

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Lester Jankowski, Chmn. Publication Committee,
10 S. LaSalle St., Chicago.

Myron E. Steczynski, Editor and Chairman Membership Committee
4154 N. LeClaire Ave., Chicago.

Poland's Lublin Issues

By Vincent Domanski, Jr.

After the armistice following the World War of 1914-18, the newly established Republic of Poland was without currency or stamps of her own to start her government. A provisional government was set up at Warsaw, and among the many departments created and put into operation was her postal system which operated under the title of the Min-

postmasters resulted in a variety of surcharges on the confiscated stamps, and during this period of reconstruction many interesting postal emissions were created which later naturally proved to be exceedingly scarce.

Among these provisional issues there appeared those of Lublin, a town in the southwestern part of Poland in the district of Galicia, or



First Issue

istry of Posts and Telegraphs.

One of the first acts of this department was the issuance of a decree requiring all postmasters throughout the republic to take possession of all remainders of postage stamps left by the evacuated and defeated countries and overprint or surcharge them in accordance with specific instructions. This was done for the purpose of putting a postal system into operation at once and until Poland was able to replace the provisionals with stamps and currency of her own.

Misunderstandings in the interpretation of the decree by the various



Second Issue

Mala Polska. It was a town of vast importance, having a population of over 98,000.

First Issue

On December 5th, 1918, the three values of the 1919 Charity issue of Austrian Military Posts, Karlsfond series, appeared with a black surcharge. The surcharge consisted of the Polish eagle outlined in white on a black background between the words "Polska" in a small arc on top and "POCZTA" in an arc at the bottom. The surcharge was overprinted in such a way that the head of the portrait of Emperor Charles I or of Empress Zita was entirely obliterated

by the eagle. The stamps were only on sale a few days when they were completely sold out.

The only varieties known to exist are inverted surcharges.

The total number surcharged were:

10 hellers, gray green (normal) 82,600 (inverted) 3,700 (Scott's #27).

20 hellers, magenta (normal) 82,750 (inverted) 3,400 (Scott's #28).

45 hellers, blue (normal) 84,000 (inverted) 3,800 (Scott's #29).

The surcharge was lithographed in Lublin at the printing offices of the firm of a Mr. Jarzynski. One postal card appeared at the same time as the above three stamps. It bore a similar surcharge, with the addition of the value of "25 hal." There were not many of these cards issued and they are consequently scarce.

Second Issue

On December 19, 1918, the Austrian field post stamps of 1917, bearing the portrait of Emperor Charles I, appeared surcharged with the overprint arranged differently. An eagle was used similar to the one in the first issue overprinted on the face of the Emperor, but the words "POLSKA POCZTA" appeared in smaller letters and in one arc directly over the eagle. The original values of the stamps were voided by surcharging the new denomination inserted between stars, bars or lines, which latter covered the old figure of value. The new value was designated by a figure and the abbreviation "hal." which stands for "halerzy." This surcharging was also done by Mr. Jarzynski.

The series comprised the following values:

3 Hal on 3 hal, olive gray, Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. Scott's #30. Exists inverted surcharge. Varieties: Star missing on the left. Bar instead of star on left. Total surcharged 13,000.

3 Hal on 15 hal, carmine rose. Scott's #31. Exists inverted surcharge. Varieties: Star missing on left. Star and Letter P of Po'ska missing on left. Long vertical bar instead of star on left. Total number surcharged 164,000.

10 Hal. on 30 heller, slate green, Scott's #32. Exists inverted surcharge. Varieties: Ha, instead of Hal. Star missing on left. Vertical bar instead of star on left. Brown surcharge instead of black. Total numbers surcharged 136,000.

25 Hal on 40 heller, olive bistre. Scott's #34. Exist inverted surcharge. Varieties: Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. Star missing on left. Total number surcharged 109,000.

45 Hal on 60 heller, rose. Scott's #35. Exists inverted surcharge. Varieties: Star missing on left. Long bar along left side of stamp. Total number surcharged 91,800.

45 Hal on 80 heller, dull blue. Scott's #36. (104,000 surcharged.) Exists inverted surcharge. Varieties: Double surcharge. Bars instead of stars. (50,000 surcharged.) Bars on left, star on right. Bar on left, star missing on right. Horizontal bar on left, vertical bar on right. Total number surcharged 154,000.

50 Hal on 60 heller, rose. Scott's #37. Exists inverted surcharge. Varieties: Star missing on left. Total number surcharged 75,000.

Third Issue

On December 21, 1918, the 50 heller and the 90 heller values of the Austrian Field Post of 1917, as above, ap-



Third Issue

peared surcharged with a similar overprint, but without indication of a new denomination and the crossing out of the original denomination.

50 heller, deep green. Scott's #39. Inverted surcharge. Total number surcharged 22,000.

90 heller, dark violet. Scott's #40. Inverted surcharge. Total number surcharged 108,000.

Fourth Issue

On January 6, 1919, a week before the regular issue of Poland appeared, 1,800 copies of the 30 heller slate green were surcharged in violet brown ink (instead of black) as the 10 hal stamp on 30 heller stock had been sold out and had to be re-issued.

Trial Printings: Two hundred copies of 2 heller in orange; 400 copies of 12 heller blue exist with surcharges

similar to the overprints of the third series. These were never used for postage and are exceedingly scarce.

As the surcharging was done in a hurry and rather badly, due to pressing need, many variations occurred. Sometimes several letters of the surcharge are missing and there are many other defects showing marginal smudges, always to be found on the left side of the stamps. If one desires to specialize in these stamps many listings of varieties can be accounted for.

As to forgeries and counterfeits, many exist, and one should be very careful to see that his stamps are genuine. The very common counterfeit can be recognized by comparison of the eagles. In the forgeries the wings, head, and claws of the eagle all differ. I would advise anyone not knowing how to determine between the good and bad to consult experts of the Polonus Philatelic Society or your author.

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This 'n' That

Polpex 1943

President Domar announces that the Exhibition Director for POLPEX 1943 is Adam Kloskowski, who also holds the very important position of Director of Junior Activities. Immediately upon being appointed Adam started the preparations for what is hoped to be the biggest show in our history. One of his first acts was to decide upon the place and the date. POLPEX 1943 will be held in the Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, on March 12, 13 and 14, 1943.

Beeba—Nov. 13, 1942

One of the highlights of International Philatelic Week is the annual Beeba held by our Society. This event is looked forward to by a large number of collectors who have attended in the past. A capacity crowd, large enough to tax the ingenuity of Chester Mikucki, and his charming wife, who are again in charge of arrangements, is expected. And when Mrs. Mikucki and Chester arrange a party—wow! So, don't forget our meeting and Beeba on Nov. 13, 1942.

Stampex—Newark, N. J.

Many members of the Society are exhibiting at the STAMPEX in Newark, N. J., October 22 to 25, 1942. Who? We don't know. (How about it girls and boys, don't be bashful).

International Philatelic Week Program

Nov. 8—Cicero-Berwyn-Exhibition & Bourse. At the Olympic B'dg.—6148 W. Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill.

Nov. 9—North Shore's 200th Meeting. Edgewater Beach Hotel. 8:00 p.m.

Nov. 12—Hawthorne Stamp Club's 15th year Anniversary Party. Morrison Hotel, Embassy Room. 8:15 p.m.

Nov. 13—Polonus' "Beeba"—1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Nov. 14 & 15—STAMPEX— at K & P Hall—65th & Hermitage, Chicago, Ill. Exhibition and Bourse.

Tattling

At the September 25th Meeting Dr. Uznanski brought his collection of Russian Locals and gave a very splendid talk which was not only interesting but educational.

Our Secretary's new address is

John Bobo
2025 Webster Ave.
Chicago, Illinois.

Polish Locals is the subject of Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz's talk on November 27. This is a field of Polish philately in which Doc Kozy excels and should be of tremendous interest to all Polish collectors. Our invited guests for the evening are the North Shore Philatelic Society and Hawthorne Stamp Club.

Polonus Philatelic Society meets every second and fourth Friday of the month at the Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 North Ashland Avenue.

Don't forget the Beeba, November 13, 1942.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

The 20th Century Stamps of Egypt

By Ernest A. Kehr.

The Postage Stamps and Postal History of New Foundland

By Winthrop S. Boggs.

The United States Columbians Issue
1893

By A. A. Lauzon.

Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalogue 1939

Kenmore Price List 1938

Kenmore Katalog 1940

Pomorze and Poznan in the 19th Century

By Stephen G. Rich

There are not any special stamps, as far as I know, that would add interest to this field, within Polish Philately. But covers of the 19th Century from these two areas are definitely hard to find. Apparently even the postmarks of Pomorze and Poznan, on Prussian, North German Postal District and German Empire stamps, are far from plentiful.

Recently I have been watching circuit books containing these stamps, for copies showing cancellations from Poznan province and Pomorze. The results have been worse than disappointing. They have been ZERO. I do not intend to collect these postmarks extensively but I do want to show a few, to parallel the stamped covers of 1858 to 1870 from over in Congress Poland, franked with Russian stamps and with the Lone Addhesive.

Still more surprising is my experience that bundles of German stamps of the 1870 period, which can be picked up unopened once in a while in the eastern stamp centers, and old duplicate accumulations, don't furnish stamps showing Poznan and Pomorze cancellations. Plenty of Berlin, Breslau, Frankfurt on the Oder, and even Danzig—but mostly these stamps seem to come from further west and south. Nothing shows up from that part of Poland then within German rule.

PINNE
29 9 * 10-11

MUR·GOSLIN
7 12 * 9 10

The boxed straight-line postmarks used in this German-held part of Poland from the 1830's into as late as the 1890's possibly in a few cases, ought to make an interesting few pages. Thanks to an old postmark collection which came my way, I have

just a few of these. One nice piece is from the little village of Murawanna Goslina, Germanized and shortened to "MUR. GOSLIN." I at last have two covers, from PINNE, east of Poznan city: one in the 1850's to Berlin and one in the 1870's to New York, both with that town's straight line mark.

Various earlier and later circle marks, and an occasional horseshoe mark, appear. Mr. Domanski and I have pictured these in our Blue Book article last year, as well as another of the Poznan straight lines.

Here's a relatively untouched field, requiring only the willingness to wade through thousands of stamps and paw over boxes of "ordinary covers." Very little of this material is expensive. All that it requires is to locate it! And that's real philatelic pleasure, avoiding meanwhile "pawning the family jitney bus to buy stamps."

POLO Nus LIBRARY

The Polonus Philatelic Society has been accumulating material on the stamps of Poland and on philatelic subjects in general. It has many Polish publications such as magazines, booklets, catalogs, and check lists. It also has a scrap book with clippings, programs of exhibitions, articles on Poland and its stamps, etc. Librarian Mikucki has much of this material ready for the general use of Club members, and they may have access to it on the nights of meetings. All this material will be available to members for home study.

In order to expand the facilities of the library, it is urged that members and their friends donate their philatelic books, and periodicals in which they may not be interested or which have already served their purpose. Other members may find this material valuable.

Adam Kloskowski chairman of the Junior Activities Committee would like his group to read up on stamp collecting and it is planned to give these boys duplicate periodicals. By bringing in the publications that you have already read, you will be helping all of our members to get a firmer footing in their hobby.