

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Warsaw-Tokio Flight

by Chester A. Schafer

Issued by the Air Defense league (Liga Obrony Powietrznej Państwa) on May 22nd 1926 on the occasion of the flight of Lt. Orlinski, from Paris to Warsaw to Tokyo, Japan. The design of the stamp shows three airplanes in an oval. At the corners are the letters "L. O. P. P." and at the bottom "Warszawa-Tokio". Perforation 10. The stamp is of a 5 zloty denomination and is grayish-green in color. It also comes imperforate, and tete-beche perforate and imperforate. The total printing is about 1000 copies.

Letters designated for Tokyo May 22, 1926, were accepted at the post-office Warszawa I, and the Air Defense League. The normal tariff rate for foreign mail was charged, along with the special 5 zloty L. O. P. P. stamp. This stamp received the special oval cancellation "Raid Polonais: Raid Polski, May 1926 Paris-Warszawa-Tokyo" in a black color. Some of the letters, at the very beginning, were accepted by the Post without the 5 zloty stamp. These letters received the special oval cancellation in a red-violet color, and later the stamp was affixed and over cancelled in the black color.

The pilot was to be at Warsaw, May 22, but because of a defective machine, he left late, August 27, and arrived at Tokyo, September 5, and the remainder were cancelled during the next few days.



Upon Lt. Orlinski's return flight he carried mail mainly cards which were prepaid with Japanese stamps. The cancellation date reads 15-9-10 which is equivalent to Oct. 9, 1926. The back-stamp at the Airport in Warsaw was dated 25-9-26 (Sept. 25, 1926). A portion of the 150 pieces carried are autographed by Lt. Orlinski.

In making the flight, Lt. Boleslaus Orlinski did not fly alone—he had Sgt. Victor Kubiak with him. Both overcame untold handicaps and much adverse weather, especially over Siberia. The trip from Warsaw to Tokyo and back to Warsaw covered 22,000 kilometers, approx 14,000 miles and was covered in 25 days, a fast pace at that time. The fliers became very

popular in Japan especially because of their stunts and low flying. In fact on one occasion in Tokyo, Orlinski in banking, his plane broke off the end of his wing making the plane tilt noticeably. Orlinski simply smoothed out the broken section and cut off a part of the other wing to balance the plane and made the entire return trip with the shortened wings.

SEEN and HEARD

by Victor Bukinik

No rest for the weary! We received a reminder from our "boss" that we should have written a column a long time ago. The editorial thunder reached us on a farm far away from the Big City. The June "POLONUS" accompanied the reminder.

It is of course difficult to write a column, even a philatelic one while twelve pairs of bovine eyes are staring at you. However prior to leaving for the farm we made an interesting and valuable addition to our collection and of importance to Polish philately.

We purchased Scott's #31 to 39 in Blocks of FOUR with INVERTED SURCHARGES. This included a block of #32B with inverted surcharge. The surcharges are undoubtedly genuine. Since we have never seen these items in blocks of four barring 31a we were quite happy to acquire them.

In all respect to the auctioneer who sold them we want to add that he kept his bids as well as the name of the underbidder confidential until after the auction. We learned the name of the underbidder after we purchased the blocks for \$97.50. He is a very esteemed member of Polonus.

The blocks were found among Col. Green's vast holdings. It is somewhat peculiar, but the immense properties of Col. Green have been notable for their lack of Polish stamps of value. Perhaps the remainder of the Greer stamps will produce something unusual of interest to Polish philately.

We have seen the 1945 French Yvert catalogue and noticed that the prices are quite high, in fact higher than Scott prices. We computed the prices at 2 cents per franc. Some of the mystery surrounding the spectacular rise of B15 to 25 was dispelled when we noted that they are priced at somewhere around \$20.00 in France. Of course current European prices are

no criterion of the real value of stamps because of the chaotic conditions and no stabilization of the market.

Amidst the summer doldrums we have noticed that Poland #1 is increasing in demand with prices as high as full catalogue for a damaged copy on cover and over \$50 for a Russia #1 with a Warsaw cancellation. We do not expect any diminution in the price of #1 even after the war.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

- #249 Mitchell A. Derus, 1748 W. Erie St., Chicago, Ill. (General)
- #250 Dr. Anthony J. Kmiecik, 2616 W. 14th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio. (EPP, US, & Hitlers Germany)
- #251 Frederick A. Webb, 164 Woodtick Rd., Waterbury 67, Conn. (EPP, US, GB & Col., DL)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pvt. John Sopczak, 31409688
Hq. Co. 1960 S.C.U. H.T.U.
Presidio of San Fran, Calif.
Stanley S Madro, GM1/C
Gunners Mate School,
Washington, D. C.

CORRECTED ADDRESS

- #193 Derek Palmer, Casilla 2393,
Santiago de Chile, Chile, South
America.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Have you paid your dues for 1945? Our Treasurer Jack Rux has mailed a statement to all of our members who have overlooked the payment of their dues.

We know that most of you are very busy, because we too are busy. So won't you kindly look at your membership card **right now** and if it does not indicate that you are paid up to February 1946, please remit at once to J. P. Rux, 6136 Addison St., Chicago 34, Illinois.....PLEASE....

Any of our members who may be interested in obtaining a copy of Harry Lindquists' Specialist carrying Clem Pulaski's article on Polish Postal Stationery may do so by writing to Jack Rux, Treasurer of Polonus, 6136 Addison St., Chicago 34, Illinois.

Did you read Bert Powells' article on the "Remember Warsaw" poster stamp in Stamps Magazine of July 14.



NEW ISSUES

Piast Eagle 25 Gr. Surcharged

Member Fred C. Engerman has mailed to us for examination a copy of the recent 25 gr. "Piast Eagle" stamp reported in the May "BULLETIN." His copy however was surcharged 1 Zl. and bore the legend in three lines as follows, 12-31-43, K.R.N. 12-31-44.

Fred requested information on this issue. We have nothing on it nor could we obtain any information. Can any of our members help us out?

50 Gr. Grunwald

Simultaneously, information was received from members F. Bołowski, J. Jaworski, and R. Wojcieki, of the appearance of another value similar in format to the 25 gr. reported in the June Bulletin. It is of 50 gr. value and green in color. The central figure of the design is the Grunwald Monument, erected in Cracow and presented to the city by Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

The monument was dedicated July 15, 1910 on the 500th anniversary of the defeat of the Knights of the Teutonic Cross by the Poles and Lithuanians at Grunwald. Poles from many parts of the world were present at this great event. Their victory over the Teutons was indeed a great achievement. The Knights of the Teutonic Cross, at the time, was the strongest individual military force—they were defeated by an army equipped with only crude weapons, but imbued with an indomitable spirit.

In the 20th Anniversary of Poland's Freedom set, issued in 1938, this same battle was commemorated on the 15 gr. value by the design of the two crossed swords and helmet in the lower panel of the stamp. The design came to the attention of the German authorities who immediately protested and consequently the stamp was withdrawn from sale and the remainders destroyed. It was again reissued with a changed design in the bottom panel.

THE POLISH UNDERGROUND AND PHILATELY

by Edith M. Fisher



Heroic deeds of activities of the underground workers in occupied countries during this war will leave footprints on the sands of time. And a series of postage stamps, designed, printed and used by the Polish Un-

derground is an achievement worthy of the philatelic spotlight.

Many stories have come out of the war, true stories involving the underground which are indeed stranger than fiction, and the story of these stamps is among them **for they were designed, printed and published almost under the nose of the Nazi "supermen."**

The Polish underground has long received wide spread attention due to its excellent organization and success in a campaign of sabotage during the German occupation. It has been said that their underground was used as a model by other countries in forming like movements. Through the underground, newspapers were published and distributed, which kept their countrymen informed of allied victories, and which did much to boost the morale and stimulate further patriotism.

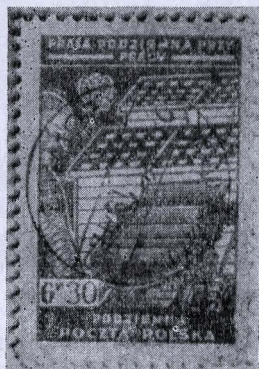


However, the Polish Underground went even further—they maintained a postal system, complete with stamps and dated postmarks!

Through the courtesy of Otto Gutzman, who lived in Warsaw, through the uprising, we are able to describe two series of stamps that he managed to bring here with him, which were printed in Poland by the underground.

The central design of each stamp of the one series, corresponds with those issued in 1941 by the Polish Government in Great Britain (listed in the catalogue under "Polish Offices Abroad."). However, the position of the value is placed differently and the word "Podziemna" (underground) has been added above the traditional "Poczta Polska." These stamps were typographed whereas the 1941 was

engraved, and the colors of the stamps were changed. They are as follows: 50gr. deep blue, the Polish submarine "Orzel"; 55gr. carmine rose, Ruins of Warsaw; 75gr. bright blue-green, Polish machine gunners; 80gr. yellow-green, Armoured Tank, 1zl. red violet, Polish Planes in Great Britain.



The second group of stamps which may be a continuation of the same set, consists of four values which are of entirely new designs, proving the versatility of the Polish Underground, which was not only able to print and distribute these stamps, but also able to plan new and fitting designs.

The first adhesive is of large square format, a 25gr. in black, depicting a group of four different publications, including the "Miecz-Plug" one of the journals from whose press these stamps came. Above the design, in Polish appears "Polish Underground Press," the 30gr. blue-grey, shows a scene from an underground press room with printing press and racks of type cases, the 2 zl. red brown has a portrait of General Vladimir Sikorski and the 5 zl. deep rose, shows a map of Europe and Africa.

Mr. Gutzman managed to get one each of these stamps through when he came here from Warsaw. All copies were perforated and bore 1942 cancellations.

As connection with the underground meant almost certain death if caught, it is assumed that these stamps were destroyed upon receipt, as possession of them would definitely link the owner with the underground. They may, therefore, become great rarities. Even if that does not happen, they are surely one of the most unusual sets to come out of the war—and will re-

main historic and significant.

—Article reprinted from Philatelic
Gossip, 6-23-45.

Cuts courtesy "Stamps" Mag.

Editors note:

We have noticed that in all instances the 5 zloty stamp mentioned above is assumed to be a postage stamp.

It is our recollection that the inscription on the stamp (we were shown a photo, which is no longer available) bears a legend to the effect that the proceeds from the sale of these stamps are to be used to support the "Home Army."

This would indicate that it is nothing more than a "Charity Seal" although a letter bearing this stamp would receive a courtesy delivery.

Who has more information?

Another underground stamp not previously recorded to our knowledge, in philatelic journals, is one released Aug. 1st, 1944, and circulated in Polish held districts of Warsaw during the insurrection.

It depicts Home Army soldiers throwing grenades on the barricades of Warsaw, while above in the left corner are the letters A. K. (Home Army) to the right "Pocztą Polowa" and across the bottom "Warszawa—1-VIII-1944.

(Polish Review, Apr. 12. —1945)

SEZ THE EDITORS

In the May issue it will be recalled an appeal was made for articles for the "BULLETIN." The response at this writing is far from encouraging. We did however, receive inquiries as to the type of material we would consider for publishing. Our answer to this question is: We welcome any article which in any way discusses the postal issues, charity, Red Cross and Tuberculosis seals and poster stamps of Poland. It is true that we are a philatelic organization but because many of our members collect poster stamps and seals in addition to postage stamps the Editors are of the opinion that articles on these subjects will appeal to the majority of our members. We will continue to adhere to this policy unless the consensus of the majority of our members is received to the contrary. This we will never know unless you write and tell us.

Another thought comes to us. That

it would be a good idea for each of you to jot down on a penny postcard a request for an article on a particular subject in which you are interested. These requests would then be tabulated and an attempt would be made to have an article written on the subjects with the greatest appeal. MAIL YOUR CARD TONIGHT.

Here is another thought: We have on file an article on Charity and Tuberculosis Seals and semi-postal issues of Poland. We know that this article is incomplete so we are appealing to all of our members to list and describe the copies they have, even though in some cases it may be only one item. After all of these lists are turned in, we may request the loan of a stamp here and there for illustration purposes. In this way we should be able to get a fairly accurate listing and each of you who contributed would have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped.

Come on gang, let's all work together in the same old Polonus spirit that has always manifested itself in the past.

FROM OUR BOYS

Those who attended the meeting of June 22 were treated to a most pleasant surprise. Charter Member #13, GM.1/c Stanley Madro and his charming wife paid us a short visit.

Stanley has been serving in the Navy during the past five years and this was his first opportunity to be with us in that time. He looked fine, and surely very happy.

It was nice seeing you, Stanley. We all hope this mess will be over soon, and that we may look forward to being together again within the near future.

P. S. Stan. dropped us a card and said that he is now attending Gunners Mate school, Wash. D. C. He also sends his best to all of the members.

—
England, 1945

Friendly Greetings, and thanks for all the "BULLETINS."

Lt. Julia C. Pach, A. N. C.
Thanks for "The Little Book on Stamps."

—
Philippines, June 11, 1945

Just enough time to drop a few lines to say that the April and May "BUL-

LETINS" followed me up here. Of all the periodicals, The "BULLETIN" is the one I always look forward to.

I was greatly interested in the article about "Doc" Kozy, in the May issue, particularly so because I knew his son "Ed."

What tickled me was the article by Tad Stasik. I guess all of us in the service feel the same as he. Best regards.

S/Sgt. Felix Walat.

June 10, 1945

Rec'd the program of POLPEX 1945. Extremely proud to see such progress. My sincere thanks for remembering me.

Cpl. Chester D. Kozuchowski,
Philippines

July 6th, 1945.

Dear Jack:

Just a few lines to say hello from San Jose, Costa Rica, the land of Eternal Spring. Right now the weather is delightfully cool. San Jose is about 3000 ft. above sea level.

Enclosed are a few mint stamps of C. R.

So long for now and best wishes and regards to the club members.

T/Sgt. Chuck Wrobel.

July 1st, 1945

Dear Jack:

I've been doing fairly well with Polish stamps and Gen. Gov. Issues during the past two weeks.

Have seen two copies of the last 'Gen. Gov. 10zl.+10zl. but the prices asked are terrific.

Stamp prices in Germany have skyrocketed quite a bit. "Stamp Wholesaler" lists a German set at \$1.85 and in Germany it is selling for 80 to 90 marks. The 26 value Poland set (Scott #354 to 379) are priced at 350 marks.

I was shown a very beautiful German collection, I tossed in my sleep all night.

Cancelled "Gen. Gov." issues are difficult to find.

Enclosed is the snapshot of myself that you requested.

Pvt. Joe Bienecki,
(Germany)

Ed. note: Thanks Joe for the snapshot and enclosures.

Keep hinges in a tight box to keep them from curling and the gum from cracking.

THIS N' THAT

In the April 23rd issue of Chambers Stamp Journal our good friend and member Steve Rich remarked: "I am undoubtedly 100% crazy in the eyes of most of my brethren in the Polonus Society because I end my Poland Collection with 1870."

Why Steve should feel that most of his brethren believe him crazy we can not imagine. Nothing that we have said or done in the past six years could possibly be interpreted as an attempt to tell anyone what they should or should not collect, particularly Steve, who we believe by this time should and does know what he wants to collect.

Why we have fellows in the Society like Ben Reeves, Lester Jankowski and I who even collect foreign precancels. Does anyone want to make something of it? J. J. D.

To L. A. Kupferwasser, Frank Sarnecki, John Jarosz and Frank B. Jancowski we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of donations to the "STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED."

Chester A. Schafer was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Translating.

There are many fine articles on Polish philately in some of the old Polish philatelic Journals which can be used when translated. Chester has agreed to appoint a committee to do this work. It is a difficult job and we wish to thank Chester for his most generous offering.

NOW THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN HELP. Many of you may have odd copies of these various Bulletins. Please mail them to the Editor who will return them after use if desired.

One thing that can be said about the German issues that came out during the war is that the quality, beauty, and condition of the engravings are still replete with the same teutonic thoroughness to do a good printing job. The Nazi symbol seems to be present on most of their issues. Goebbels never lost his touch for publicity.

Aside to anyone who may be interested in importing these stamps, it still is against the rules set up by the Treasury Department to import them into the United States.

—Lee Gilbert, Phil. Gossip 6-16-45