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THE STAMP "DOJDZIEMY"

THE POLISH FIELD POST STAMP IN RUSSIA

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INTRODUCTION

There are conflicting versions and opinions concerning the intent, purpose, and validity of the stamp "Dojdziemy" issued and used for a very short time by the Polish Armed Forces in the U.S.S.R. in 1942. These later tended to create some question and doubt, and seriously threatened to hamper the status of the stamp in Polish philately.

On one hand, there are those who say that the stamp is merely a label of no value, and they are very critical of its philatelic status. On the other hand, there are those who state that it should be considered and classified as a Polish stamp.

Neither groups give any concrete facts or evidence to support or sub-

stantiate their views. It is only natural that those who do not know the facts, except for some vague, unauthentic, unreliable personal ideas, jump to these erroneous conclusions. Such conflicting reports and information not only confuse collectors, but eventually, produce controversial reactions.

These contradictions stem from the lack of knowledge and facts about the Polish prison and concentration camps in Russia; the organization of the Polish Forces in Russia, and the development and progress of the postal system during that period. Much of the confusion and misunderstanding arose from somewhat unfortunately premature, unreliable information. It lacked complete historical data, and vague, or no know-



ledge of the postal workings during that period. As with many stamps, especially those issued during a war, the unknown circumstances of events, the incomplete, poorly and incorrectly kept records; the loss or destruction of these, may be the responsible factors.

To settle this controversy, I have the pleasure and privilege, in this article to chronicle that particular period of Polish history and how it led to the birth of the stamp "Dojdzieny." My purpose was to gather information from sources that were considered accurate, and to locate material, and persons whose opinion was that of an authority on this subject.

Information about stamps may reach collectors through the following sources:

1. Government releases or reports. most authentic.
2. Philatelic publications. Most reliable.
3. Stamp papers. Most reliable.
4. Stamp Magazines. Most reliable.
5. Collectors themselves. Reliable.
6. Lay Magazines. Least Reliable.
7. Daily Newspapers. Least reliable.

Many times articles or information about a stamp may be presented by sources, who in many instances may be totally unfamiliar and unqualified to write on the subject. Frequently such articles or information are published because of lack of the publication to check on the source and the authenticity of the article. Many excellent articles are ruined, because of the publication's demand for brevity, causing omission of essential facts and data. Their main interest is in the circulation and the financial success of their publication.

In order to find an adequate and systematic approach to the subject, it was necessary first, to review and study all the books, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers and maps that could throw light on the historical events of that period. Secondly, all the philatelic literature, pamphlets, and the like, were reviewed for articles about the stamp. Contacts were made with every possible source that could throw some light on the subject. After all the data was compiled and carefully reviewed and studied; the subject was divided into four main groups: 1—Historical; 2—

Philatelic; 3—Summarization; 4—Conclusion.

1. Historical

- a) Poland and the Second World War.
- b) Formation and growth of the Polish P.O.W. camps in the U.S.S.R.
- c) Resurrection of a New Polish Army and important part it has played in the latter part of the war.

2. Philatelic

- a) Origin, development and growth of the Postal System in the Polish Armed Forces and in the Polish concentration camps in the U.S.S.R.
- b) The stamp "Dojdzieny."
- c) How it came to be.
- d) In what historical epoch of the last world war and under what circumstances and conditions was the stamp "Dojdzieny" issued.
- e) Description of the stamp.

3. Summary

4. Conclusion

HISTORY

The 20th Century saw Poland and many other countries enjoy their rebirth, freedom, liberty and existence — and then struggle, war, chaos and elimination of the same countries.

It also saw two totalitarian powers, Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, intent on conquering and ruling over the destinies of not only all of Europe and Asia, but the whole world. On September 1, 1939, in violation of international laws and agreements; when the Nazi forces invaded the western portion of Poland, and later the Red Soviets engulfed its eastern portion; marked the beginning of a tragic hour of darkness for Poland. Her stubborn resistance against the great military powers of Nazi Germany and her heroic struggle against the great odds of Red Russia, could not last too long, and on October 5, 1939, the country of Poland collapsed. This fate is a great tragedy to Poland and the whole World.

The defeat of Poland by the overwhelming foe does not obscure her part as the standard bearer for the freedom and liberty of the world; and by her noble defeat, the rest of the world might gain vision and wisdom



Polish newspaper cartoon by Krawiec showing attempt to destroy and exterminate Poland by the totalitarian powers.

to make the right judgments in the future. One may say that Poland from this moment on has been fighting for its life and existence up to the present time.

The totalitarian powers already linked with each other by the Russo-German Treaty of Friendship and Frontiers of August 23, 1939, undertook the task not only of destroying Poland, politically, economically and culturally,

but adopted a policy of extermination to the end that Poland should never rise again.

In September 1939, immediately after the occupation of the eastern part of Poland, the Soviets started drastic purges which resulted in sporadic murders and arrest of very large numbers of people. Concentration camps (correctional labor camps) and prison camps began to spring up all over the European territory of the Soviet Union. The central organization governing all camps was known as "Gonlag" and was located in Moscow. This vastly extended organization divided Russia into a camp system whose borders often coincide with those of the administration districts known as "Oblasts." The Gonlags were

further divided into districts called "Otdelyenye." These again were divided into labor and prison camps called "Lagpunkts." All these were under a special branch of the N.K.W.D. with the main governing body located at Moscow. Each and every section had its own labor, feeding and clothing tasks to perform. They varied according to location, officer in charge, and the average amount of daily work per-



Photo view at one of the Prison Camps in Western Siberia

formed. There were some concentration camps not included in the system and wholly dependent on the local authorities of the N.K.W.D.

Very soon were the concentration camps and prisons overcrowded, so that the Soviet authorities ordered mass deportations.

The first mass deportation took place on February 10, 1940 toward the region of Archangielsk, Komi and the basin of the Pechora River. The second took place on April 13, 1940 toward the southern and southeastern part of Asiatic Russia. The third took place at the end of June and the beginning of July 1940. The fourth mass deportation followed soon after. The last two scattered people over the wilderness and frozen wastes of Siberia. The Polish deportees were almost invariably sent to sparsely populated regions or placed in isolated areas far from other centers of human habitation.

In spite of these difficult situations, horrible tortures, and terrible tragedies, hundreds of thousands of exiled Poles have survived and escaped to tell the story.

On June 22, 1941, a sudden change of events took place. The ambitious Nazi leaders sent an army against Russia! The rapid advances and progress

of the German army caused Stalin and the politburo to worry about the outcome as it posed a threat to the very existence of the U.S.S.R.

General Sikorski, Commander-in-Chief of all the Polish forces, with his statesmanlike vision, his courage and supreme qualities of leadership, realizing Russia's predicament took advantage of the situation. He also realized that to free the considerable number of Polish forces, thousands of troops and civilians from the prison camps in Siberia, he must improve the Polish-Russian relationship.

He immediately began to negotiate with the Soviet government which resulted in personally meeting with Stalin. He conducted the negotiations with the greatest skill and diplomacy, which resulted finally, in a "Polish-Russian Declaration," known as the "Sikorski-Stalin Declaration." It was signed in Moscow on July 30, 1941.

In this declaration Stalin agreed to the proposals of General Sikorski, that a Polish army should be reorganized on the U.S.S.R. territory from Polish officers, soldiers, and civilian war prisoners, with its own command under Gen. Anders.

Stalin insisted that the formation should be under the supervision of the



Stalin signing the Polish-Russian Pact in the presence of General Sikorski, General Anders, Ambassador Kot, and Comrades Malinkov and Molotov.

Soviet High Command. He also agreed that 25,000 Polish officers and troops should as soon as possible, proceed from Russia to the Near East, and to be equipped with American and British arms, food and uniforms.

At the same time, he also agreed to free all the Polish civilians from Russian prison camps and allow them to earn their living wherever possible and permit them to proceed to the Near East.

Through this Declaration over 100,000 officers, troops and civilians arrived at Iran, Iraq and Palestine.

About September 1941, due to the Polish-Russian pact and agreement between General Sikorski and Joseph Stalin, prisoners of war, civilians and political prisoners were freed from prisons and forced labor camps, began to gather or assemble in Czkatow, Saratow, in Siberia and many other towns forming the nucleus of the Polish Army in Russia. Later this army became the mainstay of the Polish Armed Forces abroad under the command of General W. Anders with its headquarters at Kubyzew (Kuybyshev).

During this period of organization the Polish Army and the civilians made use of the Soviet postal facilities, both civilian and military. Later the Soviet authorities became reluctant towards the use of the Soviet post system. As the camps became better organized, small camp post offices were established by the soldiers of that particular camp. They would collect and deliver mail from one part of the camp to the other. This was purely a courtesy service rendered by the Polish Army postal system for which no remuneration was received. Later, this service was extended from one camp to another. (This served for internal communications only).

For all outside mail to other parts of Russia or Poland, the prisoners of the camps had to make use of the Soviet postal facilities, first the civilian and later the military field post. This the Soviets permitted with great reluctance. Full Soviet postage had to be paid on these letters. As the camps grew larger in number and the correspondence became heavier, the postal service had to expand. Soon, the Polish

Armed forces organized and developed a very efficient postal system of their own.

In May 1942, with sanction from the Soviet authorities, a Main Polish Field Post Office was organized, with one or more Field Offices in each camp. The personnel was all Polish except for the direct supervision by the Soviet Field Post.

In retrospect, the historical part of the article should leave us with two clear and distinct thoughts. The contribution of Poland to the world in the last war has been immense and this contribution has been beyond computation. Poland and its people, by their remarkable courage, strength of character and love for their country were prepared to die for the principles they believed in and the freedom they cherished.

Poland helped to avert early defeat of the Allied Armies and saved the world from chaos and disaster. Countries helped and saved by the gallant fighting of the Polish Armies are not only completely indifferent toward Poland in her present fight to preserve her liberty and independence, but are unconcerned in her present struggle for existence as a nation. When the final assessment of World War II has been made, it will be found that few nations have given as much as Poland to the world and received so little.

PHILATELY

Philatelically, we are interested in the mode of procedure and manner in which messages, notes, letters, cards were conveyed or delivered within the camps; between one camp and another, and between the camps and the local villages, towns or cities in other parts of Russia or Poland.

The origin of the postal system, which at first acted as a mediating medium in the individual camps themselves, later served as a means to transport messages, and letters between the different camps. Still later, it acted as an agency between the camps and the local Soviet postal system for letters which were sent outside of the camps to towns and cities in other parts of Russia and Poland.

Soon the regular Soviet postal service was replaced by special assigned Soviet

Field Post stations, with special numbers assigned to them. Finally, there was established an independent Central Polish Field Post with a number of branch Field Posts to replace the duties of the Soviet Field Posts.

The issuing of a special stamp for the Polish Armed Forces by the U.S.S.R. was inconceivable. The different areas of the development of the Polish Postal System in the U.S.S.R. can only be based on material found and recognized from the different camps of that particular period.

Intra-camp or individual camp messages or notes were written on any kind of scrap paper, rags, etc., and passed from one person to another until it reached the proper party. In some camps, even this was forbidden. Here messages were passed on secretly or by word of mouth. This was authenticated by the prisoners who were there and survived to tell the story.

Inter-camp or between different camps, messages, notes and letters were written on scraps of paper, rags, wood, large leaves, and the like and smuggled from one camp to another, by prisoners themselves, who were transferred from one camp to another or by Russian guards, who would smuggle the messages for small bribes. These notes and messages were immediately destroyed by the receiver. This practice was also authenticated by the prisoners themselves.

Later, officers, usually N.K.V.D., in some camps permitted the prisoners to write messages or letters to relatives or friends in other camps or to their home towns or cities. These were strictly censored by him. Almost all of the letters were thrown into the waste basket. This was used to help track down political leaders. Here again for small bribes, now and then, a letter was permitted to slip through.

In 1941, especially in European Russia a great deal more freedom was extended to the prisoners, and this in turn gave more freedom to send letters. The letters can be recognized by having Russian stamps, cancelled by a regular Russian Post Office cancellation date, and post office number.

In May 1942, as the Polish Postal Service became well organized, the

Russians replaced the regular post office service with Soviet Field Post Office Service with special assigned numbers.

These can be recognized as follows: Russian stamps with Field Post cancellation which reads "Polewaja Poczto-waja Stancja," date, and one of the assigned numbers to the Polish Armed Forces, as: 3,000 - 5 D.P., 3001 - 6 D.P., 3002 - 7 D.P., 3003 - 8 D.P. and so on.

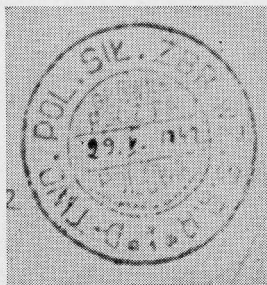


Special cancellation used by the Russian Field Post in the Polish Camps.

These field posts were completely handled or managed by Polish personnel, but were under Soviet supervision.

At the end of May 1942, the Polish Armed Forces established a Main Polish Field Post Office with branches in the different camps. At the same time, it began to employ a Polish cancellation with the following inscription: **D-TWO. POL. SIL. ZBR. w Z.S.S.R.** in the outer circle.

The inner circle is divided into three



Special cancellation used by the Polish Field Post in Russia.

parts by two parallel lines. The upper part reads—**Główna Poczta**. The middle part contains the **Date** and lower part reads **POLOWA**. This cancellation was used only on diplomatic and military correspondence and on private mail from one field post to another.

Mail (private or military) sent to cities in Russia or Poland outside of the field post jurisdiction usually had both the Soviet and the Polish field cancellations, plus Soviet stamps. The Polish field post cancellation was used up to the last day of its existence in Russia, on August 21, 1942. This cancellation can also be seen on letters with the stamp "Dojdzieny" alone, and in combination with stamps of Russia, Iran, Iraq, Egypt and others.

The Stamp "DOJDZIEMY"

The striking dramatic design it portrays and the appropriate historic events it recalls, combine to make the stamp "DOJDZIEMY" a most fascinating and interesting study.

Before giving a complete description of the stamp and the subject it depicts, a few words concerning the intent, purpose, preparation, and release of the stamp "Dojdzieny" will be in order.

It is a well known fact, that the Polish Armed Forces in the U.S.S.R. developed a highly organized and a very efficient postal system of their own, which soon began to show its independence from the Soviet Postal System.

About the middle of June 1942, at Jungi-Jul, an idea was conceived of issuing a Field Post Stamp for the newly resurrected Polish Army in the U.S.S.R. The idea grew more popular by the day, and was vigorously promoted by the acting quartermaster, Lt. K. Wisniowski.

After due consideration, and with the full knowledge and approval by the recognized Polish Government in Exile in London, the Field Post decided to issue a special stamp for the Polish Armed Forces in the U.S.S.R. The purpose of the stamp was to help cover the expense incurred by the Field Post; to underline the independence of the Polish Field Post from the Soviet Postal System, and finally, the stamp would be an effective means of propaganda.

A committee was appointed to study the idea and make a full report as quickly as possible. In July 1942, the committee held several conferences and arrived at a decision to conduct a contest.

The rules governing the entries were as follows:

1. The committee would announce the opening date.
2. All drawing and sketches would be on a competitive basis.
3. The sketches or drawings had to include and carry out certain ideas:
 - a. The dimensions of the stamp should be 4x2½ cm.
 - b. The design must include the words "Poczta Polska w Z.S.S.R."
 - c. The value of the stamp would be 50 Kop.
 - d. The stamp would be printed in one color only—black or some other dark color.
4. The subject must convey the true and documental facts of our enforced stay in the U.S.S.R.
5. The competition will end on Aug. 6, 1942.
6. Awards will be presented for the three best designs and subjects. At the close of the contest, only four designs had been submitted. On August 8, 1942, the committee announced the winners of the first, second and third awards.

They were submitted under the following titles:

1. Stan
2. Dojdzieny
3. Lompart
4. Without a title (by Kaminski)

The first award was conferred upon a drawing sent in under a pseudonym,



First project known as "Stan" accepted for the stamp to be issued, later rejected for political reasons. Only proofs are known.

Map Showing Distribution of the Polish Army the Polish Army

★ MOSCOW, Center of G.U.P. and N.K.W.D.

▲ KUBISZEW (Kuibyshev) Polish Army Headquarters.

● Concentration Camps, Prisons and Prison Camps. Also Towns and locations where prisoners came from all parts of Russia to enlist in the Polish Army.

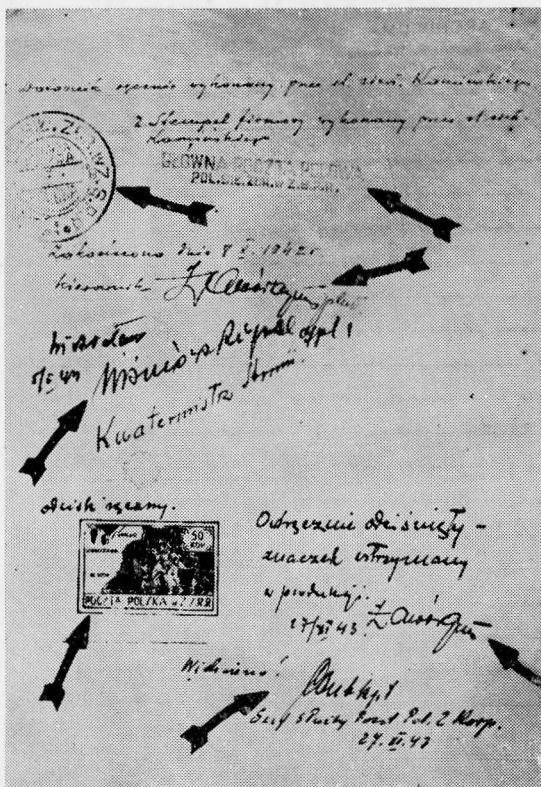
ARROWS indicate Deportation Routes, Convoys of Prisoners; Also Routes taken by the Polish Army from Russia to Iran, Iraq, India, Egypt, etc.

★ Isolated areas, very little known about.



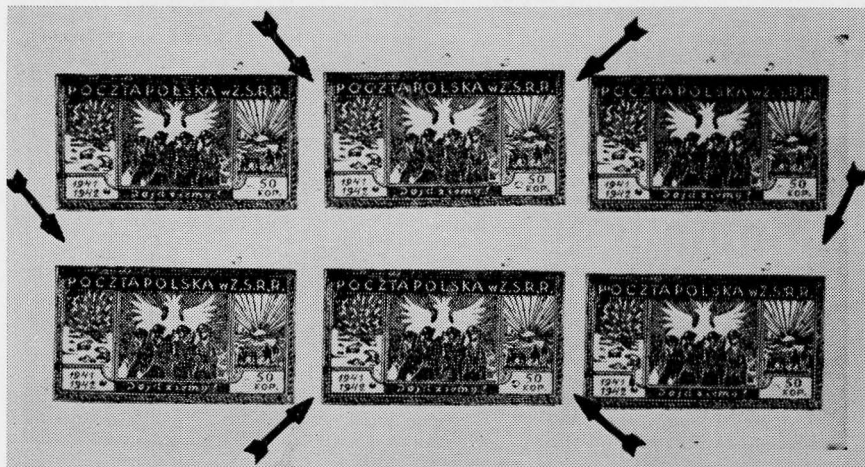
ish Prison and Labor Camps in Russia, and the Formation of med Forces and Routes of Evacuation



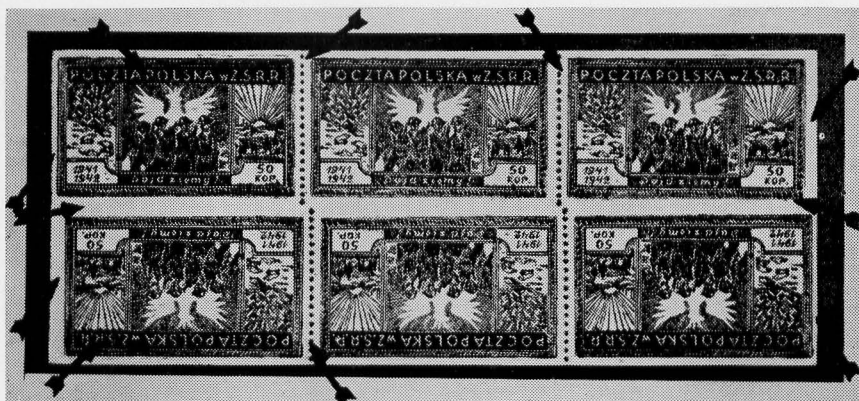


Photostatic copy of a record from the London Museum files regarding Field Post Cancellation and the project "Stan."

"Stan." The design was chosen because it not only fulfilled all requirements of the committee but could be easily executed with the limited printing facilities on hand. The drawing of the stamp depicts the eastern border of Poland, showing the cities of Lwów, Wilno and Warsaw, superimposed on a background of a white eagle. To the right, one observes the following figures: a small boy with outstretched arm running toward his Homeland; next, the figure of a woman portraying Poland, with a child in her arms and leading another child by her right arm, walking towards Poland. In the background is a figure of a soldier with his left hand on the woman's shoulder and with his right hand pointing the way toward her homeland, Poland. In the lower left, on the road are branches of thorns, indicating that the road to Poland is rough and painful. Along the lower part of the stamp the words "Pocztą Polska w Z.S.S.R. The entire design



Imperforate proof sheet. Note arrangement and spacing of stamps.



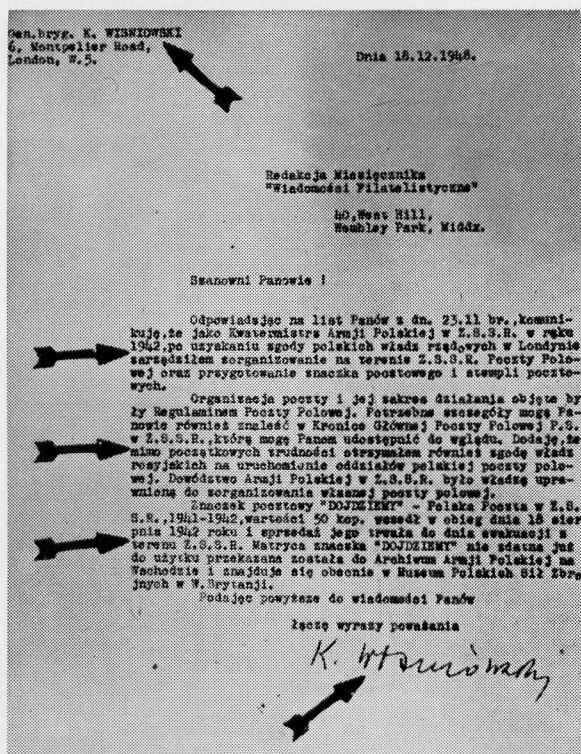
Final proof sheet. Note changes and perforations.

is enclosed in a simple two line frame.

After the proofs were executed, the Commander-in-Chief of the O.V.L with the Quartermaster and several officers of the army decided to abandon the idea of printing and issuing the stamp, due to the Polish-Russian political situation at that time, and because of the subject matter that the stamp portrayed. The withdrawal of the printing and issuing of the stamp "Stan" did not necessarily mean the abandonment of the project of issuing another Field Post stamp.

On August 13, 1942, the quartermaster of the Polish Field Post again recommended and ordered the printing and issuing of a stamp, to the drawing and subject matter which received the second award. This stamp was known as "Dojdziemy." From all indications it seemed to very appropriate for the purpose it was to serve, and would not create disorder between the Polish Forces and the Soviet Government which happened frequently at this time.

Immediately, the engraver, K. Polkowski, began to work on the die. To complete the die as soon as possible, he worked from early morning until late into the night. On the night of



copy of letter written by General K. Wisniowski regarding the organizing of the Polish Field Post in U.S.S.R., the issuing of a stamp and cancellation.



Perforation proof sheet

August 16, 1942, he completed the die. This die was not treated nor tempered because of the lack of time and material for this process.

While some members in the printing department began to fix and set up an old antiquated type, foot-powered press, others prepared a mixture of glue; while others prepared different shades of ink. A dark brown was chosen as the final color for the stamp. Variations of shades from light to very deep brown color are seen. These may be due to the texture of the paper, the ink, the amount used and process of printing. Color proofs in red, dark blue and black are known to exist.

One of the most difficult tasks was to get enough paper of the same quality and texture. Paper was very scarce and difficult to get, especially in larger quantities, even in the larger cities. Finally, after a great deal of searching, the director of the Polish Field Post, for a bribe, managed to get ten irregular sheets of paper from a Soviet print shop in Jungi-Jul. These ten sheets were cut so that 503 small sheets were obtained, measuring 155 mm. in length and 62 mm. in width. This had to be done to facilitate the handling and printing. The paper is not of a clear white color and is

fairly thick, and unwatermarked. The sheets were gummed, after they were printed, and this was done by hand with a brush. The gum may have helped to give the paper this color. One stamp was either destroyed or cut from the first sheet to be kept as a sample of the lot printed. This accounts for the final number reported of 3017. After rechecking and finding the computation correct, the stamps and die were

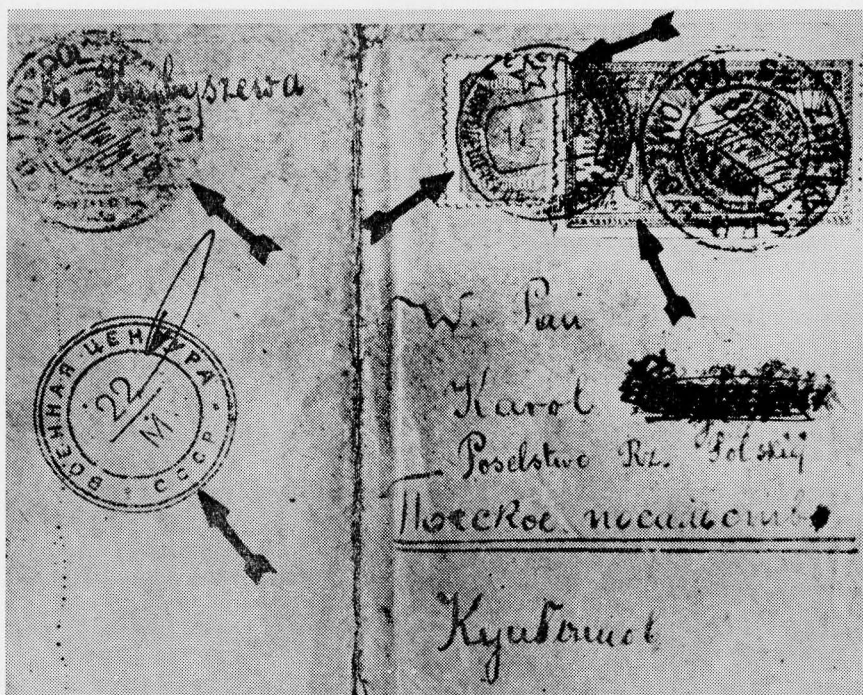
turned over to the director of the Main Field Post Office, August Zawol.

The stamp appeared for sale on Aug. 18, 1942, after the acceptance and final telegraphic confirmation by the Polish Government in Exile in London. The stamp itself is rectangular in shape, horizontal format, measuring 51 mm. by 31.5 mm. The design itself is enclosed by a picture-like frame measuring 48 mm. by 28 mm. The design is divided into three separate sections, separated from each other by a frame made up of four vertical lines.

The central picture portrays a detachment of Polish infantry marching toward Poland against a background of the Polish White Eagle, with radiating sun rays in back of the eagle. Upon a rectangular brown background, below the central picture, the word "Dojddziemy" is inscribed in white letters. ("Dojddziemy" means "We Will Get There.")



Stamp of India with "Dojddziemy" stamp used in India.



Cover franked with Russian stamp and "Dojdzieny" stamp used in Russia.

The picture to the left portrays the North Pole with ice, snow and white polar bears and the sunset as a background. Below the picture, printed in brown on a white background are the dates 1941 and 1942.

The picture to the right portrays the

tundra and frozen waste lands of Siberia with the northern lights in the background. Below the picture, printed in brown on a white background are the numerals 50 and the letters KOP. These two sections represent the lands where the Poles were held as prisoners in forced labor camps.

Above and across the three pictures is a rectangular brown field upon which is inscribed in white letters the caption "Poczta Polska w Z.S.R.R."

Due to the sudden order of evacuation of the Polish Armed Forces from the U.S.S.R., on August 20, 1942, the sale of the stamp was discontinued and the Polish Military Field Post ceased to exist in Russia.

SUMMARY

In summarizing, may I state —

1. That the Polish Government in Exile in London was recognized by all the Nations except Nazi Germany,
2. That a New Polish Army was resurrected in the U.S.S.R., due to the alertness, wisdom and political



Stamp of Iraq used with "Dojdzieny" stamp in Iraq.

- astuteness and diplomacy of General W. Sikorski,
3. That the Polish Armed Forces in the U.S.S.R. developed a very progressive and efficient Field Post Service.
 4. That the Polish Postal Service received many privileges and concessions were made by the Russian Postal authorities in spite of the many difficulties and violent objections,
 5. That the Polish Armed Forces considered issuing a Polish Field Post Stamp for some time.
 6. That the idea was being developed with the full knowledge and approval of the Polish Government in Exile in London.
 7. That the directives of organizing an independent Polish Field Post and the issuing of a Polish Field Post Stamp were published in the general orders of the Polish Armed Forces in the U.S.S.R., located today in the Polish Museum in London.
 8. That the stamp "Dojdzieny" was issued and printed with the full knowledge and final approval of the Polish Government in Exile in London,
 9. Because of the Russo-German situation, the Russian Field Post authorities against their wishes approved and permitted the Polish Field Post to issue and sell the stamp.
 10. That the stamp "Dojdzieny" was sold in Russia from August 18 to August 21, 1942. Unfortunately though inevitably, few stamps were sold and used on military and private mail in Russia. The short existence of this stamp is due to the fact that the sale had to be curtailed. The rapidity with which the Polish Armed Forces had to be evacuated from Russia doomed any further efforts. Proof of this is indicated by the records that only 263 stamps were sold. This also accounts for the difficulty to locate covers franked with the stamp alone or in combination with Russian stamps.
- Records also show that 128 of these stamps are not accounted for or credited as lost. These probably
- were sold and used while the army was stationed in Iran, Iraq, India, etc. Proof of this are covers located from these places franked with the stamp "Dojdzieny" in combination with stamps of these countries. This seems to be a very logical and sound explanation.
11. That the resume and disposition of the stamps is as follows:
 - 3017 stamps printed and issued,
 - 263 stamps sold in Russia from Aug. 18 to 20, 1942,
 - 128 stamps not accounted for or credited as lost; probably sold and used in countries outside Russia,
 - 92 stamps were donated to the Allied Forces,
 - 396 stamps were damaged, torn, etc.,
 - 131 stamps were deposited in the Archives of the Second Polish Corps in London, not to be used or sold,
 - 2007 remaining stamps were deposited in the Museum in London for future disposition,
 12. That in the entire study of the Polish Armed Forces Postal Service did I find a single instance, that even remotely resembled a scandal or endeavor to produce a private or financial profit through the sale of this stamp or private manipulation to create an artificial scarcity.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, based on facts, it is my honest conviction and opinion that the stamp "Dojdzieny" is a genuine, authentic stamp issued by the Polish Armed Forces in the U.S.S.R. in 1942, with the full knowledge, sanction and according to the postal regulations of the Polish Government in Exile in London.

Therefore, the status of the stamp "Dojdzieny" is that of a Field Post Stamp of the Second Polish Corps in the U.S.S.R.

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 lawsky
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 "General Sikorski" — General Sikorski
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 "Stalin and the Poles" — Dr. B.
 Kusnierz
 H. M. Smith
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 Sekretarial "Koł. Oddziałowych" —
 London
 "Skarb Narodowy" — London
 "Selezione Philatelica"
 And Polish, German and Russian phi-
 latic sources and stamp publica-
 tions; also magazines and newspapers

Acknowledgement is hereby tendered
 by the writer to the many friends
 who submitted information, suggestions
 and articles, thus enabling me to write
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 were the books, magazines, pamphlets
 and papers, and this assistance is also
 gratefully acknowledged.

My sincere "Thank You" to the fine
 people who granted permission to re-
 produce some of their illustrations and
 pictures for this article.

APPLICANT PENDING

Sławomir Piotrowski
 P. O. Box 96
 Warszawa 4, Poland

CORRECTION

From Frank Majewski No. 521
 To Frank J. Majewicz, No. 521

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

To commemorate the Tenth Interna-
 tional Cycling Race of Peace—a set of
 two stamps was released May 4, 1957.
 The 60 gr. blue shows a part of a
 wheel running on a track formed by
 the words: Prague - Berlin - Warsaw.
 The 1.50 zł. carmine pictures a cyclist
 on the route. Printed in rotogravure.
 Priced at 8 zł. to a dollar.

A miniature sheet commemorating
 the Seventh Polish National Philatelic
 Exhibition, Warsaw 1957, was released
 May 18th. It is imperforate and has a
 single stamp of the 4 zł. + 2 zł. air-
 mail stamp as the theme. The stamp is
 blue and the frame line and inscription
 is in amaranth (light purple.) Size of
 the sheet is 5.5 x 7.5 cm. Printed in
 rotogravure.

—"ARS Polona"
 Ruch

A very peculiar situation is develop-
 ing in regard to the rate of exchange.
 As I mentioned above, the Cycling Race
 set is priced at 25 cents per set from
 "ARS Polona" which is at the rate of
 8 zloty for \$1.00. Yet the Polish Phy-
 sician series, having a face value of
 8.15 zloty, is priced at 63 cents a set
 from "ARS Polona." This is at the rate
 of 12.9 zloty for a dollar — yet it
 was released just one week prior. Also,
 one week previously (April 20) the
 Fencing set was issued with a face
 value of 1.60 zł. or 4 zloty for one
 dollar.

Does anyone know just what is the
 official legal rate?

NEW MEMBERS

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SIX POLISH STAMP CLUBS IN U.S.

Did you know that we have six Polish Stamp Clubs in the U.S.? Yes, and they're located in Buffalo, Boston, New York, Chicago, and two in Detroit. All clubs held stamp exhibitions this year in the interest of promoting Polish Philately. This indicates that collectors of Poland stamps are active.

We would like to see clubs formed in Cleveland, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. We know that there are many collectors in these cities who are capable of organizing such clubs. — R. Reinowski

PICNIC SET FOR JULY 21st

The Polonus Annual Picnic will be held Sunday, July 21st at Doc Kozy's place in Powers Lake, Wis. Every year the Picnic seems to attract more people and every year members come back with pleasant memories. Picnic chairman Roman Reinowski promises many attractions this time.

Members, their families and friends are invited. Reserve Sunday July 21st for the Annual Polonus Picnic.

ALBUMS FOR POLAND

POLAND - 1944-1955

(Does not include Air-Mails)

\$7.00 plus 50c postage

Supplement 55c plus 15c post.

POLAND AIR-MAILS

(Complete up-to-date)

\$1.20 plus postage

EASTERN SILESIA

\$1.65 plus 15c postage

SCOUT STAMPS of the World

\$3.00 plus 40c postage

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Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

TID BITS

At the May 24th meeting Chester Makowski lectured on his prize-winning "History of Poland Depicted By Poland Covers" collection. He showed the many covers he collected. Each cover is mounted on an individual page. As he showed a page he brought out some interesting facts about that particular cover.

Three out of town guests were present at our June 14th meeting. The distinguished Stephen G. Rich of Verona, N.J., Walter Kolankowski of Detroit and Leonard Zeller of Cleveland attended. They were in town for the A.T.A. Convention. Member guests spoke at this social meeting which did not adjourn 'til 11 p.m.

LAST CHANCE or LOST CHANCE

This issue of the Polonus Bulletin may be the last issue that will be sent to those members who have not renewed their membership for 1957. Your treasurer is preparing a list of delinquent members for review by the Board of Directors. The Directors may decide to drop your name from the roll and thus deprive you from receiving the unexpendable Bulletin, which you cannot afford to miss. Won't you please send in your dues now and make our Treasurer shut-up!