

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave.

Issue 130

July-August 1955

HEROES FOR LIBERTY

T. KOSCIUSZKO, H. DABROWSKI AND R. TRAUGUTT
ON THE STAMPS OF THE POLISH PEOPLES REPUBLIC

by Marian Dunski

Translated from the Polish by Zdzislaw Obara



This article was written to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Polish Peoples Republic and was to have appeared in the Edinburgh "Philatelist" in 1954.

As a consequence of the summer offensive by the Soviet and Polish troops in 1944, the Germans evacuated the territory to the Wisła and Wisłoka rivers. Lublin was then the center of freed Poland. It was here that the first set of stamps was issued by free Poland. The values were 25 gr., 50 gr. and 1 zloty. This set has many names among collectors, some of which are:

National Heroes Series
Fighters for Freedom
Leaders' Series
The Lublin Issue

The following references were used in the preparation of this article:

1. "Dziennik Taryf Pocz. i Tele. Nr. 1, Rok VII," Lublin, 16 stycznia 1945.
1. "Dziennik Taryf Nr. 2" Warszawa 1 lipca, 1945.

3. A. Taszkiewicz—"Znaki Pocztowe Polski Demokratycznej 1947-49"

In Sept. 1944 the Post and Telegraph Communication Section of the National Liberation Committee in Lublin found a need for stamps in the newly formed government. To satisfy this need the Director of the Section Jan Grubecki ordered from the Moscow printery "Goznak" 14,000,000 stamps at 25 and 50 groszy. When these did not arrive after a period of time a project was started to issue provisional stamps in Lublin. Postal fees were being paid in cash at this time. Immediately after the liberation period certain localities issued their own stamp by overprinting German General Gouv. stamps. Some of these were: Aug. 2, 1944 Leżaj, Aug. 5, 1944 Zamość, Aug. 7, 1944 Rudnik, Aug. 27, 1944 Wąwolnica, Sept. 19, 1944 Niezabitów.

The above listed revolutionary issues have been written up in the following:

"Wiadomości Filatelist." London
"Filatelista Polski" Poznan
"Filatelista" Edinburgh, 1947-52

All of the mentioned articles are by this writer.

It should be emphasized here that the Official Post and Tel. Section chose the difficult road rather than initiate stamp production by usage of overprints. That there were people interested in the production of Polish stamps by overprinting is proven by the following letter printed in "Rzeczpospolita" Aug. 4, 1944 entitled "About Polish Postage Stamps." "I (we) would like to suggest the following—A Polish eagle with POCZTA POLSKA, LUBLIN, PKWN-LUBLIN and POCZTA POLSKA and a picture of the monument for Red Heroes. The propaganda value of these stamps would be high as they would be sent all over the world and their pictures would appear in all philatelic literature. It would also be fair since the Germans in 1939 overprinted Polish stamps with their crow and swastika. We could should the German crow (eagle) and swastika have been crushed by the Polish Eagle. We demand such satisfaction from the Postal Director."—Signed "The Philatelist."

The author of the first design was Sgt. Witz a co-worker of the editor of "Rzeczypospolita." The design showed a likeness of R. Traugutt and a laurel wreath. It was seen in the postal section Aug. 16, 1944 but was not approved. It was printed in black by the firm "Chemografja Lubelska." They are printed on the back of advertising sheets. The advertisement is for a card game called "Koloryt".

The next design was worked out by Engineer Ogórkiewicz, director of Post and Tele. Buildings in Lublin. This design showed a trumpet. This design was to be used for 25 gr., 50 gr. and 1 złoty stamps. Each value was to have 30,000 stamps issued. There were no proofs. At the time the design was not accepted and only later was the design accepted and then to be used for Postage Due stamps, values 1, 2, 3 and 5 złoty. They were issued in the Polish Govt. Printing Office in Łódź in 1945.

The next designs were also submitted by Eng. Ogórkiewicz. They were accepted Aug. 23, 1944 by Lt. Matuszewski (later a Minister in the Propaganda Section.)

On the back of each design the director wrote:

- on the 25 gr. (Traugutt)—red color
- on the 50 gr. (Kościuszko)—dark green color
- on the 1 złoty (Dąbrowski)—dark blue color

With the designs the minister also sent the following letter:

"Lublin, 23-8-1944

P.K.W.N.

Resort (Dept. or Section)

Komunicji Pocz. i Telegraf

Nr. P. 1/177

To Direc. Posts & Teleg.

Enclosed please find three designs (proposed) for postage stamps. They are as follows:

1. 25 gr. with likeness of R. Traugutt
2. 50 gr. with T. Kosciuszko
3. 1 złoty with H. Dąbrowski

We would appreciate 50,000 of each value. The colors are marked on the backs of the designs. Proofs in various shades should be shown to the Transportation Dept. for approval. After approval they should be sent to the printing office. Payment will be made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Finances. The dies will be kept by that organization in the event that more printings will be needed.

Director—Section Communica.
Post & Tel.

(Signed) Eng. Jan Grubecki

The proofs were made in "Chemografja-Lubelska" in Lublin. First, two zinc plates were made. One was lined and the other a screen. The printings from the two were identical except that the lined plates were scribed for stamp size. The screen plates were found unsatisfactory and not used. Trial prints and proofs were printed on the backs of various advertising leaflets most of which were from the "Koloryt" Company. Thirty proofs of the screen plate were cut apart and a plate plan of each value was set up. The thirty stamps were arranged in five horizontal rows of six. The plates were made with lines to indicate alignment of the dies. It is interesting that the plates were made the same size as the designs and no enlargement was needed. In the points of the definitions we notice on the margins the edges of the individual dies. The plates were reproduced by the collodion method from

which both rotary and flat plates can be made. Individual die proofs and plate proofs were made. Various colors except black were run off. The 25 gr. was printed in various shades of red. All proofs are imperforated and differ from the released stamps by a wide printed screen margin on the outside edge of the plate printing. It is possible that other proofs were made since the printing was done without postal dept. control. As an example, a proof of N3 III exists on "Koloryt" paper with no explanations for its existence.

On Sept. 7, 1944 an official destruction of all dies and negatives not to be used for printing took place. The original designs, their photo reproductions and the plates used for printing were placed into storage in the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. The original zinc plates were given to the firm of J. Pietrzykowski in Lublin who made printings when requested by government order.

The zinc plates were used to make the stone litho plates which in turn were the plates used in the printing of the stamps. The plates were thirty stamps but the presses were capable of handling a larger size sheet so two plates were printed together with the sheets tete beche to each other. The completed sheets were like two pages with printing on pages 1 and 3. The two sheets were then tete beche and reverse (one impression on one side and one on the other).

The stamps were perf. 11½, all perforated with one machine which supposedly could perforate 60 stamps at a time. Since the perforator did not function well sheets are found with perforations missing on one side. Some sheets were perf. from the front and others from the back. The ink is uneven with stamps from the same sheet varying in color.

These stamps do not show errors or damaged plates but they do show very slight check lines where the dies were aligned. Stamp no. 24 of the 1 zloty value shows a "big head". When the sheet is examined it seems that the head of Dąbrowski is larger on that stamp than on the others.

The first printing was 15,000 of the 25 gr. (250 sheets were sent to Lublin on Sept. 6, 1944). They were placed

on sale the following day. Shortly thereafter (Sept. 7th or 8th) the other values were distributed.

Catalogs describe the set as follows: Sept. 7, 1944 Lublin Issue—Issued by the Polish Committee for Freedom of Poland. Three National Heroes. Design of Eng. L. Ogórkiewicz. Lithographed by the firm of Prof. J. Pietrzykowski in Lublin. White paper. Perf. 11½. Ungummed. Unwatermarked.

	Amount
1. 25 gr. brick red	54,300
1a. Imperf.	120
2. 50 gr. dark green	54,900
2a. Imperf.	120
3. 1 zloty deep ultramarine	54,600
3a. Imperf.	120

The official announcements were made after the stamps were issued sometime about Sept. 12, 1944 in the "Dziennik Taryf" of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Chas. J. Sidlowski
103 Java St.
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.
Dr. Conrad P. Straub
Highland Dr., Route 3
Clinton, Tenn.
John A. Saltis
2127 W. 19th St.
Chicago 8, Ill.
Ben Kolanda
612 N. May St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

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Utica 4, N.Y.
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1222 N. State Pkwy.
Chicago 10, Ill.
William R. Jusack
10510 S. Whipple
Chicago 43, Ill.

BULLETIN ADS — PRICE LIST

Full Page —	\$12.00
Half Page —	7.00
Quarter Page —	4.00
One inch ad —	1.50

For Polonus Members Only. Copy for ads should be sent to the editor.

SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC

Our Picnic held July 24th at Doc Kozy's Powers Lake Resort turned out to be a fabulous success. 84 persons were counted but over 100 were present during the entire day.

Among the activities were swimming, three-legged races, regular races, egg throwing contests, baseball, volleyball and children's games.

A crowd assembled before 10 a.m. and they didn't disperse till about 6 p.m. All the kids received free cracker-jack and bubble gum. Bathing took up most of their activity.

Program Chairman Zit Obara participated in the races and walked off with most of the prizes. There were many profound expressions as the eggs went splat. The principal casualty was John Skotnicki.

Thanks to John Bobo, Roman Reinoski, Sig Bor, Tony and Jos. Bana-siak, Stefan Kochanski, Chester Schafer and Chester Makowski for their help.

The Picnic was clima ed with a wienie roast at which you never saw a hungrier bunch of stamp collectors. Those tasty dogs and buns were possible thru the kindness of Doc and Mrs. Kozakiewicz.

Members that did not attend really missed something. Plans already are being made to make next year's Picnic bigger and better.

Our sincerest gratitude is out to Doc and Mrs. Kozakiewicz for their contributions and efforts in enabling Polonus to hold an outstanding and memorable get-together.

"THE MYSTERY STAMP"

Some time ago I obtained a 15 fen. copy of the "Sejm" Issue in a much smaller size than the actual stamp. From Mr. V. Rachmanov I learned:

"When I was at Warsaw, Poland in the employ of the Postal Museum there, I received a few imperforate and per-



Scott's No. 134 of the "Sejm" Issue normal size and small size.

forate stamps in mark and crown values, mint and some even used, Scott's Nos. 82-132, reduced to half-size of the normal stamps. Not only were the stamps reduced to half size but the cancellations as well. Naturally, such stamps and especially such cancellations never existed in Poland.

Apparently some philatelist treated the stamps with some unknown chemical preparation which shrunk the paper to half size. Evidently this 15 fen. "Sejm" stamp was one treated chemically and so reduced, as is shown by the difference in paper and perforation (13¼). The original issue never appeared on this paper, nor with the 13¼ perforation. During 1919 - 1920 such a perforation was not used and no such perforating equipment was available."

— J. J. Domar

1955 POLPEX FINANCIAL STATEMENT Bills Paid

Insurance	5.00
Watch Service	35.00
Rent	75.00
Mailing of Catalogs	3.02
Beeba Expense	92.43
Gummed Tape	2.50
S.P.A. Medals	27.90
Award Engraving	15.52
C. Makowski — Postage	9.00
R. Reinowski — Staty. and Post.	9.70
Cartage	20.00
Stationery and Prospectus Prtng.	43.00
Catalog, Envp. and Card Prntg.	118.00
Souvenir Sheets and Cuts	70.50
Postal Cards — Z. Obara	1.12
Chairman's Expenses	13.20
Publicity — J.J. Domar	4.20
Advertising Postage — J. Bobo	2.42
Return of Exhibits	6.30
Finance Postage	.93
Seals, Postage, Staty.—	
Seals Chairman	12.21
Total Bills Paid	\$566.95

Income

Beeba	\$111.00
Advertising	157.00
Seals, Envelopes and Cards	172.25
Entries and Insurance	108.25
Patrons	43.00
Bourse	156.00
Total Income	\$747.50
Less Expenses	\$566.95
Net Profit	\$180.55

J.P. Rux, Fin. Com.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

We have heard nothing further of the Butterfly and Mushroom set which was supposed to be issued about April 1st. None of the dealers have offered them for sale, altho during May one of the Chicago dealers told me he was expecting a supply which he never received. I wonder what happened — as E. V. Durling would say — we will refer this item to our “horses and women” department.

I think that this is a good time as any to thank member G. W. Kukiz of Windsor, Conn. for his continued interest in furnishing “New Issues” information, also Joe Bieniecki of the Twin Eagles Stamp Co. for keeping me informed.

A notice forwarded on July 15th by “Prasa i Książka” informed us that the remaining stamps of the Warsaw Monument set have been released. They are: 5 gr. Syrena, 10 gr. Dzierzynski, 15 gr. M. Curie-Skłodowska, and the 1.55 zł. J. Kelenski. It is my personal opinion that this series are very well executed, a perfect example of the engravers art.

On June 10th a set of two stamps

were issued commemorating the 24th International Poznań Fairs — a 40 gr. blue and 60 gr. red. Perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ on white, unwatermarked paper by rotogravure. The size of the stamp are 25.5 x 31.25 mm.

We were also informed that a set of two souvenir sheets were issued, on July 7, 2 zł. plus 1 zł. green and a 3 plus 1.50 zł. red, in imperforate form. On the sheet was a 5 line legend reading as follows: “VI/OGÓLNOPOLSKA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA/POZNAŃ/1955. Although the release read



Polish Philatelic Exhibition Miniature Sheet and the Motorcycle Races at Tatra Mountains Set.



Philatelic cover from the Polish Philatelic Exhibition at Poznań, cancelled July 24, 1955. Top row, left to right: Cracow Celebration Days 60 gr.; Youth and Students Festival 60 gr.; 45 gr. Buffalo stamp; Polish USSR Friendship Treaty 40 gr. Bottom: First design is not a stamp but an exhibition imprint on the envelope; 40 gr. Youth and Student Festival; 40 gr. Cracow Celebration Days; and 45 gr. Warsaw Monument Issue.

4th Polish Philatelic Exhibition, the sheet reads VI (sixth). I wonder which is correct. The sheets were printed by rotogravure and offset on white, unwatermarked paper. Size 21 x 27 mm.

To commemorate "Cracow Celebration Days" a set of 3 stamps were issued June 16th, 1955, altho my covers are dated 6/18/55. There are three values: a 20 gr. light green, red-brown and yellow and black; a 4gr. violet, red yellow and light green and black; and a 60 gr. light-blue, red, yellow and black. Perf. 12 x 11¾, on white unwatermarked paper. Process is Offset. They are very unusual and I would say -- attractive.

On July 20th, a set of two stamps were issued to commemorate the 13th International Motorcycle Races at the Tatra Mountains. Values: 40 gr. brown red and 60 gr. green, perf. 12 x 12¾ on white unwatermarked paper, by rotogravure process.

Contemplated Issues

About July 13th—a set of six values 25, 40, 45, 60 gr. and 1 zł., offset, perf. and imperf. Issued to commemorate the 5th International Festival of Youth and Students in Warsaw 1955. (Released—no details.)

July 21st—Polish National Day of July 22, 1955.—Four stamps: two values 40 and 60 gr. The 40 gr. value in two different colors red and sepia. The 60 gr. value blue and deep brown.

July 27th—2nd International Sport Games, 1955. Set of 6 values perf. and imperf.

First half of August—Two miniature

Give Your Old Stamp Catalogues, Albums & Duplicates to **STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED**

Send Your Material To:
Barney J. Fialkowski
2633 N. Emmett Street
Chicago 47, Illinois

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sheets—International Philatelic Exhibition in Warsaw from 1st to 14th of August.

Middle of August—Set of four to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the recovery of Western Poland's territories.

End of August—50th Anniv. of 1905 Revolution Year. Two values, perf.

September 1955—Mickiewicz Celebration Year. Three stamps.

September 1955—Polish Merchant Navy ships. Three stamps.

POSTCARDS

Two Festival Postcards, illustrated (multicolored) with printed stamps picturing the festival emblem (Syren with a Shield) value 25 gr. blue and 40 gr. red brown.

"Prasa i Książka"

Joe Bieniecki

G. W. Kukiz

FINAL NOTICE

If you have not yet paid your 1955 dues, and will not remit immediately, you will be dropped from the Polonus Membership List and the mailing of the Bulletin to you will be discontinued.

NEW MEMBER

Stanley Pyczynski

18030 Gruebner

Detroit 34, Mich.