

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 211

May, 1963

THE MARSHAL PILSUDSKI STAMP

By Kay Horowicz

Reprinted from "Gibbons' Stamp Monthly" of October, 1961

This stamp made its first appearance in miniature sheet form on May 3rd, 1928. The sheets were issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to help cover the expenses of the National Philatelic Exhibition, Warsaw, which they also commemorated. Each sheet consisted of two stamps, the 50 gr. showing the Marshall and the 1 zloty, President Moscicki (Scott's 251.)

The space between the stamps was inscribed "Warszawa 1928". It was designed by Z. Kaminski and engraved by F. Schirnboeck of Vienna, one of the finest steel engravers in Europe and to whom all the young Polish engravers went to study. Printed at the P.Z.G. (Polish Printing Works), Warsaw, from steel plates by the flat bed printing method, on smooth thick white paper from Vienna. Color, sepia; size of each stamp, 19½ x 25¼ mm.

A special machine was made to perforate these sheets but it did not work very well and the perforations, 12½ frame, are usually irregular.

They were only obtainable at the Exhibition and cost 3 zloty each; the additional 1 zl. 50 gr. paid for admission (only one could be purchased with each ticket). The amount printed was 26,020; all were sold except 2,500 which were left in the Museum of Posts and Telegraphs.

Proofs are known imperforate, in colors of brown and sepia.

Forgery. A forgery of this sheet appeared in 1935, typographed from zinc plates; it has a very coarse appearance

and is perforated 12½ but the perforations are more even than in the genuine sheet. It is believed to have been made in Paris. The "used" copies often have a forged Katowice postmark which is a large circular mark 40 mm. in diameter. Inside the two outer rings are the words "I WSZECHSŁOWIAŃSKA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA" (First All-Slav Philatelic Exhibition). and the date "5.-13. V. 1934" between two stars. At the top, inside this border, is the word "Katowice". In the forgery the letters of this word are larger and the stars smaller than the genuine postmark. On my forged copy the date is "13. V. 34. 18" and it is probable that this is the date of all the forged postmarks. The main difference of this mark is that in the forgery the diameter of the outer ring of the date stamp i.e. between WYSTAWA and KATOWICE, measures 28 mms. while in the genuine it is 24 mm. One rarely sees a used single stamp from the genuine sheet and I have never seen a forged "used" single.

DEFINITIVE STAMPS, 1928-1937.

Design. The 50 gr. definitive stamp (Scott's 253) had the same design as the commemorative sheet of 1928.

Proofs. Printed from single die on smooth white thin paper. Each one has inscribed underneath "Zigmunt Karminski. del." Known in green-blue, sepia, violet-brown, steel blue, and olive-green. Perf. 12½. One is also known imperforate without gum, printed on smooth white medium paper



Type I

Type II

with a very fine red net.

Printing. Four panes of 100 stamps each were printed simultaneously on a Nadherny press from steel plates made by the electrolytic process. The first printing had no marginal control letters or numbers but from the second up to and including the fourth there are arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, or 4 in left or right lower corners. Roman numerals from 1 to 10 have also been found but their meaning is so far unknown. There were eight printings. The first four were made by P.Z.G. and the last four by P.W.P.W. (Polish Printery of Valuable Papers) both in Warsaw. When the printing was changed from P.Z.G. to P.W.P.W. it is known that a new transfer roller was made composed of 2 x 5 stamps and the sheets were marked by letters A, B, C, D, E, or F and not by numbers as before.

The greatest of all British students of Polish stamps, the late Lieut.-Col. R. N. W. Larking in his famous articles in Gibbons Stamp Monthly during the period October 1929 — August 1932, writes of this stamp in the April 1931 number but only mentions the miniature sheet and the first definitive issue of 1928 as of course the other printings were contemporary with his articles. However, in writing to one of his fellow collectors in 1938, he enclosed three 50 gr. Piłsudski stamps for reference. The first, he called Die I, measuring $19\frac{1}{2} \times 25\frac{1}{4}$ mm., in slate blue; the second, Die II, measuring $20 \times 24\frac{3}{4}$ mm., slate blue; the third, a

re-issue of the first but in greenish blue.

The late Dr. W. M. Anthony showed a selection of these stamps in the London International Stamp Exhibition, May 1950, under headings Die I and Die II concurring with Col. Larking's findings. Others also have thought there were two dies, owing to the distinctly different sizes of stamp. I do not think so.

My theory (and I must stress that it is my own idea and therefore subject to contradiction) after examining quite an amount of used material is that the **First Four Printings**, which I call Type I, (see illustration) were made from the same Master Die as was used for the miniature sheet and that they were printed by the flat bed process with damp paper. Period 1928-29.

Printing V was made in the newly opened P.W.P.W., probably from the rotary machines it is known to have possessed, using dry paper, and it is this probable change of method which, I think, caused the stamp to have a more squat appearance and slight difference in size due to the curved plates. This printing was probably made from the new transfer roller but, I think, definitely from the same Master Die. Period early 1930. This I call Type II. (See Illustration). Having had stamps of both types photographed and enlarged it appears to me to be absolutely impossible that even such a master of engraving as Schirnboeck could have cut two dies so nearly identical.

Printing VI reverts to Type I in size but color is greenish blue. Possibly the rotary machines were being used for other work and the flat bed process was used for this comparatively small printing by P.W.P.W., which by this time, 1931, had taken over all Polish stamp printing from P.Z.G.

Printing VII is very interesting as while the color is changed to blue-green I have this stamp in both Types I and II. This is a very large printing so it could well be that both methods were employed (Scott's 254).

Printing VIII is quite distinctive, being green, rather dull in tone and Type I.

Numbers printed are shown in the table.

Dates of issue. The definitive stamps were issued under a decree dated 23.3.1928. The dates on which the stamps of the different printings were issued is not known but the date of the order to the printers for each printing is given in the table, with the exception of Printing VIII for which only the year is given, 1935. To aid in the discovery of dates of issue it is perhaps worth mentioning here that the earliest postmark I have on the first printing is 1.9.1928 and the first five printings all have postmarks for the year 1929. Earliest dates I have are: on Printing VI, 1.III.32; on Printing VII, 16.VII.31, (both Types used in 1931), and on Printing VIII, 20.VII.35.

The whole issue was taken from circulation by a decree dated 17.9.1937 and remained valid until 15.11.1937.

Papers

The paper used for the first four printings was bought from the Government Bank of Vienna and that for the last four from the Papermaking factory in Mokotow Prison, Warsaw. Polish handbooks say both are white wove, 70 grammes, but I find that there are also stamps printed on a thicker opaque cream paper, a thinner white paper with a greyish tinge and several creamy white papers of various textures.

Colors

In the official decree announcing the issue of these stamps the color for the 50 gr. was given as dark blue. This was an error, it should have been green-blue. This color in actual printing gave so many differences of shade that while it is possible, it is difficult to recognize each of the eight printings by their color. Printing I, bluish slate; Printing II, dark bluish slate; Printing III, black blue; Printing IV, black violet-blue; Printing V, dark bluish slate; Printing VI, greenish blue; Printing VII, blue-green; Printing VIII, green. Printings II and V although the same shade can easily be distinguished as they are different Types.

As can be imagined the fact that the papers vary in tint and texture makes the task of separating the shades even more difficult.

Perforations

Collectors of the first definitive issues of Poland will know of the innumerable perforation varieties which exist. This state of affairs continued up to the opening of P.W.P.W., after which the new perforating machines produced about six different perforations instead of over 40 which can be found on the 1928-29 printings of the Pilsudski stamp.

All printings have line perforations.

These varieties can be found: $10\frac{1}{2}$; $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$; $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$; $10\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $10\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; 11 ; $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$; 11×12 ; $11 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; 11×13 ; $11 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; $11\frac{1}{2}$; $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; $11\frac{1}{2} \times 14$; 12 ; $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; $12 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; 12×14 ; $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$; $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $12\frac{1}{2}$; $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$; $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$; $14 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$; 14×12 ; $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$; 14×13 .

According to my collection these are distributed among the printing as follows:

I. Simple perforation from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 and compounds.

II. Simple perforations from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 and compounds.

III. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ only.

IV. Simple and compound but difficult stamps to find and not so many compounds.

V. Simple perforations from 10½ to 14 and compounds.

VI. Perf. 11½ only.

VII. Perf. 11½ only on both Types I and II.

VIII. Perf. 11; 11 x 11½; 11½; 11½ x 11; 12½.

Added to these are the scarce perforations which, although not listed in the handbooks, I have in my collection: 10 x 12; 11½ x 13; 12 x 10½; 13; 13 x 12; 13½ x 10½; 14 x 10½. I believe some of these could be classed as rare but just how scarce it is difficult to know. The late Dr. Anthony marked 12 x 10½; 13; and 13 x 12 with RRR and 14 x 10½ with R (Rare).

I have also an interesting variety in a horizontal strip of four stamps from Printing II; the center pair are 12½ x 11½ while the stamps on either side are 12 x 11½.

Forgeries

As far as I am aware no forgeries of these definitives exist.

Final Issue.

This stamp ended its career as a Commemorative Miniature sheet, just as it began (a very unusual occurrence) by being printed in dark blue as a block of four, in 1937, to commemorate the visit of King Carol of Roumania (Scott's 315). It accompanied two other sheets in the same format showing Smigly-Rydz and Moscicki.

Printed from the original Master Die, the sheet bears at the top, in red, the Arms of Roumania and Poland and between them the date of the King's Visit, 26.VI.—I.VII. 1937.

Perf. 12½ x 12. They were actually issued on June 30th, four days after the visit began and withdrawn February 28th, 1939. 105,500 sets of sheets were printed and 99,279 sets sold. In January 1938 a considerable number of these sheets were exchanged for current issues and those sheets taken in exchange were destroyed.

I realize that this is only a basis for further study of this issue; as far as I know the stamps have not yet been plated and there are probably several re-entries, but the shades are too alike for me to attempt this task. However, I hope that this article will provoke

comment from other students as this is the only way to increase our knowledge.

I cannot end without extending to Mr. W. R. Kossuth, my grateful thanks for his kindness in lending me hundreds of these stamps to study because, without this mass of material it would have been impossible either to form my conclusions or to write this article.

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Gibbons Stamp Monthly. April 1931
Vol. IV No. 7, page 138 et seq. Larking. Filatelist. Edinburgh. Oct. 1951
No. 10, page 5-6. Penn.

In Polish:

Polskie Znaki Pocztowe. Ikaros 1935.
Polskie Znaki Pocztowe Ruch. Warsaw 1960. Tom I, Pages 243-247.

TABLE OF PRINTINGS

Printing	Date of Order to Printer	Printer	Type	Number printed
I	19. 8.1927	P. Z. G.	I	5,000,000
II	26. 4.1928	P. Z. G.	I	20,000,000
III	8.10.1928	P. Z. G.	I	10,000,000
IV	9. 3.1929	P. Z. G.	I	15,000,000
V	23. 9.1929	P.W.P.W.	II	20,213,000
VI	4. 3.1931	P.W.P.W.	I	10,178,000
VII	5.10.1931	P.W.P.W.	I & II	19,275,000
VIII	1935	P.W.P.W.	I	5,293,400

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BALLOON POST IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Tadeusz Gryzewski

Not many persons know about the very interesting aerograms sent via Balloons, during the international free balloon races on the occasion of the International Aerial Exposition of Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Two Polish Balloons took part in these races sent there by the League of Aerial Protection of Poland (L.O.-P.P.) These Balloons were "Warsaw" and "Lwów". The races started on June 13, 1927. The crews of both balloons took into their gondolas 50 covers each, franked with 50 h. Czecho stamps: in addition to these the covers had special commemorative stamps in red color representing a balloon in flight, printed on each side of this: "IV Exposition Aeronautique Inter. Prague", at bottom, "PAR BALLON MONTE: 'LWOW'" or "WARSAW". In both lower corners: "4/VI, 1927 and 16/VI 1927". These stamps are printed 8 to a sheet (pane) in one row are stamps with the inscription "Par Ballon Monte

Warszawa" and in the other lengthwise: "Par Ballon Montes Lwow". The stamps in panes are partly perforated, that means, all the borders are imperforated. In this way each stamp is imperf from one or two sides. They are also with or without gum. Besides these there are entirely imperf stamps in 300, (150 with the inscription "Warszawa" and 150 "Lwow". The imperf stamps number 50 only (25 "Warszawa" and 25 "Lwow").

The stamps on the aerograms were cancelled with a special round commemorative cachet in green with the inscription: "Concours de Ballons Montes — Exposition Aeronautique Internationale, PRAGUE, 4—16/VI, 1927". Depending in which balloon the card was sent, the cachet reads: "Par Ballon Polonais 'Lwow'" or "Par Ballon Polonais 'Warszawa'". Because of bad weather conditions the balloons, after their start, were forced to land only a few kilometers from Prague. Cards sent via Balloon "Warszawa" had besides the cachet some Exposition labels in violet, yellow and green color on a white field, others in violet, yellow and gray on a white field.

Each balloon took 50 cards apiece, 10 with imperf stamps. Balloon "Lwow" landed at Podbada, the stamps bear a machine cancel 4—16/VI 1927.

Balloon "Warszawa" landed near Prague, the pilot took the cards back to the city and the stamps received a machine cancel 4—16/VI 1927.

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617-19	.20	660-63	.50	676-79	.20
684-86	.15	693-94	.12	711-14	.20
715-16	.09	717-18	.10	719-23	.15
729-32	.20	750-56	.50	769-76	.35
777-78	.12	789	.03	790	.09
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821-22	.20	850-54	.40	978a SS	.25
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1011-12	.10	1018-19	.12	1020	.03
1021-23	.15	1046-48a	.45	1049 SS	.50

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J40	.70	J41	.60	J42	1.25
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J54	.45	J57-58	1.50	J59-60	1.00
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NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

The Freedom from Hunger stamps previously described were released on February 25, 1963.

* * *

To commemorate one of the most extraordinary and heroic events of World War II, Poland issued on April 19th a stamp to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

On April 19th, 1943 under the leadership of M. Anielewicz, the Warsaw Ghetto undertook an armed defense in order to delay the liquidation of the population. With primitive arms, stones and homemade weapons they held off the Nazi forces for three weeks — which so exasperated the Nazi leaders that they finally ordered that the entire Ghetto be burned to the ground. This succeeded in stopping the resistance but only at a great loss of life to the German Nazi troops.

In order to escape the wrath of the Germans, M. Anielewicz preferred self destruction. This he did on May 8, 1943.

The stamps is 31.25 x 39.5 mm. printed in bi-color on perforated watermarked paper. The design is by Seweryn Jasinski, and shows a resistance fighter with bandaged forehead holding a rifle and a grenade — in the upper left hand corner is the legend: (XX Rocznica Powstania w Warszawski Gecie) — (20th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.) 1,500,000 were issued.

* * *

On May 8th Poland is to issue one stamp to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 1st Geneva Convention. It was after the battle of Solferino, in 1859 that the idea was born to establish an organization for the protection of the sick and wounded in battle. It was not until 4 years later that the countries involved signed the first agreement and established the badge of the Red Cross as the sign of neutrality.

The Second, Third and Fourth Conventions were held in 1906, 1929, and 1949 respectively. They concerned all armed forces as well as the protection of the civilian population.

The design of the stamp illustrates the silhouette of the lamp of knowledge on a background of blue — to the right of the lamp is a red cross. In the upper left reads — Polska / 2.50 zł. across the bottom in Polish (100 Lat Humanitarnych Konwencji Genewskiej), Centenary of Humanitarian Geneva Conventions.

As mentioned it is a bi-colored — 25.5 mm. by 43 mm. and printed on chalky perforated paper. The design is by Franciszek Winiarski, 1,000,000 are to be printed.

—Ruch-Filatelista

ERRATA

In the article "Second Polish Provisional Issue" by Z. Wlodarski published in *Polonus* Bulletins of November and December, 1962, the following corrections should be noted:

Page 205-2:

Left column, fourth line from bottom: the word "lines" is left out (numbers are placed under or above the lines).

Right column, 30th line from top should read: "...two types of these dies: the first, with slender, sharp letters, full of precise ornamentation, and the second ..."

Page 205-3:

Left column, 13th verse from top: instead of "shades of gloss" should be "grades of gloss".

Page 205-5

In the table "For the second plate-Intervals in the first line" the number 27 is under "L"; it should be between the "O" and "L".

Page 206-4:

In the "10 fen. Carmine, met-glossy" section, in the "Flat plate" column should be the number "H2707.15".

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 24th, 1963:

Program Meeting. Joseph J. Janecka, Jr., president of the First Czechoslovak Club of America will speak on several topics of philatelic and historical interest to both Polish and Czech collectors. One of these will be the introduction of Christianity and the alphabet to the Slavic peoples 1100 years ago by Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

Mr. Janecka visited West Germany and Prague last autumn and has many interesting experiences to relate.

June 14th, 1963:

Business meeting. Another Auction of Bert Powell material.

June 28th, 1963:

Program Meeting. The talk on French Precancels by Lester Jankowski will be given this evening. It was previously scheduled for April 26th but postponed because of other urgent matters that had to be attended to that evening because of the death of our late President, Dr. Mathew Uznanski.

TID BITS

Member Joseph M. Jakubecki of Detroit, Mich. exhibited at the recent Wayne Stamp Society Show. His dis-

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play of early covers from Szczecin dated 1742 to 1872 with historical write-ups earned a first place trophy in the cover class and also the grand award.

He also exhibited Poland miniature and souvenir sheets in the foreign class and this also won a first place trophy and S.P.A. medal.

* * *

At the May 10th meeting we were honored with visits from out of town members. Daniel Dohm of St. Louis, Mo., was in Chicago for the Meat Packers Convention.

Jerzy W. Meier of Ottawa, Canada was on his way home from St. Louis and stopped off at Chicago for a Polonus meeting. Congratulations are in order to him as he had just received a gold medal for scientific achievement and honorary life membership in the American Foundrymen's Society at their Convention in St. Louis. He is employed as Principal Metallurgist in the Dept. of Mines in Canada.

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