

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 182

July-August, 1960

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A DISQUISITION FROM 1906 ON POLAND NO. 1

In the "Illustrierter Briefmarken Journal" No. 6-654 of March 16, 1906, of Leipzig, appeared a disquisition by Professor H. Morczyng on Poland No. 1. Although progress in research makes this article obsolete as to some details, it remains a fine historical document of philatelic knowledge of that period.

— Editor

In issue No. 13 of the Illustrated Philatelic Weekly from 1905 we find a dissertation on "Polish Postage Stamps" written by A. Ponish, who bases his article on the work "Stamps of Poland" printed in the Monthly circular.

Because many assertions in this dissertation do not conform with the known factual state of affairs and the cataloging of Polish stamps remains much to be improved, henceforth I take the liberty of a new presentation of this field based on research from official sources—documents of the former Polish Postal Administration in the Polish Kingdom, in the Polish language—now in Petersburg, and also the written discourse on Polish Posts, penned by J. Matein in 1870, at present in the library of Coust Krasinski in Warszawa.

The first postage stamps in the Kingdom of Poland were those of Russia. From 1851 on, admitted for use in Poland were Russian stamped envelopes of 20+1; 10+1; 30+1 kopiejek.

On January 1-3, 1858 the Polish postal federation issued a disposition by virtue of which it admitted the use of Russian postage stamps in 10, 20, and 30 kopiejek denominations for the franking of 1, 2 and 3 łut's mail. (the domestic rates of that time were 10 kopiejek per 1 łut — 15 grammes).

These were the Russian stamps of 10 kopiejek imperforated and 10, 20, 30 kopiejek perforated with watermarks 1, 2, 3. The actual use of the 10 kopiejek imperforate in the Polish Kingdom, on the basis of existing material, cannot be ascertained. (In Russia it was very quickly replaced with the perforated.)

In any event, with these stamps one could frank only correspondence within Poland. To Russia, foreign mail, registered, money letters had to be prepaid in cash.

A short time after the issuance of this directive the real Polish postage stamps appeared. The Communique of the Polish Postal Administration, Jan. 15-27, 1858 introduced experimentally a "City Postal Service," (Poczta Miejska) and thereby:

- a) the city rate was set at 6 kopiejek per letter;
- b) for franking of city mail special stamped envelopes were admitted, obtainable at post offices.

The original source of our information unfortunately does not establish which of the two red seals was used for this purpose. One can conclude however that the envelope could be only with the small seal, with Russian wording at top and Polish at bottom: "Kasa Główna Pocztowa," because this only happens to be found in greater numbers. (143 x 90 mm.)

Henceforth we catalog:

1. 1858, January 15-27—Poczta Miejska, Warszawa.
Envelope 143 x 90 mm; 6 kopiejek; red seal; without denomination; Russian at top and Polish at bottom.

Russian stamps remained in use on domestic mail. The Polish Postal Administration issued on March 15-27, 1858 a directive, that postage stamps must be cancelled with postal markers in black ink and that each post office ought to have a separate marker with its own number. Warszawa had No. 1, Wierzbłowo 25; Łódź 182.

On December 20 (Jan. 1, 1858/59) a change in tariffs in the postal service of the city post in Warszawa went into effect.

It necessitated the issuance of a new Polish stamp. The rate for city letters was reduced to 3 kopiejek and at the same time a new envelope for 'calling cards' (wizytówek) invitations, etc. was released, which cost only 1½ kopiejki. So much from the documents. Because the documents state specifically that envelopes for 'calling cards' will be issued, we conclude that envelopes, small size, with red seal in upper right corner, bi-lingual inscription (Russian and Polish) over the eagle are recognized.

Henceforth we catalog:

2. 1859, January—new style:

City Post Warszawa — Envelope for calling cards, properly a wrapping band only; 1½ kopiejek, red seal; without denomination. Inscription at top, in Russian and Polish; size 99 x 58 mm.

3. 1859, January, new style. Envelope for city mail as No. 1 but of 3 kopiejki nominal value.

It must be here categorically observed, that envelope No. 3 is the same as No. 1 and not the blue, issued later, because the regulation mentions only of a new calling card envelope. Polish postage stamps proper (envelopes of 3 and 10 kop. postage stamp) were issued later. As the date of issue on the 10 kop. stamp, Moens gave the date of January 1, 1860. Paper for the stamp was produced by the Jeziorno Mill, the stamp itself was printed by the "State Markers Factory" (Państwowa Fabryka Stempla).

Some light on the production of this stamp is shed from the protocols, October 13-27, 1864, on the final liquidation (confiscation of material used for the production of Polish stamps).

Listed are:

Two steel matrixes for the production of stamps and 100 galvanized copper impressors for the center with eagle, and 1000 galvanized impressors for the frame.

The stamps, therefore, were printed from dual copper engravings.

Henceforth we catalog:

4. Postage stamp, 10 kopiejek, 1860, January.

Just when the 3 and 10 kopiejek envelopes were introduced for use we were unable to ascertain from the material on hand (quite meager and with great loopholes).

Envelopes of 10 kopiejek were in the same manner as the 10 kopiejek postage stamp designated for use within the Kingdom only (hence not to Russia or abroad), were probably released at the same time as the postage stamp.

We can therefore accept:

5. Envelope, 10 kopiejek, 1860.

The envelope is known to exist in two varieties:

5a) black marker of the seal impressed at top-left in front.

5b) black marker of the seal impressed on the closing flap.

As to size—my copies of both varieties are identical: 148 x 108 mm. The size of 138 x 107 is unknown to me.

The last Polish envelope for the City Mail Warszawa, value 3 kopiejki, blue, has only the Polish inscription: "Poczta Miejska Warszawska" at top; "za list" and "kopertę Kopiejek 3". (On all other Polish postal values the inscription is in Russian and Polish).

We regret to say that we were not successful in determining the date of issue, nor when it was marked with the red seal No. 3 from 1859.

Since the design is similar to the 10 kopiejek envelope and very closely resembling it, its issuance probably falls in the same period.

Hence we have:

6. Envelope, City Post Warszawa, 3 Kopiejki, 1860.

Here also we have two varieties—with the seal in front and on the closing flap. I have only the first variety, the size of which is 148 x 90 mm. Size 143 x 90 also exists. The City Post Warszawa was liquidated by political authorities with an order of March 31—April 12, 1861. The cause for the liquidation were the numerous lampoons sent anonymously through the mail. For this reason the existence of No. 6 envelopes was short lived. According to the official documents, the total number of mail sent through the City Post Warszawa during its five years of existence was:

During 1858 — 9,626 pieces

During 1859 — 35,707 pieces

During 1860 — 65,868 pieces

During 1861 — 22,357 pieces (in the first three months)

The Warsaw City Post re-opened in 1867, when Polish stamps were no more. The stamp and the 10 kopiejek envelope were again admitted to use. From the documents we learn, among others, of a complaint in 1862 that the gum was bad.

With the end of the Insurrection of 1863, the existence of the Polish postal values ended. A pretext for their with-

drawal was easily found. From June 15-27, 1864 it was permitted in Russia to frank mail abroad with postage stamps.

The Polish Postal Directoriat for its part petitioned also for such permission, and proposed for this purpose, the issuance of new Polish postage stamps in 1, 3, and 5 kopiejek denominations. The authorities counterproposed instead the withdrawal of all Polish stamps from circulation and the introduction of all Russian postage stamps for the Kingdom of Poland, which henceforth could be used for franking of letters abroad.

Soon, on November 3-16, 1864 the Czar's ordinance ("ukaz") ruled that in the Kingdom, stamps of Russia may be used on par also with the Polish postage stamp for franking of mail. The Polish stamps were yet in use May 10-22, 1865 (we learned of this from official documents where one postal clerk inquired whether the Russian postage stamps may be used on domestic mail within the Kingdom). Officially they were, as stated by Krotzsch, withdrawn from usage April 1-13, 1865.

In the documents we find also interesting details about the official seizure (confiscation) of the printing equipment, used in the production of the Polish stamps.

From the Protocol of October 13-25, 1864 we learn that there were found:

1) One machine with about 100 galvanized impressors with eagle and inscriptions. Thus, the stamps were printed in sheets of 100 stamps.

2) One machine for imprinting the seal marks on envelopes.

The remaining stock on hand consisted of: Envelopes — — — 39,699

City Envelopes — 120,546

Postage Stamps — 393,450

In this manner did Polish postage stamps end in the Kingdom of Poland.

—H. Marczing

Article and photostatic copy of original for Polonus library courtesy of member Wacław Czarnowski.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Thomas A. Mackowiak
3530 North Oconto Avenue
Chicago 34, Ill.

WE NEED A NEW SECRETARY!

At the last Board of Directors meeting the President received a resignation from Roman Burkiewicz from his office as Secretary of the Society. After listening to Mr. Burkiewicz's reasons, based on personal and business matters, the Board accepted his resignation. The office of Secretary is now vacant.

POLISH POW STAMPS ON DISPLAY AT MILWAUKEE

A particularly interesting display of Polish Prisoner of War stamps and related material was on display during July in the coin room of the Milwaukee, Wis. public museum.

The exhibit consisted of 98 pages from the collection of member Leo J. Topolinski. It is complete as to several departments, with all material well written up by the Milwaukee attorney.

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Chicago 30, Ill.

WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS . . .

By Roman H. Strzelecki

MEETING OF JULY 22, 1960

The reading of minutes from the previous meeting got under way at 8:30 p.m. sharp. Attendance was good considering the hot and humid Chicago weather. There were 21 members and 5 visitors present. The Polpex Treasurer Adam Kloskowski reported that Polpex 1960 was a financial success. Final figures are not available as yet but it was possible that last year's figures would be topped.

New issues were reported by R. Burkiewicz in the absence of J. Domar who had been ill. Besides Jack, our Publicity Director Bert Powell was reported to be ill. Get well wishes had been sent earlier to Bert and a letter of thanks from Mrs. Powell was read at the meeting. All Chicago members join me in wishing them a speedy recovery with hopes of seeing them both soon at our future meetings.

A letter of resignation was received from an out of town member. It was referred to Lester Jankowski.

Our proposed trip to Washington D.C. was discussed. Roman Reinowski, Stefan Kochanski and Roman Burkiewicz reported on Rail, Bus and Air fares from Chicago to Washington. Lester Jankowski accepted the function of coordinator of the trip to see the Paderewski First Day ceremonies.

Important: All names of members intending to go to Washington on October 8th, 1960 for the First Day ceremonies should be submitted to Lester Jankowski, 10 S. LaSalle St., Chicago. The larger the group the better the rates.

The Paderewski Champion of Liberty stamps are perhaps the greatest happening to Polish Philately in the United States. Let's not sit back and let this happening go unnoticed. Let's show our enthusiasm and participate in this great event. At least in this manner we can pay tribute to this great Pole and Champion of Liberty.

Here we also discussed the First Day Covers to be sponsored by the Society.

Myron Steczynski reported on final

plans with his coming trip to Poland for "Polska 60".

The President appointed Stefan Kochanski, Roman Burkiewicz and Lester Jankowski to the Constitution and By Laws Committee. The President will head the committee with Lester Jankowski as legal advisor.

MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 1960

The meeting was delayed in being called to order as some pertinent business with the treasury had to be attended to. The minutes were read to 25 members and two visitors present. The Membership Committee presented four new applicants who were unanimously accepted. As most of the regular business is attended to at the Board of Directors meetings, it so happened that there was little business to take care of.

Walter Szymlek reported the death of our member Mr. Kolodziejczyk.

At this point the Paderewski Stamp Committee reported of their progress with the first day envelopes. Some changes had to be made because of the excessive cost of the originally proposed printing. Nevertheless we will have a colorful and unusual envelope which will be offered to our members, dealers and other collectors. The Society will undertake the sale of serviced and unserviced covers. The Society has undertaken a tremendous job with many details to be worked out. We are sure that the Chicago members will be more than willing to help out.

George Kobyłka was present at our meeting and he was invited to tell us about the trip to Washington for the Masaryk Champion of Liberty issue. George told of his experiences, the trip and the ceremonies. His talk showed us the importance of the careful organization of our trip to participate in the stamp issuing ceremonies.

Members have a wonderful opportunity to make the Washington trip October 8th. The rail ticket will probably be between \$30 to \$40 for a round trip from Chicago. Lester Jankowski, 10 S. LaSalle St. will take the names of all Chicagoland members and friends

who wish to participate in this trip. With such an organized Washington trip we can add much to the Washington ceremonies, we can honor the memory of our great Champion of Liberty Ignace Jan Paderewski and share in keeping his ideas and beliefs alive.

POLSKA 60

The biggest International Philatelic Exhibition ever to be held in Poland will be formally opened September 5th in the Culture and Science Palace, the largest and most modern building to be found in Warsaw.

Planned by experienced philatelists and engineers, both the displays and the physical aspects of the occasion are being arranged with the utmost convenience of the visitors in mind. Special lighting arrangements have been provided, depending exclusively on controlled artificial illumination.

Court of Honor offerings include collections from Queen Elizabeth, Sir John Wilson, Cardinal Spellman and Myron Steczynski of Polonus. Competitive sections will bring together outstanding holdings from all the principal countries of the globe.

Suitable philatelic tribute to the big event is being planned by the Polish Post Office Department. A 10 zloty plus 10 zl. commemorative will be issued in miniature sheets of four. The motif will be the design of the first Polish stamp, duly cancelled with the Warsaw postmark.

Among Polonus members en route to Warsaw for Polska 60 are Myron Steczynski, Adam Kloskowski, George Ku-

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The Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising

By Thaddeus Gryzewski

(Continued from previous month)

They were carried through the courtesy of army dispatchers or mail carriers.

At different periods some post offices marked with pencil the consecutive number of the mail pieces handled, or they used for this purpose a hand numbering machine which numbered in a black color of ink.

The marker of the Main Post Office, either of the Fieldpost or the Boy Scouts Post was not frequently used. It is found on mail passed through the intermediation of this office in transit to other post offices, quarters (where no post offices existed) or military units.

The dater of the Main Fieldpost Office (type 16) which always was im-



Type 16

pressed on mail with the same date "9. VIII. 11" recalls the times of the Fieldpost from 1919-1920. (Due to damage of the mechanism the date on this dater was never changed.) Its existence and that of a few others from the same period were due to the inborn thrift of the Germans.

When the German postal clerks were tidying up the building of the Main Post Office in 1939, they stumbled on the Ministry of Post's archives of the Polish War Department. Since the archives represented no visible value from the military angle—and still it seemed wasteful to destroy them, they

simply dumped the whole contents of the bags into the basement.

They could not have foreseen that the postal markers they so saved, once more would become useful to the Poles.

Impressions from the old markers of the Polish Fieldpost on utility letters are very rarely met.

The origin of the marker with eagle and inscription "Poczta listowa" (type 25) met on letters originating from the



Type 25

P.O. Czerniaków, is unknown. Most likely it is an old office marker for some Government institution and was found somewhere. In any event, it is not an official postal marker.

The collection of the Historical Museum of Warszawa holds a card mailed on August 16, from the III region, (Wola quarters) from the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion "ŻBIK" with the impression of a marker in black, inscribed: "Poczta Polowa XXV. Pl 2 Żbik" and the design as on illustration. (type 24). The authenticity of this card is beyond doubts, since it bears traces of passing through Post Office City Center, North. This marker should be classified as postal marker of a military unit (formation).

Announced on the 30th of August Order No. 25 (see page 180-10) forbade use of any type of markers on mail

POCZTA POLOWA
XXV pl-2 ŻBIK



Type 24



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4



Type 5



Type 6



Type 7



Type 8



Type 9



Type 10



Type 11



Type 12



Type 13



Type 14

POCZTA POLOWA
1-VIII-1944
WARSZAWA

Type 15



Type 16



Type 17



Type 18



Type 19



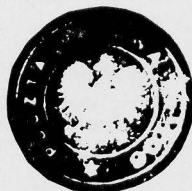
Type 19a



Type 20



Type 22



Type 23

POCZTA POLOWA
XXV pl-2 ŻBIK



Type 24



**PIECZEC
LISTOWA**

Type 25

17 SRP. 1944

Type 27

13.VIII

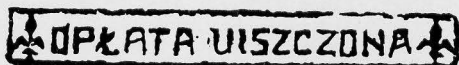
Type 29

2 0 SIERP 1944

Type 28

2 2 SIE 1944

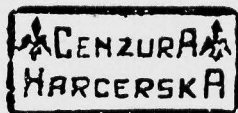
Type 30



Type 31

ZAPŁACONO

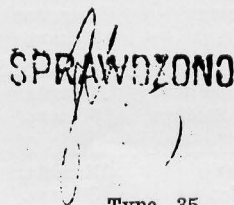
Type 32



Type 33

Zbadano

Type 34



Type 35

SPRAWOZONO

Type 36



Type 37

outside the markers of a uniform character. Judging from known mail, it could be assumed this Order was introduced and conformed with in both Post Offices of the Midtown much earlier, namely on the 19th of August.

Below, I will give all known to me

postal markers with their legend, size, color, period of usage and post office in which they were used.

Markers known to me only in one copy, in a separate column, are listed as "RRRR" known in few copies—"RRR"; known in several—"R".

DESCRIPTION OF POSTAL MARKERS USED BY THE SCOUT POST AND FIELDPOST OF THE HOME ARMY (A.K. — ARMIA KRAJOWA)

Type	Legend	Dimensions	Made from	Color	Used by P. O.	Known period of use	Remarks
1.	Harcerska Główna Poczta & lilly	Approx. 30 mm.	Rubber	Violet	City Center South	Aug. 12-22	RRR
2.	Harcerska Poczta & lilly	Diameter approx. 45 mm.	Potato	Violet	City Center South	First days	RRRR
3.	Poczta Harcerska & lilly	Diameter approx. 49 mm.	Wood(?)	Violet violet-blue blue	City Center South	Aug 8-Sept. 10	R
4.	Poczta Harcerska & lilly	Diameter approx. 43 mm.	Rubber	Violet	City Center North	Aug 10-31	
5.	Harcerska Poczta Czerniaków & lilly	Approx. diameter 40 mm.	Rubber	Violet	Czerniaków	Aug 18-Sept. 1	RRR
6.	Harcerska Poczta Polowa 44 & lilly	Approx. diameter 32 mm.	Rubber	Violet	City Center North (?)	On utility letters unknown	RRRR
7.	Poczta Polowa Warszawa Płd. & lilly	Approx. diameter 35 mm.	Rubber	Violet violet-blue blue	City Center South	Aug. 12-20	
8.	Poczta Powstańcza W-wa Sierpien 1944 & eagle	Height 26 Length of inscription 21.5 mm.	Metal	Black	Home Army Post Office Szpitalna	Aug. 12-18	Used as receiving marker
9.	A.K. Na Barykadach J	Diameter 29 mm.	Metal	Black	Home Army Post Office Szpitalna	Aug. 9-18	R
10.	Warszawa w ogniu	Diameter 29 mm.	Metal	Black	Home Army Post Office Szpitalna	Aug. 5-14	RRR
11.	Bohaterskie Walki Stolicy	Diameter 30 mm.	Metal	Black	Home Army Post Office Szpitalna	Aug. 7-14	
12.	Warszawa w Walce	Diameter 30 mm.	Metal	Black	"	Aug. 8	RRRR
13.	Powstanie Sierpniowe	Diameter 25 mm.	Metal	Black	"	Aug. 10-17	R
14.	A.K. na Barykadach	Diameter 29 mm.	Metal	Blue-black	Mokotów	Aug. 20-28	R

(Continued next month)

The Second Flight of the Balloon "Katowice" The Southern Flight

By Wacław Czarnowski

On May 8, 1960 the long awaited Southern Flight of the balloon "Katowice" finally took place.

The Silesian Aeroclub — organizer of this flight — was invited to participate in the 15th Anniversary of Liberation and in the opening ceremonies of the "Czechoslovakian Aviation Days." The Ostrava Aeroclub responded by sending its equipment, pilots and technicians, consisting of F. Musioł in command, engineer Z. Burzynski, mgr. Z. Dubicki, mgr. Zych — maneuvering crew, and J. Tyreha — balloon technician.

The flight started from the Ostrawa-Hrabowka airfield on May 8, 1960 at 17.15. It landed the same day at 19.14 in Dobrosławice, postal district Dehyłów.

The history of the 2nd (Southern) Flight of the balloon "Katowice" is an interesting one, due to the repeated attempts to make the flight from Polish territory.

The Silesian Aeroclub, in announcing the flight, did not take into account that in Poland, and especially in Silesia the wind directions are generally not

from North to South. From August 1959 on, there was not a single day that the wind would be blowing in the southerly direction.

For this reason the organizer of the flight, the Silesian Aeroclub, attempted twice to initiate the flight from either Hungary or Czechoslovakia. The start of the flight was originally planned and announced for August, 1959. Then, mounting difficulties caused by regulations of countries involved in the flight forced a change in the schedule shifting it to next month. Atmospheric conditions at that time however, were not favorable to permit a flight

On August 24, 1959 the organizers therefore decided to tour with the balloon to Hungary and start the flight from Budapest. Alas, here to, due to conditions beyond their control, the flight could not be realized.

Again on September 20, 1959 the balloon "Katowice" and its crew boarded for a trip to Czechoslovakia and there in an attempt to start the flight serious damage to the balloon cover occurred. The attempt was unsuccessful and the balloon and crew returned home.



In spite of these failures, the organizers stubbornly proceeded with the preparation for a flight with the "Warszawa" balloon which was brought to Katowice from Warsaw for this purpose. The crew, with eng. Z. Burzynski in command, remained alerted for several weeks for a take-off. Because of unfavorable winds, no flight materialized.

The newspaper "Express Wieczorny" of November 4, 1959, No. 263 reported that eng. Z. Burzynski will take-off on a new trip with the balloon "Warszawa" this time to Czechoslovakia. The flight organizers are the A. P. R. L. and the Aeroclub Katowice. The balloon was loaned for the flight from their colleagues of the Aeroclub Warszawa. The take-off will take place yet this month, but an accurate date cannot be set. It all depends on the weather and winds.

The Aeroclub has arranged for transportation of mail on the balloon "Katowice" on its Southern Flight. Philatelists of Poland and the world are impatiently expecting their balloon mail after several months of fruitless waiting. A dispute arose in the Warsaw press on the impotency and inability of the balloon "Katowice."

It was a pleasant surprise to philatelists when on May 10-12, 1960 they unexpectedly received their balloon mail.

To pay for the balloon mail transportation, the Silesian Aeroclub had issued special labels in 10 zl. denomination in sheets of 10 labels. These were ornamentally designed in red and blue with red and white flight shield and the balloon silhouette in black in the center. On four sides of the shield is the inscription: "Specjalna Przesyłka Balonowa" at the bottom of the shield is the wording: "Lot Balonu Katowice Na Południe". At the left bottom corner of the label an eagle is shown, and in the right corner the value 10 zl. The quantity of labels printed was 10,000. Quantity sold was 7,823. Total amount of letters numbered and posted was 1 to 5538.

The mail pieces of the Second Flight of the balloon "Katowice" on its Southern Flight were accepted by virtue of the directive of the Ministry of Com-

munication of June 8, 1959 (No. P. P. 320), at all Post Offices throughout Poland. The balloon labels on letters were cancelled with a round marker featuring a balloon in the center and the inscription "Urząd Pocztowy Katowice I". The circular legend reads "Wolny Balon 'Katowice'", "Lot na Południe".

All mail pieces were stamped with two markers in rectangular frames:

1. "Wzlot z Poczta Balonu 'Katowice'"
2. "Przewieziono Balonem 'Katowice'"

Besides these, all mail was marked with the following legend:

I. "Z powodu złych warunków atmosferycznych, pocztę, balon i załogę przewieziono w I etapie do Węgierskiej Rep. Ludowej kolejną."

II. "Ponowny start mimo trudnych warunków nastąpił z Ostrawy Czechosłowackiej Rep. Ludowej."

All markings was impressed in two colors, red and violet. No other markers were used. Imperforated labels of 200 copies were sold or donated to the flight organizers. During the control inspection, two sheets of ten labels each, were discovered without the balloon on the balloon shield. These of course are the rarities.

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\$5.25

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DETECTING FORGERIES OF A POLISH AIRMAIL

By RON NEGUS

Reprinted from PHILATELIC MAGAZINE, London, of Feb. 12, 1960

Collectors who regard Stanley Gibbons' catalogues as their first point of reference will probably be a little annoyed at the frequent use of footnotes, which often promise to be of interest. Lack of space naturally prevents the catalogue compilers from delving too deeply into the full story of every issue, and if a collector is unwilling to consult specialist literature of the country concerned he may lose much of the fascination of true philatelic research.

One of the most ambiguous of footnotes which appears in the catalogues simply says "Forgeries of this set are often met with." This particular warning can be found in Poland, after S.G. 252-260, the first Polish air mail issue.

These nine stamps appeared on September 10th, 1925 and were intended for the exclusive payment of additional air postage. The postage was paid by means of ordinary postage stamps, and genuine covers should, therefore, be found only with mixed franking.

The design was uniform on all nine values, and depicted a bi-plane in flight over the city of Warsaw. The borders of the picture are made up of scroll work on the two sides, "Poczta Polska" at the top and the figures of value with "Lotnicza" in a ribbon below. The word "Lotnicza" means "aerial" and appears on all Polish air stamps.

The stamps were printed by typography, on a rotary machine, on very thin wove paper. Unlike the majority of the Polish stamps of that period, this set is known in only one perforation, 12½.

It was eleven years later, in 1936, that the forgeries came on to the market, and later research established that the production was done in Paris. No information is available about the number of forgeries produced, but whenever these stamps are offered in complete sets, caution is advised before buying.

The quickest method of detecting the forgeries is by their perforation, which



gauges 11½ instead of the genuine 12½. However, it is not always convenient to start measuring perfs. before buying, and there are some other distinguishing features to look for.

The first of these is in the paper. On the originals the thin wove paper has a greyish tint and a distinctive uneven texture. The forgeries, on the other hand, are printed on white paper which has an even texture.

An even easier test is in the design itself. The clean, well-defined impressions of the genuine stamps become blurred and indistinct on the forgeries. This is particularly noticeable on the figures of value. The outer edge of the design is made up of a thick line of colour, and the forged stamps often have additional thinner lines of colour beyond this framework.

The side panels containing the scroll work contain an easily distinguishable difference too. On the original stamps, the outer edges of the scrolls are contained within a thin frame line, whereas on the forgeries this is either broken or missing altogether.

Yet another distinction is seen on the ribbon which encloses the word "Lotnicza" at the foot of the design. On the genuine stamps this ribbon is continuous and the folds at each end form part of the main band. On the faked examples, however, the two end pieces are not joined to the main portion and they have the appearance of an upturned boot or sock!

All the counterfeit stamps were printed on ungummed paper and can be found both mint and used. On the used copies, bogus postmarks are encountered as well. The most common

(Continued on next page — bottom right)

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

On July 15th, 1960 a set of three stamps were issued in commemoration of the 550th Anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald of 1410. It is the first set of the Millenium Cycle.

The design of the 60 gr. value depicts the sarcophagus of King Władysław Jagiełło at Wawel Cathedral. Engraved by E. Konecki. Size $1\frac{1}{16}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ ". Two million were to have been printed.

The 90 gr. value shows two main elements of a monument which is to be erected on the Grunwald battlefield. Engraved by St. Łukaszewski. Size: $1\frac{1}{16}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ ". 300,00 were printed.

The 2.50 złoty value depicts the famous painting by Jan Matejko "The Battle of Grunwald. Engraved by J. Miller. Size $3\frac{3}{16}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ ". Two million copies were reported to be printed.

—A.R.S. Polonia

"Filatelista

J. Bieniecki

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —



POLISH METER MAIL

A 97 page publication is available on the Meter Postage Stamps of Poland. Although printed in the Polish language, it does have some explicatory text in English. This work was the endeavor of the Polish Philatelic Association and it is highly recommended for Meter Collectors.

— J. J. D.

LAST CALL FOR 1960 DUES!

Polonus Treasurer J. P. Rux informs us that all members who have not sent in their dues for 1960 will be dropped from the membership list. Further, the mailing of the Polonus Bulletin to them will be discontinued.

Don't miss a single issue of our Bulletin. Send your \$2.50 immediately to J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago 34, Ill.

(Continued from previous page)

of these forged cancellations are:—

WARSZAWA 1. 12-11-34.

LWÓW 8. 4-3-33.

POZNAŃ 2. 3-7-33.

It is probably difficult to see, at first sight, how forged stamps which have so many points of difference from the originals can exist on the open market. The answer lies in the fact that the genuine stamps are relatively scarce, and a great deal of the material offered in Exchange Packets and Approvals which purports to be Poland, S.G. 252-260 is, in fact, simply a few more examples of the 1936 Paris forgeries.

The warning in Gibbons is justified, because the number of fakes in circulation far exceeds the number of genuine copies.