

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at Polish American Congress, 5844 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

Issue No. 435

Price \$2.00

May-June, 1989

POLPEX 90 MARCH 23-24-25 AT WHITE EAGLE

President Roman Strzelecki announced that POLPEX 90 will take place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 1990, at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois.

The success of last year's exhibition with many out-of-towners attending prompted the officers to select the same location near O'Hare airport. The bourse in 1989 was the largest in Polonus history with dealers well pleased with the enormous parking facility.

Polpex committees have not yet been announced as the newly elected officers for 1989-90 will be installed at the June 24th meeting. Appointments to these committees will be announced shortly.

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The Polish Mauritius - 15 Haller Odessa Stamp

By JERZY TOKAR

Translated by Ryszard Z. Poddubiuk

The Polish stamp deserving such designation is a red, perforated, 15 haller stamp, which was part of the 1919 general haller/koronas issue, with black overprint "ODESA".



A mere six copies were issued. In comparison, another Polish philatelic rarity, the 10 koronas postage due with black overprint "POCZTA POLSKA", also issued in 1919, was printed in a quantity of fifteen copies.

In 1919 the Ukraine was occupied by the counter revolutionary army of General Denikin. There were many Poles in this area, some as a consequence of World War I, as well as others who settled here earlier. In order to provide them with care and assistance, the Polish Government opened consulates in several cities, among them Odessa at 25 Zofjowska Street, which opened in September, 1919.

At the time, postal communication with Poland did not exist. In order to remedy this situation, the Polish Consulate in Odessa, which maintained links with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw through the diplomatic courriers, began accepting private letters, to facilitate contact between Poles in Ukraine with the homeland. Such letters were delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and were then transferred to the Warsaw Post Office for further transmittal.

Correspondence accepted in Odessa was subject to censorship carried out by the Consulate as noted on the reverse of the letters by the two rubber stamps: two line stamp "Czytano w Konsulacie Polskim / w Odesie" (Read in the Polish Consulate / in Odessa), and single line stamp: "Komendant Etapu" (Post Commander). It cannot be precluded that prior to the introduction of these two stamps, either manuscript censoring markings were used or censorship was not noted at all, although there is no doubt that in those circumstances, censorship was carried out.

In the beginning, letters were accepted free of charge, but it was not long before the postage was introduced using regular Polish stamps without overprint. The following stamps from the general issues of 1919 are known to have been used in Odessa at the beginning: 10, 15 and 20 haller sold as 10, 15 and 20 fenig values, as well as 10, 20, 25 and 50 fenigs and 1 mark values, all perforated, and 5 and 15 fenig, imperforated.

In October, 1919, the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs authorized opening a Postal Agency in Odessa, modelled on an already functioning Agency in Constantinople, by transmitting, on October 7th, a copy of "Directives for the Polish Postal Agency in Constantinople" and on October 11th, 1000 of each of the 10, 20 and 50 fenig and of the 1 mark stamps as well as a rectangular rubber registration stamp, red ink pad and a set of postal accounts books.

The registration stamp was divided into three fields with capital letter "R" in the upper left field. The upper right field was empty, ready to receive the manuscript name of the post office, and the lower field marked "No.____", where the registration number had to be inserted, by hand.

In the covering letter of October 11th it was noted that a date stamp will be forwarded later, when the appropriate text for it will be determined. Until such time, it was recommended that the consulate stamp be used to cancel stamps and the date added in manuscript. The date stamp never arrived and the Agency used 26 x 14 mm., rectangular, three-frame, concentric canceller with an inscription "ODESA" in the middle, struck in black or dark violet ink. The October 11th letter also advised that all stamps should bear an overprint "Odesa."

In the middle of November or on December 12th, 1919 (there is a conflicting source of information but a most likely date is November 12th), in the local print shop of Fasenko-Nawrocki, the following stamps were machine overprinted "ODESA".

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) black overprints: | 10 fenigs | — 548 copies including 3 inverts |
| | 15 haller/fenigs | — 6 copies |
| | 20 fenigs | — 601 copies including 5 inverts |
| | 25 fenigs | — 213 copies including 5 inverts |
| | 50 fenigs | — 562 copies including 6 inverts |
| | 1 mark | — 706 copies including 6 inverts |
| b) red overprints: | 10 fenigs | — 50 copies |
| | 50 fenigs | — 50 copies |

The Postal Agency was closed together with the Consulate on January 31st, 1920. The unsold stamps, canceller, registration stamp as well as all the documents and account books were returned to the Ministry of Posts, and Telegraphs as enclosures with the Consulate's document L. dz. 524 of 1920 (month and day not indicated).

How did the 15 haller and 25 fenig stamps overprinted "ODESA" find their way to Odessa, since they were not transmitted by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs with the Ministry's letter of October 11th, 1919? Existing literature does not throw any light on this matter but the answer is simple — in the same way as other value stamps used earlier, without overprints, which were not listed in the letter of October 11th, 1919. It is obvious that an earlier consignment of stamps was delivered to Odessa by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, or — what is more likely — by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and that is why the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs does not have any records in this matter). It ties in well with a supposition that the Consulate accepted letters to Poland earlier, before the formal opening of the Polish Postal Agency. The Consulate's statement, made in the letter to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs after the Consulate's closing, that the Polish Postal Agency operated for two and a half months and therefore since the middle of November, 1919, coincides with the period of use of overprinted stamps and confirms the above supposition.

If this is the case, then Polish postal activity in Odessa had two periods:

- I. From September to the middle of November, 1919 — period of activity of the typical consular post, acceptance of private letters by the Consulate on its own authority and eventual coordination of this activity with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and that is why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could have supplied necessary postage stamps). Polish stamps, without overprint, used in Odessa, would have to have been used in that period.
- II. From the middle of November, 1919 to January 31st, 1920 — period of activity of the Polish Post Office Abroad operating on the basis of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs' instructions and using account books supplied by the Ministry. During this period overprinted stamps were used and the postal records of 135 ordinary and 599 registered pieces of mail refer to this period.

What method was used to overprint such a small quantity of 15 haller stamps, particularly since the printing plate comprised 50 stamps?

First of all it has to be noted that:

1. The overprint was not tied in with the stamp of specific denomination but with the format of the stamp (separate overprint was prepared for 1 mark stamps) which permitted overprinting not only full panes of stamps or half-panes, but also collective panes, made up of different denomination stamps of the same format.
2. The quantities of overprinted stamps, in any of the specific denominations, are not divisible by 50, hence obviously, prior to overprinting, pane fragments or even single stamps had to be assembled into collective panes without reference to their denominations (all together 1930 small format stamps were overprinted, therefore the last pane contained 30 stamps). The six 15 haller stamps were overprinted in this manner and the inverts in other denominations were created when single stamps were inserted upside down into the collective panes.

A general conclusion that can be drawn from the above is that all yet unsold stamps, even denominations in small quantities, coming from the consignment sent by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs on October 11th, 1919, as well as those that came from the earlier consignment, were sent to the printers. After overprinting, they appeared on sale and in circulation, together with trial overprints printed in red. Consequently all these stamps, including the 15 haller denomination, should be considered as regular stamps.

At one time some doubts arose with regard to the quantities of the several denominations of stamps issued with black overprints, including also the 15 haller stamp. They were caused by the Consulate's document L. dz. 524 listing stamps and other postal property which were being returned. The quantities of stamps issued were given as follows: 10 fenigs: 550 copies; 20 fenigs: 600 copies; 25 fenigs: 200 copies; 50 fenigs: 550 copies; 1 mark: 700 copies. These are however rounded off figures exclusive of stamps overprinted in small quantities including the 15 haller stamps, which were part of the collective panes.

For that reason detailed quantities of overprints (given earlier in this

article including quantities of inverts) published in 1921 and based on the information provided by Tadeusz Januszewski, consulate official, who represented the Consulate in dealings with the printers, are considered as more reliable.

How should the 15 haller stamp be catalogued? Before World War II it was catalogued generally as a regular stamp (perhaps even by Michel) and it was listed in the 1935 "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" (Polish Stamps and Postmarks), as 1 f. After the war it was catalogued in many ways.

"Gryzewski's Polish Postage Stamp Catalogue 1949-50" treated it still as a regular stamp with catalogue number Z 34. Later, Tadeusz Gryzewski, well known philatelic expert and dealer, came to consider it as a trial overprint. He introduced his opinion to "Ilustrowany Katalog Znaczków Polskich" (Illustrated Catalogue of Polish Stamps), published between 1957 and 1972, of which he was co-author, and was instrumental in eliminating the 15 haller stamp from foreign catalogues.

Gryzewski based his interpretation on the receipt of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, dated April 23rd, 1920, given to Tadeusz Januszewski for the complete set of "Odesa" stamps intended for the Museum of Posts and Telegraphs, which stated: "1 copy - 15 haller stamp with black overprint (trial overprint)". The term "trial overprint", however, does not stand up under critical examination, since there was no trial overprint plate for 6 stamps but a definitive plate for 50 stamps, and from the technical point of view it is difficult to imagine that a 50 stamp plate was tried out on 6 stamps.

The red overprints on 50, 10 fenigs and 50, 50 fenigs stamps had characteristics of the trial overprints. This is confirmed by the previously mentioned document addressed to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs after the closing of the Consulate, which noted that they were "used on letters" (this last statement should rather be understood to mean that they were put on sale and used for postage).

Gryzewski considered stamps with red overprints as trial overprints, maintaining that he had not seen them used on letters. It is common knowledge that trial overprints are not intended for postage, are not included in the total quantities of an issue and are not destined for sale at the post office window. However, in this case a rare metamorphosis occurred. While there is no doubt that the red overprints were trial overprints, the moment stamps with such overprints were redirected to be used as postage and included in the total quantities of "Odesa" overprint issue, they lost their original character of stamps with trial overprints and became regular postage stamps.

While it is true that we usually come across mint copies of stamps with red overprints (it is most likely that they were sold out very quickly), used copies are known (such as those among stamps transmitted to the Museum of Posts and Telegraphs) and I have seen both values on a registered letter.

"Katalog Specjalizowany 1985" (Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Postmarks used in Polish Territories 1985), catalogues the stamps with

red overprints correctly as regular stamps. However, it improperly places the 15 haller stamp under a heading "Errors". What kind of error is it and why? Overprint error? No. Color error? Also no. Value? Again no. It is not a stamp overprinted by error since the print shop in Odessa did not have at it's disposal Polish stamps other than those delivered by the Polish Consulate, for overprinting.

Since the 15 haller stamp is not a trial and not an error, how should it be designated? Simply as a regular stamp, and so it should be catalogued, providing it is noted that it was treated as a 15 fenig stamp.

It is my belief that the reasons behind the attempts to attribute "abnormality" to the 15 haller "Odessa" stamp can be found in commercial considerations and the impossibility of completing a set in view of such negligible quantity of stamps (6 copies) issued.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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2. J. Januszewski - Poczta Polska w Odesie, *Filatelista Polski* 1921, No. 4, pages 42 and 43, and No. 8, pages 93 and 94.
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4. Katalog Specjalizowany Znakow Pocztowych Ziem Polskich 1985, KAW Warsaw 1984, pages 361 and 362.
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KOSCIUSZKO MUSEUM SEEKS DONATIONS

We received a letter from the Kosciuszko Heritage Foundation, Inc., located in Kosciuszko, Mississippi, the only city in the world named after the famed Polish-American General, Thaddeus Kosciuszko. The citizens



of this city are building a permanent display depicting the American life of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, which will include a table-top model of some of his engineering work. It will feature a life-size figure of Gen. Kosciuszko dressed in revolutionary war uniform. The completed display will be permanently housed in the Kosciuszko Museum and Information Center which has been in operation in Kosciuszko for four years.

The Foundation is appealing for contributions towards this tribute to Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Gifts may be made to the Kosciuszko Heritage Foundation, Box 696, Kosciuszko, MS 39090. This is the non-profit foundation which built the Museum Information Center, on the Natchez Trace Parkway in 1984. It is staffed eight hours daily, seven days a week by a volunteer force of 412 people.

Kosciuszko, MS, a community of 7,400, drew its name in 1836 when the area was ceded by the Choctaw Indian Nation. The community's delegate to the State Assembly which accepted the transfer from the Indian Nation suggested the name. He reportedly told the assembly that his grandfather had fought in the Revolutionary War with Gen. Kosciuszko at the "Siege of Ninety-six" in 1781 in South Carolina.

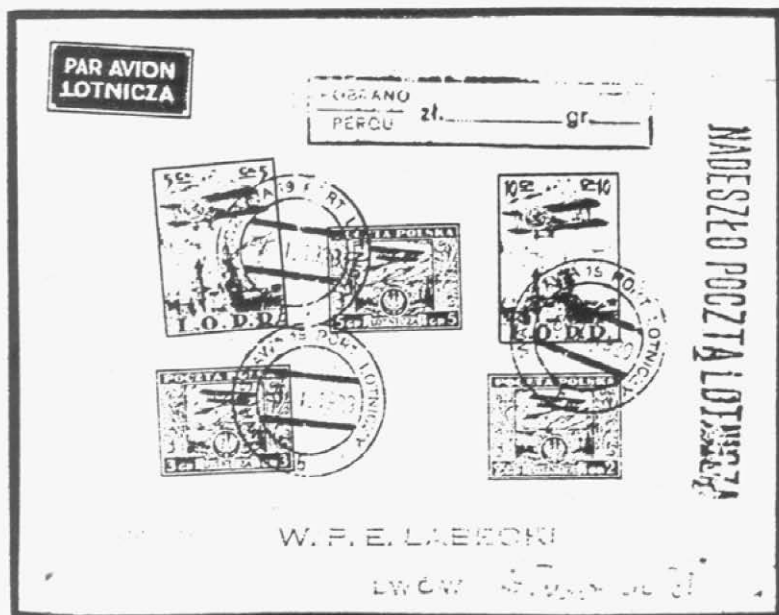
ISSUES OF THE WARSAW LOPP

By JAMES MAZEPA

Of the many issues of the LOPP, the Warsaw issues of 1925 are among the more complicated. Neither the Ruch nor the Sanabria catalogs accurately describe these stamps and their varieties. The check list given here represents ma-

terial actually seen. The prices are taken from current auction realizations. My hope is that this will be the beginning of a catalog of Polish Air Mail Labels, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can add to this list.

ISSUE of 1925 (Warsaw) Lithographed, perf. 10½		Mint or Used	On Cover
1. 5 gr. Orange	.....	7.50	30.00
a. Imperforate	.....	15.00	50.00
b. Horizontal pair, imperf. between	.....	75.00	125.00
c. Vertical pair, double perfs.	.....	75.00	125.00
e. Essay in red orange, without value, thick frame lines	.....	40.00	100.00
2. 5 gr. Red	.....	7.50	30.00
a. Imperforate	.....	15.00	50.00
3. 10 gr. Light Blue	.....	7.50	30.00
a. Imperforate	.....	15.00	50.00
b. Vertical pair, double perfs.	.....	75.00	125.00
c. Dark glossy blue	.....	10.00	35.00
ca Imperforate	.....	20.00	60.00



	Mint or Used	On Cover
4. 50 gr. Surcharge (blue) on no. 1	15.00	50.00
a. Imperforate	25.00	75.00
b. Vertical pair, double perfs.	100.00	150.00
c. Surcharge on 5 gr. red-orange	15.00	50.00
ca Surcharge on 5 gr. red-orange imperf.	25.00	75.00
5. 50 gr. Surcharge on no. 2	15.00	50.00
a. Surcharge on no. 2a	25.00	75.00
6. 1 Zl. (red) Surcharge on no. 3	15.00	50.00
a. Imperforate	25.00	75.00
ba Horizontal pair imperf. between	75.00	125.00
bb Horizontal pair double perfs.	75.00	125.00
c. Surcharge on no. 3c	20.00	60.00
d. Surcharge on no. 3ca	30.00	80.00
7. 1 Zl. Surcharge (handstamped in violet, black-violet, or black - various positions) on no. 3	50.00	100.00
a. Imperforate	75.00	150.00
b. Double Surcharge	60.00	120.00
c. Surcharged on no. 3c	65.00	130.00
d. Surcharged on no. 3ca	90.00	175.00
8. 5 gr. orange overprinted "III T.L. '10 gr."	150.00	300.00
Combination Covers:		
No. 1 or no. 2 + no. 3		75.00
No. 1a or no. 2a + no. 3a		125.00
No. 4 or no. 5 + no. 6		125.00
No. 4a or no. 5a + no. 6a		175.00



No. 46



No. 66a

"Woldenberg Madonnas" Printed on Backs of Wrappers of English Tobacco

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

In September, 1942 the Post Office in the POW camp for Polish officers in Woldenberg, OFLAG II C, decided to issue the set of stamps depicting Madonnas. It consisted of three stamps: 5 (pf) — Madonna in the camp's chapel, blue; 10 (pf) — Madonna from Ostra Brama in Wilno, green; and 20 (pf) — Madonna from the Monastery in Czestochowa, red brown.



At that time the supply of paper in the camp was very short and the expected delivery of paper from the Swedish Red Cross was delayed. Therefore it was decided to print the entire Madonna Issue on wrappers of English tobacco whose supply in the camp was sufficient. After the printing was started, the long awaited paper arrived from Sweden. The printing of stamps on tobacco wrappers was stopped and was resumed on the Swedish paper. Stamps already printed on the wrappers were officially destroyed but some of them apparently survived and were then treated as being normally issued stamps. These stamps are not proofs.

The shiny enameled reverses of these stamps are extremely fragile, and attempts of hinging them result in translucent spots.

THE ALLIED POST IN UPPER SILESIA

By EDWARD D. WOLSKI

The recently published 19th part of the "Upper Silesian Handbook" (*Handbuch vom Abstimmungsgebiet Oberschlesien, 1920-22, 19. Lfg.*, 1989), prepared by the noted philatelist and Upper Silesian specialist, Mr. Rolf Ritter, includes a special chapter on the allied postal history during the plebiscite period (Section D f 1, pp. 1-89) in Upper Silesia.

This section fills a gap in philatelic literature and will help collectors to expand their Up. Sil. holdings. The allied posts are an integral part of any Up. Sil. collection. The text is an excellent example of a thorough study, well documented and illustrated.

Chapters A to E provide a good historical background of the plebiscite and describe separately the allied forces (French, Italian, British), their deployment, operations in the plebiscite areas, including maps and illustrations.

Especially important for the collector are chapters F to I, which cover the postal services with focus on: the APO's, the Army courier service, official mail, and personal mail of military personnel. These chapters are well illustrated showing cancels, official stamps, and examples of interesting covers. On page 79 we see "a pearl of Up. Sil. Philately", an Italian field post postcard in color, clearly showing the stamp of the Italian Command in Up. Silesia. The author knows of only four other field post cards from the plebiscite area.

A bibliography of 22 entries is given in Chapter K.

This study is supplemented with a separate chapter (Abt. D f 3, 28 pp.) on the "Postal History of the Three Polish Uprisings" also written by Mr. Rolf Ritter. The text is illustrated with maps, photos, copies of documents and covers.

Those collectors of Upper Silesia who can read German will benefit greatly from the acquisition of this publication. It can be obtained from: Mr. Rolf Ritter, D-4708 KAMEN (Westf.) Postfach 1566, West Germany.

SIX YEARS OF UNDERGROUND MAIL

By EDWARD T. SUPERSON

In autumn of this year the Polish Museum in Rapperswill, Switzerland, will publish a book entitled "SIX YEARS OF UNDERGROUND MAIL IN POLAND 1982-1986" by Anatol Kobylinski, a known expert of "Solidarnosc" labels. It will be printed in English, French, Polish, Italian, and German languages. Illustrations of all labels and their background history will be included. The price is 32 Swiss francs including mail and handling. It can be ordered from the Polish Museum, CH-8640 Rapperswill, Postfach 1251, Switzerland, payable to Konto Nr. SK-60-106-40, indicating the remittance is for the book.

The POLONUS BULLETIN issue No. 420 Jan.-Feb. 1987 already carried an article by Kobylinski entitled, "Stamps Help Finance Solidarity" as it was reprinted from LINN'S STAMP NEWS.