

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX HONORS THREE EVENTS

If you remember, Fred Szebel organized Polpex '69 for the 25th anniversary of the Battle for Monte Cassino and the Warsaw Uprising. The year 1994 will bring the 50th anniversary of the above historical events as well as the 200th anniversary of the Kosciuszko Insurrection in 1794, shortly after the Second Partition of Poland. Despite the Kosciuszko victory at Racławice, the uprising was squashed by the Russians and the third and final Partition of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria took place in 1795.

Three special cancellations were suggested by Fred Szebel and were artistically executed by our Honorary member, Leon S. Kawecki of California. They were already presented to the U.S. Post Office for approval.



We are planning the usual Polpex program catalog with the lists of committees, exhibitors, philatelic articles, ads, patrons, etc. New and old Polonus members will be taking part in the exhibit. For entry forms write to T. Wesolowski, 8456 N. Olcott, Niles, IL 60714. Use the 1994 dues envelope to help with the expense of the exhibition.

PANA members will show their special medals of the II Corps, Warsaw Uprising and the Kosciuszko Insurrection. It is also possible that three military organizations will participate during Polpex '94 on March 18-20, 1994 at the House of the White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Niles, Illinois.

—Fred Szebel, Chairman

A WARSAW UPRISING PHILATELIC GEM

By EDWARD T. SUPERSON

Within the framework of occupied Poland in World War II collection, we encounter the Warsaw Uprising stamps.

One of the philatelic rarities is the fieldpost stamp set issued by the AK (Armia Krajowa). Towards the end of the Uprising, the Polish boy scouts (ZHP - Związek Harcerzy Polskich), who so heroically helped the AK with the mail, prepared a philatelic commemorative item: 50 sets of stamps issued by the AK Field Post were affixed on 50 Polish pre-war postcards bearing the 15 groszy Jagiellończyk stamp. These postcards have been discovered in the basement of the Warsaw main post office, captured from Germans by the AK units. These were overprinted by the Z. Kopczyńska Printing Press, located at 41 Świętokrzyska in Warsaw. Later, the printing company's building was destroyed during the Uprising.

Each set of these five AK Field Post stamps was affixed on the reverse side of the overprinted postcards and cancelled with AK Field Post cds (Circular date-stamp).



Unfortunately, the majority of these limited in number commemorative items perished during the Uprising. The illustrated postcard in this short article is one of the few which somehow miraculously survived. The 1990 Polish specialized catalogue "Ruch" lists this philatelic commemorative item on page 342. This gem has not only a high philatelic value because it is rare, but also it represents a deep patriotic and historical memento.

The above description would be incomplete without the following story: Years ago, one of the Polish stamp dealers, here in the States, wrote me a letter that he had this rare item for sale. However, his condition was that the buyer had to be Polish, because as he stated, he wanted to have such an item retained in Polish hands and he asked me to call him. He kept me on the phone for a while, interrogating me in Polish to be sure I met his condition.

I may add, that before my album will finally be closed, I will leave the word with my wife to continue the dealer's noble condition.

Reprinted from the POLISH PHILATELIC REVIEW published by the Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain, Oct. 1991 issue.

A VISIT WITH DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG



It is always a treat to visit Stanley Kronenberg. While visiting my sister in New Jersey, I stopped by Dr. Kronenberg one evening. He is devoting all his free time to Polish philately. *Polonus Bulletin* and other philatelic publications carry his knowledgeable articles, research, etc.

During the evening we browsed through endless albums of his Polish collection — the most complete in the world, including essays, proofs, errors, etc.

We discussed various phases of Polish philately and he showed me stamps and covers of special interest to me. He collects everything pertaining to Poland including unofficial stamps, and labels. His expertising of Polish stamps is the best in the world. If you have any stamps, overprints that are questionable, drop a note to: Dr. Stanley Kronenberg, Hollow Road, Skillman, NJ 08558 for his opinion. Send return postage, please.

—Fred Szebel

STAMP MARKET TIP — FIRST "PORT GDANSK" ISSUE

By JOHN G. ROSS

Reprinted from LINN'S STAMP NEWS with permission

After the end of World War I, by provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, Poland achieved independence from Russia. Poland was given part of what had been Germany, providing the desired access to the Baltic Sea, although Poland did not get the city of Danzig. Danzig was made a free city.



In 1925, Poland received part of Danzig's territory, and it established the Port Gdansk (Danzig) post office here early that year.

Poland issued special stamps for the Port of Danzig. Over the years these stamps have become scarce and are difficult to find.

Look for the first set of 11 stamps issued in January, 1925, Scott 1K1-11. Printing was close to 400,000 sets, but many were used for postage. It's not easy to find complete sets. The 1994 Scott catalog prices the 11 unused, hinged stamps at \$64.65, unchanged from the 1993 retail value.

Dealers in Western Europe are paying more than \$60 for the set, and their retail prices are close to \$100.00. The Scott catalog warns of forgeries. I have never seen any mint stamps from this issue with forged overprints, but there is a good chance that some used stamps could bear fake overprints.

If you are thinking of buying a used set, be sure to have the stamps expertised, especially the pricier stamps in the set.

1994 DUES NOW PAYABLE

In 1994 Polonus will be 55 years old. We made it this far thanks to members like you who have stuck with us all these years. The officers and directors are a dedicated bunch of men and God willing, we will continue as we have in the past.

With the end of 1993 dues for the next year are payable as of January 1st, 1994. Enclosed with this bulletin is a remittance envelope. We hope you renew your membership and continue to support Polonus.

FROM THE EDITOR

I did it to Dr. Kronenberg again! Left out an important paragraph in his article, "Grodno Connecting Mail in 1919". The fourth paragraph was erroneously left out. A thousand pardons!

Here is the missing paragraph . . .

Lieutenant Bauer bought the entire supply of the prepared 40 groszy Polish stamps at their face value, overprinted them all in red by means of the rubber stamp: "V.P./Grodno" (Verbindungspost/Grodno = Connecting Mail/Grodno) and sold them to the public for use as postage on civilian mail. German military mail and official German mail did not require postage.

Krakow Postal History Before 1918

By JANUSZ ADAMCZYK

(Translated from Polish by Stanley Kronenberg)

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)



The Main Foreign Post Office of the Kingdom of Poland in Kraków continued to use the available postmarks of F.C. Kraków and in addition introduced its own wax seals and other postal paraphernalia.

Somewhat earlier than this period, in 1833 the "Extraordinary Commission" was created by the representatives of Austria, Prussia and Russia which was addressed by the Senate with a motion to vindicate the postal privilege. The motion by the Senate which intended to have the Prussian and Austrian mails in Kraków liquidated was founded on the fact that the competition by these posts deprived Kraków of a substantial income. Another important rationale was the impossibility to conduct censorship of mail arriving in Kraków (which was required from F.C. Kraków by the treaty) without the cooperation of posts which were independent of the F.C. Kraków Government.

The motions of the Senate were to some extent supported by Prussia which on October 28, 1834 signed an agreement which regulated the activities of the Prussian mail in Kraków as a result of bargaining between the Director of Posts in F.C. Kraków Gadomski and the representative of the Prussian Government, Wiltschek. The agreement allowed Prussia to establish postal dispatches in Liszki, Poreba and Lipowiec along the route Kraków — Nowe Bieranie. On this route the Prussian post had the right to transport travelers and to maintain connections by means of couriers and relays. In exchange, the Prussian post obligated itself to transport free of charge newspapers, registered letters and parcels.

The Prussian post office in Kraków and its stations within the F.C. Kraków territory were obligated to display two coats of arms: that of F.C. Kraków and of the Kingdom of Prussia which supposedly symbolized the sovereignty of F.C. Kraków. In the stations of the Prussian post resided clerks of F.C. Kraków whose responsibility it was to forward official mail from F.C. Kraków Government to the elders of villages and to other local officials.

The Prussian post office was located in the house of the senator David Oebschelewitz, 462 St. John Street.

The Prussian post in Kraków used three types of mailing postmarks and one arrival postmark. These postmarks are very rare due to the small volume of correspondence with Prussia (in German philately they are valued very highly) (photograph No. 9).

KRAKAU
17. APR.



Austria reacted negatively to the motion presented to the Extraordinary Commission concerning the vindication of the postal privilege stating that within postal communication, Kraków is a part of the Austrian Empire. Arguments stating the large amount of losses of revenue by the post of F.C. Kraków due to depriving it of its old postal routes on which now Austrian mail operated did not help.

The Austrians created in Kraków only a letter collectin place (the lowest class of postal facility) but considering the fact that in nearby Podgórze, they had a postal station and a postal coach stop, they were able to take on without effort, the continuously increasing turnover in correspondence between Kraków and the nearby towns in Galicia.

In 1826 Kraków through Podgórze, had connections three times per week with places located on the Vienna route through Ołomuniec and then through Tarnów, Lwów to Radziwiłłów. This track together with the road between Kraków and Podgórze was served by express mail called "fast coach mail" (Eilwagen).

The large amount of correspondence required an increased amount of supplies necessary for providing mail service. This is confirmed by the fact that the Austrian post in Kraków used the largest number of types of postal markings for different purposes. The first Austrian postmark in Kraków used the German name for the city but used Latin spelling "CRACAU". This postmark without a date was used 1818-1824. After that period the Austrian mail in Kraków stopped using postmarks in that town and sent them to Podgórze. After receiving letters from Kraków, the postal station in Podgórze postmarked the letters "Cracovie" which according to contemporary regulations had to define the country of the state of origin. As a result of the progressing evolution of the postmarks and the more frequently occuring need for the date of the mailing of letters, the subsequent postmarks of the Austrian post in Kraków, have beside the name of the town also the date of their application. Besides these mailing postmarks, the Austrian post initiated also supplementary postmarks for registered mail (Recommandiert) and for mail prepared by the sender (Franco). (Photograph No. 10).

CRACAU Cracovie

RECOMANDIRT



Cracovie
9. AUG

FRANCO

In February 1846, with aspirations for independence and the dissatisfaction with social conditions in the Free City of Kraków an uprising erupted, the so-called Revolution of Kraków. During February 22 and March 3, 1846, the dictator of the uprising, Jan Tyssowski, among the ministers he nominated for his government nominated also Hieronim Kochanowski as the Director of Posts. At the time when the posts of Austria, Prussia and the Kingdom of Poland ceased to operate, the newly nominated director managed already on March 1, 1846 to activate the mail to Michałowi-

ce on the Kingdom of Poland route and to Bierań on the Prussian route.

The uprising was improperly prepared and collapsed within a short time. As a result, the chairman of the temporary government of F.C. Kraków, Fieldmarshal Count Heinrich Castiglione in the names of Austria, Prussia and Russia, announced on November 16, 1846, the liquidation of F.C. Kraków and its territory and its annexation to Austria.

After incorporation of F.C. Kraków into Austria, its "court Commissioner" Count Maurycy Deym issued an order on December 14, 1846, on whose basis a postal station was established in Kraków. Simultaneously the location of the post was changed by moving it from 221 Franciszkańska Street to the Treasury building in Stradom where the mail coach stop was also established. This order contained also the schedule of the mail coach routes and the prices for different postal services. For the public's convenience, a mailbox was installed in the marketplace for private mailings which did not require payment.

Austria did not have a post office at its border with the Kingdom of Poland, therefore the functions of such a post office were handled by the post office in Kraków. This state of affairs is confirmed by the fact (among others) that letters arriving from the Kingdom of Poland or from Russia to Kraków or through Kraków to Austria were marked with a special stamp which identified the country from which they arrived.

While F.C. Kraków existed, Austria was interested in a fast, economical and strategic development of Podgórze to make it a competitor and a counterbalance to Kraków. During the first half of the 19th century. Podgórze changed from a small settlement into a sizable town whose population kept increasing steadily. The postal station and mail coach station located in Podgórze with their continuously increasing routes and the amount of mailings started to play an increasingly important role in the Austrian postal system. The increased activity of that mail required the introduction of new postal marks (photograph No. 11).

Podgorze



Podgorze
21 JAN.

PODGORZE
14 AUG

PODGORZE
6. MAL.

During the Cholera epidemic in Galicia 1830-1831, sanitizing places were organized at the border stations at which pieces of mail were disinfected (after making holes in the letter, hot air was injected). Such a place was also created in Podgórze. It applied a special postmark which confirmed the disinfection with the text: "externally and internally cleaned in Podgórze". This postmark is one of exceptional rarities (photo No. 12).

VON
AUSSEN UND INEN
GEREINIGT ZU
PODGORZE

In the late 40's of the 19th century in the partitioned Polish lands a revolution in the area of communication was initiated by starting the construction of new railroad routes.

On October 13, 1847 "the first steam engine with a considerable train of passenger wagons and boxcars" departed from Kraków. This started the era of railroad communication in Kraków.

The first railroad line was 65 kilometers long and connected Kraków with Mysłowice (which at that time was located in the Prussian partition) and went through Krzeszowice, Trzebinia and Szczakowa. Next year, 1848, a branch line was built to Maczki, which resulted in the connection with the Warsaw-Vienna line. A further connection linked Kraków with the network of already existing railroad lines which went to Wrocław, Vienna, Berlin, Warsaw and with those under construction in Europe, gave the city a chance of economic activation. In the railroad station, built in 1847, a post office was installed on February 25, 1856, which took over the dispatch of mail. The end of the mail coach had arrived.

The first half of the 19th century abounded in important events which made the postal history of Kraków very interesting. Its second part was sufficiently stabilized to make me decide to discuss its postal history with the pioneering starts and the new forms and means of its functioning as the background.

June 1, 1850 opens a new chapter of philately in Polish lands; on this day, in the Austrian partition, the first postage stamps issued in five denominations of 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 Kreuzers appeared.

In spite of undeniable earlier general instructions, the first stamps in Kraków presented the post with some problems. There were probably no strict and clear instructions how to cancel stamps affixed on letters and this may explain the creation, in Kraków, of an ornamental postmark without the town's name or date generally described as "mute" (one of only several made in the entire Austrian monarchy). In principle this postmark occurs on stamps, while on other parts of letters, the postmark appears with the name and date. This principle was not followed strictly, because covers are known with only the mute postmark on stamps. The period of use of the mute postmark on the first issue of Austrian stamps was very short and the post stopped using it either on its own or on orders from superior authorities. The inborn tendency of the postal clerks in Kraków to be thrifty and to have foresight, prevented the destruction of this postmark and when 13 years later, there was temporarily no postmark available for cancelling newspaper stamps, the mute postmark was remembered and was used again. This is the rarest and highest priced postmark of Kraków. A similar rarity would be a cover prepaid with one of the first stamps, issued June 1, 1850, and postmarked with that date. Does such a cover exist? Perhaps it is awaiting discovery in great-grandmother's trunk in the attic.

After the Kraków and Podgórze post offices stopped using the mute postmark on the first Austrian stamps, they returned to pre-stamp postmarks. These pioneering experiments were stopped by the normalization of date postmarks by the Austrian mail. In the 60's of the 19th century, a postmark of an interesting square shape with cut off corners appeared. Available and known documentation of this postmark indicates that it was constructed for use as an arrival postmark.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE POLISH FIELD POST OFFICES OF THE POLISH FORCES IN ITALY — 1943-1946



By Z. RYSZARD BOJAKOWSKI

After the Libyan Campaign of 1941 and intensive training in the Middle East the units of the Polish Army M.E. arrived in Italy to join the Central Mediterranean Forces (C.M.F.) as part of the famous British Eighth Army, under the name of the 2nd Polish Army Corps.

The letters of Polish Field Post Office in Italy (CMF) were very similar to those of the Middle East (ME) covers and include several which were flown by air. Letters marked O.A.S. (On Active Service) were free of charge, but letters over 20 g., registered or Air Mails were franked with G.B. stamps, sometimes U.S.A. stamps were used.

All postal markings of the Polish F.P.O.'s which operated in Italy contained the words "POCZTA POLOWA" (Field Post) as part of the cancellation.

The Polish F.P.O.'s in Italy were working as complete units and included their own "Biuro Cenzury", B.C. (Censor Bureau) and normally were assigned to a specific unit of the 2nd Polish Army Corps. After the mail was censored and cancelled, it was then handed over to the British for shipment to its destination. On occasions the British re-censored the mail and applied their own censor markings on these letters. Censorship was discontinued on October 1st, 1945.

DATESTAMPS USED BY THE POLISH F.P.O.'s IN ITALY

Fig. 1. Double circle, 28½ mm. dia., inner circle 18 mm. dia. inscribed "GŁOWNA POCZTA POLOWA" (Base F.P.O.), number at the base between ornaments, date in one line across the center with last two figures of the year. Used by Base FPO 104. **This is type 1.**

Type 2. (not illustrated). Double circle, 30 mm. dia., inner circle 22 mm. dia. inscribed "GŁOWNA POCZTA POLOWA", number at the base between ornaments, date in one line across the center with the year indicated in full. Used also by Base FPO 104.

Fig. 2. Double circle, 30 mm. dia., inner circle 20 mm. dia. inscribed "POCZTA POLOWA" at the top, office number without ornaments, boxed date in one line across the center with last two figures of the year. Used by FPO 106 and FPO 117 T.2.

Fig. 3. Double circle, 26½ mm. dia., inner circle 14 mm. dia. inscribed "POCZTA POLOWA" with office number between ornaments, date in three lines with the month in Roman numerals and the year indicated in full. Used by FPO's 109, 125, 126, 128 and 129.

Fig. 4. Double circle, 28 mm. dia., inner circle 17 mm. dia. inscribed "POCZTA POLOWA" with office number between ornaments, date in one line across the center with last two figures of the year. Used by FPO's 111, 113, 116, 118, 119, 121, 122, 123, 124 and 127.

Fig. 5. Single circle, 34 mm. dia. inscribed "POCZTA POLOWA" at the top, office number at the base without ornaments, date in one line across the center between two parallel lines with the month in Roman numerals and last two figures of the year. Used by FPO's 130, 131, 132

SKETCH-MAP OF ITALY SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATIONS OF POLISH F.P.O.'s



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

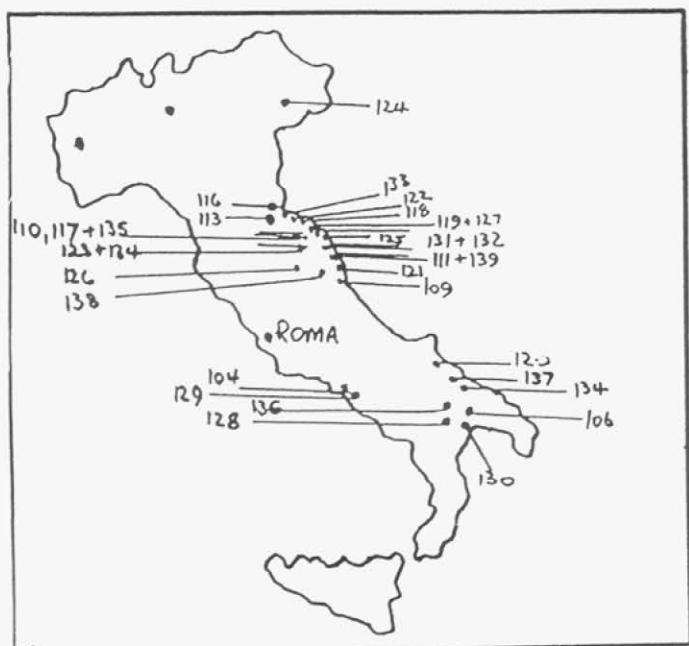


Fig. 6. Double circle, 30 mm. dia., inner circle 18 mm. dia., inscribed "POCZTA POLOWA", office number without ornaments, date in three lines with the month in Roman numerals and last two figures of the year. Used by FPO's 110, 120, 134, 136 and 139.

Fig. 7. Double circle, 30 mm. dia., inner circle 22 mm. dia., inscribed "POCZTA POLOWA", office number between ornaments, date in one line across the center with the month in Roman numerals and the year indicated in full. Used by FPO's 133, 135, 138 and 140.

CENSOR MARKINGS

Polish censor markings exist in black or purple ink. They are bilingual. The upper part is inscribed in Polish: "OCENZUROWANO" (censored) and the lower part in English: "EXAMINED BY CENSOR." (Fig. 8). The following numbers have been seen: 52, 53, 54, 102, 103, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115. These numbers identify the censor's office and were placed in the center of a handstamp.

British Censor Markings: Small "crown" inside a circular cachet. Strikes in black, violet, red or green ink were used by the D.C.F.C. (Deputy Chief Field Censor. (Fig. 9).

"Shield" type capped with the crown and inscribed in the center "PASSED BY/CENSOR/NO....., in black, violet or green ink. (Fig. 10).

In addition some letters bear a double line circular or oval cachet (the latter about 27 mm. across) with the number inside it. These are

LIST of LAST KNOWN LOCATIONS of POLISH F.P.O.'s in ITALY

	LOCATION	ACTIONED	HANDSTAMP
BASE			
FPO 104	Naples (T.1 & T.2)	M.E.	Fig.1
FPO 106	San Basilio	M.E.	" 2
FPO 109	Pescara	M.E.	" 3
FPO 110	Porto Recenati	CMF.	" 6
FPO 111	San Benedetto	M.E.	" 4
FPO 113	Forlì	M.E.	" 4
FPO 116	Meldola	M.E.	" 4
FPO 117	Porto Recenati (T.2)	M.E.	" 2
FPO 118	Senigallia	M.E.	" 4
FPO 119	Ancona	CMF.	" 4
FPO 120	Barletta	CMF.	" 6
FPO 121	Gulianova	M.E.	" 4
FPO 122	Pesaro	M.E.	" 4
FPO 123	Macerata	M.E.	" 4
FPO 124	Vittorio Veneto	M.E.	" 4
FPO 125	Porto Civitanova	CMF.	" 3
FPO 126	Camerino	CMF.	" 3
FPO 127	Ancona	M.E.	" 4
FPO 128	Matera	CMF.	" 3
FPO 129	Naples	CMF.	" 3
FPO 130	Mottola	M.E.	" 5
FPO 131	Porto S.Giorgio	CMF.	" 5
FPO 132	Porto S.Giorgio	M.E.	" 5
FPO 133	Cervia	CMF.	" 7
FPO 134	Macerata	CMF.	" 6
FPO 135	Porto Recenati	CMF.	" 7
FPO 136	Casamassima	CMF.	" 6
FPO 137	Bari	CMF.	" 7
FPO 138	Ascoli Piceno	CMF.	" 7
FPO 139	San Benedetto	CMF.	" 6
FPO 140	Bari	CMF.	" 7



Fig.5



Fig.6



Fig.7

+++++

the C.I.N. (Censor Identity Number) handstamps of the British Army censors which were applied at the Base F.P.O. (Fig. 11).



Fig.8



Fig.10



Fig.12



Fig.9



Fig.11

Mail destined to and from Polish Army units in U.K. bears markings of the Polish Field Post Office in U.K. (Fig. 12).

OTHER POSTAL MARKINGS

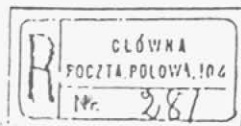


Fig.12

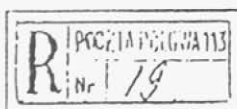


Fig.13



Fig.14

Registration handstamps in black or purple ink. (Figs. 12, 13 & 14).
Air Mail cachets of several types were used in black or purple ink.
(Figs. 15 and 16).



Fig.15



Fig.16

Several types of censor's adhesive labels were introduced. These labels were printed in red. In 1942 bilingual labels (English / Polish) were introduced and were solely used by B.C., attached to Base FPO 104, after re-censoring the mail for foreign destination.

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TRIALS OF AN EDITOR

The typographical error
is a slippery thing — and shy,
You can hunt until you're dying,
but it somehow will get by.
Till the forms are off the presses,
it is strange how still it keeps;
That typographical error
is too small for human eyes,
Till the ink is on the paper,
when it grows to mountain size.
The editor stares with horror;
then he grabs his hair and groans;
The copy reader drops his head
upon his hands and moans.
The remainder of the issue
may be clean as clean can be,
But — that typographical error
is the only thing you see.

—Author Unknown

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