



POLAND ISSUES CHRISTMAS DESIGNS

For the first time since 1960 Poland issued stamps showing Christmas designs. Two values of the Masterpieces of Polish Art set issued December 2, 1974 show such designs.



- 1:00 zl—Cracow Crib ("Szopka Krakowska") from the Cracow Historical Museum collection.
- 1.50 zl—"Flight To Egypt"—polyptych of 1465 from Holy Trinity Church in Cracow in the Cracow National Museum collection.
- 2.00 zl—A 16th century miniature showing King Zygmunt III Waza in the Wawel Castle collection.
- 4.00 zl—A 16th century tile of King Jan Olbracht in the Wawel Castle collection.

Ucieczka do Egiptu xv w.



The stamps were offset printed in multicolor by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps each. Designed by S. Malecki with photos by W. Gottwald. The 1.00, 1.50 and 2.00 zl values were printed in a quantity of 8,000,000, while the 4.00 zl value had only 850,000 printed.



POLPEX 75 Honors Am-Pol Settlers & Explorers

POLPEX 75 will honor American Polish explorers and early settlers. The first group of Polish settlers arrived in America in 1608. They came here at Capt. John Smith's request to the Virginia Company of London for skilled workers in lumbering, tar and pitch production and glass making. In the middle of the 17th century Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam persuaded Poles to come to help them grow food and fight the British of New England. Dr. Alexander Kurcysz came in 1659 and founded the first institute of higher learning in what is now New York City. Albert Zaborowski, a Polish nobleman who came in 1662, became one of the first judges of New Jersey and the owner of considerable land holdings along the Passaic River. From 1650 on thru the next 100 years there was a trickle of Polish settlers into Virginia and Pennsylvania.



In 1786 John Anthony Sadowski explored the wilderness beyond the Allegheny mountains. He established an outpost on the Ohio River which later became a great industrial town — Sandusky, Ohio. Sadowski was killed by Indians and his sons John and Jacob distinguished themselves

as aids to Daniel Boone in the settling of Kentucky. These and many other Polish explorers distinguished themselves in America's infant days.

Appropriate POLPEX souvenir sheets and covers will carry the above mentioned theme. The catalog and program of the exhibition will carry historical and philatelic information on the theme.

POLPEX entry forms are being sent to members along with this Bulletin. You might find time over the holidays to prepare an exhibit. We urge you to do so, and to fill out the entry forms and send them in as soon as you can. POLPEX is our biggest venture of the year. Your participation is needed to make it successful.

—C. Schafer, Polpex Chrm.

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The Heinze Forgeries of the Second Poznań Issue

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The "Second Poznań Issue" of Poland (Scott #77-78) known also as the "Gniezno Issue" rivals the Kraków overprints in terms of the number of forgeries in circulation. This set of two with simple numeral overprints on common and easily available stamps, has readily lent itself to forgery. There are numerous forgeries of these overprints in circulation, and some estimates have placed the percentage as high as 90% to 95%, i.e. one in 10 or one in 20 copies that a collector may encounter are genuine. Some of these forgeries are very well made and therefore not easily identified as such, some are rather crude and deceive only the unwary collector.

The "Heinze Forgeries" were the product of a resourceful postal clerk, who worked at either the Poznań 1 or Poznań 5 post office. One of his special talents was the preparation of covers bearing this issue. Initially Mr. Wilhelm Heinze dealt with genuine stamps but after running out of the originals he turned his efforts toward stamps with forged overprints and prepared numerous "letters" carrying these forgeries. Heinze cancelled these letters with a genuine cancellation device but with changed dates. He affixed genuine registration labels and then transported some of these letters to his daughter, Margarete Heinze, in Berlin. Miss Heinze in turn, would take care to see that these covers received an appropriate cancellation made with a genuine but back dated device.

One cover which received such a "treatment" is described here.

The cover is franked as follows: German stamps, 6 x 2 pf. and 2 x 7½ pf. It also bears a single copy of each value of Poland (Scott #77-78), 1 x 10/7½ pf. and 1 x 5/2 pf. and both of these overprints are inverted! This cover bears the registration label from Striesen Bz. Bromberg which was overprinted "Gniezno". It is addressed to: Margarete Heinze, Berlin O. 112. The originating cancel is "Gniezno, *1*, 24 Oct. 1919, 9-10 A.M." The receiving cancel is: "Berlin O * 112e, 28 Oct. 1919 9-10 A.M.". Both overprinted stamps on this letter are positively forgeries.

Forgery of 5 / 2 pf.

This overprint was produced by the same printing technique as the original, viz., typographically. The color of the overprint resembles the genuine overprint within the color variation encountered for this issue. The shape of the "5" deviates significantly from all of the 8 genuine types. Its width is considerable less at A-A (it measures at this place 2.0 mm.) than at B-B in fig. 1 (2.4 mm.) while these dimensions are very close to each

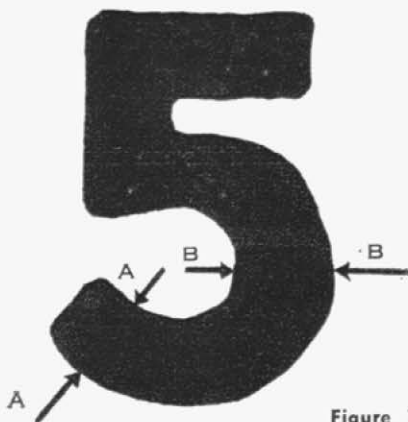


Figure 1

other on the genuine overprints. Several forgeries of the above described type are in my reference collection, but in the normal upright position. One of these is reproduced in fig 2. On close



Figure 2

examination the numeral edges of these forgeries exhibit only very weakly the darker borderline characteristics of the genuine overprints which is the result of ink being squeezed to the edges during the printing process. This characteristic is easily visible, under magnification, on all genuine overprints as shown e.g. in fig. 3.

Recently I examined another forged "5" which was printed typographically and did have pronounced dark continuous border lines like the genuine overprint but the dimensions of the overprint deviated from those of the genuine overprint. This shows that even this characteristic cannot be considered with confidence, instead all characteristics of the genuine overprint should be looked at collectively for the purpose of the experti-



Figure 3

zation of these stamps.

Forgery of 10 / 7½ pf.

This overprint like the genuine one was produced by means of a flat printing process. The inked surface of the overprint reveals pronouncedly the shiny spots so characteristic of the genuine overprint. The color of the ink is somewhat yellower compared to the darker deep green of the genuine overprints. The "10" cannot be plated either by shape or by dimensions of the overprint (ref. 1.). Genuine inverted "10" never existed.

I have observed some forgeries the color of which exhibits the shiny spots but is deeper green than the color of the genuine stamps. These forgeries could not be plated either by shape or by the dimensions of the overprint.

Expertizing this issue, it is important to compare the data of the above descriptions with those of Ing. Z. Mikulski's article (ref. 2.) whose data applies to other types of Heinze forgeries:

The "5" has been forged using a lithographic printing technique

The "10" has been printed lithographically. The printing form for these forgeries was produced by a photographic transfer from a at least partially reassembled sheet in which the sequence of overprint positions was not followed. The result is that the forged "10" can be plated!

According to ref. 2. the inked surface of these forgeries ("10") does not exhibit the characteristic "shiny green spots". However on the basis of my observations these spots are not delicate and do not fade through washing or extensive physical handling as is implied in ref. 2. I have in my possession several copies of the genuine "10" from the find made in the Poznań post office during World War II. Although the stamps have decayed through rotting and the paper is very weak with brown stains and holes eaten through, the overprints have not been affected. The overprints appear fresh and the gloss of the "spots" has not diminished.

Based on the above mentioned facts, I believe that all 10/7½ pf. overprints without these characteristic spots are forgeries, whether they can be plated or not. From all the above it is also evident that Heinze used stamps forged in several techniques in the fabrication of his letters.

In summation:

Expertizing these stamps one should take the following into consideration (in addition to what has been previously published on this subject):

5/2 pf. Probably genuine if the following criteria simultaneously apply:

1. Typographic overprint with a thin sharply defined continuous borderline which is

darker than the remaining surface.

2. The width of "5" is approximately the same at points AA and BB in fig. 1. All other dimensions and details agree with one of the 8 types of the original overprints (see e.g. ref. 4).

All others are forgeries.

10/7½ pf. Probably genuine if the following criteria apply simultaneously:

1. Overprint dark green with glossy spots of higher color intensity. The green must not be too deep or yellowish. Therefore comparison with an overprint known positively to be genuine is necessary.
2. Can be positively plated both by dimensions (according to ref. 2.) and by details in the shape of the overprint (according to ref. 2. or ref. 3.).

All others are forgeries.

I thank Mr. Thomas J. Gobby from Chicago, Ill. and Mr. Joseph Bieniecki from Granite City, Ill. for their kind help with this article.

REFERENCES:

1. Z. Mikulski, "Filatelista" 1957 pp. 66-74 (in Polish)
2. Z. Mikulski, "Filatelista" 1957, p. 350 (in Polish)
3. "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", Warsaw 1960, Vol. I, pp. 145-147. (in Polish)
4. J. Kapkowski, M. Perzynski, A. Roszkowski, J. Tislowitz "Gniezno - 5 fen." "Filatelista" #4 16-28 Feb., 1973, pp. 63-71. (in Polish).



HERE AND THERE

Polonus Award Winners

Chicago member Z. Wagrowski received a gold medal for his "Polish balloon mail" exhibit at the recent Polish Philatelic Society show in Vancouver, B.C.

Walter Kusnarowis, Woonsocket R.I. member, was awarded a Bronze medal for his "Copernicus" exhibit at RIPEX IX, Rhode Island Philatelic Exhibition.

Dr. J. Kuderevicz was given a Vermeil Award for his "Napoleon and Postal History of Poland" at the STOCKHOLM '74 International exhibition in Sweden.

C. Schafer received a large Silver Medal for his "Polish Lublin issues" at the Czechoslovakian national exhibition BRNO 74.

Congratulations to all four! Please let us know what you're doing out there. Drop us a line and we'll put it in the "Bulletin".

* * *

Help Wanted!

We need articles on all phases of Polish philately for the journal which is to be published in early 1975. If you have anything of value (new findings, research, etc.) please contact: James Mazepa, 4800 Lake Park Ave., Apt. 2409, Chicago, Ill. 60615.

* * *

Pre-war Poland Is Scarcer

Have you noticed how pre-1939 issues of Poland are becoming harder and harder to find. Mint, especially mint never hinged, and multiple pieces (blocks of 4, etc.) are just plain not as easy to obtain as not so long ago.

* * *

Covers . . . Covers . . . Covers

That seems to be the hottest thing going anywhere — for any country. As mentioned earlier even the most common of covers are disappearing from dealers'

stocks. In the case of Poland the European market is picking up much of this material. The German area collectors are also doing their best to acquire Polish covers—especially from the World War I and II eras.

* * *

First Souvenir Sheet Up In Price

Poland, Scott #251, really went up. Of all of the regular sheets issued by Poland this is probably the scarcest — even surpassing the much more expensive B.I.E. sheet. If you doubt that, we recommend that you check "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" for the quantities printed of all the souvenir sheets. You'll be surprised.

* * *

Library Needed For Postal History

If you are going to get involved in postal history and covers a good library is a necessity. You will not only require the usual philatelic references, but also a number of history books and articles will be a valuable addition. Knowledge is the foundation to a good collection—and the ability to spot and take advantage of a good buy. Read and know the country and its history. You can only profit.

* * *

My best to all the members for a happy holiday season and may they have a good collecting year in 1975!

—T. J. Gobby

PLEWACKI POST SHOW

The Plewacki Post Stamp Society announce that their 19th Annual ALPEX 799 Stamp and Coin exhibition will be held on March 21-23, 1974 at Adam Plewacki American Legion Post Auditorium; prospectus and additional information available from Robert Skotarski, chairman, 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, NY 14212

IN MEMORIAM

WIKTOR HERMANOWSKI

Especially saddening was the news when Polonus learned of the sudden death of Wiktor Hermanowski on December 15th. Mr. Hermanowski was the editor of the pre-WWII philatelic publication, "Ikaros", which was published in Białystok, Poland. Mr. Hermanowski was co-editor with A. Łaskiewicz and V. Rachmanov in putting out the "Ikaros" Catalog. He also served in the Polish 2nd Corp during the last war and participated in the battle of Monte Cassino. He then came to Chicago and settled here. Though retired, Mr. Hermanowski remained active in the promotion of Poland's philately. Extensive correspondence with his friends in Poland resulted in a large num-

ber of excellent articles for the Polonus Bulletin. In recent years Mr. Hermanowski authored reviews on philatelic literature for the Bulletin. He also had a number of long out of print monographs and books which were shared with the members.

Ten Polonus members were at the wake Dec. 19th to pay their last respects. During the wake services held by his fellow soldiers, president-elect Thomas J. Gobby was called on to say a few words on behalf of Polonus.

We will dearly miss Mr. Wiktor Hermanowski.

ANNUAL DUES INCREASED

As of January 1, 1975 dues of the Polonus Philatelic Society will be raised from \$4.00 to \$5.00. Rising costs of printing, paper, postage, etc. have forced us to do so.

POLAND UP TO DATE

NEW ISSUES

	MINT	USED	FDC
Zbowid & Victory (2)	.20	.10	.60
Mutual Economic Aid (1)	.10	.05	.30
Football Championship (2)	.75	.35	.90
Football Souvenir Sheet (1)	1.50	.90	.70
Sailing Vessels—Sport (5)	1.05	.40	1.45
Chess Festival (2)	.20	.10	.60
30th Polish Anniversary (3)	.35	.15	.65
Lazienkowska Highway (1)	.10	.05	.30
Fruits & Flowers (8)	1.40	.60	1.75
30th M.O. & S.B. Anniversary (1)	.10	.05	.30
Stamp Day 1974—PTGS (8)	1.45	.70	1.85

Complete Year 1972 (90)	13.95	7.50	23.50
Complete Year 1973 (64)	15.50	9.90	24.50

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are asked to notify us immediately. Failure to do so is costing the Society unnecessary expense. Please mail the notice of change to C. J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill, Norridge, Ill. 60656.

STAMPEX CANADA

The third annual stamp exhibition STAMPEX CANADA will honor Polish philately when it is held April 25-27, 1975 at Toronto. The show is a co-operative effort of several philatelic clubs in the Metropolitan Toronto area. Specially designed gold, vermeil, silver, silver-bronze, and bronze medals will be given, with the two finest entries receiving the Grand Award and Reserve Grand Award. Entry forms are available from Stamp Exhibitions Canada Inc., 157 Clifton Ave., Downsview, Ontario Canada, M3H 4L6.

NEW ISSUES

30th Anniversary of the Civic Militia and Security Service

A 1.50 zl. commemorative was issued in December, 1974, showing the departmental badge given to officials of the dept. for long and irreproachable work in the service of the nation. The miniature is shown on the background of the national flag.

Multicolor printed in rotogravure by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper. Designed by Witold Surowiecki. Total amount printed: 8,000,000 copies.

—RUCH

Peace On Earth



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— Annual Dues are \$4.00 —

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS HONORS POLONUS MEMBERS

At the December 13th Polonus meeting Mr. Napoleon Zbyszewski of the Polish American Congress presented "Awards of Outstanding Recognition" to five Polonus members for their contribution of time and effort to the Pol-Am Con. Copernicus postage stamp design contest. The contest conducted in 1972-1973 produced hundreds of designs from the USA and foreign countries. Though none of the designs were used by the U.S. Postal Service they did consider the concepts as presented to formulate the Copernicus stamp which was issued in 1973.

The Polonus members who received the awards were: Myron E. Steczynski, Roman Burkiewicz, Zdzislaw Wagrowski, Chester A. Schafer and Thomas J. Gobby.

Besides the Copernicus stamp issued in 1973 Polonus has been instrumental in the issuance of other USA commemoratives: the Paderewski Champions of Liberty and the Polish Millennium issues.

—T.J.G.

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FORM NOW FOR POLPEX 75!**