



Newly Named 2001 Officers & 2002 Directors

The re-organization of the Society to a National Organization continues with the selection of officers and directors for a two-year period ending on December 31, 2002. A two-year term was chosen to ensure continuity and provide sufficient time to establish effective lines of communication among the dispersed membership of our Society. Additional directors may be added to facilitate communications or head various committees.

OFFICERS

The primary objective of the officers will be to perform the required administrative functions of the Society, and to co-ordinate the functions of the directors, committees, chapters, and membership.

DIRECTORS

The primary objective of the directors will be the establishment of communications with the membership, including groups who elect to become chapters of the Society; and to establish and to serve on various Society Committees.

COMMITTEES

At this point, only the Publication Committee has been formalized (See: Issue No. 500). Terry Kurzinski and Fred Szebel will initiate formation of an Exhibition Committee to plan for Polpex 2002. Members interested in volunteering to participate on the Exhibition Committee, Chapter Formation Committee, Polonus Web Site Committee or any other Society function may contact Hank Bieniecki via email at: biistamp@charter.net or Call: (618) 659-1325 or Fax: (618) 659-1327 or write to P.O. Box 100 (P) Granite City, IL 62040-0100.

POLPEX 2001**MARCH 16, 17, 18****WHITE EAGLE, ILLS, IL**

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RARE STAMPS OF THE SECOND LUBLIN ISSUE OF POLAND

By: *STANLEY KRONENBERG*

"I published this article previously in the Polonus Bulletin, (March - April, 1998, pages 489-11). Typographical errors made this article not only difficult to understand, but misleading, which may cause an incorrect result in the examination of these stamps. For this reason, I am resubmitting this article in its corrected version."

The second Lublin issue of late 1918 and early 1919 is relatively easy to obtain provided one is watchful to avoid the numerous forgeries of these stamps. However, two of the stamps of the second Lublin issue are very rare. They are Scott number 38, 45h/80h dark blue with bars instead of stars and Scott number 39, 50h green, both with double overprint of which one is normal and the other inverted. One half sheet of 80h denomination and one half sheet of 50h denomination of Austrian occupational stamps, each half sheet consisting of 10 x 5 stamps were overprinted in this manner.

45/80h Stamp.

In Illustration 1 the two overprints are shifted in respect to each other by approximately 12 degrees from



Illustration No. 1



Illustration No. 2

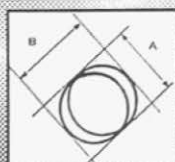


Illustration No.3

the vertical. The amount of the shift can be determined by measuring the distance A and B as depicted in the sketch of Illustration 3: $A=11,3$ mm, $B=13.1$ to $=13.5$ mm.

50h Stamp.

In Illustration No. 2 the two overprints are shifted relative to each other by approximately 58 degrees from the vertical. The amount of the shift can be determined by measuring the distances A and B in the sketch: $A=11.3$ mm, $B=11.7$ to 11.9 mm.

The above measurements together with the determination that the overprints were made lithographically are sufficient criteria to determine the authenticity of these stamps.

Censorship Postmarks In Poland 1981-1982

PZF BULLETIN, January-March 1984, Nr (87);
Illustrations obtained from the Polish edition.

Janusz Zbigniew Piekut

Letters with censorship postmarks from 1981 – 1982 are very interesting for philatelists, both in Poland and abroad. Many publications were written about them – in addition to detailed research papers there were also many articles and notes (usually published abroad) whose delusive content resulted from insufficient comparative material or relatively poor knowledge of Polish.

On 12 December 1981 the State Council of the Polish People's Republic decreed martial law on the entire Polish territory (Official Gazette No 29, item 154) [1]. A philatelic journalist should not speculate whether this was a "war against the nation" (as some people claimed) or "an attempt to halt the destabilization of the Polish economy due to permanent strikes" (as others tried to prove). Article 18 of the decree provided for the possibility of introducing censorship of letters [2]. On this basis, ▶

the Ministers' Council issued a regulation on 12 December 1981 on the execution of the decree insofar as it pertained to communication (Official Gazette No 29, item 160). Consequently, on 13 December 1981 censorship of domestic and foreign letters and telecommunication was introduced. On 12 December 1981 the Minister of Internal Affairs designated headquarters of censorship bodies and determined principles of cooperation between censorship bodies and post offices. These principles, undoubtedly very interesting, have never been published (and probably never will be). This article then is based only on existing and available postal and philatelic documents which do not always help draw final and indisputable conclusions.

Neither the regulation of the Ministers' Council nor that of the Minister of Internal Affairs determined the appearance of the mark to be affixed on letters that were censored. It can only be stipulated that suggestions about the appearance were included in the "guidelines" issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs. It is almost certain, however, that these suggestions were not issued on 12 December 1981 because in the early days of martial law many different postmarks were used.

An analysis of the available documents helped reveal that letters sent during the period of martial law were controlled very "selectively". There is no doubt that all the letters addressed to people suspected of belonging to the opposition, families of internees, and institutions whose workers had organized strikes and demonstrations in 1980 and 1981 were censored. A certain regularity can be detected – if illegal demonstrations were organized or there was unrest in a town, the number of censored letters sent from and to that town grew. Letters were censored both at the registration and reception towns.

The first letters which bear censorship marks are dated 14 December 1981 or earlier. Because on Sunday 13 December 1981 all post offices were closed there are no letters censored on the first day of martial law.



In the first week of martial law censorship bodies used different postmarks to mark censored letters; either the guidelines (if issued) were not precise enough, they were misinterpreted or because of the number of letters more postmarks had to be used than were available. Most probably, anticipating the imposition of martial law, censorship handstamps had been sent to provincial headquarters of the People's Police (*Milicja Obywatelska*). These handstamps bore the following inscriptions: "Ocenzurowano" [Censored] (Fig. 1 & 2), "Nie cenzurowano" [Not censored] (Fig. 3) and "Wolne od cenzury" [Exempt from censorship] (Fig. 4 & 5). Handstamps with censors' numbers (which could be used as the basis for identification) were delivered to censorship offices much later because they appeared on letters posted shortly before Christmas, i.e. around 20 December 1981.

In addition to longitudinal handstamps mentioned above, censors also used round handstamps with inscriptions "Do pakietów" or "Dla pakietów" [Packets only]. Such handstamps were used by most central offices (ministries, commissions) and provincial offices to postmark important or confidential letters protected with tags.

Analysis of many documents from that time revealed many types and subtypes of "Do pakietów" and "Dla pakietów" handstamps used by all the People's Police provincial headquarters (shown in Fig. 6).

The "Do pakietów" handstamps were used for a relatively short time; some censorship offices used

them for about three weeks, others longer. In the main they were used for 10 days. In addition to postmarks used by some People's Police provincial headquarters (censors' handstamps used in some provinces, other than those shown in Fig. 6) they are the most interesting philatelic documents, much in demand.

The censorship office in Białystok used a rubber handstamp, diameter 30mm, imprinted in violet ink, with an inscription "Poczta Specjalna x KW MO w Białymstoku" [Special Post x People's Police Provincial Headquarters in Białystok] in the rim and "Do pakietów/02" [Packets/02] in the middle. The few

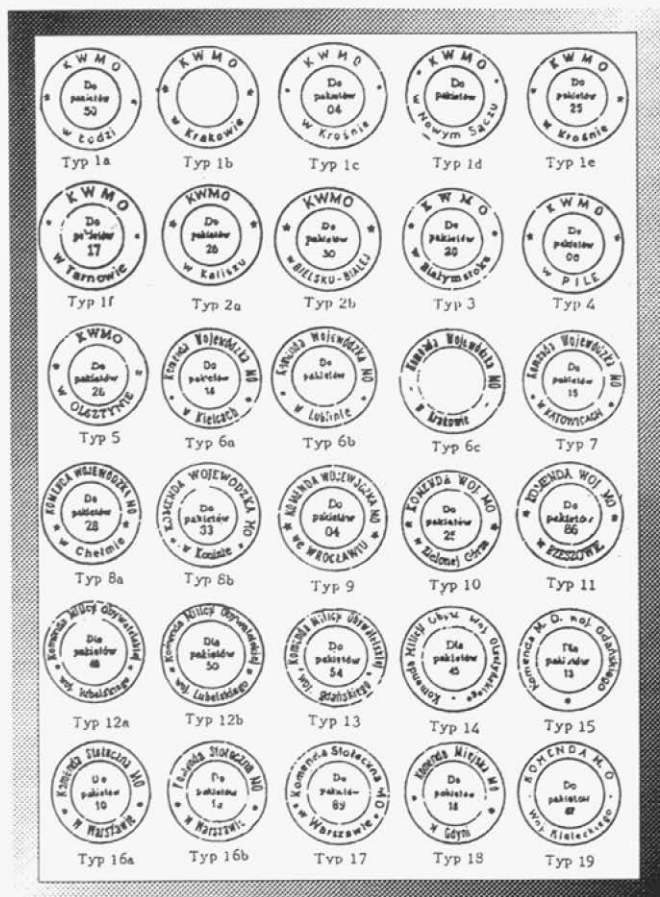


Figure 6

envelopes censored in this way also feature a postmark "Ocenzurowano" [Censored]. They were all posted in Białystok on 14 December 1981 and were either sent or received exclusively by institutions. It is correct to assume that the handstamp was used for a very short time (perhaps one or two days) in addition to other handstamps with the inscription "KW MO w Białymstoku" [People's Police Provincial Headquarters in Białystok]; there are envelopes bearing the dater "Białystok 14.12.81" with censorship postmarks featuring the inscription "Do pakietów" in the middle, with numbers 20 and 48 (two types), and "KW MO w Białymstoku" or "Komenda Milicji Obywatelskiej woj. białostockiego" [People's Police Headquarters, Białystok Province] in the rim.

Envelopes from Tarnów feature "regular" postmarks with the inscription "KW MO w Tarnowie". The central part bearing the inscription "Do pakietów" and a number has been obscured (Fig. 7). The envelopes feature a date 14.12.81. On the following days the censorship office in Tarnów used a "regular" rubber handstamp with the inscription "KW MO x w Tarnowie" in the rim and "Do pakietów 17" in the middle. Perhaps it was the handstamp from which the paper (tape?) obscuring the centre was removed; in both cases a red ink was used. A handstamp with an obscured centre was used for a day or two and is very rare.



Figure 7



Figure 8

The history of philately has twice recorded the "curiosities" of Siedlce, a provincial city from 1975 – the first in 1944 [3] and another in 1981. In the first days of martial law the censorship office of the People's Police Headquarters in Siedlce used (perhaps for a day only) a metal handstamp, diameter 35mm, with Poland's emblem in the middle and the inscription "KW MO W SIEDLCACH x 02 x" in the rim. The impression was made in violet (Fig. 8). A few letters, in addition to that impression, bear a postmark "Ocenzurowano" [Censored]; the letters were sent or received by institutions or plants. Other letters posted after 14 December 1981 feature an impression of a "regular" rubber handstamp with the inscription "KW MO x w Siedlcach" in the rim and "Do pakietów" with numbers 21, 29, 30 and 33 in the middle; all imprinted in a violet ink.

Two censorship offices in northern Poland used metal handstamps imprinted in wax sealing; they were used to mark censored letters as if they were ink handstamps. The impressions were made in red or violet. Although it is very difficult to decipher the inscription on the impressions, on the basis of an analysis of a few letters and foreign magazines sent to Gdańsk and from Gdańsk to other regions in Poland it was possible to determine that a 30mm diameter handstamp with an inscription "KW MO x W GDAŃSKU" in the rim and "DO PAKIETÓW..." in the middle was used. The number (unfortunately) is indecipherable (Fig. 9). Postmarks "Ocenzurowano" or "Wolne od cenzury" are affixed next to those described above.

A similar postmark is featured on a letter sent from Kołobrzeg to Warsaw; it was imprinted with a metal handstamp, 30mm in diameter, originally used in wax seals. The inscription is indecipherable.

Different colour ink was used to imprint postmarks – pink, lilac rose, red, russet, violet, dark violet, purple, carmine lilac, dark blue, green and black.

The postmarks used by the people's police provincial headquarters to mark censored letters, under the

inscription "Do pakietów" or "Dla pakietów", feature numbers: from 03 (Przemyśl, Skierniewice, Wrocław) to 86 (Rzeszów). Some provincial headquarters returned the "Do pakietów" handstamps to censorship offices with only one number (Biała Podlaska – 14, Bielsko-Biała – 30, Elbląg – 17, Gorzów Wielkopolski – 21, Jelenia Góra – 28, Koszalin – 13, Łomża – 30, Opole – 12, Szczecin – 60, Toruń – 21); others returned handstamps with different numbers (Zielona Góra – with 9 different numbers). It is characteristic that the People's Police Headquarters in Warsaw, the city which had the greatest number of letters to censor, used only seven different "Do pakietów" handstamps (with numbers 10, 13, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42).

For reasons unknown, some people's police headquarters removed numbers under the inscription "Do pakietów" (Nowy Sącz, Lublin), others, e.g. Cracow cut out the entire central part (the inscription "Do pakietów" and the number). On some impressions traces of an etching needle can be detected. Such "removal"



Figure 9

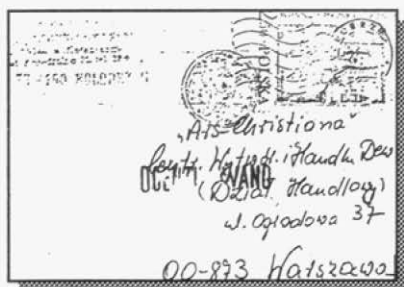


Figure 10

of the centre is reminiscent of the handstamp used in Tarnów with the centre pasted over with paper or tape. It is also interesting that the censorship office in Cracow also used the "Do pakietów" handstamp with number 38 in which the centre was left unremoved.

The diversity of types of the "Do pakietów" and "Dla pakietów" handstamps can be accounted for by the fact that the handstamps were made at different times and at different handstamp plants for individual people's police provincial headquarters. There are over 150 numbers, ▶

types and subtypes and their varieties (excluding the colours).

The numbering of handstamps used by individual people's police headquarters is unique; the only exception (so far) is the provincial headquarters in Tarnów where the number 17 is featured on two different type handstamps (1a and 1f), which is difficult to explain.

The "Do pakietów" and "Dla pakietów" postmarks have been found on letters censored by all people's police provincial headquarters, the headquarters in Warsaw and the municipal headquarters in Gdynia [3].

As mentioned above, censorship handstamps were sent to all censorship offices before Christmas (around 20 December 1981). Most probably, the handstamps were made centrally.

These are round, double ring rubber handstamps (probably made similarly to the "Do pakietów" handstamps) with the inscription "URZĄD CENZURY" [Censorship Office] (Fig. 11), with a number from 001



Figure 11



Figure 12

to 200 in the inner ring. In the beginning of January 1982 censorship offices got another "batch" of these handstamps, with numbers from 201 to 800, which differ in the font design (with serifs). In the second half of 1982 busier censorship offices requested further handstamps, with numbers from 801 to (theoretically) 999; the highest encountered number was 986.

Postmarks with the inscription "Urząd Cenzury" are 29mm in diameter (inner ring – 16mm); they were imprinted in different colour shades, like the "Do

were imprinted in different colour shades, like the "Do pakietów" postmarks. Probably, when these handstamps were made, the central parts with numbers were glued in because there are postmarks with inverted numbers, displacement and imprints of "spaces". It is interesting that inverted handstamps were not withdrawn but used until censorship was abolished. Sporadically, one comes across postmarks with a larger diameter and different fonts; perhaps when "official" handstamps were lost, substitutes were made at local handstamp plants where details were not cared for.

Theoretically, letters were censored until the lifting of martial law, i.e. up to 31 December 1982. Practically, many censorship offices decreased the number of censored letters as early as December 1982. However, there are also censored letters which were posted on 28 and 29 December 1982.

About 80 numbers of censorship postmarks have not been encountered on letters to date. Handstamps with these numbers could have been stored by the Main Censorship Office or field offices. "Discoveries" of new numbers, unregistered to date, are extremely rare.

The sides of envelopes with letters to be censored were cut off and, when censorship was completed, they were stapled and sealed with a piece of paper or adhesive tape.

Foreign letters were censored by selected censors; bright red (magenta) ink was used, similar to that used by passport offices. It is interesting that foreign letters sent to Poland were postmarked "Ocenzurowano" [Censored], "Nie cenzurowano" [Uncensored] or "Wolne od cenzury" [Exempt from censorship]; additionally, a censor's postmark with a number was affixed. Letters sent from Poland were postmarked with a longitudinal handstamp; no number handstamp was used. Letters from and to socialist countries were practically exempt from censorship, although there were a few exceptions.

Parcels, packets and telegrams were also subject to censorship. Parcels and packets usually feature a green

postmark, which could suggest that they were controlled by a customs officer, authorized by a censorship office (customs officers usually use green ink). Telegrams sporadically feature a postmark "Ocenzurowano" [Censored] and a round number postmark, affixed at the reception point. Telegrams were most frequently censored after registration; they were postmarked "Cenzurowano" [Censored] or with an abbreviation of that word.

It is understandable that philatelic documents of interest to collectors are often forged. This was also the case with postal stationery and envelopes censored in 1981 and 1982. Envelopes with the "Do pakietów" postmarks were among the most frequently forged; sometimes various "fanciful" postmarks were used (Fig. 12). There are also forged envelopes with postmarks "Urząd Cenzury" [Censorship Office]; more information can be found in an article by J.Z. Piekut. [5].

Censored letters from 1981 and 1982 are not only interesting philatelic documents but also extremely interesting documents of martial law.

Notes

- [1] The Constitution of the Polish People's Republic did not provide for a "state of emergency" but only for "martial law".
- [2] "The Ministers' Council can issue a regulation to censor letters and telecommunication correspondence".
- [3] J.Z. Piekut "Siedleckie kuriozum z 1944 r." [The Siedlce curiosity from 1944], "Historyczno-Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny", XXVI, 1985, 1 (91).
- [4] J.Z. Piekut "Stemple cenzury stanu wojennego 1981 - 1982" [Censorship postmarks during martial law 1981 - 1982], "Historyczno-Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny", XXV, 1984, 1 (87).
- [5] J.Z. Piekut "Fałszerstwa całości ze stemplami cenzury 1981 - 1982" [Forgeries of postal stationery with censorship postmarks 1981 - 1982], "Historyczno-Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny", XXVII, 1986, 3 (97).



Offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. Quantities



Polish Post, Warsaw

EASTER

Two values, a 70 gr. and 80 gr., were issued March 24, 2000, with contemporary designs of Agnieszka Sobczynska.

70 gr.: Jesus Christ in the tomb. Cross in background symbolizes life and everlasting memory of His pain and death.

80 gr.: Resurrected Christ sitting on the throne against the background of a kettle. It symbolizes God, eternity, and infinity in Christian iconography. The green color in both stamps is the liturgical color expressing hope of resurrection and victory over death.

DINOSAURS

A six-stamp set of prehistoric animals, Dinosaurs, was issued March 24, 2000. Such animal skeletons were discovered in the Gobi Desert by Polish-Mongolian Paleontological Expeditions in 1963-1971. All of these animals lived at the end of the Mesozoic Era, in the late Cretaceous period (70 million years ago). Their skeletons are exhibited in the Museum of Evolution in Warsaw, and life size reconstruction in the Silesian Zoological Garden in Chorzow.

70 gr.: *Saurolophus*—duckbilled dinosaur which chewed plants with numerous small teeth at the end of the jaw with a horn beak. ▶



First Day Cancel



issued: 70 gr. - 10,300,000; 80 gr. - 8,700,000.

70 gr.: *Gallimimus*—the biggest of dinosaurs similar to ostrich: no teeth, long legs and neck (featured in Jurassic Park). It was described and named by Polish scientists, Professor Ewa Roniewicz and Halszka Osmolska of the Paleobiology Department of the Polish Academy of Sciences with the cooperation of Mongolian Paleontologist, Rinczen Barsbolden.



80 gr.: *Saichania*—armored dinosaur, plant eater, body covered with raised bony plates and equipped with a dangerous club-like tail. Discovered by a Polish expedition and described by Dr. Teresa Maryanska of the Earth Museum.

80 gr.: *Protoceratops*—from the Cretaceous period in Mongolia and China. A primitive horny dinosaur resembling its bigger cousin (triceratops) with a bony collar at the rear of the head and a curvy beak. It lives in herds in dry, desert areas.

1.55 zł.: *Prenocephale*—the first representative of the thick-headed

dinosaurs discovered outside North America (thickened bones at top of skull). It was described by Dr. T. Maryanska and Prof. H. Osmolska.

1.55 zł.: *Velociraptor*—featured in the film *Jurassic Park*. An agile predatory dinosaur; a close relative of birds.

Offset printed on fluorescent in sheets of 20. Issued, also, with all six stamps on a sheet in the quantity of 300,000 sheets. Quantities issued of the 70 gr. 2,700,000; 80 gr.: 2,700,000; 1.55 zł.: 1,700,000. Designed by Jacek Brodowski.



ANDRZEJ WAJDA, 2000 OSCAR WINNER

Issued May 26, 2000, when Andrzej Wajda received the American Film Academy, Oscar, in Los Angeles.

1.10 zł.: the director is shown in a photograph taken by E. Sakata of Japan. Offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. Designed by Maciej Buszewicz.

**Andrzej
WAJDA**
OSCAR 2000
Warszawa 1
26.03.2000



CHURCH AT THE TURN OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM



80 gr.: showing the opening of the holy doors in St. Peter Basilica in the Vatican by John Paul II at midnight mass on Christmas Eve was issued on April 7, 2000.

Offset printed on fluorescent paper, quantity of 5,400,000. Designed by Janusz Wysocki.



POLISH MANOR HOUSES

Four values were issued April 18, 2000—buildings made into museums.



80 gr.: a classic manor house in *Grabonóg* near *Gostyn*. erected for

the Bojanowski family around 1800; wooden construction filled in with clay and bricks.

1.55 gr.: a manor house in *Żelazowa Wola*, place of birth of Fryderyk Chopin. Built around 1800 as an office at the manor house of the Skarbek family.

1.65 gr.: a manor house in *Sucha near Węgrów*. Constructed in 1743 of larch piles in the framework. It belonged to the Cieszkowski family until 1932. The coat of arms of the Dolega family is placed in the top of the portico. Prof. Marek Kwiatkowski became its owner in 1988. He reconstructed the house and ordered the park.

2.65 gr.: a baroque manor house in *Liwia near Węgrów*. Erected in 1782 on ruins of a Medieval castle. After it was reconstructed in 1955-57, the manor became a museum of armaments.

Rotogravure printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 100. Quantities issued in the multimillion. Designed by Andrzej Gosik.



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