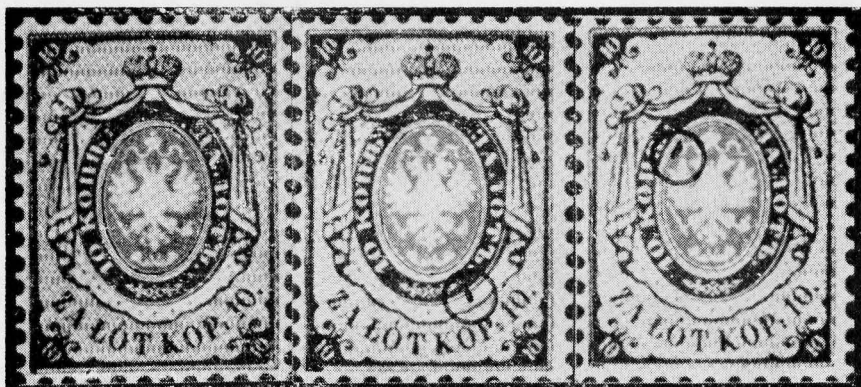


Fig. 10a

Fig. 10b

Fig. 10c

separate type. If a dated cover comes to light, or a copy is reported with margins we could then draw further conclusions and also fix the position on the sheet.

In respect of these flaws, the most common types in my opinion are I and II. I consider Type III is much the more scarce. It may be pointed out here that the extra blue oval is not consistent, sometimes revealing breaks and slight movement of position in relation to the red oval.

My discovery of three differing types of the double frame, as described above was first shown in public at the Warsaw Centenary Exhibition as part of my collection. The above facts from the basis of my suggestion that a minimum of three stamps in one hundred show the double frame variety. At the moment we cannot, with any certainty, go further than this. There may, of course, be more—four, five or ten—depending on how many blue frames were left uncorrected in the one hundred galvanised clichés, or if, indeed, there was only one set of blue clichés. If it is true that one thousand blue clichés existed, as was indicated in an issue of *The Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society* (No. 182), then the number could alter considerably.

If we accept the mathematical basis applied by Rachmanoff, which, it is reported, revealed approximately 4% in respect of his own collection, this implies four double frame varieties for

each one hundred stamps, not four stamps per sheet of one hundred, especially as we are not even quite sure that all sheets were printed from the same set of blue clichés. From collections of which we have some knowledge the following facts emerge:—

Rachmanoff. In a letter dated August 1953, Mr. Rachmanow informed me that he has forty copies showing the double frame. Accepting this figure of 4% this implies a collection of 1,000 copies.

Bojanowicz. 17 copies of the variety in a collection of 800 stamps, therefore approximately 2%.

Rich. According to the sale catalogue 350 stamps of which 9 show the double frames from 3 different clichés, or just over 3%.

Anglo-Russian Philatelic Society. An inquiry into this problem revealed 3 examples in 100 stamps, or 3%.

Thus, by any standards the variety is not a common one!

Had we more precise and complete data regarding dated covers bearing stamps showing the variety and more examples with sheet margins, we could add something to our theory. This demonstrates how necessary it is to arrange some form of collaboration between those who collect Poland No. 1, and also the reporting of all such copies in an effort to clear up some of the mystery which still surrounds this fascinating stamp.

During discussions about this issue

(Continued on Page 200-8)

The International Bicycle Races, "For Peace"

by Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan



The 15th Jubilee International Bicycle Races, so called "For Peace", took place from the 2nd to the 17th of May, 1962, on the route from Berlin to Prague to Warsaw, a distance of 2,369 km, i.e., over 1,410 miles.

The race — a magnificent event of cycling sport was sponsored from 1948 by two newspapers, issued by the Central Committees of the National Communist Parties: the Polish "Trybuna Ludu", Czechoslovakian "Rude Pravo", and from 1952 by a third newspaper, German "Neues Deutschland", and is enthusiastically followed by millions of people in many countries.

In this year's race, 21 teams of different countries will participate, namely from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Democratic Germany, Great Britain, Lebanon, Hungary, Morocco, Mongolia, Poland, Netherlands, Norway, Soviet Russia, Romania, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The total distance of 1,410 miles is divided in 14 daily races of 60 to 150 miles each day, as per the following table:

Date May	Stage No.	ROUTE	Distance in	
			Kms.	Miles
2	1	AROUND BERLIN	130	77
3	2	BERLIN-LEIPZIG	209	124
4	3	LEIPZIG-ERFURT	180	107
5	4	ERFURT-KARL MARX STADT	187	111
7	5	K. MARX STADT-KARLOVE VARY	122	72
8	6	KARLOVE VARY-PRAHA	160	96
9	7	PRAHA-BRNO	220	130
10	8	BRNO-GOTTVALDOV	137	82
12	9	GOTTVALDOV-OSTRAVA	181	108
13	10	OSTRAVA-POLE	178	106
14	11	POLE-VROCLAV	100	60
15	12	VROCLAV-POZNAN	175	104
16	13	POZNAN-RYDGOSZCZ	140	84
17	14	RYDGOSZCZ-WARSAW	250	148

(May 6 and 11 — holidays)



The world's biggest bicycling event has a yearly philatelic commemoration in the issues of stamps, labels, postal, — or philatelic-stationery, First Day Covers, souvenir folders and especially a large number of commemorative cancellations. The collecting of the Bicycle stamp issues enjoys great popularity among collectors of many countries, but until now, no comprehensive compilation of this subject has been prepared.

The total up to May 1, 1962 was 35 commemorative stamps, commemorating the races issued by five countries, as follows:

Poland: 16 stamps — Scott's Nos. 419, 547, 570-72, 620, 621, 680, 681, 727, 728, 777, 778, and on April 29, 1962, three new values.

Democratic Germany: 11 stamps — Scott's Nos. 98, 148-150, 208, 209, 239, 240, 289, 290 and 346.

Czechoslovakia: 5 stamps — Scott's Nos. 588, 747, 796, 797 and on Feb. 5, 1962, a new stamp of 30 hal. face value.

Romania: 2 stamps — Scott's Nos. 1153, 1154.

Soviet Union: 1 stamp — Scott's No. 1956.

Moreover, a large number of commemorative cancellations were used by various Post Offices in Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and during 14 races there were 136 various cancellations—

Polish Post Offices 54
Czechoslovakian 56
German 26

The complete list and designs of cancellations is to be found in the publication by F. Bura and T. Grodecki, "Wy-

ścig Pokoju w Filatelistyce" issued by Ruch in 1957, and in the supplement to this published in the No. 8, 'Filatelista' of 1962.

A topical collection: "The Bicycle Races in Philately" can contain a large number of stamps, labels, cancellations, covers, First Day Covers and postal stationery and will present an interesting contribution to the philatelic history of the cycling sport.

For the "lover" of the cycling sport, a table is presented below showing results of the 14 bicycle races.

POLAND NUMBER ONE

(Continued from Page No. 200-6)

which took place in Warsaw at the time of the centenary, an international committee was formed to foster such collaboration in the hope of revealing fresh information.

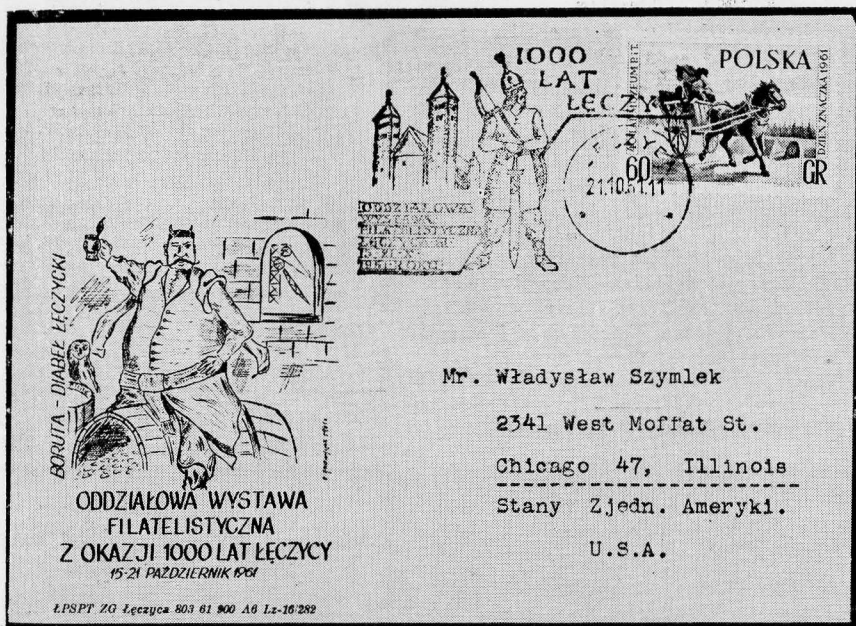
For the time being the committee consists of:

Great Britain .. Mr. M. A. Bojanowicz
Poland Mr. Gryzewski
U.S.A. Mr. Steczyński

This list will be enlarged by the inclusion of other prominent collectors in this field.

year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
route	W-P	P-W	P-W	W-P	P-W	W-B-P	P-B-W	W-B-P	P-B-W	W-B-P	P-B-W	B-P-W	P-W-B	W-B-P	B-P-W
distance Km	836	1127	1261	1489	1539	2132	2327	2091	2214	2212	2206	2209	2027	2349	2346
in miles	485	686	718	886	916	1247	1327	1220	1318	1316	1313	1224	1239	1359	1355
stages	5	7	8	9	9	12	12	13	13	12	12	13	13	13	14
number of members	65	55	101	70	71	94	93	114	106	141	84	120	108	119	121
teams	10	7	18	13	12	16	16	19	18	24	14	20	18	20	21
individual champion of race	ZORIC (Yugosl.)	ZORIC (Czechoslovakia)	VESELY (Czechoslovakia)	EMBORG (Denmark)	OLSEN (Denmark)	STEEL (S.A.B.)	PEDERSEN (Denmark)	DALGARDA (Denmark)	SCHUR (Germany)	KROLAK (Poland)	KRISTOV (Bulg.)	SCHUR (Germany)	SCHUR (Germany)	HAGEN (Germany)	MELICHBY (Russia)
team's winner	POLAND	POLAND	FRANCE	CZECH	CZECH	G.B.	GERM.	CZECH	CZECH	RUSS.	GERM.	RUSS.	RUSS.	GERM.	RUSS.
stamp	1	1	1	1	1	2	7	4	4	5	8	1	1	1	4
postmarks	3	7	12	9	12	13	17	15	8	9	6	8	8	9	?

Polish Folklore And Legends On Cachets



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The 100th Anniversary of the First Polish Postage Stamp presented an opportunity for local clubs in Poland to record their existence for posterity on various cachets and through special cancellations. All of them are of some historical value for Polish Philately. Depending, I guess, on the local talent and the clubs resources, some of these commemorative covers are real gems.

After the Centennary celebrations ended, leaving the record of commemorative markings of more or less, but mostly less artistic expressions on various Souvenirs, some clubs are following up with similar souvenirs for their annual local or regional stamp shows, using as a theme for a cachet local motifs, as historical structures and natural geographical attractions. One of the latest arrivals from Łęczyca has very skillfully adapted for their cachet the ancient legend about the town's Old Castle's jolly and mischievous underground dweller—Spooky Ghost Boruta! This novel theme, together with an appropriate postal marker were designed by Eng. Kleina for their Regional Exhibition, October 15 to 21st, 1961. The small-type legend (printers code) shows

that 900 of these covers were printed in black color. Another 500 under separate order were printed in red and 500 in red-brown.

Well organized, this Exhibition attracted some of the best known collections in Poland. Shown were: *

- 15 Collections of Poland
- 13 Topical Collections
- 8 Europe and Overseas
- 2 Junior Exhibits
- 2 Philatelic Literature Exhibits

We extend our congratulations to our member, Marian Duński, who successfully represented our Polonus Philatelic Society — and was awarded for his many specialized collections of Poland — The Silver Medal Award at this show. Over 3600 visitors from all parts of the country enjoyed the show.

— Information supplied by our member, Marian Duński. — WS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 8, 1962 — Meeting

Another Member's Bourse. Bring your duplicates of your really good material. Share your philatelic good fortune with the members. Only this way can we help each other. Please bring something to sell or please come prepared to buy.

June 22, 1962 — Meeting

Dr. Matthew E. Uznanski will be our speaker and his topic — "Stamps of Upper Silesia". The Doctor is noted for the stamps of Polish Plebescite Territories. He exhibited these stamps at Poland's Poznan Fair Exhibition last fall and won the Grand Award at this show.

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