

BULLETIN OF THE **Polonus** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

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January-February, 1980

POLPEX 80 TO HIGHLIGHT RELIGION THEME

Polonus sent invitations to the Vatican Philatelic Society and the Religion On Stamps Unit of the American Topical Association to participate in POLPEX 80 March 29-30 at the Polish Veterans Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago. A Religion topical class will be featured in the exhibition this year to go along with the theme — Pope John Paul II. Special papal medallions will be awarded to winning exhibits.

Poland, U.S., and Foreign exhibits will also be shown. Among the entries received thus far is a collection of Poland's 1830 November Insurrection Issue of 1930. It is being shown on the 150th anniversary of this uprising against the Russians.

Another occurrence this year is the 60th anniversary of the war against the Russian Bolsheviks in 1920 with their defeat at the Battle of the Vistula under the command of Jozef Pilsudski. Exhibits pertaining to this event would be in order. For entry forms write to Al Rybarski, Entries Chairman, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Deadline for entries is March 10th.

A colorful program catalog will be printed in Polonus tradition with a listing of the exhibits, philatelic articles, ads, patrons and well wishers.



His Holiness Pope John Paul II

To meet the printing costs members are asked to take ads or be listed as patrons or well wishers. Prices run: \$50 for a full page, \$30 for a half page, \$20 for a quarter page, \$5 for patron listing, and \$2 for well wishers.

With this issue of the Bulletin we enclosed a remittance envelope for your convenience. Please show your support of the Polpex by sending in a check or money order. Deadline for program catalog copy is March 15th.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 25, 1980:

Regular Business Meeting

Friday, February 22, 1980:

Program Meeting. Speaker to be announced.

Thursday, March 20, 1980:

Joint C.P.S.-Polonus Meeting.

OLONUS-C.P.S. TO HOLD JOINT MEETING

The Chicago Philatelic Society has invited Polonus to a joint meeting on Thursday, March 20th at Blackstone Hotel, Balbo and Michigan Avenue. The meeting will begin at 7:30 but Polonus members are invited to a Dutch Treat dinner with the CPS members at 'Flaming Sally's' in the hotel. Cost for dinner is \$7.00 and begins at 6:30. Both societies will provide speakers for short philatelic presentations. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with other Chicagoland collectors and we hope for a large turnout from Polonus.

AUSTRALIA'S POLPHIL '79

The Polish Philatelic Society of Australia celebrated its 20th Anniversary at POLPHIL '79 Nov. 19 thru 30 in Melbourne. Three Polonus members from the U.S. participated and won gold medals with their exhibits: Alfred Szebel with "Pilsudski's Polish Legions of 1914-18," Chester Schafer with "Poland Under Russia 1815-75," and Dr. Jozef Kuderewicz with "First Polish Corps WWI." Dr. Kuderewicz also received the R. Aszniewicz Postal History Trophy. W.Z.J. Nowicki of London received a silver medal and the R. Winiarski Thematic Award for his "Copernicana." Listed in their Palmares as judges were Jan Witkowski of Poland and Isaak Gust of Australia.

The exhibition was the eight "Polphil" including three international ones in which exhibitors from nine countries took part. For each of the exhibitions special medals were minted and engraved for awards. The Society produced 138 issues of their Bulletin and published a work of I. Gust: "Watermarks of the Pre-stamps Period of Poland 1815-1865", and assisted in the publication of M. Szczepanowski's "Commemorative Millennium Envelopes issued in Australia".

POLISH POW CAMPS STUDY GROUP RESUMES ACTIVITY

After a period of nearly two years of inactivity, the Polish POW Camps Philatelic Study Group will resume active participation in the area of Polish POW camps postal history.

A bimonthly newsletter containing articles and informative commentary, plus many other features, will be released in the near future.

Further announcements will appear in the philatelic press from time to time. Dates and locations of meetings will also be scheduled.

For further information concerning the group, write Henry F. Zebrowski, R.D. 1, Box 431P, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

POLISH EXHIBITS

Two Polish exhibits brought major awards at TOSAPEX '79 held Oct. 27-28 by the Wauwatosa Philatelic Society of Wisconsin. Best In Show was presented to Carl Skupski for "Poland in the Olympic Games," while Robert Konowal received a First Place Award for "Poland Groszy Overprints of 1950."

Special cachets were used on three U.S. Postal Cards: the George Rogers Clark cachet on the Clark postal card, the Casimir Pulaski cachet on the Pulaski card, and the John Paul Jones cachet on the Eagle card. The set of three costs \$1.00, or 50¢ each if ordered individually. Include a No. 10 stamped self-addressed envelope with your order. Available from Raymond Bournique, 1910 Church St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213.

DUES REMINDER

The Treasurer thanks those members who responded to the appeal in the last Bulletin. If you neglected to do so, please send your \$7.50 dues for 1980 to R.H. Strzelecki, 1620 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.

THE UKRAINIAN SHAHY ISSUE WITH POLISH EAGLE OVERPRINTS

By JAMES MAZEPA, ACSW

The collecting of "Cinderella" items has been an interesting sideline of many philatelists. Some of these issues even appear in the catalogs, and such is the case with a set of stamps pictured under "Ukraine" in the Scott catalog. The set consists of the five values of the Ukrainian shahy issue overprinted with a new value and the Polish Eagle.

The complete set consists of 15 stamps. Each of the five shahy stamps is surcharged with one of three values: 2 gr., 5 gr. and 10 gr. Above each value is a Polish Eagle with crown. The basic color of each is black for the 2 groszy, violet for the 5 groszy, and red for the 10 groszy (Fig. 1).

Neither the color nor the impressions are uniform, which suggests that the overprints were made with single rubber handstamps. The color on the 2 groszy ranges between grey-black and intense black, on the 5 groszy be-



Fig. 1 — Enlargement of 5 groszy overprint

tween pale-violet and deep violet, and on the 10 groszy between pale-red and deep red. In each value the color of the shah stamp affects the shade of the overprint. Some impressions are quite sharp and show the fine details

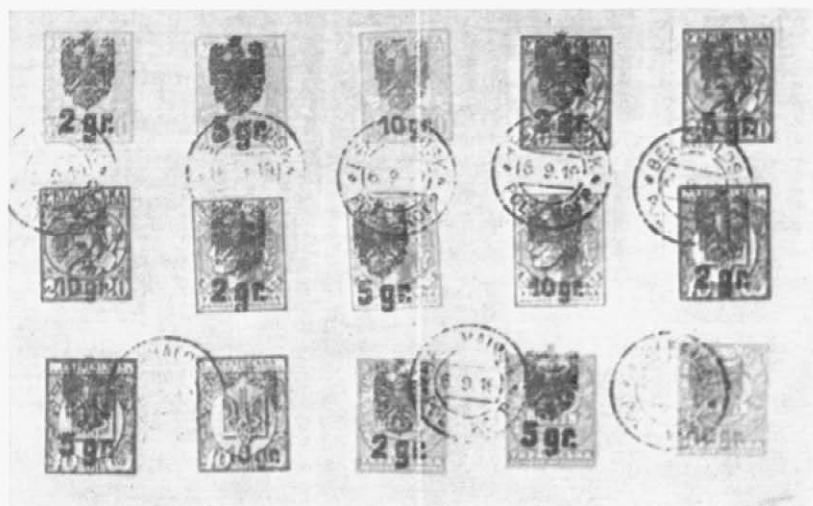


Fig. 2 — Prepared "cover" with the complete set



Fig. 3 — Overprint inverted

of the eagle, while others are smudgy and appear as a "blob" with no detail evident. The whole range of impressions may be found on the same "cover" which has the complete set. (Fig. 2). The size of the overprint is uniform: from the top of the eagle to the bottom of the "g" — 26 mm., width of the eagle — 12 mm., and the length of the new value — $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The set exists mint and "used". I have seen loose values with the overprint inverted and conclude that the inverted overprint may be found on the entire set (fig. 3). I know of only one "cover" with a value of the overprint inverted, that of the 10 gr./10 shahy stamp. The others are normal (fig. 4). This "cover" is in the collection of Mr. Val Zabijaka of Washington. I know of no examples of split of sideways overprints. The "used" stamps are found as loose stamps, on piece, or on prepared "covers". Blocks and pairs are seldom seen.

The set exists with three cancellations: 1) "Blahahosk 6.9.19," and 2) "Bekahahosk 6.9.19." These town names are at the top of the double-circle postmark and at the bottom is "Pol. Korp." The diameter of the postmark is 27 mm. The date is in a bridge as was customary at the time and has two squares for ornaments, one at each side. 3) "Winnitsa" in Cyrillic at the top and what appears to be "Coloby" in Latin letters at the bottom (figs. 5-6). The Polish catalog makes mention of this cancel, but does not note the word at the bot-



Fig. 4 — Prepared "cover" with the inverted 10 gr./10 shahy



Fig. 5-6 — "Winnitsa-Coloby postmark
tom. All the postmarks I have seen are unclear, so it is difficult to identify these letters. The date is 13.10.-18 or 13.8.18, again unclear for proper identification.

The Polish catalog lists a postmark

of "Pekahahosk 6.9.19," but I believe this to be a misreading due to a weak strike of the "Bekahahosk 6.9.19" mark.

Mr. Gobby in an article in the "Polonus Bulletin" suggests that this issue is somehow connected with the Polish-Soviet war of 1920-21. I believe this to be too kind an assumption. My feeling is that this issue was simply produced by some enterprising person for personal profit. There is a long list of such emissions from Poland and the Ukraine at this time and even later in the 1920's and 1930's. The values of 2, 5, and 10 groszy do not conform to any of the usual existing rates for the period. If the stamps were to be used in the Western Ukraine, the values would not be in groszy but hellers, or even fennigs at best. The idea of their production might be the legitimately overprinted and surcharges stamps made by the Polish Army during the temporary occupation of Kovel from August 20-24, 1919.

The Ruch catalog properly lists these as fantasy issues, but they fail to mention another fantasy issue of the same period. These are the Polish stamps of 1919 (Scott #109-20, J13-30, and 01-11) all overprinted with the Trident emblem of the Ukraine. I have seen the set mint and "used" with unclear postmarks (fig. 7).

All these items are interesting since they reflect the turmoil of the times, but they should not be confused with

(Continued on page 378-8)



Fig. 7 — Polish stamps of 1919 with Trident overprint

TWO UNUSUAL ITEMS FROM LUBEKA

By CHRIS KULPINSKI

The end of the Second World War found Polish prisoners of war in a state of flux. They were free, but with no place to go. Due to prisoner movement toward the last months of the war, Polish POW's from Woldenberg and Gross Born found themselves in Lubeck, a town not far from the Baltic Sea, in the German Province of Schleswig-Holstein.

The area became heavily populated with displaced persons, gathered into various camps of many sizes, each of which came under British control and guidance. Immediately following the war, communication was a primary concern for everyone. The German postal system was inoperative, while the British system at the time served only the military. Communications with home, much less with other camps was virtually impossible by way of mails.

In late 1944, when it was becoming obvious that the war was winding

down and that Germany would not be victorious, the postal authorities at POW camp Woldenberg began toying with the idea of issuing a commemorative stamp at the time of their freedom. Because of advancing Allied armies, Woldenberg was evacuated in January, 1945, with several columns of prisoners heading into different directions. One of these columns found itself near Lubeck at the time of their liberation, and decided to realize the idea of a stamp to commemorate their freedom. The result was a wooden die, showing the Polish Eagle on the left, with the years of imprisonment, 1939-1945 on the right, under which is the latin word "LIBERTAS". Across the bottom, the words "Poczta Polska". Over a period of several months, several thousand cards and stamps were printed for use in inter-camp mail. The system was established with the approval of both the Camp Com-



FIGURE 1

mander and the British military authorities.

Use outside of the immediate area was extremely rare, however, the post card shown proves that it was done. (Fig. 1). The card was written on February 21, 1946, addressed to Krakow, Poland. It was hand carried to Gdansk, where it was deposited into the Polish postal system on March 7th. In Krakow 3 postage due stamps totaling 6 zloty were attached and the card was delivered on the 10th of March. The card is definitely not philatelic. The message is non-philatelic in that it deals with family concerns, primarily the fact that the writer does not know if his family is receiving his mail, since he has had no response from them. That most likely is the reason why the card was mailed from Gdansk — the other mail may not have gotten through.

Although the issues of Lubeck are fairly well documented in "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", Volume 4 and Machowski's booklets on the Polish POW Camps, nowhere is there listed the envelope shown below. (Fig. 2). It's existence and usage, however, have been verified by people who were there.

The stamp in the upper right hand corner is hand printed on the envelope in deep red. Notice, it is not squared with the envelope. The cancellation is not shown in Machowski, but it appears to be the same size and design as one used in Pohls, which was a temporary camp established earlier than Lubeck. This canceller from Pohls is shown in Machowski's booklet as canceller #2. The "POCZTA POLSKA, Lubeka", to the left is in purple, and also is not listed. All of the Poczta Polska markings known are in two lines, and somewhat crude and uneven, having been carved in rubber. The circular marking in the lower center of the cover is that of the Polish Repatriation Committee in the British sector. The rubber stamped address is to the Illustrated Information Weekly REPATRIANT in Warsaw, although the hand written address is to Kielce. Poland, by way of the repatriation committee at Gdynia, Poland. It is superimposed over the Warsaw address. Whether the cover ever reached Kielce is anyone's guess.

The date on which the cover was mailed is difficult to make out, but most likely it was on July 3, 1945.



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

The actual size of the imprinted stamp, including the "perfs" is 27 x 35.5. The enlarged photo was made by taking a xerox copy of the cover and touching it up with a pencil to produce the needed contrast. A photograph was taken and enlarged (Fig. 3).

Is there another such cover to be found? Are there others which are not listed? Are they philatelic? I would be interested in hearing from anyone having information on this or similar covers.

References:

- "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", Edited by A. Laskiewicz and Z. Mikulski. Warsaw, 1966, Volume IV, pp. 159-166.
 "Polska Poczta Międzyobozowa Okręgu Lubeca", J. Machowski, Kraków Poland.

UKRAINIAN SHAHY (Cont.)

the legitimately issued stamps. The set of 15 stamps with the Polish Eagle overprint usually sells for \$15. mint or "unused", and the prepared "covers" for \$25. To discover this set on commercial or fieldpost mail would be a real find. My thanks to Mr. Val Zabijaka for lending me his collection of this issue to study and to Mr. Bill Lesh for examples of varieties.

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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 \$7.50 —

References:

- Laskiewicz, Anton, et al. *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*, Tom IV, p. 1528; Warsaw 1966.
 Gobby, Thomas, "Polonus Bulletin"; #337, Oct., 1975; "Properly Polish?" p. 4, Chicago, Illinois; 1975.

THAT MAN CHRIS

The President's Award for philatelic research was won by Chris Kulpinski for "Polish Field Post in the Middle East 1941-47" at VALPEX '79 held last September at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Chris also chalked up the American Philatelic Society Member and Society of Philatelic Americans Awards.

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY FIRST DAY PULASKI POST CARD

The Polish Philatelic and Numismatic Society, 3424 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90018, is offering a cacheted first day Pulaski postal card, issued by the United States Postal Service in Savannah, Ga., Oct. 11, for 50 cents each plus a self-addressed stamped envelope. The cachet, in blue, was designed by artist Leon S. Kawecki.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60141. You will save us the expense of paying postage due.