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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Edited by

Associate Editors

J. J. Domar

Lester Jankowski

Clement A. Pulaski

Chester A. Schafer
2144 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 22, Illinois

Associate Editors

Al Rybarski

Chester Mikucki

Bert Powell

Dr. S. M. Mioduszewski, Chairman Membership Committee
1176 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

A Report on Philately In Poland Today

by W. Dutkiewicz

Like everything else in Poland nowadays, philately is coming back to life. Everywhere I went on my recent visit, I found stamp shops. Clubs are being formed and periodicals on philately are being published.

In Warsaw's Hotel Polonia there is an attractive display of stamps put up by some enterprising dealer. In Katowice there is a smart stamp shop right across from the railway station. Wandering through that town I came across two more stamp stores. Similar conditions exist in Krakow and Lodz, the only two larger cities which escaped any damage whatsoever due to the war. And even in a small town of Tarnow a huge sign of the Stamp Shop greeted my eyes in the center of the town. When I stepped inside, an elderly lady, Mrs. E. Stronczak, greeted me. She knew her business and helped me to pick many interesting items. She was the one who first mentioned to me the name of our good friend, Mr. C. A. Pulaski of Mt. Carmel.

The stamp stores in Poland deal mainly with occupational, present Polish issues and the pre-war stamps. Next in line come German and European stamps. But America is becoming very popular. In more than one place I was shown the U. S. Polish Flag stamp.

Especially popular, and very expensive incidentally, are London issues of



The recent Victory Issue, a 3 zloty brown. (Cut courtesy STAMPS.)

Polish stamps. For the Warsaw stamp I paid 750 zloty at the philatelic stand in the main postoffice at Warsaw. That is \$7.50 in American money. Other London sets are also very high in price. Later on my way back, I got the same stamp in England for \$2.00.

The main postoffice in Warsaw by the way, is one of the few buildings that somehow survived destruction in that horribly destroyed city. It stands on Nowogrodzka, just a block from Hotel Polonia.

Current issues of commemorative stamps have to be grabbed just as soon as they are issued if face value prices are desired. Later on, one can buy them at the stamp shops only at double or more of their original value.

One the whole, the prices are very high. I have paid 700 zloty for the First Lublin issue, 400 zloty for the

Ten Liberated Cities, and 75 zloty for Westerplatte. That was last January in Katowice. The November Uprising stamp was sold out early in January, and I paid 20 zloty for it at the philatelic stand of the Warsaw postoffice. Private stores probably sell it at twice as much.

Of philatelic literature in Poland there was nothing during the nearly six years of occupation. Now there are three publications that I came across and have in my possession. They are "Pionier Filatelistyczny," published since April, 1945. Philatelic societies at Lodz and Krakow, publish their own magazines in a mimeographed form.

As to the stamp collectors, all I had to do was to mention my hobby and I would immediately bump into someone who was also collecting. I found them from high court judges to chauffeurs.

EAGLE AND GRUNWALD MONUMENT ISSUE

Issued September 14, 1944. The printing was Heliogravure, in sheets of 100 stamps—10 rows of 10 stamps each, on white paper. Perforation 12¼. Printed in Moscow.



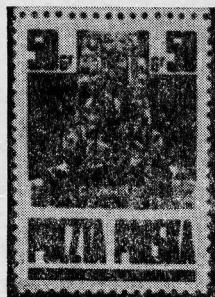
25 gr. bright red (33x22 mm.)

a. imperforate

25 gr. red-orange (33½x22¼ mm.)

50 gr. dark green

a. imperforate



The 25 gr. red-orange was printed from an entirely different plate: the design being larger by ½ mm., the spread of the eagle's wings being thicker and the corners of the lettering being somewhat rounded. The reason for the issue of this stamp has not been determined as it was never put into postal circulation. Part of this issue was overprinted "Warszawa" in the Ten Liberated Cities Issue.

On the 50 gr. dark green a slight plate defect occurs in the 41st position—bottom part of letter Z in "POC-ZTA" extends downward.

The 25 gr. stamps were withdrawn from circulation December 31, 1944, because of a change in postal rates which raised the fee to 50 gr. on letters delivered within the country. The 50 gr. stamp was withdrawn May 31, 1945.

—This article is a translation from the Polish Catalog of Tadeusz Gryzewski of Lodz.

—cuts illustrated through the courtesy of STAMPS.

NEW MEMBERS

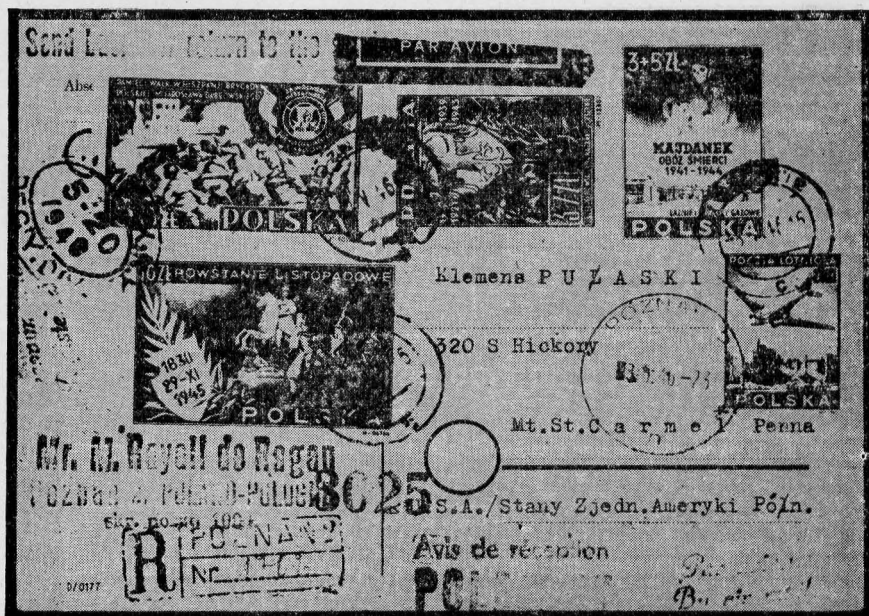
- 296 W. Dutkiewicz, 14 Halton St.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
(Poland)
- 297 W. Kolakowski, 1201 Chatfield
Road, Winnetka, Illinois
(Poland, Europe)
- 298 Edward F. Keys,
38 Warrarong St., Beverly Hills,
Sydney, N. S. W., Australia
(Poland, U. S., France, Russia)
- 299 J. T. Ozieblo, c/o E. Heslop
7 St. Thomas Rd.
Kirkham nr. Preston, England
(Airmail & Commemoratives)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W. Lewinski, 4224 Kamerling
Chicago 51, Ill.
L. A. Kupferwasser
3236 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 51, Ill.
Henry Tyszk, 4627 Junction Ave.
Detroit 10, Mich.
Malcolm Lewis
P. O. Box 876
Southport, N. C.

REINSTATED

Henry Hayza



From Clement A. Pulaski's collection we show the above cover with new Polish stamps. From left to right, top row: the Spanish Brigade Issue, a 3 plus 5 zl. scarlet-red; the Cieszyn Issue, a 3 plus 7 zl. brown; and the Majdanek Issue, a 3 plus 5 zl. green. Bottom row: the 1830 November Uprising Issue, a 10 zl. greenish-gray; and an Airmail stamp, a 20 zl. red-violet. (Cut illustrated through the courtesy of STAMPS.)

DACHAU-ALLACH ISSUES

Three souvenir sheets, an addition to the already numerous postal issues of different Polish Prison Camps in Germany, have been issued by the Polish Political Prisoners Camp at Dachau-Allach. Two of the sheets are identical except for one being watermarked and imperforate, and the other being perforated without a watermark. Each of these two consists of six stamps; 25 pf. green, 1 mk. gray black, 50 pf. red, 10 pf. brown, 75 pf. orange, and 25 pf. blue. Total value of the stamps amounts to 2 mk. 8 pf. The price of the sheet is 10 reichmarks; a surtax of 7 mk. 15 pf. being charged to raise funds for the Polish Red Cross.

As the subject of the design of all the stamps, a Polish crowned eagle is shown adorning a shield bordered around by leaves and twigs, and surmounted by a flag of the United States. An inscription around the shield reads, "Polish Political Prisoners Out of Gratitude." The Polish Red Cross seal appears embossed at the

lower right hand corner of each sheet. At the bottom center, the word "prize" is apparently a misspelling of the word "price."

The third sheet is imperforate and watermarked. It shows but one stamp of a 3 mk. denomination, and has a surtax of 7 mk. attached to it. The design of the stamp is the same as of those above, but the color of the stamp is blue, with the eagle on a light red background and the United States flag with red stripes.

THIS 'n THAT

Among the new members attending the latest meetings is Wladyslaw Kolakowski, a former head of a Polish Evacuation Colony in Switzerland during World War II. He has visited many European countries, was jailed by the Germans in Budapest, was arrested and released twice in Roumania, and was almost killed when the Russians came. His travels enabled him to build thorough collections of Roumania (with new issues in sheets),



Cover showing the set of stamps issued by the Polish 2nd Corps in Italy. Mr. C. A. Pulaski informs us that from a copy of the official bulletin announcing this postal issue he learns that 84,350 sets of stamps were printed, with a companion printing of 19,350 souvenir sheets; and that the entire issue was invalidated and withdrawn from circulation February 28, 1946. This last statement does not seem to ring true as your editor has seen mail on which these stamps paid postage actually used after February 28, 1946. The Polish Forces are now moving to England and but a few Field Post Offices remain in Italy. Mail coming to us from soldiers in the English camps does not carry the "Poczta Polowa" cancellation. (Cut illustrated through the courtesy of STAMPS.)

Jugoslavia, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Belgium, and Hungary. He has a Poland collection, and his France is almost complete.

Many of the new issues are being passed around, bought and sold at the meetings. Those members that do not attend are missing the opportunity of some good buys.

A new U. S. edition of the POLISH POST SEVEN YEAR WAR CATALOG is now being printed and will be ready for distribution soon. This second printing will consist of 500 copies, and advance orders should be sent to Pulaski Philatelic Club, 3588 Frederick Street, Detroit 11, Michigan. Price —\$1.75. This catalog contains a complete record of all Stamps, Seals, Field-Posts and Labels issued by the Polish Postal Authorities at home and abroad during the six years of war, from 1939 to 1945.

We received Vol. 1, No. 1 of member Dave Lidman's PHILATELY and were immensely pleased with it. This magazine is a fine example of Philatelic Journalism.

There are only about 10 to 20 copies of the Polish handbook on stamps in America. The book is Antoni Laszkie-wicz's "Polskie Znaki Poczttowe," but is more popularly referred to as Ikaros because it was printed by the publisher of the IKAROS Philatelic Monthly.

One of the very few women to design a stamp was Countess Maria Viktoria Attems, of Groz, who in 1933 planned a set of six Austrian Commemoratives for the 250th Anniversary of the liberation of Vienna from the Turks by the Polish King Jan Sobieski. This series of stamps holds a special appeal to Polish collectors on that account.

Germany's Lost Provinces Poster Stamp*

by Bert Powell

Subject: A prince's Palace in the Polish town of Poznan, (Germanized into Posen). Said to be built for Prince Wilhelm, but actually it was converted by the Poles into a university when the property was restored to rightful ownership.

Purpose: To obtain a universal sympathetic attitude towards the German "loss" of her former lands which were taken away from her by the terms of the Versailles treaty.

Color: Central portion of subject design in red, lettering in white with the entire design surrounded by a heavy black border.

Paper: White wove.

Perforation: 11½.

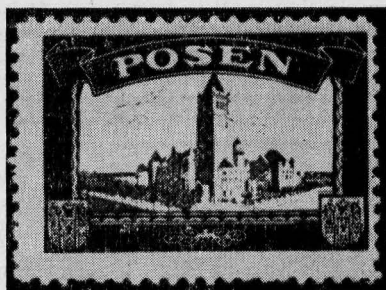
Size: 21x32mm.

Watermark: An all over indistinct and unidentifiable design, not conforming to any of the German postal watermarks. Possibly a paper makers own design.

Unknown Factors: Date of issuance, plate layout, distribution and price.

A short time after the ending of hostilities of World War I, Germany issued a series of labels, which while not attaining the status of postage stamps, never the less, are eagerly sought after by the poster stamp enthusiast. Occasionally, they may be found in some of the older stamp collections which were formed during World War I days, or shortly thereafter.

It has sometimes been noticed by the average individual, and now seems to be generally agreed upon by some of the historians as well, that quite a few of the psychological aspects of the conflict which has just ended, are quite similar to the German propaganda of the previous World War. Assuming that this conclusion is correct, then the series of German propaganda labels described in this article should be more or less of an accurate index as to what the United Nations may expect from Germany as soon as the boundaries of liberated Poland and other European down-trodden nations are fixed. When the Boche ravaged lands were returned to their rightful



owners after the last war, Germany immediately raised a great hue and cry against the "Injustice" being done her in depriving her of these "lawful" possessions! (Odd, isn't it, how the shoe fits on the other foot?).

One form of the protests consisted of the issuance of these propaganda "mourning" stamps, which, it is said, were used on letters sent from Germany to all parts of the world, but especially to those territories formerly held by the Germans. This series of labels were patterned after a mourning stamp and the illustration depicted here will give the reader some idea of this typically conceived German propaganda. While only the Polish label is shown, the writer is informed that there were also such "mourning" stamps for Alsace-Lorraine, Memel, Caroline Islands and other former German-held lands where the flame of liberty's torch had once more been rekindled. It will be interesting to see if there will be another similar series of propaganda labels issued after order is restored in the rubble and ruins that are now the German Reich.

—Dr. Leon Kozakiewicz, the possessor of one of the largest and finest collections of Polish stamps in this country, is responsible for this interesting story on the German way of doing things. "Doc Kozy" was an officer of the American Peace Conference to Poland from our country after World War I. He has an inexhaustable fund of first hand information on the early philatelic emissions of Poland, because...he was there, when various events connected with his stories occurred.

* Reprinted with permission of the S. P. A. JOURNAL.

HO! HUM!

N. K. Musson & Co., issued a well illustrated catalog covering the war issues of Poland and Bohemia-Moravia with prices. The cost is 1/3 and their address is 494, Fulham Road, London, S. W. 6, England.

* * *

A neutral Belgian source is responsible for a report that "agents" are making heavy purchases at postoffices throughout Poland. The result is that the 3.50 zloty denomination of the Ruins of Warsaw set, is completely exhausted.

A reliable correspondent complains that the printing of all commemoratives and semi-postal stamps is entirely inadequate to meet demands. He scornfully points out that issues fitting into this category of limited printings, are almost obsolete at the time of their announcement.

* * *

"PIONIER" ul. Bracka 4, Krakow, Poland, issued a catalog covering the postal emissions of the Woldenberg IIC prison camp. The listing is complete and the booklet is profusely illustrated.

* * *

Reports indicate that the issues of the exiled Polish Government in London are enjoying unprecedented popularity with collectors in Poland. Whoever put away a few extra sets, now has some excellent trading material.

* * *

Most of the recent commemoratives as well as all air mail stamps are known to exist imperforate. To keep the ball arollin', the regularly issued imperforates, such as the "Ruins of Warsaw" set, are showing up with perforations either horizontally, vertically, or both ways.

* * *

An occasional cover shows up with the well known handstamp (of 1922 vintage) "Taxe Percue" indicating that the postage fee was paid in cash. A number of collectors submitted inquiries to this scribe requesting clarification. Almost invariably the opinion is advanced that the use of the

handstamp is indicative of a stamp shortage. The answer is "No." Another study of such covers will disclose that due to the style of addressing, plus the normal rate for air mail and registration, and finally, the size of the envelope, not sufficient space was allowed for affixing adhesives; hence, the "Paid in Cash" stamp or inscription. Another reason is that currently used stamps are unusually large and the highest denomination is 10 zloty, thusly restricting use on small sized envelopes. Such pieces are not frequent and make interesting additions to a stamp collection.

* * *

The boys "Over There" can't seem to get together on a postage stamp program. It was officially announced in October 1945 that the Majdanek theme was adopted for a set of four stamps. On May 5th, seven months later, the only one value made its bow. Watch for others to follow!

* * *

Did you notice the spacing for the 6 zloty value of the Ruins of Warsaw set? The gutters, both ways, are approximately 2 mm. wider than all other values in this set. For "on sight" comparison, pairs are needed, either horizontal or vertical.

* * *

Perhaps the scarcest stamp emitting from the German occupational era is the 10 z plus 10 z. A truly fine piece of engraving and an equally grand collectors item. It was only intended to adorn albums, for an exhaustive search has failed to produce a single copy actually used commercially. The story is told with sober authenticity, that while this stamp was in the process of manufacture in Vienna, the Printery was virtually destroyed by air bombardment. The plates were completely ruined. It is reported that a very small number of finished sheets were salvaged from the ruins. The determined Germans endeavored to construct new plates in Berlin, but this project failed completely. This failure brought collapse to their obvious intentions of deluging the market with a scarce stamp of high value. This took place during the waning days of the war, when our Allied Nations were gaining victory with in-

creased momentum, for a cause not yet fully determined....Anyhow, the stamp is really scarce and is selling in Poland for around one dollar—but not so here.

Some readers will be subject violent headaches after reading this. Many of us have been goaded into believing that most issues were printed in painfully limited quantities. Prudence was overcome by impatience and some of us (including your scribe) spent recklessly on the basis of early

reports about scarcity of material. Oh well!—it's truly American to be an exponent of Barnum. Anyhow—to member Juszcak of Warsaw, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of an official brochure entitled "Dziennik Taryf Pocztowych i Telekomunikacyjnych" issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, on March 25, 1946. For the benefit of our readers, the pertinent information is presented here. Nevertheless, it is satisfying to early buyers that no mistake was made in the purchase of many items and when the material presently available is dissipated, price rises are sure to follow. Westerplatte, HO! Poznan, HUM!

VALUE	THEME	PRINTING	FIRST DAY	WITHDRAWN
National Heroes Issue				
25 gr.	Romuald Traugutt	54,300	Sept. 7, 1944	Feb. 13, 1945
50 gr.	Tad. Kosciuszko	54,900	Sept. 7, 1944	Feb. 13, 1945
1 zl	Henry Dambrowski	54,000	Sept. 7, 1944	Feb. 13, 1945
Eagle and Monument Issue				
25 gr	Piast Eagle	3,720,000	Sept. 14, 1944	Dec. 31, 1944
50 gr	Grunwald Monument	12,530,000	Sept. 14, 1944	May 31, 1945
Overprints				
1 zl	"K. R. N."	200,000	Dec. 31, 1944	Apr. 15, 1945
2 zl	"P. K. W. N."	200,000	Jan. 15, 1945	Apr. 15, 1945
3 zl	"R. T. R. P."	200,000	Jan. 15, 1945	Apr. 15, 1945
January Uprising 82nd Anniv.				
5 zl	Traugutt overprinted	60,000	Jan. 22, 1945	May 15, 1945
Ten Cities Liberation Issue				
3 zl	Overprint "Bydgoszcz"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Czestochowa"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Gniezno"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Kalisz"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Krakow"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Kielce"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Lodz"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Dadom"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Warszawa"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
3 zl	Overprint "Zakopane"	100,000	Feb. 12, 1945	May 31, 1945
Warsaw Liberation Issue				
5 zl	Allegorical Liberation	574,000	Mar. 9, 1945	
Lodz Industrial Center				
1 zl	Scene at Lodz	10,000,000	Mar. 15, 1945	
Krakow Liberation Issue				
1 zl	Kosciuszko Monument	10,000,000	Apr. 10, 1945	
2 zl	Sukiennice	2,000,000	Apr. 14, 1945	
3 zl	Kopernik Monument	5,000,000	Apr. 14, 1945	
5 zl	Wawel	260,000	Apr. 14, 1945	
Kosciuszko Oath of Allegiance Anniv.				
5 zl	Overprint on 50 gr	100,000	Apr. 19, 1945	June 1, 1945
Liga Morska Issue				
.50+2 zl	Warship	100,000	Apr. 24, 1945	Dec. 10, 1945
1+3 zl	Old Sailing Vessel	100,000	Apr. 24, 1945	Dec. 10, 1945
2+4 zl	Arm and Flag	100,000	Apr. 24, 1945	Dec. 10, 1945
3+5 zl	Crane	100,000	Apr. 24, 1945	Dec. 10, 1945
Krakow Liberation Additional Value				
50 gr	Grunwald Monument	21,000,000	May 25, 1945	

VALUE	THEME	PRINTING	FIRST DAY	WITHDRAWN
Poznan Postal Congress Issue				
1+5 zl	Poznan buildings	60,000	June 16, 1945	June 30, 1945
Kosciuszko Monument Issue				
3 zl	Kosciuszko Mon't at Lodz	5,000,000	July 1, 1945	
Grunwald Anniversary Issue				
5 zl	Battle scene at Grunwald	100,000	July 15, 1945	July 31, 1945
Manifest Issue				
3 zl	Allegory dove & document	100,000	July 22, 1945	Dec. 10, 1945
Westerplatte Issue				
1+9 zl	Battle scene	60,000	Sept. 1, 1945	Sept. 25, 1945
Surcharges				
1.50 zl	Overprint on Piast Eagle	20,000,000	Sept. 1, 1945	
1 zl	Overprint on Grunwald	3,000,000	Sept. 10, 1945	
Gdansk Liberation Issue				
1 zl	Grainery scene	15,153,000	Sept. 15, 1945	
2 zl	Municipal Building	2,059,000	Sept. 15, 1945	
3 zl	Gates to Town Hall	3,000,800	Sept. 15, 1945	
Workers Congress Issue				
1.50+8.50	Symbolical Union of Labor	110,000	Sept. 18, 1945	Jan. 16, 1946
Ruins of Warsaw Issue				
1.50 zl	Warsaw Castle	20,000,000	Oct. 15, 1945	
3 zl	Cathedral of St. John	60,000,000	Nov. 25, 1945	
November Uprising Issue				
10 zl	Allegorical Uprising Scene	110,000	Nov. 29, 1945	Feb. 15, 1946
Ruins of Warsaw Continuation				
3.50 zl	Town Hall	4,000,000	Dec. 5, 1945	
6 zl	Main Post Office	12,000,000	Jan. 1, 1946	
8 zl	Staff Offices	4,000,000	Jan. 1, 1946	
10 zl	Holy Cross Church	12,000,000	Jan. 10, 1945	
Ruins of Warsaw Overprints				
1.50 zl	Overp'd "Warszawa Wolna"	200,000	Jan. 17, 1945	
3 zl	"Warszawa Wolna"	200,000	Jan. 17, 1945	
3.50 zl	"Warszawa Wolna"	200,000	Jan. 17, 1945	
6 zl	"Warszawa Wolna"	200,000	Jan. 17, 1945	
8 zl	"Warszawa Wolna"	200,000	Jan. 17, 1945	
10 zl	"Warszawa Wolna"	200,000	Jan. 17, 1945	
January Uprising Issue				
6 zl	Allegorical Uprising 1863	110,000	Jan. 22, 1946	
POSTAGE DUE ISSUES				
1 zl	Post-horns	10,000,000	May 20, 1945	
2 zl	Post-horns	10,000,000	May 20, 1945	
3 zl	Post-horns	3,000,000	May 20, 1945	
5 zl	Post-horns	2,000,000	May 20, 1945	

Near Krakow, lies the Polish city of Czestochowa, where on "Jasna Gora" (Bright Mountain) stands the convent of the Pauline Friars with a church containing a miraculous picture of the Blessed Virgin. Tradition has it, that Saint Luke painted this unusual and beautiful likeness of the Virgin and the Holy Child. Poland's stamp, Scott's type A76 portrays the convent and the church which plays such an important part in The Deluge, by Henry Sienkiewicz.

The 1919 Polish semi-postals issued to commemorate the first philatelic exhibition are nearly always canceled in indelible ink (apparently to order) which runs when wet and badly stains them. Floating any waste paper off the backs of such stamps is to be preferred over the customary procedure of soaking. This at least minimizes the staining. Some fastidious collectors use a "wet-box" which consists of several dampened blotters in a shallow tin box—that is if you can still obtain a tin one!