

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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October 1952

Polish Forgeries in the Port Gdansk Overprints

by Herman Stallberg

Translated from the German by John Gapinski

PORT GDAŃSK PORT GDAŃSK

In this collecting field there are many forgeries, but these are so badly executed that most of the time they can be recognized without much difficulty. The most forged are the Michel Nos. 12, 13, 21 and 25, but caution is also advised with Nos. 1-11, 14-24 and 26-28. The forgeries can be mostly recognized by the deviating letters of the overprint and its dimensions, and many can also be recognized by the difference in ink. There is for example the No. 25, 1 zloty with the vertical overprint: a good forgery of the same with violet ink has not yet been found, all the forgeries have black overprints.

Following are the most known forgeries described:



It is noted that with these forgeries the greatest deviation is in the letters "P" (left top rounded instead of a sharp corner); "T" (thin vertical line); "A" (the connecting line

not perfectly horizontal; and "S" (too thin) and greatly different from the original. Besides this, the printing ink does not cover the paper sufficiently and under a magnifying glass many small white dots are visible. Finally, the size of the letters are different: Original, 2.9-3 mm.; forgeries 2.85-2.88 mm. Especially distinct on the forgeries are the very thin "R" and the considerably short "T" (2.65 instead of 2.8 mm.), and also the distance between the "O" and "A" which is almost 1 mm. larger on the forgeries than on the original overprint.

With the forgeries II and III the most important signs of recognition are again the outlines of the letters. On II the "S" is conspicuously leaning towards the right and the "P" is narrower, on III the letters are thicker and cruder than on the originals. On III the deviating form of the accent above "N" is very noticeable; also the letters of the word "PORT" are smaller than in "GDANSK."

The other forgeries of the "thin overprint" are so crude that they do not have to be described.

With the so-called "thick overprint" there is only one good forgery

PORT GDAŃSK

PORT GDAŃSK

known. Its characteristics are the thin letters and the smearing of the ink of the fresh overprint. The accent over the "N" does not run, like in the original to a point, but is of almost even thickness. The measurements differ very little (no more than 0.2 mm.)

The overprint on Michel Nos. 1-11 is almost the same as the one described under I-III (thin overprint) but the length of the word 'GDANSK' is on Nos. 1-11 only 15.0 mm. instead of 15.3 mm. (measured from the middle of the letters). This almost complete agreement of the measurements has been taken advantage of by the forgers, and their printing forms, described under I-III, have been used for the overprinting of Nos. 1-19. The length of the word "GDANSK" is therefore a safe recognizing mark of the forgeries.

Another especially dangerous forgery, with slightly thicker letters than the original, can be recognized only by the length of the word "GDANSK" which is 15.4 mm. instead of 15 mm.

The forgeries of the 1 zloty vertical overprint are in black ink strictly while the original has a light glossy dark-violet overprint.

REVIEW GROSZY OVERPRINTS

J. J. Domar

We have received a copy of a monograph on the "Groszy" overprints written and published by Mr. Wladislaw Kolakowski.

It deals with the official order which authorized the overprinting of the then current stamps, the author explains that this ruling applied to

all stamps withdrawn and whether in stock at the Post Offices or in private hands.

It shows also various overprints, the size of each and location used. It devotes a chapter to "local or private stamps: imaginative and falsifications," all in all it appears to be excellently presented.

We all may not agree with Mr. Kolakowski's opinion or statements, I for one do not entirely agree with him a 100% but there are many who do not always agree with me either.

We will not touch upon the question of the catalogue prices he lists, since it has been the practice of Polonus in the past to refrain from commenting about catalogue prices. My previous articles on these overprints voice my opinion, however, I do believe that for those who are interested in the "Groszy" overprints will find this book interesting. Those of you who are interested may obtain it from W. Kolakowski Co., P. O. Box 398, Great Neck, New York. The price is 75¢.

THIS IS AN EDITORIAL

Elsewhere in this issue is a list of members who have been placed on the list of dropped members.

It takes a long time to get 35 new members, and the decision to drop these was made only after every effort to retain them on the rolls was exhausted.

What does this mean to you and me? Well it means this, that somewhere along the line we must economize or increase our dues to meet the expenses. The last issue of the Bulletin itemized what it costs us to print and mail the Bulletin. With our present membership, the dues do not even cover the printing of the Bulletin, let alone the incidental expenses. Thanks to many who donated very freely this year. The audit shows a cash donation of about \$60.00—but in addition many have donated stamps which will bring an additional return of probably \$50.00 or more. But what about next year? We would like some comments—remember, this is your Society, the success or failure is as much your responsibility as it is the

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officers. Some who have carried the load are getting a little tired.

We do agree that the Bulletin can be improved upon. But, what have you done to help issue it? There is no one man with the time or knowledge to edit and prepare every issue of the Bulletin without assistance. Can You help?

These are our problems:

We need more members.

We need articles for the Bulletin.

We need money.

But most of all we need some enthusiasm.

Please write to me with any questions or ideas you may have.

J. J. Domar

A List of the Cancellations Used in Port Gdansk



a - c



No 1 - 3



Same with No. 1.
Same—larger letters and stars farther apart.



Different control letters.

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following have been dropped from the Membership Rolls of the Society for non-payment of dues:

Rev. I. J. Bialdyga #177
Dr. F. V. Bielski #180
Stanley Buck #307
Mitchell A. Derus #249
Stanley Dragonowski #461
Stanley Fatz #462
Walter Godek #411
Alex. F. Helgesen #375
John C. Kalisiak #445
Joseph S. Kay #378
W. Leja #10
Jos. Lesniewski #413
Dr. E. H. Lewandowski #94
Jos. Lewandowski #406
Stephen Malicki #379
Jerome Mehringer #423
Louis Mokwa #439
A. A. Nowolk, Jr. #328
Dr. M. A. Ołremski #388
W. Paradzinski #91
F. J. Polek #175
T. S. Price #56
Robert Renkosik #447
Walter J. Sass #442
Jan. Bronisław Schmidt #454
B. Semiginowski #246
Adam S. Skrzemski #422
Harold M. Smith #330
T. L. Stanczak #131
I. Stuczynski #186
R. Warpinski #396
C. C. Wrobel #170
Alex. M. Zarzycki #376

NEW ISSUES

J. J. Domar

In addition to the "New Issues" reported in the last issue (Sept. 1952) we have received a single stamp, roto-gravured, value of 45 gr. + 15, printed in lilac, showing a castle in the design. Across the top is the word FRYDMAN and across the bottom "POLSKA," no other information regarding this stamp is available at this time.

Three sets which were on the agenda for release, which we reported last month, have been received. The following is the official notification:

Issued in Commemoration of Aviation
Day

Date of issue: August 23, 1952

Values: 30+15 gr. Glider, green

45+15 gr. Aeroplane, red

90 gr. Parachuter, blue

Perf. 13, Green, full, Paper, white unwatermarked.

Steel plate engraved, at the PWPW Measurements 25.5x31.25 mm

Designed E. Konecki—Engraved B. Brandt (30 gr.)

C. Z. Slania—M. R. Polak (45 gr)

P.W.P.W.—St Lukazewski (90 gr)

1000th Birth Anniversary Issue

Date of issue: September 1, 1952

Values: 75 gr. Avicenna, red

90 gr. V. Hugo, sepia

Perforated 13—Gum: full

Paper, white, unwatermarked

Printing Steel Plate engraved

Size 25.5x31.25 mm

Designed K. Konecki—Engraved C. Z. Slavia (90 gr.)

P.W.P.W.—C. Z. Slavia (75 gr.)

Development of Shepyardo in Gdansk

Date of issue: September 10, 1952

Values: 5 gr. green

15 gr. red

Perforation: 13—Gum: full

Paper: white, unwatermarked

Printing: Steel plate engraved

Measurement: 25.5x31.25 mm.

Designed by B. Swiderska—Engraved E. Konecki.

Jos. Bieniecki

VARIMEX

(Note: "VARIMEX" P. O. Box 263, 264, Wilcza 50/52, Warsaw, Poland, is the sole exporter of stamps in Poland. They also furnish First Day Covers against a deposit.)

ESSAY SHEET

J. J. Domar

Recently, a number of essays were submitted to me of stamps issued over a period of a number of years. The stamps I had were printed in a light red. The designs are as follows: A ¾ profile of Julius Slowacki
75th Anniversary of Polish Post
1 Zloty—Warszawa—Zamek
500 Zloty—Airmail
1946 Swieto Morza

A bust portrait of Mickiewicz
 Two more designs of the 75th Anniversary of the Posts
 Two designs of Majdanek
 A design of Chopin
 A design of Mickiewicz and Pushkin
 All bore the inscription P.W.P.W.

The price asked for these items was about \$25.00, which is in my opinion far in excess of what they are worth.

In the first place the 12 stamps are printed on one sheet, and it is known that there are approximately 18 colors with a possibility of more. Considering the fact that the stamps were issued over a period of 3 to 4 years and now assembled into one sheet is evidence that they were printed strictly for revenue at the expense of the collector, therefore each time we purchase any of them we encourage similar action on future issues. So, in order to keep our hobby clean the best thing to do is to refuse to buy any but if we must have them we should not pay a penny over \$2.00 a sheet. Even that price is high—maybe a dollar would be a better figure, but better yet **DON'T BUY THEM**—I'd like your comments.

TID BITS

The Chicago Philatelic Society will hold a "Polonus Night" at their Thursday December 4th meeting to be held at the Sherman Hotel. A lecture on Poland's Postal History by four Polonus speakers is planned. Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz will speak on Early Postal History; Myron Steczynski will cover the period from 1919 to 1939; Jack Domar will give a resume of the General Issues; and Locals and Plebescites will be discussed by Dr. M. E. Uznanski.

Assorted auction catalogs of all leading auction houses will be available to members who attend meetings. Dr. Kozakiewicz is responsible for this service to our Society.

The October 24th meeting had Walter Emerson, popular stamp dealer, scheduled as guest speaker on his experiences in the stamp field.

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POLAND COMBINES POSTAGE AND TAX

(Reprinted from Western Stamp Collector)

Recent issues of Poland with denominations expressed as 45 plus 15 groszy or 1.20 zloty plus 15 groszy pose something of a problem to the cataloger since they are not semi-postals in the ordinary sense, but postage plus tax stamps.

Poland is collecting a tax of 15 zloty on all internal letters to raise funds to finance the rebuilding of Warsaw, a letter published in an Austrian philatelic publication explains.

Postal tax stamps showing workers laying bricks are provided to show payment of this postal tax and these labels have been cataloged as stamps. The 15 groszy labels are printed in green. Before Poland's currency reform the labels were brown and had a face value of 5 zloty.

A few months ago, the writer in the Austrian publication reports, Polish postal authorities decided to make it easier for its patrons to pay this tax and began stamps in semipostal style with a total face value representing both postage and the Warsaw Rebuilding tax.

So in commemorative series the 45 groszy stamp (internal letter rate) is issued as a 45 plus 15 groszy value and the 1.20 zloty stamp (internal registered letter rate) is issued as a 1.20 zloty plus 15 groszy stamp. In a series containing more than these denominations, the other values (foreign letters, air mail, etc.) don't carry this surcharge.

Poland's rate for foreign letters is only 40 groszy, so it's actually cheaper for a Pole to write a letter to Austria than to another town in his own country.

BULLETIN ADVERTISING RATES

At the request of several members we quote ad rates: Full page \$8.00; Half page \$5.00; Quarter page \$3.00; Minimum ad \$1.00. Send copy and remittance to editor.

CORRECTION*

Jack Domar wishes to correct a statement in last month's issue in which was stated that he has a new system for measuring Krakow issues. This system was suggested by Messrs. Wolosewick and Gapinski. Mr. Domar carried out this suggestion further.

Flash — Prices Slashed

Our European agent just purchased a vast lot of European stamps at unbelievably low prices. We now plan to offer these outstanding buys to our fellow Polonus members. Below is the list of these offers.

-1- Offer #1 -1-	
Estonia Souvenir Sheets	
Scotts #142a Mint C.v.	\$1.25
	Net 25¢
Scotts #147a Mint C.v.	\$1.25
	Net 25¢
Scotts #B39a Mint C.v.	\$3.50
	Net 70¢

Poland Unused	
#14 Block of 16 -----	3.75
#20a Inverted, Block ----	4.00
#188 Upper Silesia, Imperf. slight thin, unused ----	10.00
#306-7 Block of 4 -----	5.00
#J75 Small Type -----	2.00
#J92 Vert. L. Paper ----	8.75
#NB41 Unhinged -----	.90
Fr. Morocco	
#C4-6 Airmail -----	1.00
Germany	
#9N35-41 U.P.U. -----	1.75
-1- -1-	

Zumstein 1953 Catalog
(written in German)
\$3.65 Postpaid

For Scott 1953 Catalogs see our ad in Sept. 1952 Polonus Bulletin

Your name placed on our
"Monthly Specials" mailing
list upon your request only.

Postage extra on order less than
\$1.00.

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John Gapinski

Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Stamps for the Wounded



THE WAR IS OVER . . . BUT THE MALADIES LINGER ON

Yes the maladies of war linger on and on. You can see for yourself if you visit the veterans' hospitals.

Give now! Give generously! The war is not over for those men still in the hospitals!

Send your donation now to Stamps for the Wounded, c/o Barney Fialkowski, 2633 N. Emmett St., Chicago 47, Ill.