BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue 122 July-August 1954

Dr. Fenigstein Tells About Kosciuszko

On July 17th, member Dr. Henry Fenigstein was interviewed on the Canadian Broadcasting Company Stamp Club meeting of the air. His subject was the Polish patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko. The CBC Stamp Club broadcast takes place every Saturday from 12:30 to 12:45 P.M.

Following is a reprint of the script that was actually used:

Annor: The 232nd meeting of the CPC Stamp Club is now in session. Welcome to the regular meeting of the CBC Stamp Club. Here to greet you is our President.

Patrick: This is Doug. Patrick.

Annor: And our summertime vice-president.

Elaine: Elaine Senelnick.

Annor: And this is _____ inviting you to join the CBC Stamp Club and take part in our meetings. What's planned for the agenda, Doug?

Patrick: Today we have a guest to tell us about a famous Polish soldier. Our guest, Dr. Henry Fenigstein, medical Doctor of Toronto and I are both actively interested in this organization. And we're both directors. Dr. Fenigstein is also a member of the Polonus Society of Chicago. This Philatelic Society specializes in the stamps of Poland.

Welcome to the CBC Stamp Club, Dr. Fenigstein.

Dr. F: Thank you, Doug. I'm glad to be here.

Elaine: Will you please explain how to say this Polish man's name?

Dr. F: Thaddeus Andrew Bonaventure Kosciuszko.

Elaine: Why was he so famous, Dr. Fenigstein?

Dr. F: Kosciuszko devoted his life to help people in Poland and in America to fight for their freedom.

Elaine: When was he born?

Dr. F: On February 12, 1746. He was born in Minsk Province, West Russia. His parents were of the nobility but they were not wealthy. His mother gave Thaddeus, his one brother and two sisters their early education in writing and reading.

Patrick: Didn't his father die when he was young, Dr. Fenigstein?

Dr. F: He was 12 years old when he lost his father. Before long Kosciuszko left home to attend a school of the Jesuits. When he was 19 years old he went to the Cadet Military School in Warsaw. He finished his studies with high honors. Finally he was elected to attend school in France, Germany and Italy.

Elaine: What did he study there—in those countries?

Dr. F: Military engineering and architecture.

Elaine: Where did Kosciuszko gain his fame. A man really has to accomplish something to have stamps issued in his honor.

Dr. F: That's quite true, Elaine. Kosciuszko became a great Military Engineer. He returned home and after he stayed in Poland for 15 months he borrowed money to sail to America.

Elaine: About what year was that?

Dr. F: In 1776. He met George Washington. The first job Koscius-

zko had in America was the fortifying of Philadelphia. Then in 1777 he planned the fortifications and the camps on the plain of Saratoga.

Elaine: Well then, he was working with the colonists to help them get their independence.

Dr. F: Oh yes. He had been brought up in Poland when the country suffered at the hands of other countries in Europe. He wanted to help the Americans get their independence. He also wanted independence for Poland too. But he could help the Americans first—so that's why he went to America.

Anncr: Dr. Fenigstein, would you explain the other work Kosciuszko did for George Washington?

Dr. F: Yes. The American Colonies made an Alliance with France after Saratoga had been successfully fortified. In 1777 Kosciuszko met Casimir Pulaski a hero of the American Revolution. Pulaski was also a Polish soldier. He came to America to help George Washington in the struggle for independence. Pulaski was wounded two years later and died. But Kosciuszko worked on and used the training he got in Europe.

Elaine: What did he work at next?

Dr. F: Well, according to some histories, Kosciuszko made West Point the Gibraltar of the New World.

Elaine: Could you please explain what you mean by making West Point the Gibraltar of the New World?

Dr. F: The historians mean Kosciuszko fortified this place, West Point. It overlooks the Hudson River. He was the originator of the plan for a great military school at West Point. The school was organizzed in 1802.

Anncr: The American history books give credit to the great Polish soldier, Kosciuszko. After fortifying West Point, where did he go, Dr. Fenigstein?

Dr. F: He went to help the army in the south. In December, 1782, Thaddeus was the first one to enter Charleston after the battle there. In the next year the Congress of the new country, the United States rewarded him with a title of Brigadier General. He had been voted a grant of land, a pension and retirement by Congress.

Elaine: That's a big reward for a soldier from another country.

Dr. F: Yes, that was one of the very few cases in United States when an individual person received such an honor. But Kosciuszko remained a loyal Polish citizen and returned home. He fought for the independence of Poland but he failed. He spent two years in prison and then went to England and France. He died in 1817 at the age of 71.

Patrick: How many postage stamps have been issued to honor Kosciuszko?

Dr. F: The U. S. issued a stamp in 1933 to honor Kosciuszko. And Poland has issued eight since 1932. The American stamp displays the monument to him standing in Lafayette Park in Washington, D. C. The Polish stamps include portraits and pictures of monuments of Kosciuszko in Lodz and Cracow, two cities in Poland.

Anncr: We all want to thank you, Dr. Fenigstein, for telling us about the Polish hero Kosciuszko.

Dr. F: I enjoy this story myself because I specialize in Poland.

APPRECIATION

Thanks to Myron Steczynski for the souvenir sheet design, to Joseph Banasiak for drayage and Beeba, to Sig Bor for the program, to Dr. Kozakiewicz for food donated toward the Beeba, to the ladies for their services at the Beeba, to Jack Rux for his capable handling of the Polpex funds, to all the members who helped set up the exhibit and take it down. To all the patrons, goodfellows and advertisers who helped us to our greatest exhibit yet.

Thanks to one and all for your cooperation.

Anthony A. Banasiak
Polpex Chairman 1954

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The Stamps of the Second Poznan Issue

by V. Rachmanov

The following is reprinted from THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, the publication of THE COLLECTORS CLUB, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N. Y., which publishes six times a year philatelic research articles from outstanding students. Membership in THE COLLECTORS CLUB is open to qualified philatelists all over the world.

PREFACE

Study of the second provisional issue of Poznan-German stamps of 2pf and 7½pf surcharged with a large "5" or "10", has been a difficult task due to the lack of official documents regarding this issue, as well as of full sheets.

Until 1938 only two articles had been published about this issue, one in German by G. Becker ("Briefmarken-Rundschau," Oettingen, 1926, Nos 7 to 11), another in Polish by Prof. S. Mikstein and Dr. M. Rychlik ("Ilustrowane Wiadomosci Filatelistyczne," Poznan, 1933 to 1934). While the former article is full of unfounded personal opinions, based on doubtful sources, the second article shows positive results of research consisting of large blocks and stamps on covers. Although the authors even used ultraviolet rays for their investigations they did not detect that some blocks with faked surcharges were among their material and therefore their conclusions were not wholly correct. The listing of these stamps in the handbook of Polish stamps (published by Ikaros, Bialystok) is based upon the latter article and is therefore also unsatisfactory.

The lack of good research articles in the Polish and other literature, together with the great number of faked surcharges—some of them even on covers which were sent undetected through the mails, or with faked cancellations—has made collectors suspicious and many of them decided not to collect these provisionals. None of the established experts of Polish stamps were willing to give an opinion about these stamps and nobody could even tell for certain which of the surcharges were the official ones.

Early in 1938 through the courtesy of a high official of the provincial postal administration at Poznan, Mr. E. K., I received two full sheets of these stamps, one of each value, which undoubtedly came from the official issue. This enabled me to make a thorough investigation concerning the nature of these stamps. I showed my research collection, including the two sheets, for the first time at the Polish National Exhibition in May 1938, where it received much attention. About the same time, Prof. S. Mikstein received from a dealer, J. Witkowski at Poznan, large blocks of 60 genuine stamps and based on these an article which contains valuable information ("Ilustrowane Wiadomosci Filatelistyczne," 1938, No. 80).

I intended to publish my own research about these stamps in 1939 in the Polish magazine "Ikaros," but this was rendered impossible by the war which broke out in that year. I am now offering the result of my research and this should clear up all the doubtful details of this issue.

GENERAL REMARKS

The history of the second provisional issue of Poznan is still enshrouded with mystery, because in 1919, when these stamps were issued, no official documents were published. The details published in later years in the philatelic press, which gave the date of issue, the printing, etc., unfortunately differ. Today, after 30 years, it is impossible to get all facts verified.

The first mention of the stamps is found in the Polish magazine "Filatelista Polski" of No. 20, 1919, which

came from private sources and read as follows:

"The newest stamps from Poznan. Early in October, 1919, the Postal Administration at Poznan distributed two overprinted German stamps of the Germania type to ten post offices in the district. They showed large figure surcharges, "5" on 2pf, mat overprint in red brown, and "10" on 7½ pf shiny overprint in light green. The printing is said to be 5000 of each value. The provisionals, necessary for lack of 5 pf. and 10 pf. stamps, were probably ordered several months before the recently issued set overprinted "Poczta Polska" was released. There were rumors about these stamps previously, but probably large supplies of 5pf and 10pf stamps became available and therefore the provisionals were not issued. Now, quite surprisingly, the two provisionals were issued early in October, but only at smaller post offices outside Poznan. It is reported that the supplies of the provisionals lasted only one day, although only three copies were issued to each buyer. They are little rarities today and sell for 50 to 100 Polish Marks apiece. They can only be found used on registered or money letters, as they were issued for that purpose.

"The surcharge '10' on 7½pf varies considerably. The figure '10' comes thin and thick, the '0' wider or narrower or irregular. The color of the surcharge also varies from light green to dark green. In contrast to this, the surcharge '5' on 2pf shows no variations and has always the same color.

"The stamps were used at the following post offices: Odolanow, Skalmierzyce, Gniezno, Trzemeszno, Ostrzeszow, Witkowo, Wrzesnia, Opalenica, Wolsztyn and Strzelno."

The only official document about these stamps, dated November 25, 1919, published in the following issue of "Filatelista Polski" contains very little data of interest. It is a letter from the Poznan Postal Administration and reads as follows:

"In reply to your letter of Nov. 3 we want to inform you that the Poznan Postal Administration has issued 20,000 of each provisional, 2pf with surcharge '5' in red and 7½pf with surcharge '10' in green. These surcharges were made by the Postal Administration before the stamps overprinted "Poczta Polska" were issued. But their issue was delayed until after the stamps with the "Poczta Polska" overprint had been issued.

signed: Niegosz"

This official document unfortunately contains no new information except for the number printed. Conspicuously absent are any statements about the reasons for the provisionals and their use outside Poznan only.

I received additional information from private sources, but the data about the reasons, printing, etc. of this issue partly disagree. A former high official of the Poznan Postal Administration, who loaned me full sheets of both values, wrote me as follows:

"In August 1919, the supplies of the first Poznan issue, overprinted 'Poczta Polska,' were almost exhausted and it became necessary to provide for necessary 5pf and 10pf stamps.

"The Postal Administration at Poznan wrote to Warsaw for a new supply but received a reply that the stamps could be forwarded only after prepayment of the full face value. This proposal could not be taken seriously and therefore it decided to prepare a second provisional issue, 5 on 2pf and 10 on 7½pf. The German stamps needed for the surcharge were on hand in quite large quantities in the depot of the Poznan Postal Administration.

"Due to the fact that all large printing establishments were working overtime and could not take any new orders, the surcharge had to be entrusted to a small printing shop which did the work under great difficulties, spoiling a large quantity of the material. Due to the uneveness of the sheet margins, great difficulties were encountered during the surcharging, which was made by typography. Many surcharges are strongly shifted, partly to the adjacent stamps. The printing shop which did the job no longer exists.

"This second provisional issue was authorized by a decree of the Poznan Postal Administration and distribut-

ed to the post offices in its district. It has been erroneously stated that the provisionals were not sold in Poznan itself. They were sold there. However, most of them were purchased by postal clerks as a good investment.

"In the meantime the Postal Administration received from Warsaw a supply of the definite Polish issue they had ordered and therefore the necessity for selling the provisionals no longer existed. They were withdrawn immediately and this was the reason for their limited use.

"The printing of 20,000 of each value of the provisionals seems correct, but the quantity of each value actually issued seems to be smaller because plenty of printer's waste occurred, and this was later destroyed.

"Unfortunately I am not in a position to give the exact date of the decree of issue, as I do not have a copy of it. As far as I can remember, this decree was issued early in October 1919, but it is possible that it shows an earlier date."

Mr. J. H., proprietor of a printing shop at Grudziadz, who in 1919 worked in the printing shop of L. Kapela at Poznan, informs me that only one printing of the provisionals was made, namely 5000 of each value. They were ordered by an official, Mr. B., of the Poznan Postal Administration. Mr. J. H. is of the opinion that the provisionals were not printed to satisfy a need but because Mr. B. saw in them the possibility for a big profit.

A well-known stamp dealer, Mr. J. J. of Bydgoszcz, who lived at Poznan when the provisionals were issued, gave me the following information:

"1. The official name of the Postal Administration at Poznan at that time was 'Poznan Postal Delegation.'

"2. The printing consisted of 18,000 copies of each value, of which quantity a great number were destroyed as printer's waste.

"3. The provisionals were partly sold by the post offices Poznan 1 and Poznan 3. The balance was sent to larger post offices in the district, such as Inowroclaw, Witkowo, Gniezno, etc.

"4. The provisionals were sold at Poznan 1 and Poznan 3 only for a very short time, as the German postal officials and dealers bought them up immediately to have them cancelled to order. At the other post offices, the supply lasted for a few days.

"5. There was no decree about the issuance of those provisionals, only a circular by the Poznan Postal Administration, probably dated between August 15 and August 30."

This is the information I received about the history of the two provisionals. I have published it to show that sometimes even after a lapse of thirty years it is impossible to give the exact history of an issue when there are no official documents available. Private information, as far as it comes from eye witnesses or postal officials, can only help to fill the gaps of knowledge without being an entirely satisfactory substitute.

Evan the exact date of issue cannot be ascertained, as the variously reported dates run from August 10 to October 10. The earliest date I found on used copies was September 25, 1919 on a registered letter from Skalmierzyce to Poznan which in my opinion went correctly through the mails.

During the Second World War, in 1940, a wooden box was found in Poznan, which had belonged to the Postal Administration and which, aside from other material, contained a considerable quantity of full sheets of both provisionals. Unfortunately the box had been inexpertly stored and the chemical influence of moisture and the metal items contained in the box resulted in complete deterioration of the sheets; these mostly broke to dust when they were taken out, especially the 5 on 2pf, of which only a small quantity could be saved. This information came to me from two different sources of which the one estimated the number of provisionals found at several hundreds, while the other gave an estimate of many thousands.

Considering that the provisionals were sold at the post offices for a very short time only and are very rare in genuine copies, it is quite possible that these sheets found in 1940 were the remainder quantities

withdrawn from sale in 1919 and since then stored in a damp cellar or under other unfavorable conditions.

THE "5" ON 2PF PROVISIONAL

The surcharge on this stamp was made in typography by the printing shop of L. Kapela in Poznan, Wroclawski ul. 18. Full sheets of 100 were surcharged, but not in a single operation. Close investigation proves that less than 13 operations were necessary to complete the surcharging of a sheet.

For the surcharge, only eight "5"s were used. First they were assembled in a horizontal row of eight and this setting was used to surcharge the first 8 stamps of all horizontal rows (operation I to X). Then, the same eight "5"s were assembled in a block of 8 (four horizontal pairs) and used to surcharge the two last vertical rows of the sheet (operations XI and XII) and finally the two lower pairs of "5"s to surcharge the right bottom corner block (operation XIII). The printing was done in such a way that first all sheets went through operation I, then all through operation II, etc. until the job was completed. Each sheet had to be run thirteen times through the printing press to achieve the purpose.

The eight "5"s have their small characteristics which distinguish them. Type 1 (first vertical row and positions 9 and 49) has a sharp upper left corner and a small white dot at the end of the flag. This type is 9 mm high, while the others 9¼ mm. Type 6 (sixth vertical row and positions 30, 70 and 90) has a small white dot on the tip of the curved bottom at the left. The other types also have their characteristics but these are less distinct. The distribution of the types on the sheets and the changing spaces between the horizontal rows as well as between the 8th and 9th vertical columns prove to our satisfaction that the surcharging was done in 13 operations. This is also proven by the fact that in case of offsets only eight stamps always show the variety.

When the third horizontal row was surcharged, the first "5" was inserted inverted, either by carelessness or possibly purposely. Therefore, in the entire printing (or possibly only in part of it) position 21 shows inverted surcharge. As the inverted "5" is always in type I, this facilitates detection of surcharge fakes. I have not seen any genuine inverted surcharges in other types and due to the method of surcharging it is very unlikely that full sheets with inverted surcharges exist.

The color of the surcharge varies from light brick red to dark red. The differences occur in the same sheet which is not surprising, considering the method of surcharging. This method is also responsible for the fact that we can find stamps on which the surcharge is strongly shifted, sometimes in pairs with normal stamps.

Statements in the philatelic literature that there were two or even three printings of these provisionals are without foundation. One writer even claimed that officially typography as well as lithography was used for the surcharges and that they were partly overpainted or overprinted with larger figures; but this is pure fantasy. There was no time for such fancy work as the stamps were real provisionals, necessary for lack of stamps. Anyway, the first and only printing was never sold out, as the remainders found in Poznan prove. Therefore, all provisionals differing from this first printing can be considered forgeries.

THE "10" ON 7½pf PROVISIONAL

This value, unlike the other one, was surcharged in full sheets of 100 in a single operation. The surcharge was made by the printing shop of J. Golberg at Poznan, Ul. Marcinkowskiego 6, by a lithographic process. One transfer block of 20 figures "10" (two horizontal rows of 10) was used and this was transferred five times on a zinc plate. As the transfer job was done in haste and not very carefully, the plate had to be retouched, which accounts for the fact that almost all "10"s of the plate have their characteristics which makes it possible to plate most of the stamps. The first two horizontal rows, which seem to have been only insignificantly retouched if at all, show clearer and more regular figures than the others.

(Continued next month)

1954 POLPEX FINANCE REPORT

Item	Receipts	Disburse.
Advance Funds	$50.00	$50.00
Entries and Insurance	161.50	5.00
Trophies		56.83
Watch Service		30.00
Publicity		2.87
Bourse	156.00	
Advertising, Printing	256.00	140.00
Souvenir Sheets, Covers and Printing	115.05	71.40
Postage		4.65
Patrons, Goodfellows	64.50	
Auction	37.89	
Beeba		2.95
Rent		75.00
Preparation Costs (Hardware, Supplies, Express, Postage, Telegrams, etc.)		
A. Banasiak		36.81
S. Bor		7.54
J. P. Rux		3.48
TOTAL	$840.94	$486.53
PROFIT		$354.41

Respectfully submitted,
J. P. Rux, Finance

PICNIC FOR CHICAGOLAND MEMBERS

On Sunday, September 12th, a Picnic is planned for our Chicagoland members. Dr. Kozakiewicz's Aquilla Lodge in Powers Lake, Wisconsin has been selected as the place. Directions from Chicago: US 12 (Foster Ave.), to Richmond, Ill. Turn right on Trunk P to Aquilla Lodge in Powers Lake, Wisc. Those without car transportation meet at 1062 N. Ashland at 8:30 A.M. or at Milwaukee and Devon (end of the Bus line) at 9 A.M. Dinners will be available at $1.75 for adults, and half-price for children under 12.

NEW ISSUES
by J. J. Domar

Souvenir Sheet commemorating the 3rd Philatelic Congress. First Day of Issue was May 23rd. Size 4x12 mm, perf. 12. Air mail, color green, printed on unwatermarked paper by steel plate engraving.

The set of 4 stamps scheduled for May 25th for the International Glider Competition was issued on June 21st in the following values:

45 gr. green, 60 gr. violet, 60 gr. brown, 1.35 zl. blue and (a) bright blue shade variety. Printed by rotogravure on white unwatermarked paper—perf. 12½x12¾, size 3/25x25.5 mm.

Also issued was an Official stamp, Polish Eagle ordinary mail, printed by rotogravure, without denomination, black-blue.

The set of 3 stamps issued commemorating Women's labor in Poland was issued March 24th, Colors: 20 gr. green, 40 gr. blue, and 80 gr. brn. Perf. 12¾x12½, on white unwatermarked paper, size 25.5x31.25 mm. Printed by rotogravure.

On April 28, the set of 3 stamps commemorating the 1st of May celebration appeared in values of 40 gr. grey-brown, 60 gr. blue, 80 gr. red, perf. 12¾x12½ on white unwatermarked paper, rotogravured, size 25.5 x31.25.

Commemorating the 7th International Cycling Race a set of two stamps were issued, both 80 gr. values, one blue and one brown, perf. 11¾x12½, on white unwatermarked paper, printed by rotogravure, size 25.5x40 mm.

On the occasion of the 3rd Trade Union Congress in Warsaw, two stamps, one 25 gr. black-gray and the other 80 gr. violet were issued. Perf. 11¼x11½, white unwatermarked paper, steel engraved, size 25.5 x 31.25 mm.

The new date for the proposed release of the following is:

Forest Animals of Poland, 4 stamps, about June 20th

Air Mails, 6 stamps about July.

New issues proposed:

Sport, summer spartacist games, 5 stamps, July

10th Anniversary of People's Poland, 8 stamps, about July 22nd

160th Anniversary of Kosciuszko's Insurrection in Poland 1794, 3 stps. August

5th International Chopins Music Competition in Warsaw, 3 stamps, Aug.-Sept.

"Prasa I Ksiazka"

Since the above has been written, the following have officially been released:

A set of 6 Airmails on July 9th, in the following values: 60 gr. dark



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Also on July 17th, 2 sets were released. The first for the Second Sport Summer Spartacist Games 1954 which is a set of 3 in the following values: 25 gr. violet and 1 zl. dk. blue, size 31.25x25 mm, and 60 gr. green blue size 25.5x31.25 mm. They are perf. 12½x12¾, rotogravured on white un-



green, 80 gr. red, 1.10 zl. black, 1.50 zl. red violet, 1.55 zl. dark blue, 1.95 zl. brown. Each shows a plane in flight over a historical edifice in 6 different cities.

They are perf. 12½x12¾, printed by steel engraving on white unwatermarked paper. Size 25.5x31.25 mm. watermarked paper.

The second set issued along with the games pictured the Emblem used. It is a set of 2, values of 60 gr. red brown and dark brown and 1.55 zl. grey and black. Size 31.5x39.5 mm. Rotogravured on white unwatermarked paper.