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Issue No. 90

November 1950

THE POST HORN AND POST SIGNALS

An Historical Sketch of Its Use and Origin in Poland

by Włodzimierz Polanski

(reprinted from STAMPS of 3/4/50)

(continued from previous issue)

Article 4. On public highways upon signal sounded on the Horn all must yield right of way.

Article 19. Livery of Postillions, conductors, wagonmasters and servants of the Post, shall be green with carmine collar, as well as a badge, on which the King's Coat of Arms and Post Horn shall be plainly visible.

So-called "Instructions for Postal Officials in the Polish Kingdom," year 1817, being somewhat more detailed in the regulations pertaining to this matter, are as follows:

Sec. 41. Buildings which house the Postal stations, shall be decorated with a painted shield or sign arranged in the following manner, the words, "Kingdom of Poland," at the top, Coat of Arms of the Kingdom in the center, and below a Post Horn, and at the bottom shall indicate the type of station, such as, Main, Central, Border or Regular. Post wagons or carriages shall have the following insignia: A shield on which such vehicle is attached. The above shields and insignia shall be paid for by the Director General of the Post, and shall be distributed to the various Postmasters, who shall be responsible for the same in the event they are damaged.

Sec. 66. Postmasters shall see that letter carriers, while delivering mail are dressed according to regulation, also that every Postillion in service is in livery and has a Post Horn, otherwise the Postmaster or Dispatcher shall be subject to a fine of from 2 to

6 and more zlotys.

Sec. 80. Every Postillion coming to and from a Postal station, through towns, villages, dams, dikes, bridges, through forests, hills and ravines shall sound the Post Horn often, and be skilled in its use, and the Postmasters should encourage this practice, and see that it is done, otherwise they make themselves liable to a fine to the Director General.

In 1826 the uniform of the postillion underwent a definite change. This time it consisted of a black lacquered hat, ornamented with the Coat of Arms and Post symbol (The Post Horn), a short dark green coat with amethyst collar and cuffs, and a badge on the left sleeve with the Postal symbol, britches, boots and Post Horn slung over the shoulder on a white-amethyst cord.

On July 9, 1830 a special school was established for teaching postillions to play the postal signals on the Post Horn. The horns were changed, brought from Berlin, and the Prussian Postal Signals were instituted. This school lasted to June 1, 1841 and during this period trained 339 postillions.

In 1844 this school was re-established in Warsaw from April 9 to October 10, and 116 postillions were trained in the proper use of the postal signals on the Post Horn.

It is assumed that these schools had as their aim the preparation of instructors for further teaching the signals on the Post Horn. They were sent to different bureaus of the Congress



Fig. 7—Horse-drawn coach and postilions with posthorns, an illustration from the 1938 reprint of IKAROS.



Fig. 8—Illustration to verse of W. Syrokomli, "Postilion." Woodcut by Machowski, drawing by Dmuchaowski ("Klosy")

(continued on page 90-3)

POLAND

The Postal Issues During and After the Great War

by the late COL. R. N. W. LARKING, C.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

6 mks.

Scabbard missing.

Offset.

Imperforate.

Imperforate top margin.

Imperforate left margin.

10 mks.

Bomb in front of horse's head, No. 28.

Blob of colour under point of sword.

Imperforate.

20 mks.

Imperforate.

In March 1921 this stamp appeared forged. It was used at Tarnow on parcel address labels and money orders. It differs very considerably from the original, the printing is inferior, the "0" of "20" is narrow, and it is not on laid paper. Very few copies were circulated before the forgery was detected.

3 hal.

Frame broken in top left corner. Oblique stroke in right "3." Dot under "A" of "POCZTA," No. 100 (some printings imperforate). Printed in yellow ochre. This was originally a proof or printer's waste; it is very coarsely executed. The few sheets printed were given to the Polish White Cross for sale for charity, but were subsequently called back and sold to the public owing to a shortage of 3 hal. value.

Imperforate between, vertically.
Imperforate top margin.

5 hal.

Dot on top of left "5."

Left frame-line broken.

On paper horizontally laid as well

as vertically ribbed.

10 hal.

Dot under "P" of "POLSKA," No. 5.

Error of colour: rose-red.

Double impression (imperforate only).

Imperforate bottom margin.

15 hal.

Minute dot under "T," No. 89 (some printings, imperforate).

20 hal.

First printing on thick wove and ribbed:—

No stop after first "h," Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 27, 29, 30, 33, 37, 40, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 75, 79, 82, 83, 87.

Later printing on all papers:—

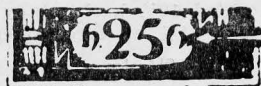
All stops are present, but there is a dot between "ZT," No. 30.

Bisected and used as 10 hal., postmarked "OLKUSZ 6.3.19."

Imperforate top margin.

25 hal.

Dot between "2" and "5," No. 44.
Broken top to "2," No. 57.



A large deformed second "h," No. 94.

Dot on loop of "2."

Dot under loop of "2."

Coloured blob in front of "2."

Coloured blob between "2" and "5."

Two stops after first "h."

Perforated by sewing-machine, postmarked, "Przemysl 2.3.19."

Imperforate left margin.

Double perforation horizontally.

Reprinted from GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY — Oct. 1929 to Aug. 1932
by POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY — Chicago, Ill. — U. S. A.

50 hal.

Imperforate right margin.

1 kr.

White spot like a flag on left of granary (early printings only).

Imperforate between, vertically and horizontally.

Imperforate top margin.

1½ kr.

Dot before "T," No. 51.

Dot after "P" in "POCZTA," Nos 60 and 100.

Spot over "O" in "POCZTA."

Two dots between "CZ."

Dot after "Z."

Coloured stroke joins the "T" to sickle.

Dot between "TA."

Dot after "L."

Dot before "L."

Dot between "LS."

Dot before "K."

Dot over "Z" and top of "K" joined to foot of "A" of "POCZTA" by dotted line.

Oblique line through "A" of "POCZTA."

Cap on "O" of "POLSKA."

Double impression (imperforate only).

2 kr.

No stop after "K" and dot over "OL," No. 6.

Tail to first "K," No. 9.

Scratch on right margin outside frame-line, No. 60.

Left side frame-line broken, No. 84.

Right side frame-line broken.

Double impression (imperforate only).

Perforated 10½ horizontally on one side and 11½ on three sides.

2½ kr.

Scratch in front of sword-hilt, No. 6.

Projection to sword-guard, No. 25.

White spot in "K" of "POLSKA," No. 81.

White spot in "S" and dot over "50," No. 84.

5 kr.

Tail to "S," No. 4.

Dot in foot of "L," No. 13.

Curl to foot of second "K" above the label.

Double impression (imperforate only).

A few of the lower values may be found punctured with a firm's initials.

VII. 1919. TEMPORARY ISSUES

In order not to break a sequence, I have dealt with the first definitive issue of Polish stamps in its entirety. Therefore I must now go back and deal with five sets of stamps which were issued whilst the first definitive issue was in circulation.

I.

Owing to the delay on the part of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in sending the post offices in Southern Poland a supply of the stamps specially prepared for them, and as their supply of Austrian stamps overprinted "POCZTA POLSKA" were becoming exhausted, the authorities in Cracow found it necessary to issue a set of stamps of their own. This issue, which appeared in March 1919, is erroneously described in some catalogues as a Commemorative issue of the first Polish Parliament. It is really an emergency issue, authorised by the Polska Komisja Likwidacyjna (Polish Liquidation Committee), and known as the P. K. L. issue. The stamps were executed and lithographed by the Zielinski Printing Works in Cracow, and were issued in sheets of 100 (10x10), half-sheets (ten rows of 5 stamps), and also quarter sheets (5x5). The design shows the Polish Eagle in a shield, with "POCZTA POLSKA" above and the value below.

The following denominations and quantities were issued:—

2 halerze, grey	501,000
3 halerze, dull violet	460,850
5 halerzy, green	890,050
6 halerzy, orange	100,444
10 halerzy, lake	1,004,050
15 halerzy, brown	1,504,846
20 halerzy, olive-green	602,650
25 halerzy, carmine	3,008,550
50 halerzy, indigo	806,650
70 halerzy, blue	501,150
1 korona, carmine and grey	408,400

The values 2 to 20 hal. were printed on a thick soft and very porous grey wove paper, which is easily "thinned" when removing paper or mount from the back. The remaining values are on a thin smooth paper with a bluish tinge.

The stamps were issued ungummed and imperforate. For the convenience of the public, the post offices supplied pots of glue on their premises. This glue contained certain chemicals which affected the colour of the stamps,

therefore many postally used copies show the colour partly or entirely eaten away.

As the dividing up of the stamps from the imperforate sheets demanded too much time, some firms, with a large correspondence, had their sheets perforated privately; others had it done with a sewing machine, or any other machine which was handy at the time. I have copies perforated 10 x 7, also imperforate on one or more sides; but the normal perforation gauged 11 and 11½, clean-cut and rough. These originated mostly from Trzebinia and Zywiec.

There are several plate varieties, the most prominent being:—



- 2 hal. Top of right wing of eagle is joined to the neck.
Bottom frame-line broken.
- 3 hal. Large white blob against throat of eagle, No. 2.
White spots top and bottom of "h," cutting frame-line of value
- 5 hal. Bottom frame-line broken, No. 1.
Stop after "halerzy," No. 4.
Broken "c," No. 48.
- 25 hal. Broken "c," No. 66.
- 70 hal. Broken "7," No. 33.
- 1 kr. White spot at foot of "r" (= "Kocona").
Broken "P."

Proof copies are known in black on the thick grey wove paper, and in grey on a very thick and smooth white paper.

II

A second emergency issue appeared from Poznan in August 1919. Owing to a shortage of 5 and 10 fen. of the first definitive issue, the General Post Office in Poznan used up the current German stamps remaining in their possession by overprinting them "Poczta Polska" in two lines and surcharging them with new values.

The issue and number of stamps surcharged was as follows:

5 on 2 pfg. 84,000



5 on 7½ pfg. 400,000
5 on 20 pfg. 500,000
10 on 25 pfg. 150,000
10 on 40 pfg. 370,000

The 2, 7½, and 20 pfg. "Poczta" is slightly curved. On the 25 and 40 pfg., the overprint and surcharge were set with larger lettering, and "Poczta" is straight. All the values are typographed.

The following varieties are known:

On No. 2 of each sheet of the three "5" values the obliterating bar is shorter than all the others, measuring 16 mm. instead of 17½ mm. On the two "10" values it measures 14 mm. instead of 18 mm. There is a further variety in the bar on the "10" values; this bar is in three pieces, the centre piece of about 2 mm. length being above the alignment.

The right "5" on these values is almost invisible, only the top showing. It is No. 38 on the sheet.

Both "10's" in these values are slightly decapitated.

In one stamp in a sheet of both "10" values, the lower half of the vertical stroke of the "k" in "Polska" is missing, and on another stamp there is a black stop between the two "10's".

Certain values are known showing only the overprint "Polska" and bar, or the surcharge and "Poczta." These are on the top or bottom row of stamps, and are caused by the margin of the sheet being folded inwards before the sheet was overprinted. The gummed side of the margin thus receives the missing portion of the overprint. A double overprint and surcharge is known on the 5/7½ pfg.

The overprint and surcharge on the

5/2 pfg. has been forged. The ink on the genuine overprint is intense black, whilst the forgery is in dull black.

A further issue was put into circulation in October 1919. 10,000 each of the 2 and 7½ pfg. current German being surcharged with a large figure "5" and "10" respectively, the "5" being in red ink, the "10" green. They were put on sale in the following post offices only: Gniezno, Odolanow, Opatlenica, Ostrzeszow, Skalmierzyce, Strzelno, Trzemeszno, Witkowo, Wolsztyn, and Wrzesnia. Used copies postmarked "Poznan" are forgeries.

The surcharge on these stamps has been cleverly forged, both upright and inverted. Indeed, certain doubt exists as to whether the inverted surcharge is a genuine variety.

III.

The first Polish Philatelic Exhibition, organised by the Polish Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, was held at Warsaw on the 3rd to the 15th of May, 1919. To mark this event a special overprint, "I POLSKA WYSTAWA MAREK" (First Polish Stamp Exhibition), with a white cross below was applied to five low values of the then current issue for Northern Poland. In addition to the overprint, the stamps were surcharged 5 fen. This additional 5 fen. over the face value was devoted to the funds of the Polish White Cross. The 5, 10, 15 fen. were overprinted in four lines in violet with "5F, white cross, 5F" below. The 25 and 50 fen. were overprinted in three lines in violet with the white cross below and "5" in each lower corner.

The stamps were sold both imperforate and perforated. All values except the 5 fen. are known on ribbed paper. There are, of course, the same plate varieties as are found on the permanent issue. One notable error exists in the 50 fen., four sheets of which received the overprint of the type used for the lower values. There are many minor varieties in the overprint, such as parts of the figure "5" missing and defective "I's."

A special post office was opened in the Exhibition which used a postmark in purple ink inscribed "Warszawa I Wystawa marek." After the closing of the Exhibition the remainders were sold to the public without the extra charge of 5 fen.

The number of stamps overprinted is as follows:



	Imperforate	Perforated
5 fen.	800,000	1,200,000
10 fen.	200,000	1,800,000
15 fen.	400,000	2,600,000
25 fen.	400,000	2,600,000
50 fen.	800,000	1,200,000

IV.

In June 1919 a set of Commemorative stamps was issued on the occasion of the opening of the first Polish National Assembly. The stamps were lithographed and perforated 1½. Copies are known imperforate, but they were never put into circulation. They are on thick wove paper, but some values are known on faintly ribbed paper.

The issue consists of six values, each inscribed "POCZTA POLSKA SEJM 1919 ROKV" (Polish Post Diet 1919 Year), and of different designs, as follows:

- 10 fen., mauve, showing the Polish eagle.
- 15 fen., red. Portrait of Ignacy Paderewski, born 1869. Composer and pianist. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan. 16th to Dec. 9th, 1919.
- 20 fen., brown. Portrait of Wojciech Trampeczynski, born 1860. Speaker of the Polish Parliament (1919-22) Speaker of the Senate (1922-27).

(to be continued)

Kingdom and directed the teaching of postal signals to newly accepted postillions.

Ratified in 1861 for the Congressional Kingdom and issued in the Polish language, "Collection of Postal Rules" (Warsaw, Official Publication, 1861 by publisher J. Glucksberg) discussing rights, prerogatives and duties of the Post as a Governmental-public institution, has the following, pertaining to Postal emblems and Horn to give signals:

Art. 1. The marks of the Post are: Post Horn and badge with the Coat of Arms of the Kingdom as well as proper postal uniform. These marks are forbidden for use by all but the Post.

Art. 31. The uniform of the Postilion is as follows: waistcoat of dark green cloth with two rows of buttons, a black corduroy standing collar, cuffs on the sleeves, and on the left sleeve equidistant between the elbow and the shoulder the Coat of Arms of the Kingdom, sewn on black cloth edged with gold braid.

Riding breeches of khaki cloth, with leather on that part which touches the saddle from the crotch to the boots. A black lacquered hat with the Coat of Arms on a small shield according to the accepted design, with a bronze clasp in front. A soft dark green cap, with a black cloth band with a small brass horn emblem on top of the visor, a brass Horn, with yellow cord, to which two tassels woven with white, black and yellow wool are attached.

Spurs to be worn on the boots.

(continued next month)

NEW ZLOTY VALUE CHANGE IN POLAND*

In February of this year a decree of the Soviet government placed the ruble (which outside of the U. S. S. R. does not have any value) on the gold standard and its value to our U. S. dollar was established at 25 cents.

A few days ago the Warsaw Parliament (Sejm) enacted a law where the Polish zloty was placed on the gold standard. This law establishes the value of the old zloty with the new zloty, and when the change goes into effect.

The value established is 100 old zlotys equal one new zloty.

*Translated from *DZIENNIK ZWIAZKOWY*, Chicago, Ill., of Nov. 3, 1950.

The law states however, that relative to wages and prices, it conforms to a different standard: 100 old zlotys equals not one but three zlotys. Prices in stores in the same manner were established and raised three times as were the wages.

The result of these calculations is that the regime raised the value of the zloty 100 times by means of an ordinary law.

In the past the zloty was valued officially at one-fourth of one U. S. cent. For an American dollar officials at Polish government banks paid 400 zlotys. By this new law the zloty rose from one-fourth of one cent to 25 cents.

The law also states that any person who possesses or circulates any gold, platinum, gold coins, or foreign money is subject to arrest, jail, and even execution.

Polish people must therefore turn in their dollars, pounds, francs, or gold and receive the new zloty in exchange—that is four zlotys for one dollar.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

Come on, let's go! Let's go! Sign up those new members! Only four new applicants were submitted last month. This is not enough!

More prizes have been donated. *Spying Eye* submitted a book on *Forgeries*, and Joe Bieniecki turned in more stamps.

You have only till January 31, 1951, to participate in this contest. If you know of a collector of Poland stamps, or of a collector of Polish descent, sign him up! Get your application forms from C. J. Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

ARE YOU GETTING READY TO EXHIBIT AT POLPEX 1951?

Polpex Director Adam Kloskowski announces that POLPEX 1951 will be held March 2, 3, and 4, 1951, at Polish Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The Polpex Committee has been formed as follows: Seal Design—Myron Steczynski; Secretary—Anton Kloczek; Finance—Jack Rux; Bourse—Roman Reinowski; Program—Stanley Kucharz; Publicity—Chester Schafer.

The exhibition will be limited to 144 frames.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

The 15 zl. black commemorative of the 25th anniv. of the Socialist Poland martyrs has been on sale since August 18, 1950. The total printing was 4 million.



(Cut courtesy STAMPS)

A 15 zl. blue-black was issued on the occasion of the Congress of the Polish Peace, August 31, 1950 (date of inauguration of the Congress). It represents a carpenter holding a hammer on his shoulder; the dove of peace is perched on the handle of the hammer. Total printing—15 million.

On October 21st a commemorative of the International Congress of Peace was to have been issued.

A 15 zl. postage due of the new design and another value of the Bierut series—a 30 zl. brown—have been recently released.

—Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Herman W. Cottrell | #364 |
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| Chicago 22, Ill. | |
| Henry Hayza | #206 |
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TID BITS

Program Chairman Anthony Banasiak took on the job as speaker for the Oct. 28th Program meeting. The scheduled guest speaker could not make it that evening, so our Program Chairman stepped in and talked on "Double Papers On U. S. Stamps."

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Adam Kloskowski who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary Oct. 28th.

Another "after the meeting Beebe" was held Oct. 28th. Food was donated by John Bobo, Anthony Banasiak, Sid Shayman, and Roman Reinowski.

Ben Reeves walked away from the S. P. A. Exhibit and Convention at the Philatelic Museum with two awards. His Hungarian Newspaper Stamp Study won him the Milton Cohen Trophy section award and the Zinsmeister Research Trophy. Active Mr. Reeves served as judge at the recent Evansville, Indiana, Stamp Club, Roosevelt Philatelic Society, and Ravenswood Exhibitions.