

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 4th Friday at Polish American Congress, 5844 Milwaukee Av., Chgo.

Issue No. 396

Price \$2.00

Jan.-Feb., 1983

POLPEX 83/MILITARIA: OUR GREATEST SHOW!

The New Year started with hope and promise for *Polonus'* greatest Exhibition ever. Entry Chairman J. Bobo reports preliminary entries received from Europe, Australia and N. America. Visitors will be able to view the greatest Military exhibits. Mr. Hobbs of England will show his renown collection of World Wide Military Mail. Mr. Schild of Switzerland will show Franco-Prussian War Fieldpost; Mrs. Meadows, Australia, will present an excellent Red Cross exhibit; Dr. Kuderewicz of U.S.A. is presenting the greatest collection of Polish Militaria and Napoleonic mail. Polish Military mail will be very strongly represented from classics to modern fieldpost mail. Over fifty excellent military and war time exhibits have been entered thus far. The material is of a great variety and there will be something for everyone to see.

The exhibition takes place March 18 thru 20, 1983 at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago. Hours: Friday from 10 AM to 8 PM; Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM (beeba-banquet to follow); Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM.

Member Leon Kawecki has submitted the art work of our cachets, postmark and is working on the souvenir sheets. Alfred Szebel is



*300th Anniversary of the Relief of Vienna
Honored at Polpex 83, Chicago, 18-20 Mar 1983*

One of the Polpex multicolor cachets designed by artist Leon Kawecki,

preparing the souvenir card. The Medallic Arts Company of Danbury, CT is striking special Sobieski medals to be awarded to the exhibition and financial sponsors of POLPEX 83/MILITARIA.

The United Nations Postal Administration will hold a first day ceremony for their new "Safety At Sea" stamps and souvenir card. A wide range of U.N. postage stamps will

be available at their booth at the Polpex. The special cachet illustrated below will be applied on souvenir mail.



The U.S. Postal Service will have their usual stamp store on the premises and will be applying our special picture postmark on mail at the show.

We expect many visitors from out-of-town for our meetings and social get-togethers. Arrangements have been made with the Palmer House for our Beeba-Banquet. It will be held Saturday, March 19th in the Monroe Ballroom. A cocktail hour will be held at 6 PM with the banquet at 7 PM. A delicious dinner is being planned by the chef of the Palmer House.

Join your fellow collectors, renew old acquaintances and enjoy yourself at POLPEX 83/MILITARIA March 18-20 in Chicago!

—Alfred Szebel

Polpex Publicity Labels

With this Bulletin we enclose a sheet of our newly printed three-color publicity labels. Use them on your mail to advertise our coming show. Additional sheets are available at two for \$1.00 plus a stamped self-addressed envelope from John Bartczak, 10428 South Avenue 'O', Chicago, IL 60617.

Visiting POLPEX 83?

POLPEX 83 will be a wonderful opportunity for out-of-town members and friends of Polonus to come to Chicago and meet with fellow members from our continent and abroad. Please notify us if you are planning to come so we may know what to expect.

Space arrangements have been made for those persons desiring overnight accommodations at the Palmer House Hotel, State & Madison St., downtown Chicago, during POLPEX 83 Stamp and Coin Exhibition, on March 18-20, 1983.

The rates for accommodations at the Palmer House are:

Singles:	\$65	\$ 85	\$ 95
Doubles:	\$85	\$105	\$115
Twins:	\$85	\$105	\$115

Reservations for the above may be made directly with Palmer House State & Madison St., Chicago, IL 60690, Reservations Dept., phone: 312/726-7500.

PROGRAM MEETING

Polonus and the Germany Philatelic Society, Chicago Chapter, will conduct a joint meeting on Friday, January 28, 1983 at Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams in Chicago, at 8:00 p.m. Fred Szebel and Chester Schaffer will give short talks on German related collecting areas of Poland.

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Starting with Friday, February 25, 1983 our Polonus meetings will be held at the new headquarters of the Polish American Congress at 5844 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago. In doing what's best for Polonus, the officers and directors made the decision to switch from the old meeting site at the January 11th board meeting. A space for the storage of our frames and easels will be provided.

BE A POLPEX SPONSOR . . .

A limited minting of gilded medals is being made available to financial sponsors of POLPEX 83 who contribute \$50.00 or more to cover the expenses of our most ambitious undertaking. For those who can't afford the sponsorship fee of \$50.00, you can be a Patron for \$5.00 a name. A \$3.00 or more donation, will entitle you to be a Well Wisher and have your name printed in the

official program and catalog of POLPEX 83/MILITARIA. Make checks payable to Polonus and send them to Mr. Stanley Rusin, Treasurer, P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656.

The list of financial sponsors is growing. Don't be left out. So far the following members and friends of Polonus became sponsors of our large exhibition in Downtown Chicago at the Palmer House.

HENRY R. ARCHACKI
LAWRENCE W. DRAEGER
T. A. EUBIG
MATT A. GAJEWSKI
MR. JANKOWSKI
ALEX A. JUSKOWICZ
DR. MIET A. KAMIENSKI
STEFAN KOCHANSKI
STANLEY KRONENBERG
JOZEF KUDEREWICZ
CHRIS T. KULPINSKI
ARTHUR MARQUART
JAMES MAZEPA

RYSZARD MROCZKOWSKI
JAN NIEBRZYDOWSKI
WALLY R. PAWLOWSKI
TOM M. PODL
WALTER J. PRYBULSKI
DR. EDWARD C. ROZANSKI
JOHN C. RYS
CHESTER A. SCHAFER
CONRAD P. STRAUB
ALFRED SZEBEL
SOPHIE MAE WOLANIN
FRANK WOLOSEWICK
FRANK M. ZDEBSKI

NEW MEMBERS

Gerald T. Kaminski
146 Oakwood Road
Hopkins, MN 55343

Ethan A. Miller
690 E. Center St.
Millersburg, PA 17061

Joseph Michaud
1425 Laurel Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

Joel Davidson
649 Briarwood Circle
Hollywood, FL 33024

Rosemarie Herman
304 Foster Drive
Houma, LA 70360

Stefan Petriuk
Neue Strasse 3 2391
Langballigholz, W. Germany

AN INTERESTING FACT

Poland has issued more postage stamps than the larger countries of Canada and the United States combined. The first U.S.A. stamp has been issued in 1847, and over two thousand have been issued since then. Canada, issued its first stamp in 1847, and has issued over 900 since then. Poland's first stamp was issued in 1860 and she has issued more than 4000 since then.

Reprinted from Plewacki Post Bulletin

THE POLISH MERCHANT NAVY IN WORLD WAR II

James Mazepa, ed.

In last month's *Bulletin* appeared the article on Poland's Military Navy in the Second World War, and this month I would like to conclude with the information on Poland's Merchant Navy. The sources of information are an article in the 1967 *POL-PHILEX* Catalog (London) written by Cpt. Marian Bielski and notes taken from the works (unidentified) of the Universal Ship Cancellation Club. The articles contain minor changes for the sake of consistency. The article of last month and the one here presented are not intended in any way to be definitive. I hope they will encourage collectors of this material to look through their holdings and correct any misinformation and add any missing information. Updates will be published if new knowledge is acquired.

September, 1939

The outbreak of the war found the best part of the Polish Merchant Navy outside the Baltic, according to a pre-arranged plan.

Of ships still in home waters the *Torun* was scuttled to block Gdynia harbor and *Tczew* and *Olsa*, together with the almost completed new ones *Lodz* and *Bielsko*, fell into enemy hands, while the coasters *Gdynia* and *Gdansk* were sunk by the Luftwaffe in the initial stages of the assault.

The ships that got away ranged from the four modern liners to the training ship *Dar Pomorza*. They were widely dispersed and, except in the spirit of their tough, well trained crews, unprepared to face what was to follow during the next five years.

The Hectic Days

It is Spring, 1940 and Norway, though still deeply covered with snow, is on fire. The Allies are taken by surprise but decide to meet the new German threat head on. It is essential to deprive the enemy of the port of Narvik with its iron ore Lulea background and the Norwegian fiords, ideal lurking ground for the long range U-boats.

And so the battle is joined in earnest and the British fleet comes out only to grope blindly along the unfriendly shores. Many troop transports, *Batory*, *Sobieski* and *Chrobry* amongst them, are jam-packed with green, ill-clad and inexperienced men and rushed north-eastwards.

But the Panzers are there first and theirs is the full tactical advantage as they streak up the Norwegian countryside with speed and dispatch. One by one they push the Allied beach heads back into the sea as they race for Narvik, which they take almost without opposition.

Then they consolidate their gains and bring out the fleet and the Luftwaffe. And so the carnage goes on as the Allies rush reinforcements in to retake Narvik. This they eventually do only to abandon it some time later; the situation in France demands their whole and immediate attention.

Meanwhile the Polish Merchant Navy suffers considerable losses. The flagship *Pilsudski* is mined and sunk off the S.E. coast of England and the transport *Chrobry*, crammed with reinforcements for the Bodo front, bombed into a blazing inferno.

The days that follow are impossible to describe; suffice it to say

that the two other liners, *Batory* and *Sobieski*, sweat it out till the bitter end, while they shuttle to and from U.K. evacuating the defeated Allied forces from under the shower of bombs.

And while their homeward bound propellers are still turning, the big news breaks. France is to be evacuated! So the two rush down South and, in the noble company of *Katowice*, *Oksywie*, *Rozewie* and *Poznan*, supplemented by the Polish fishing fleet, crawl along the French La Manche coast snatching thousands of people out of the claws of the rapidly advancing German Moloch.

But the end is not yet. For while the British Navy, augmented by hundreds of ill-assorted craft, cleans the Dunkerque beaches, the big ones, including *Batory* and *Sobieski* work their way gradually down the French Atlantic shores right to St. Jean de Luz in an effort to bring to safety as many troops as possible.

On Razor's Edge

Comes another lull; France capitulates and signs an armistice, which clamps a tight German fist round the French fleet, her merchant navy

and all the Allied shipping then in the French home or colonial ports.

The latter amounts to some hundreds of thousands of tons and to all the frantic British endeavors to free it, the French turn a deaf ear; their new Master has spoken!

The precious tonnage is immobilized by harbor booms, and the removal of vital machinery parts, charts and compasses. It is the end.

And then something unforeseen happens; the interned Polish ships begin to trickle back to the free world! And so *Wilno* sneaks out of Sfax in Tunisia and *Warszawa*, having constructed her own charts, out of Beirut in Syria. *Krakow* drifts on the ebb tide out of Benisaf by Oran and *Stalowa Wola* out of Dakar.

S.S. Pulaski, a passenger liner, bids farewell to *Conakry* and *Cieszyn*, *Slask* and *Kroman* to Caolac. The *Lida* sneaks out of Casablanca in September, 1940. Then the little training ships *Iskra* and *Wilia* join the others in freedom. It is a unique achievement, for no ships of any other nationality succeed in breaking the Vichy hold. The booms are there and the guns. The big guns and mines. And yet!



Cover posted on PMN #01, *M.S. MORSKA WOLA*, on December 15, 1941 and sent to New York.

As the threat of imminent invasion hangs over the British Isles, Zbaraz is blasted out of the water by German planes and Sobieski and Batory shift enough of Bank of England's treasure across the Atlantic to Canada to sink a battleship; the two become well known after the exploit.

Meanwhile Puck and Morska Wola take part in the Jarvis Bay convoy, Cieszyn is sunk off Falmouth and a little later Czestochowa hits a magnetic mine. Then Warszawa, the Tobruk's busybody, is torpedoed outside that besieged fortress, while Zagloba, Kmicic, Kroman and Narocz battle the U-boats and the Luftwaffe along the eastern coast of Britain, shooting down four planes in three months.

And On The Seven Seas

Back now to the famous Sobieski and the abortive Dakar expedition, while Batory ferries English children to Australia, Wisla saves the crew of the Canadian minesweeper Otter and a little later that of the British tanker Ulysses.

Further losses follow, and Paderewski and then Rozewie are torpedoed off Trinidad.

Then, suddenly, the PMN gets a shot in the arm by acquiring new ships of the Empire class. The white and red flag is hoisted on Tobruk, Narvik, Baltyk, Boryslaw and Bialystok and we are in business once more.

And in deadly serious business, too, for it takes a Polish M.N. vessel for the first time beyond the Arctic Circle; a trip where U-boats are a dime-a-dozen, the Luftwaffe consists of elite squadrons and the enemy surface vessels are fast and furious.

The losses of the Arctic convoys are history now but if a two-year

odyssey of a single ship is of any value, here it is: six hundred and thirteen air attacks in 20 months by the ship's log book. Two enemy planes destroyed for certain. Vessel bombed twice, sunk once; alongside the jetty in Murmansk. Resurrected and patched up she limped back into West Hartlepool. Results? Eleven Crosses of Valor! Not bad for one "merchant" vessel.

But what about the Far East in the meantime? here again the Polish M.N. is well represented by the two old liners Kosciuszko and Pulaszki. Tired and almost worn out by nearly half a century of service, the twins struggle valiantly from port to port moving thousands of Allied troops as, and when necessary, while Sobieski becomes the flagship of yet another operation: the Madagascar Affair.

Then the Narwik hits the front pages by saving 1022 survivors in the face of enemy from the torpedoed British liner Orcades. The Lloyds Medal for bravery at sea and many other decorations follow.

In November, 1942, Batory and Sobieski, now veterans of many operations, take part in the North African landings. They are later ably supported by Kroman & Lewant.

As the Battle of the Atlantic drags endlessly on, there are other victims. Zagloba perishes with her whole crew; one more mystery of the cruel sea.

Then, later on, the Mediterranean heats up and Sicily and then Italy are invaded by the Allies. The names Salerno and Anzio are familiar not only in the English speaking world; they are also part of the Polish history created again by Sobieski and Batory.

As the Italian campaign progresses, other Polish ships join in: Nar-

vik, Lwow and Puck among others, the latter two to be sunk by the Luftwaffe in the infamous Bari raid.

One Narrow Channel

Early in 1944 the PMN becomes augmented by five Lease and Lend ships which are called Krosno, Kowel, Kutno, Kielce and Kolno and finally Opole.

When the final chapter of the gigantic struggle is unfolded the PMN contributed 25% of its strength to the famous page. And while Modlin by scuttling herself, forms a part of a Malberry Harbor, Poznan gets damaged and beached only to be refloated three weeks later.

In September, 1944, Batory and Sobieski attend their first invasion, that of the Mediterranean France, after which they are both ordered back to England only to become "ferries" between U.K. and the Continent moving approximately one hundred thousand troops to France.

The sad fact of the sea taking its final wartime toll by pummeling the poor Chorzow to bits is somewhat compensated by the reception accorded the Kmicic as the first Allied ship to enter Ghent in Belgium after the liberation of that port by General Maczek's famous armoured division.

And so the story ends, it appears. Comes the time to count your losses. And here they are:

Tonnage at the outbreak

of war 140,000 brt.

Losses in the Baltic .. 11,000 brt.

Tonnage put at the disposal

of the Allies 129,000 brt.

Losses during the war . 63,000 brt.

or HALF the original strength.

By U-boats 18%

Luftwaffe 41%

Mines 12%

Marine 18%

Scuttling in the line of duty 11%

Wartime replacements . 76,000 brt.

Postmarks of the Merchant Navy

Only one type of postmark was used for the Polish Merchant Marine. It is similar in style to the postmark used by the military, but differs in details. Most notable are the design of the ship and placement of the clouds and sea within the rectangle. At the top are the words "Polska Marynarka Handlowa" (Polish Merchant Marine) and at the bottom "Agencja Pocztowa" (Postal Agency). The date and agency number are enclosed in the rectangle in the middle. All agency numbers seem to be enclosed in the inner rectangle, whereas the military type 2 postmark has the number outside the inner rectangle.

Merchant Ship Postal Agency Numbers

M.S. Morska Wola	No.	1
S.S. Lublin	No.	2
M.S. Batory	No.	3
S.S. Katowice	No.	4
M.S. Sobieski	No.	5
S.S. Krakow	No.	6
S.S. Lwow	No.	7
S.S. Zagloba	No.	8
S.S. Kmicic	No.	9
S.S. Kordecki	No.	10
M.S. Rozewie	No.	11
S.S. Tobruk	No.	12
M.S. Stalowa Wola	No.	13
S.S. Poznan	No.	14
S.S. Lechistan	No.	16
S.S. Wilno	No.	17
S.S. Slask	No.	18
S.S. Modlin	No.	19
S.S. Wisla	No.	20
S.S. Levant	No.	21
S.S. Baltyk	No.	22
S.S. Puck	No.	24
S.S. Paderewski	No.	25
S.S. Narwik	No.	27
S.S. Kroman	No.	33
S.S. Bialystok	No.	35
S.S. Lech	No.	36
S.S. Hel	No.	39

S.S. Pulaski	No. 49
M.S. Boryslaw	No. 52
S.S. Kielce	No. 72
S.S. Narcz	No. 77
S.S. Kosciuszko	No. 81

No explanation is known why the numbers were assigned in the sequence they were, or why numbers were omitted. Further information would be welcomed.



Postmark of the Polish Merchant Navy, M. S. SOBIESKI.

— GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY —



Soon after the establishment of the Polish State, it became apparent that revenue was being lost due to the importation of foreign, primarily Austrian, stamps for use in Poland. The newly formed Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs ordered that foreign stamps had to be overprinted into Polish stamps, and the postmaster of Krakow did this by having a local printer overprint existing stocks of Austrian stamps "Poczta Polska." This "Krakow Issue" is one of the most popular issues of Poland as it contains many varieties and some of the rarest stamps of Poland.

Professor Mikstein wrote in 1933

that two sheets of the 60 heller with inverted overprints were found in Lancut, and he stated that no 50 heller inverted were known. However, it seems that at least one sheet of 50 heller with inverted overprints was made. The cover pictured here suggests that the sheet was also used in Lancut, but all seem to have been used before the discovery of the invert overprint. Today the 50 heller invert is one of the rarest stamps of Poland. No unused examples are known and probably less than ten used examples are known. Only one example is known on cover (position I-10) from Lancut to Rzeszow. (J.M.)

1944 A.K. Warsaw Uprising Definitive Issue Forgeries

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

On September 3, 1944, during the uprising against the German occupation in Warsaw, the Polish Army issued the set of five postage stamps listed in 1981 "Ruch" Vol. I on page 252 as numbers 113 thru 117. "Michel" catalog mentions this issue, "Scott" does not list it. Of the 2750 stamps which were issued many were destroyed during the war activities, they are thus very rare and of great historical value as well as of high philatelic status.

These stamps were repeatedly forged; some forgeries are made so well that their recognition is most difficult and one cannot be too careful in acquiring this issue.

While these stamps were well described in the literature (see Ref. 2 and 3) not everything is known about them; their rarity and the most trying circumstances of their production, circulation and usage adding to those difficulties. To protect collectors, I have herein described and compared with genuine stamps several kinds of forgeries known to me; other not yet recognized types of forgeries may also exist.



Figure 1. A genuine stamp (design type I)

Description of Genuine Stamps

(see Figure 1)

Printed lithographically in sheets of 5 x 7 stamps in five colors:

Stamp Color in Visible Light (Incandescent)	Stamp Color under Long Wave Ultraviolet
brownish gray	brownish gray
grayish blue	bluish gray
brown ochre	brown
grayish green	greenish blue gray
vermilion	red with a violet hue

There exist two types of design distinguishable by a line protruding to the left side from the ruin in the center of the design and by a "stairway" leading down from that line (Type I), see figure 1, and by the absence of these characteristics (Type II); see figure 2. These two types are distributed over the sheets of 5 x 7 stamps.



Figure 2. The two types of the design observed in genuine stamps and in forgeries.

Some genuine stamps (and some of the Type IV forgeries as well) show another characteristic which was not previously described. While in most stamps the top brick of the broken up wall in the center left side is clear, an estimated one among twenty stamps shows another smaller brick on top of that brick (Figure 3).

The overall dimensions of the design measure 23.3 - 23.35 x 33.6 - 33.85 mm. The paper is a light grayish beige in visible light. Under long wave ultraviolet it appears close to white and does not fluoresce. It is composed partially of wood fiber; its thickness measures 0.009 - 0.011 mm. It is uniformly



Figure 3.

The variation of the design in the center of the left side observed in some genuine stamps and in some forgeries gummed; 1981 "Ruch" Catalogue states that part of these stamps were made on ungummed paper.

These stamps are line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ with hole diameters 0.7 - 0.8 mm. The perforation shows most often clean cut holes but occasionally the edges of punched holes are somewhat fuzzy.

These are the only definitive issue A.K. stamps which occur on original correspondence carried by Polish Boy Scouts during the Warsaw Uprising.

Type I Forgeries (Figure 4)



Figure 4. Example of a type I forgery, (design type I).

These forgeries are sometimes unjustifiably referred to as "London Reprints". These are rather harmless and easily recognizable fakes. They were accurately described previously (e.g. by Gryzewski, Reference 2). One of their main distinguishing is the missing period after "I" in "I.VIII". Numerous other deviations

from genuine stamps in the design are visible.

Lately I have seen these type forgeries on fabricated postal cards and covers with fantasy cancellations and with fantasy censor's marks (e.g.: "Zbadano No. 15").

Type II Forgeries

These were described by Danowski in Reference 1. I have not encountered them and thus can only summarize here Danowski's findings:

1. The design is undistinguishable from originals, shows Types I and II like the originals.

2. Colors resemble originals but differ under U.V.:

Color in Visible Light	Color Under Ultraviolet
brownish gray	violet
grayish blue	violet blue
brown ochre	yellowish-
	grayish green
grayish green	grayish green
vermilion	pink

3. Design size: smaller than originals; the lengths measure 36.33 - 36.50 mm.

4. Line perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$ like in originals but with perforation holes slightly smaller than in originals.

5. Danowski does not mention the paper or the gum of these forgeries.

Type III Forgeries (see Figure 5)



Figure 5. Example of a type III forgery shown here as an imperforate black "proof". Note the dot below the "O" of "POCZTA", (design type I)

These lithographically printed forgeries have a small color dot 0.6 mm. below the "O" of "POCZTA". This dot can be removed by a dishonest person and then the design becomes virtually undistinguishable from the genuine design. Therefore one should check during the examination of these stamps this part under the microscope for possible scratch or erasure marks or for a tiny thin spot.

The paper of these forgeries is off-white (beige) made of wood fiber. It is rough with a diagonal grid pattern seen if held against a light source. It is much less translucent

than the paper of genuine stamps, it appears gray under U.V., its thickness measures 0.009 - 0.011 mm. I have seen these forgeries only unused, some without gum and some with at gum similar to the gum of genuine stamps. They are line perforated 11½ like genuine stamps. The perforation holes are cut sharply and appear larger than in genuine stamps. Also numerous imperforate "proofs" in black exist as the one shown, for example, in Figure 5.

Design dimensions agree with genuine stamps.

I have available for reference only two colors of these forgeries:

Color of Genuine Stamp in Visible Light	Color of Type III Forgery in Visible Light	Color of Type III Forgery under Long Wave U.V.
yellow brown	brown ochre and more yellow than genuine	brown
red	orange red	bright red fluorescence

Type IV Forgeries (Figure 6)



Figure 6. Example of a type IV forgery, (design type I).

These are the most deceptive forgeries of this issue. For some time I considered the possibility that they could be genuine stamps but from another and unreported edition, or perhaps reprints, but eventually evidence has accumulated to call them forgeries after all. Many of these forgeries remain unrecognized and are being sold, mounted in collections and even exhibited as being genuine stamps.

Their paper is similar to that of Type III forgeries. It is grayish beige but often with a pink hue which is unevenly distributed. It is made of wood fiber and thick fibers are visible under magnification. It is much less translucent than the paper of genuine stamps. Its thickness measures 0.0075 - 0.009 mm, it appears gray under U.V.

The perforation is like in genuine stamps, line 11½ and is made very neatly.

The design is printed lithographically and all details are undistinguishable from genuine stamps. The overall dimensions of the design are often the same as of the genuine design but are sometimes larger the design length measuring up to 37.2 mm.

Type IV forgeries in gray brown and in green were not available to me, thus the observed colors are:

*Genuine Stamp
in Visible light*
grayish blue
yellow brown
vermilion

*Type IV Forgery
in visible light*
close to genuine
yellow brown with an olive hue
close to genuine

*Type IV Forgeries
under long wavelength U.V.*
bluish gray
brown
pink

I have seen some of these forgeries unused, without gum. They occur mostly cancelled in dark blue ink with the postmark listed by Gryzewski as Type 18. This postmark on these forgeries has all the characteristics of the genuine postmark. In most cases one can see mirror images of the same cancellation occurring on the reverses. This may have been caused by piling stamps (without gum) on other freshly cancelled stamps whose ink was still wet.

Forgeries, General Remarks

All four types of forgeries seem to have been made in sheets or in large blocks.

While Type I forgeries are in a class by themselves, Types II through IV appear to have been made by the same persons, probably in Poland. The use of original printing plates in making them is unlikely due to the often varying overall dimensions which cannot be explained by paper shrinkage or paper expansion. Printing plates carefully made by means of photographic transfer made in several editions seem most likely to have been used.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

James Mazepa, Publications Comm.

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

Address all correspondence to:

P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171

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

— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer

P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

Some of the advanced forgeries bear genuine guarantees of prominent experts; one can hardly blame them for having made errors in these cases.

To successfully examine these stamps a direct comparison with a stamp known positively to be genuine is absolutely necessary. Exceptions are Type I forgeries which can be easily recognized on sight.

To determine the authenticity compare side-by-side the applicable color in daylight, tungsten light and ultraviolet. Compare papers in incident light, penetrating light, ultraviolet light, and compare the paper's structure under a microscope.

I thank Mr. Jan Niebrzydowski from New Britain, Connecticut, Mr. Joseph Bieniecki of Granite City, Illinois, and an anonymous philatelist who gave me reference forgeries described here, thus making the writing of this article and a more dependable examination of these stamps possible.

REFERENCES

1. Czesław Danowski, Falsyfikaty Znaczków A.K. w Formacie leżącym Filatelista, Aug. 1, 1957, p. 329, (in Polish).
2. Thaddeus Gryzewski, The Scout Field Post in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, Polonus Bulletin, Issues 177 to 189, January 1960 to April 1961.
3. Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, Warszawa 1966, "Ruch", Vol. IV, p. 1225 and 1226 (in Polish).

DUES REMINDER

If you neglected to do so, please send your \$10.00 dues for 1983 to Stanley Rusin, Treasurer, Box 56148 Chicago, IL 60656.