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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 82 DATES ANNOUNCED

At the June 24th, 1981 meeting, Polonus members selected the dates for POLPEX 82 as February 27th and 28th to be held at the Polish Army Veterans Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago. Our early announcement of these dates is being made as we normally have been running our show in the latter half of March, around St. Joseph Day. Previous commitments at the Polish Army Veterans Building have necessitated our dates being moved up.

The theme of the exhibition will be the 600th Anniversary of Our Lady of Czestochowa at Jasna Gora. Polo-

John Paul II has expressed his desire to visit Jasna Gora in Poland in 1982.

As in the past, the Polish American Numismatic Association will be asked to participate with numismatic exhibits.

President John Bartczak will begin appointments of the various committees at the next meeting scheduled for Friday, August 28th at the Veterans Building. Although the August meeting is not normally held during summer, there will be a meeting this August 28th because of the early Polpex dates.

The following officers elected at the June meeting will be installed at this meeting: John Bartczak, President; Roman Strzelecki, Vice President; Stanley Rusin, Treasurer; Chester Schafer, Secretary; Frank Woloszewick, Al Rybarski and Alfred Szebel, Directors. Coffee and paczki will be served after the meeting.



nus artist Leon Kawecki is already designing appropriate souvenir sheets and cachets for Polpex covers.

Most Rev. Alfred L. Abramowicz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, has announced that various religious celebrations will take place in 1982 to honor this anniversary. His Holiness

ALPEX '81 AWARD WINNERS

John Bartczak was awarded a Gold medal at ALPEX in Buffalo for his *KuK Etappenpostamt* (Austrian Base PO) in Poland.

Ray Schneider received a Silver for *Austria Used in Poland*.

Wally Pawlowski got a Bronze for *Republic of Poland 1919-1939*.

Chris Kulpinski took the Grand Award for his *Polish Field Post in the Middle East*.

Postal History and Cancellations of General Government in Poland

By WINSTON GRUSZCZYK

(Reprinted from the APS JOURNAL)

Early on the morning of September 1, 1939, the German Army started its invasion of Poland and World War II began. Two days later, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany in accordance with the Mutual Defense Treaty with Poland. I was a young boy of thirteen, living in Warsaw at the time. Poland, after one month's resistance, was defeated by the Germans, and was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union as a result of the Hitler-Stalin "friendship pact." Soon after, the Baltic countries were incorporated into Russia, and other countries also lost their independence as a result of the war.

The Germans created General Government by Hitler's decree of October 13, 1939, and nominated Dr. Frank as governor, effective October 26, 1939. The north and west part of Poland had been annexed directly into the Reich. The eastern half of Poland (east of the river Bug) was incorporated into Russia; General Government was created from the remaining central part. It is interesting to note that the city of Lodz initially was designated as the capital of General Government, but after a few weeks, Hitler changed his plan. He annexed Lodz into the Reich and designated Krakow (Cracov) the capital of GG (General Government).

The first commemorative cancel of GG indicates the wrong date of November 7, 1939, for the installation of Gov. Frank — he was already in office in Lodz on October 26. The first act of the German Postal Ministerium in occupied Poland was to create "*Deutsche Dienstpost Osten*" (German Official Post — East) as early as

September 13, 1939. It was ordered to take over postal installations left after the Polish retreat. Initially, the "*Deutsche Dienstpost*" service was limited to use by Germans, but after the creation of General Government, Polish civilians were permitted limited use.

There are a variety of cancellations from this early period, the majority of them round rubber stamp imprints "*Deutsche Dienstpost*" with the name of the town, or oblong rubber stamp imprints with the town name and sometimes the date. The "*Deutsche Post Osten*" (German Post — East) took over the service in General Government as of November 17, 1939.

The first set of stamps, the Hindenburg issue of Germany (Scott Nos. 416-431), was not issued until December 1, 1939. Before this date some post offices open to the public were selling unoverprinted Hindenburg stamps. Today, collectors specializing in GG are eager to find specimens of the "pre-stamp" period. I must add here that Reich stamps with GG cancels are also known used in a later period, mostly by German soldiers on fieldpost parcel cards. Their use was condoned by the postal authority.

The relationship of Polish currency was set at one German mark equal to two Polish zloty; therefore, the relationship of the face value on an overprinted Hindenburg set is one-to-two. The postal rates, as of November 13, 1939, were set for Germans to correspond with Germany's rates (a postcard that cost six pfennigs in Germany would cost twelve groszy in GG; letters costing twelve pfennigs in



Figure 1. The commemorative cancels of General Government.

Germany would cost twenty-four groszy in GG). But for Poles, the postal rates were equal to German foreign mail (postal cards, thirty groszy; letters, fifty groszy). Effective March 21, 1940, postal rates were corrected for all users to equal corresponding rates in Germany.

Collectors specializing in cancels of General Government have a variety of fields to research. The most popular area is that of the commemorative cancels, with thirty-four basic varieties and some minor ones used the same day in different district capitals (Figure 1).

Cancel No. 1, November 7, 1939. Used in Cracov — Installation of Gov. Frank. Mostly known on special cards

with Germany stamp Scott No. B162; also known on covers with Germany Scott No. 415.

Cancel No. 2, March 24-25, 1940. Used in Zakopane — Eastern Ski Championships. Mostly known on souvenir card with GG stamp No. N48.

Cancel No. 3, April 20, 1940. Used in Cracov — Hitler's birthday. Souvenir card issued with GG stamp No. N42, but many genuinely used covers are known.

Cancel No. 4, August 17-18, 1940. Used in Warsaw, Cracov, Lublin, and Radom — German Red Cross. Mostly known on souvenir cards with GG stamp No. NB 1.

Cancel No. 5, October 9, 1940. Used

in Radom — Autumn Fair in Radom.
No souvenir card exists.

Cancel No. 6, October 26, 1940.
Used in Warsaw, Cracov, Lublin, and
Radom — One year of General
Government. Souvenir card issued with
Scott No. NB 5.

Cancel No. 7, November 30 to
December 15, 1940. Used in Cracov —
Trade Fair in Cracov. No souvenir card
issued.

Cancel No. 8, April 12-14, 1941.
Used in Zakopane — Eastern Ski
Championship.

Cancel No. 9, April 20, 1941. Used in
Warsaw, Cracov, Lublin, and Radom
— Hitler's birthday.

Cancel No. 10, August 1, 1941. Used
in Lwow (Lemberg) — Incorporation
of District Galizia in General
Government.

Cancel No. 11, August 10, 1941.
Used in Lublin — Horse Breeders Race
in Lublin.

Cancel No. 12, August 15-17, 1941.
Used in Cracov — First year of Nazi
Party in GG. Souvenir card issued with
Scott No. N61.

Cancel No. 13, September 6-7, 1941.
Used in Zakopane — Tatra Mountain
Sport Festival.

Cancel No. 14, October 26, 1941.
Used in Warsaw, Cracov, Lublin,
Radom, and Lwow (Lemberg) — Two
years of GG. Souvenir cards issued with
two stamps of Hitler set No. N76/90;
they showed each district capital with
two different stamps of this set.

Cancel No. 15, December 8-14, 1941.
Used in Cracov — Mozart Day.

Cancel No. 16, April 20, 1942. Used
in Cracov — Hitler's birthday.

Cancel No. 17, August 1, 1942. Used
in Lwow (Lemberg) — One year of
Incorporation of Galizia in GG.

Cancel No. 18, August 14-16, 1942.
Used in Cracov — Two years of Nazi



Commemorative cancel prepared for the fifth anniversary of GG with view of Wawel Castle. It later was rejected and replaced with the Nazi symbol. This cancel is known only through two reproductions that exist in the archival papers.

Party in GG. Souvenir card issued with
Scott No. N61.

Cancel No. 19, September 5-6, 1942.
Used in Zakopane — Second Tatra
Mountain Festival.

Cancel No. 20, October 3-4, 1942.
Used in Lublin — 600 years "German
City"?



Official souvenir card with the first commemorative cancel of GG prepared with a German stamp because GG stamps were not issued until December 1939. Also shown is the same commemorative cancel of November 7, 1939, on a GG stamp issued in 1940, probably done illegally at the Cracov Philatelic Agency.

Cancel No. 21, October 26, 1942.

Used in Cracov — three years of General Government.

Cancel No. 22, November 20, 1942.
Used in Cracov — German Arts in GG.

Cancel No. 23, December 10-11, 1942. Used in Lwow — Opening of Behring Institute in Lemberg.

Cancel No. 24, January 24-31, 1943.
Used in Radom — Chess Championship in Radom.

Cancel No. 25, January 30, 1943.
Used in Cracov — Tenth Anniversary of Nazi Party Government in Reich.



Figure 5. "Radomer Messe" — Radom Trade Fair, the scarcest commemorative cancel on a registered letter. Also shown is a postal registration receipt with a commemorative cancel for the same letter.

Cancel No. 26, April 20, 1943. Used in Cracov — Hitler's birthday.

Cancel No. 27, May 24, 1943. Used in Cracov — 400th Anniversary of the death of Copernicus. Souvenir card issued with Scott No. NB 27.

Cancel No. 28, August 13-15, 1943.
Used in Cracov — Day of Nazi Party in GG. Souvenir card issued with Scott No. NB29.

Cancel No. 29, September 4-5, 1943.
Used in Zakopane — Third Tatra Mountain Festival.

Cancel No. 30, October 26, 1943.
Used in Cracov — Four years of General Government.

Cancel No. 31, November 19, 1943.
Used in Cracov — Wit Stwosch Price 1943.

Cancel No. 32, February 28, 1944.
Used in Cracov — Tenth year Anniversary of German Mother and Child Society.

Cancel No. 33, April 20, 1944. Used in Cracov — Hitler's birthday.

Cancel No. 34, October 26, 1944.
Used in Cracov — Five years of General Government.

It is interesting to note that the last cancel's (No. 34's) design initially depicted Wavel Castle, but later was redesigned to depict the Nazi symbol. According to S. Mikstein, only two copies of the initial design were found in the Cracov postal archives after the German retreat.

The most difficult cancel to locate is No. 5 for Radom Fair, and it may cost about fifty dollars at a German auction. Actually, the cancel exists in two varieties, with either the letter "A" or the letter "B" under the date.

According to my information, the cancel with the "A" was used in Radom; the cancel with the "B" was used by the philatelic agency in Cracov.

The first commemorative cancels of GG were introduced before the issuance of the Hindenburg stamps overprinted for "Deutsche Post Osten"; therefore, German stamps were used with a cancel. I have in my collection an example of this cancel on GG stamp No. N27 issued in February 1940. My

guess is that somebody at the post office archives in Cracov created this souvenir at a later date.

The slogan cancels come very close to the subject of commemorative cancels. Only a few were used in General Government.

No. 1. August 15-17, 1941, used in Cracov: "Day of Nazi Party in GG."

No. 2. 1941 to 1943, used over a long period of time in Cracov: "Health through Corn Bread."

No. 3. August 14-16, 1942, used in Cracov: "Two years of Nazi Party in GG."

No. 4. 1942 to 1944, used over a long period of time in Warsaw: "Pack Fieldpost Parcel well and secure."

No. 5. 1943, used over a long period of time in Radom and Czeszochowa (Tschenstochau): "A Post Office cheque saves time and money."

Slogan postmarks used over a longer period of time in more than one location also are known.

No. 6. "Do not forget to write Street and House Number."

No. 7. "Include Duplicate address in each Parcel."

No. 8. "Include Sender Name on each Letter."

No. 9. "Telephone — Save Time and Money" — known in two varieties, used in Cracov (Krakow).

Furthermore, in 1944, Zakopane's post office used a pictorial town cancel "Zakopane — Wintersport and Spa" instead of the regular date cancel.

Among the interesting aspects of commemorative, or rather propaganda, postmarks were the "V" (for "Victory") cancels, created on the order of Dr. Goebbels, German propaganda minister. These were used in all occupied territories, including General Government. The "V" postmarks were used in the 1941-1943

period, the years of Nazi victories in Russia, and a variety of "V" rubber stamps are known, with the "V" alone, or with an added German or German-Polish inscription, or, more seldom, in the Polish language only, "Germany is winning on all Fronts." This is an interesting field for specialists because some varieties are very scarce, and none exists at a low price. They are usually priced from ten dollars.

Railway cancellations used on trains in General Government also are difficult to find. According to the railway register, seventeen different varieties were in circulation.

During the war, Poland lost nearly seven million people. Half of this number were Jewish citizens of Poland, who were forced to live in small areas of larger towns known as the Jewish ghettos. In 1943 and 1944, all the ghettos were liquidated, and the Jewish populations were either killed then and there or sent to extermination camps. The Jews inside the ghettos were allowed in some areas to use the postal service on a limited basis.

Postal cards had to be handed to the Jewish Council within each ghetto, and this council initially censored them. The cards received a variety of rubber stamp imprints such as "Judenrat Warschau" or similar markings from other towns.



Cover sent from Russia to the Warsaw ghetto before the outbreak of the war with Germany. A delivery fee of thirty groszy is indicated by the circular date stamp. Also shows square cancels of the Jewish Council in the Warsaw ghetto. Mail that went into the ghetto seldom is seen because most of it was destroyed during the Jewish uprising in Warsaw in 1944.

The imprint was always in the upper left part of the card, never across the postage stamps. All assembled mail was given to the Germans to forward. After it was censored by the Gestapo (German secret police), it was put into regular postal channels.

Most postal cards known today were sent from the ghettos to foreign countries and are very scarce, although they are obtainable from time to time in auctions. The incoming mail to ghettos was delivered to the Jewish Councils, which charged a fee for delivery except when the postal material was inscribed "free delivery." Unfortunately, very few covers or postal cards sent into the ghettos survived. Most were destroyed in fires during the exterminations of Jews and the leveling of all buildings.

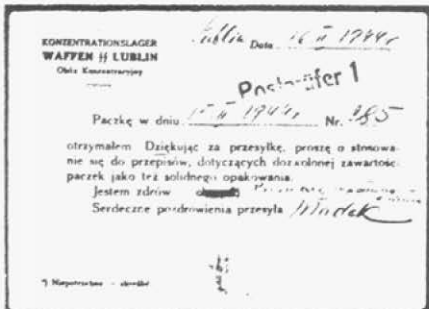
One year after the Jewish uprising in the ghettos, the Polish population of Warsaw was decimated during the uprising in Warsaw in August 1944. The stamps issued by the Polish fieldpost in Warsaw are not part of GG postal history, but according to Polish philatelic writer Gryzewski there was a cancel used by the German fieldpost in Warsaw inscribed "Warschau-Adolf Hitler Platz Postamt" ("Warsaw-Adolf Hitler Square Post Office"). I saw an example of this cancel on a canceled-to-order card last year in a Polish exhibition in London, England.

Poles were number two on the extermination list of the Nazis, just after the Jews. Many were sent to concentration camps in Germany, others to camps inside General Government. The postal history of camps in GG is rather skimpy; most of the known camp mail is from Camp Majdanek, which was located just outside the town of Lublin. The Polish Red Cross was allowed to supply inmates in Camp Majdanek with preprinted postal cards ("I feel fine," or "sick"). All are scarce, although a few

varieties exist, including postal cards with imprinted 12-groszy Hitler stamps or with another 12-groszy stamp affixed. Some without stamps also exist. These have rubber stamp imprints, "Nachporto" ("Postage Due"). Parcel cards sent to inmates of Camp Majdanek (or Lublin) also are known, usually with an SS guard's



Both sides of a postal card sent from the Majdanek-Lublin concentration camp. Preprinted message permitted inmates to indicate only if their health was good or bad. The postal cards were supplied by the Polish Red Cross.



rubber stamp imprint as the receiver of all parcels going into the concentration camp. Mail from other camps in General Government is known, but very scarce.

I think that the most interesting aspect of postal history in General Government includes postal cards sent to England. It is difficult to believe that such mail can exist, but here is the story. The Polish exile government in London was able to secure mailing points in neutral Lisbon, Portugal, and Ankara, Turkey. From these points Polish soldiers in England sent small food parcels to their relatives in Poland.

Each parcel had to be acknowledged by a postal card sent from GG to Portugal or Turkey, and from there all postal cards were picked up by the Polish government in London and forwarded to individuals as proof that a family member in Poland was still alive. It is indeed interesting to see a postal card canceled in German-occupied Warsaw with a rubber stamp imprint from



The most interesting part of GG postal history includes the postal card sent from GG via Portugal to England. This one was canceled in Warsaw on January 6, 1944, and in Lisbon on January 19, 1944. It also was rubber-stamped "Polish Naval Headquarters" in London.

London, England.

The German army retreat from Russia began in 1943 and reached the borders of General Government in July 1944. By September 1944, after the Warsaw uprising, only about half of the territory remained in German hands, with the front line roughly along the Vistula River. The postal service in the remaining part of GG became very unstable. Some of the post offices were short on current stamps. Finally, in January 1945, a new Russian offensive pushed the Germans out of Poland.

The market for postal history of General Government is very active now in West Germany and, as a result, covers or postal cards obtainable a few years ago for a dollar or less are now going for double-digit prices. Many scarcer items still may be found in some of the larger auction sales.



Map of GG as of November 1939. The district of Galicia was incorporated in GG August 1941.

The Use of Directional Labels on Polish Flown Covers - 1926

By JAMES MAZEPA

The mid-20s was a period of rapid expansion of air service in Poland and throughout Europe. New routes were inaugurated, service improved on existing routes, and regular air post service initiated on many of the flights. To help understand the use of Polish directional labels and the cities for which they were intended, it would be helpful to note that the first postal flight from Warsaw to Vienna via Krakow took place on April 25, 1925. Trial flights from Lwow to Warsaw were held during the Eastern Fair in 1926. The first regular postal flights between Warsaw, Lodz, and Krakow began October 1, 1926.

Following the custom of air carriers of this period, the Polish Air Line Aerolot (in Polish "P.L.L. Aerolot" or "Polska Linia Lotnicza Aerolot") introduced the use of directional labels in 1926. Philatelists of this period, most notably Mr. T. Gryzewski of Warsaw, applied many of these labels to flown envelopes. There does not seem to be any connection between the dates flown and any first or special flights. Many of the dates are prior to the inauguration of regular air service between the various cities. The envelopes are addressed to names familiar in Polish aerophilately — Mr. Gryzewski in Warsaw, Mr. von Baggo in Gdansk, and Mr. Labecki in Lwow.

To date no attempt has been made to catalog these labels and their use on flown covers. They are entirely omitted from the air post section of the recent Polish catalog, probably because they do not fit any of the usual air post categories. However, these covers are frequently encountered and should be considered an integral and colorful part of any collection of Polish air mails.

There are four distinct types of labels which were introduced in 1926 and they can be categorized by shape, design and color. I will first describe the types and then catalog all varieties recorded to date.

TYPE I DIRECTIONAL LABEL

Only two examples of the type one label have been recorded. While they differ in size and color, the overall design is similar and thus they can be classified together. They share in common an identical aircraft design and style of lettering which is surrounded by a black border. The first example is described "do Gdanska" and is diamond in shape with the black border measuring 70 mm x 70 mm. The only example I have seen was flown from Warsaw to Gdansk on June 28, 1926. The second and more common example is rectangular in shape, black on pink paper, with the frame measuring 97 mm x 78 mm. It is inscribed "do Lwowa." I have seen a number of flown covers with the dates of June 5th and August 16th, 1926. (Fig. 1).

TYPE II DIRECTIONAL LABEL

The type II label is found flown to four cities — Gdansk, Lwow, Krakow, and Warsaw. The label is rectangular in shape with overall dimensions of 72 mm x 48 mm and consists of an oval surrounded by vertical lines. Within the oval is an aircraft and the inscription "Polska Linja Lotnicza" and address and telephone number of the home office. The label exists in blue and orange. With the exception of letters sent to Warsaw, the labels have the name of the city stamped on it with a rubber device. The variations "Krakow" and "Kra-kowa" (probably a shortened form of "do Krakowa") and "Lwowa" ex-

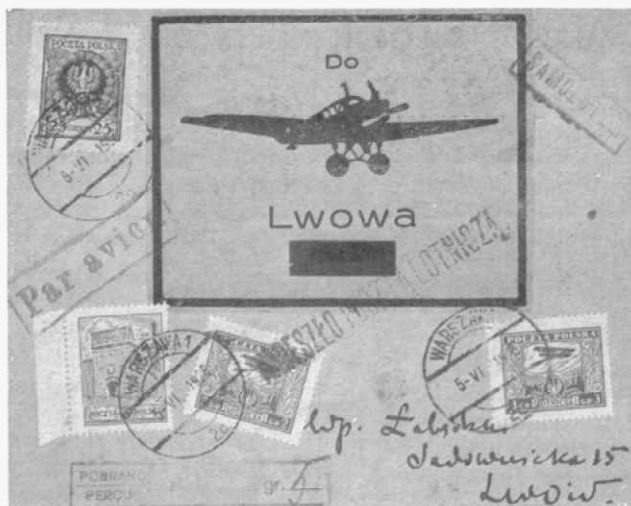


Figure 1.
Type I label flown
from Warsaw to
Lwowa.

ist. (Fig. 2). I have only seen the form "Gdanska" used and this on a blue label. The earliest date I have seen for this type is May 19, 1926 ("Krakow") and the latest, August 14, 1926 ("Krakowa").

TYPE III DIRECTIONAL LABEL

This type has a design whose frame measures 50 mm wide and overall length including tab is 84 mm. This label is in two parts. The upper is that of an airplane flying over a globe which shows the routes of the airline and is inscribed "Polska Linja Lotnicza" (Polish Air Line) and "Komunikacja Pasazerska Przewoz Poczty i

Towarow" (For passenger communication and the transport of mail and merchandise). Beneath this design is a separate tab with the name of the city. The exception is the label for the city of Lodz, which has the name of the city rubber-stamped on the upper portion. (Fig. 3). All destinations have been seen in black except "do Gdanska" in red only. (Fig. 4). Four of the others have yet another color. The earliest seen is "do Wiednia" (to Vienna) flown on August 28, 1926, and the latest is "do Lwowa" (to Lwowa) flown on July 12, 1927. Of some forty covers seen of all types,

Figure 2.
Type II label with
rubber stamp
"Lwowa" flown
from Warsaw.





Figure 3.
Type III label
without tab flown
from Warsaw to
Lodz.

this latter is the only 1927 date encountered.

TYPE IV DIRECTIONAL LABEL

This label is hexagonal in shape, 75 mm high and 113 mm wide. All are similar in design with a stylized aircraft flying over a city and the initials "P.L.L." (Polska Linja Lotnicza) at the sides. (Fig. 5). Under the picture is the inscription "Polska Linja Lotnicza - Aerolot." All seen are black on white paper. Of the eight destinations, I have seen only two on flown covers, namely, from Warsaw

to Gdansk and from Warsaw to Lodz.

These four types are the only ones found in this period of air service expansion in Poland, and, interestingly enough, no others are found flown in later years. I have attempted to catalog these labels here but surely other examples should exist. There seems to be no record of how many were actually flown, but I have a reference from a page in a collection formed many years ago which states that 50 to 100 of each exist. This seems to be a reasonable guess, but the actual

Figure 4.
Type III label with
tab flown from
Warsaw to Gdansk.



number of the various examples certainly vary. For example, the type II and type III are the most commonly seen, and the type I "do Gdanska" and all type IV are truly scarce. I would request that collectors who have examples not listed below, or examples with dates earlier or later than those mentioned, contact me so I can update this listing.

DIRECTIONAL LABEL TYPE I:

DL1a—"do Gdanska" black on purple (70 mm x 70 mm).

DL1b—"do Lwowa" black on pink (97 mm x 78 mm)

DIRECTIONAL LABEL TYPE II:

DL2a II—"Gdanska" blue

DL2b I—"Krakow" blue

DL2b II—"Krakowa" orange

DL2c I—"Lwow" blue

DL2c II—"Lwowa" orange

DL2d I—blue without inscription (to Warsaw)

DL2d II—orange without inscription (to Warsaw)

DIRECTIONAL LABEL TYPE III

DL3a II—"do Gdanska" (red)

DL3b I—"do Krakowa" (black)

DL3b II—"do Krakowa" (green)

DL3c I—"LODZ" (black) without tab

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

James Mazepa, Publications Comm.

P.O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304

Chester A. Schafer, Editor & Secretary

864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer

P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

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— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

DL3d I—"do Lwowa" (black)

DL3d II—"do Lwowa" (yellow-orange)

DL3e I—"do Warszawy" (black)

DL3f I—"do Wiednia" (black)

DL3f II—"do Wiednia" (blue-black)

DIRECTIONAL LABEL TYPE IV

DL4a—"z Warszawy do Czerniewiec"

DL4b—"z Warszawy do Gdanska"

DL4c—"z Warszawy do Krakowa"

DL4d—"z Warszawy do Lodzi"

DL4e—"z Warszawy do Lwowa"

DL4f—"z Warszawy do Wiednia"

DL4g—"z Wiednia do Krakowa"

DL4h—"z Wiednia do Lwowa"

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If so, please notify Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60141.



Figure 5.
Type IV label
flown from
Warsaw to Lwow.