BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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COMPETITION Results! PolPex 2002

By: Chester Schafer

Polpex 2002, held March 15, 16, and 17 at the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois, may have been a small exhibition by Polonus standards of the old days, but it was a successful one! It consisted of 48 frames and two numismatic exhibits. The Grand Award, a gorgeous large crystal vase with a Polish eagle etched on its side was presented to Alfred Szebel of Arlington Heights, Illinois, for his "Warsaw 1521-1862" which included some rare letters of Polish Kings. The following received Polonus Medals:

Gold Awards:

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE — *Arkadiusz Walinski,* Skokie, IL

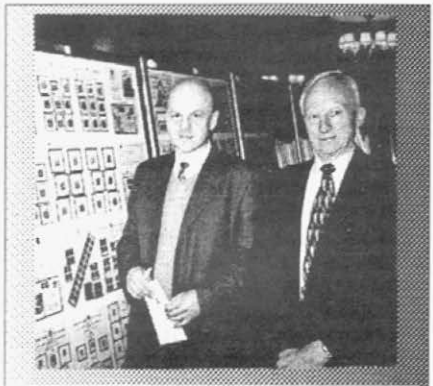
POLISH AIR MAIL — *Casey Sadowski,* Aurora, OH

INTERNAL CAMP POST OF OFLAG IIC — *Roman Sobus,* Chicago, IL

LITHUANIA — *Vito S. Lukosevicius,* Itasca, IL



Alfred Szebel receives Grand Award from Arkadiusz Walinski, Entries Chairman at Awards Reception held at the White Eagle dining room.



Polpex judges were our Poland stamp expert Zbigniew Korszen of Warsaw and John Variakojis, President Lithuania Philatelic Society

Silver Award:

INDEPENDENT POLAND — *Benek Teper,* North York, Ontario, Canada

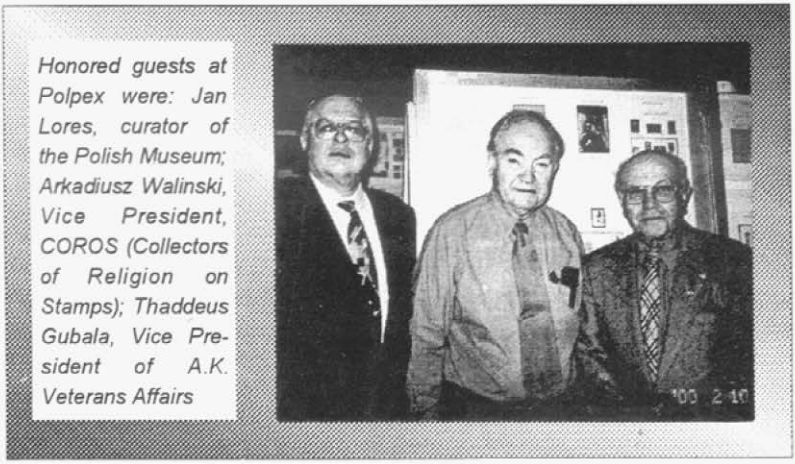
Bronze Award:

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE — *Walter Holak,* Elgin, IL

Numismatic Gold Award:

JOZEF PILSUDSKI COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS — *Chester Schafer,* Chicago, IL

For the first time the Polish Museum of America participated at a Polpex with a display of ten Polish American posters from a 1918 appeal



Honored guests at Polpex were: Jan Lores, curator of the Polish Museum; Arkadiusz Walinski, Vice President, COROS (Collectors of Religion on Stamps); Thaddeus Gubala, Vice President of A.K. Veterans Affairs

to join the Polish Legion of WW I to a 1979 post of Pope John Paul II's visit to Chicago. The museum also provided a display of panels with photos of the Polish Underground Army of WW II. In gratitude the curator, Jan Lorys, was presented with a Polonus Medal.

Fortunately, all of the out-of-town exhibitors were present at the Polpex Saturday evening banquet in the White Eagle dining room. After a sumptuous meal the awards were presented by the Exhibition Committee.

Dr. Stanley T. Wlodek Appointed Senior Editor & Translator

By: Hank Bieniecki

Polonus is pleased to announce that Dr. Stanley T. Wlodek has agreed to accept appointment as a Senior Editor & Translator of our Society. He has been a member of Polonus and the American Philatelic Society for over 40 years.

Dr. Stanley T. Wlodek was born in Poland and has collected the stamps of his native land since childhood. His collecting interests cover the gamut of Polish philately, but the classic Krakow, Lublin, Gniezno and GGW/Poczta Polska overprint issues are his particular interest. His collection also extends to the pre-philatelic period and the Austrian, Prussian and Russian stamps with ethnically Polish cancels from the partition period.



Dr. Wlodek holds SM and ScD degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is a graduate of Harvard Business School. He holds over 15 U.S. Patents and has published over twenty technical articles, while also editing a number of technical symposia volumes.

(Editor's Comments)

Following is the first of what we hope will be a long series of informative translations by Dr. Wlodek. If any member has articles they think should be translated and shared wit the membership, please send them to me at P.O. Box 100 (P), Granite City, IL 62040. The Society would also be pleased to publish original works authored by our members. Such articles are not limited to classic or pre-WWII Poland. Articles on modern material, topical, other facets of Polish Philately, and comments on previously published articles are welcome.

New Research on the 1929 *Port Gdansk*

(Fischer 19 / Scott 1K22 Stamp.)

Mariusz Kalinowski, Brwinów Translated by Stanley Wlodek

From *FILATELISTYKA* (4/2000), pgs. 123-126 and front inside cover)

Editor's note: Fischer catalog numbers, with infrequent use of the Scott catalog designations, are used in this translation}

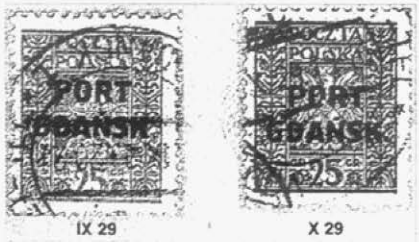
1. Issue Chronology.

According to " "Polskie Znaczki Pocztowe" [1], subsequently shortened to PZP, and "Katalog Specjalizowany Znaków Pocztowych Ziem Polskich"[2], the 25-groszy stamp, Port Gdansk overprinted series (Fischer 19 / Scott IK22) , entered circulation on the 23rd of November, 1929. Many sources can, however, be quoted to show that this stamp was in circulation much earlier, indeed by the beginning of June 1929. The▸

earliest date of use that I have ever encountered for this particular stamp is June 3rd, 1929. In Figure 1, I present stamps postmarked during the



Figure 1: 25 groszy stamps postmarked between the months of June and October, 1929



period of June-November of the above-mentioned year. All of them come from what is known as kiloware. These are not isolated examples. Indeed, the use of this stamp before its formal entry into circulation, is frequently encountered. Usage of this stamp before November 23rd, 1929, is illustrated in philatelic magazines, auction catalogs, and also in the second volume of Fischer's "Katalog Polskich Znaków Pocztowych (1999)" [3]. On page 297 of this catalog one finds a first flight letter, bearing Fischer 19 and postmarked by the Gdansk post office on 27th of August, 1929.

I have known for a long time about the discrepancy between the actual date of the stamp's circulation and the date officially set for circulation. Even in 1991 in Katalog Znaczków Pocztowych Ziem Polskich" [4] the accepted date of the stamp's issue was May 28th, 1929, as opposed to the earlier supposition of November 23rd.

"Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" [1], hereafter abbreviated as *PZP*, states that the stamp under discussion was placed in circulation "by means of an order from the Post and Telegraph Ministry #5.813/XI/29 dated November 23rd, 1929". A search for this particular order in the Post and Telegraph Museum in Wrocław as well as in the New Acts Archive proved fruitless. That some evidence of such an order exists is in the form of "Order of ▸

the Post and Telegraph Ministry on August 8th, 1936", about the withdrawal from circulation of the Port of Gdansk stamp series, inserted in the "Bulletin of Telephone and Radio Communication Rates" No.10z 1936" [5]. A section of the text pertinent to this matter reads as follows: "Pa. 1. The following postage stamps are to be withdrawn: (...) item 5. stamp worth 25 groszy bearing the emblem of the State and the overprint Port Gdansk , placed into circulation by the Post and Telegraph Ministry #5813/XI/29 on November 23rd, 1929."

It follows that, in determining the dates of introduction, in this area of Port Gdansk overprints in *PZP* [1], the authors may have relied on the above August 8th 1936 order to establish the November 23rd 1929 date.



Figure 2: 25 groszy stamps from actual mail (from Kiloware accumulations) used in 1938, after their loss of validity and formal withdrawal from circulation on the 15th of September, 1936.

On the basis of orders from the Business Division (evident from the symbol "XI") of the Post and Telegraph Ministry, stamps that also went into circulation were: a 25-groszy stamp with a portrait of J. Pilsudski (Fischer 16 / Scott 1K18); a 5-groszy and 10-groszy stamp with the emblem of the State (Fischer 23 -25 / Scott 1K20-1K22); a one-zloty stamp with a picture of I. Moscicki - with the horizontal overprint (Fischer 20 / Scott 1K19); and a 15-groszy stamp with the Port Gdansk overprint of the portrait of H. Sienkiewicz (Fischer 21 / Scott 1K23).

The procedure used in issuing the above orders is not known exactly. One can only suppose that they were prepared and registered earlier, and that the order was dated in the very moment it was to become valid. The fact that order number 4860 /XI/ 29, for the horizontal Port Gdansk overprinting of the 1 zloty Moscicki (Fischer 20), carries the date November 30th, 1929 only further confirms the conclusion reached above. On the other hand, the order (number 5.813 / XI / 29) for producing the 25 groszy (Fischer 19), was dated a week earlier (November 23rd, 1929).

In analyzing all of the above-mentioned statements, one must conclude that the first printing of the 25 groszy stamps was performed together with the 5 groszy stamps (Fischer 23), which were overprinted on the 8th of April, 1929. What makes this date even more probable is the fact that on the 8th of April, 1929, another printing of the basic 25-groszy stamps (Fischer 244 / Scott 260) was issued. A part of this printing was used to produce the

for sale beginning with June, 1929 originate with this issue. On the other hand, the September 23, 1929, date given in PZP [1] for the first overprinting of the 25 groszy stamps is probably that of a second edition.

The 25 groszy stamp with the inscription Port Gdansk (Fischer 19) was taken out of circulation on the 15th of August, 1936. After this deadline, one could still exchange the stamp for valid postage until October 31st, 1936 [5].

Despite its loss of validity, this stamp continued to be used by the postal system. Three examples of this type of informal usage of the stamp can be seen in Figure 2.

2. Variations in the Overprint

According to PZP [1], the overprints of the 25-groszy (Fischer 19) were produced over the period 1929 to 1935, in at least six printings. I add "at least" because, as mentioned above, the list of six printings is not complete . In all certainty, there was an earlier printing on the 8th of April, 1929.

The control numbers on the stamps that I regard as the first overprinting are found on the right hand side of the selvage.

The gum on the reprinted stamps in the first overprinting bears a yellowish tint, but the gum on all later printings is white. Unused stamps are most often found with the yellowish tint gum.

{Editors note: This is in agreement with the data in PZP [1]. in Volume I, Page 251 the basic stamp (Fischer 244) is described as printed with the control numbers on either the left, or right side, of the selvedge, and with either a white, or yellow gum. The first basic 25 groszy stamp with the control numbers on the right and with yellow gum was printed on April 8, 1929. All subsequent printings, regardless on which side the control numbers appeared, were on slightly thicker paper with white gum.}



Figure 3.1: The appearance of the grayish-black ink from the first overprinting; mottled, non-uniform appearance.



Figure 3.2: The appearance of the grayish-black ink overprint, with a more uniform, less mottled appearance.



Figure 3.3: The form of the ink in the black inscription...the structure is much denser, transitioning into a uniform overprint.



Figure 3.4: The appearance of the overprint in the blue-black color...the distribution of the ink is dense and uniform.

The main characteristic of the stamps in the first overprinting is the ink used. The overprint is mottled and the distribution of the ink is very uneven, particularly when viewed in transmitted light, Figure 3.1. The overprint is gray-black, shiny, produced with a low viscosity, highly liquid, ink. In transmitted light, the overprint posses a structure of light and dark grainy areas of varying concentration. All the stamps in Figure 1, cancelled before October 29, 1929, had this appearance. Stamps, whose overprint had these first printing characteristics, were used up by the beginning of 1930. Later cancellations on stamps with these characteristics are found rarely. They possibly originate from previously purchased stocks and not from recent post office purchases.

The overprint on stamps from all other printings, exhibit a more uniform structure, when observed in transmitted light, as would be expected from the use of inks of increasing viscosity. The overprint in Figure 3.2 is gray-black, shiny, printed with a more viscous ink then the one in Figure 3.1. The structure is still grainy when viewed in transmitted light. The overprints shown in Figure 3.3 are black, with a slight shine, performed with a viscous ink. In transmitted light the structure is spotted with small darker areas, joining with each other so as to produce a density that approaches uniformity.

A thick, viscous, blue-black, ink was used in at least one of the printings. These overprints are slightly shiny. In transmitted light, they exhibit a very limited variation in density, approaching uniformity (Figure 3.4).

The stamps with the blue-black overprint most frequently bear cancels from 1934.

From the available information in PZP [1] about the orders initiating the overprinting of these stamps, it appears that the stamps with the blue-black overprint come from the printing ordered on the 15th of December, 1931. If this was so, why did the stamps overprinted in December 1931, not appear until 1934, the most common date for the utilization of the blue-black overprints? One can clarify this question as follows: Due to the forgery of the basic 25 groszy stamp for the purpose of defrauding the Post.

{Editor's note: About June 1931}, the basic stamp was removed from circulation on the 3rd of December, 1931. All stock remaining in the Central Postal Storehouse (Centralna Składnica Pocztowa) of these stamps, amounting, according to PZP [1] to 1,101,450 stamps or, 7,343 sheets of 150 were reprinted in accordance with the December 15th order of 1931 with Port Gdansk. The overprint may have been done in

separate batches. During the overprinting of this of indefinite batch of stamps, a blue-black ink was used. One might suppose that these were the last overprints to remain in postal stores, finally reaching the postal windows towards the end of 1933.

One cannot by any means exclude the possibility that the list of orders for the reprints of these stamps, as given in PZP [1], is incomplete. A large gap exists between the orders of December 15th, 1931, and October 30th, 1935. One might thus allege that an order placed sometime between the third and fourth quarters of 1934 is missing. The order at this time was justified by a lowering in mail rates from 30 groszy to 25 groszy for a normal, long-distance letter, effective from the 1st of October, 1934.

3. Misprints of the Overprint.

In the October 1934 overprinting of the later eagle issue, on a linear background (Fischer 23 - 25 / Scott 1K28 - 1K30) the overprints on the 5 and 15 groszy exhibit a specific variation. This variation is portrayed in the catalogue [2] as a missing corner in the right hand side of the upper, horizontal, bar of the letter T. The existence of this variety, which occurs in position 5, was first illustrated in the Fischer 1999 catalogue [3].



Figure 4.1: 25 groszy overprint (Fischer 19) with the broken right-arm letter "T".

The same variation is shown to exist (Figure 4) on the 25 groszy overprint (Fischer 19), a fact not reported earlier.



Figure 4.2: Magnification of the overprint in Figure 4.1.

On the sheets of the 1934 printing (Fischer 23 and 25) another printing variation, never previously described, involves the letter "T" of the overprint in the seventh position (Figure 5.1). As shown in Figure 5.2, this same variation, which consists of a space, or flaw, in the right extremity of the T, can also be seen on the 25 groszy (Fischer 19) stamp. The earliest date, known to me, of the postal use of the 25-groszy stamp with the letter T variant in the Port Gdansk overprint is August, 1933.



Figure 5.1: The 15 groszy stamp (Fisher 25) with the overprint variation, flaw in the right arm of the letter T.



Figure 5.2: The 25 groszy stamp (Fischer 19) with the same T flaw in the right arm as in 5.1 for the Fischer 25

Lack of sheets for comparison, makes it currently impossible to

to determine the positions in which the two overprint varients occur on the 25 groszy value. The variants have been mainly found in single copies of used stamps The appearance of these two overprint variations in both the 25 groszy overprint (Fischer 19) and the subsequent 5 and 15 groszy issues (Fischer 23 and 25) proves that the same form or at least the same type was used to produce both overprints.

4. Distortions in the Overprint

As mentioned above, there were various printings of this stamp. These printings are not all fully documented. Thus it is impossible, in most cases, to assign a given sheet of these stamps to a definite printing. The exception, of course, is the first printing, whose characteristic features were described earlier.



Figure 5.3: Magnification of overprint shown in Figures 5.1 and 5.2



Figure 6: Normal appearance of the overprint on the 25 groszy stamps.



Figure 7.1: Deformed letters "D" in overprints on the 25 groszy stamp. The "D" is distorted on the left side.



Figure 7.2: Distortions on the right side of the letter "D".

The letters of the overprint on the 25 groszy stamp are distorted. The most distorted of them all is the letter "D". It exhibits variations from the normal appearance seen in Figure 6. The thickness of its left or right side varies. Examples of these types of distortions are pre-sented in Figure 7.1 and 7.2. Distortion of the left side of the letter "D", gives the letter the ap-pearance approaching an "O". Apart of this, the letters "P", "G", "S", and "K" also show signs of clear distortion. The reason for such distortion in the lettering of the overprint is probably a defective cast in the production of the original printing slug. Distortion may also have occurred if the type was not clamped securely in the printing matrix.

References

1. Polskie Znaki Pocztowe,Vol. III, "Ruch" Publishing, Warsaw 1962, pages 741-744.

2. Katalog Specializowany Znakow Pocztowych Ziem Polskich, Vol.2. Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza Publishers, Warsaw, 1989, pages 423-424.

3. Katalog Polskich Znakow Pocztowych, 1999. Vol II. FHA Fischer Publishers, Bytom-Krakow, pages 51 to 52 and 297.

4. Katalog Znaczkow Pocztowych Ziem Polskich 1991/1992, Libra Publishers, Warsaw 1991, page 217.

5.Order of the Ministry of Posts and Telegrams, dated August 8 1936, Pertaining to the withdrawl of postage stamps overprinted "Port Gdansk". Daily Journal of Postal, Telephone and Radio Tariffs, No. 10 Warsaw, August 13 1936, paragraph 25.

CORRESPONDENCE OF POLISH SOLDIERS SERVING IN NATO MISSION IN BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA - PART III

By: Col. Józef Kowalczyk, ret.

Reprinted From Filatelista and Translated by Ernest Kowalczyk
Part I , Polonus Bulletin 507 and Part II, Polonus Bulletin 508

After introducing 60 thousand well-equipped soldiers of IFOR, the situation in Bosnia Herzegovina changed for the better and signs of stabilization were noticed. As the result at the end of 1996 and beginning of 1997 a decision was made to reduce to half the number of soldiers and call them "Stabilization Force"—SFOR. On December 17, 1996, the Polish Council of Ministers voted in resolution No. 146/96 to create the 500 member Polish Military Contingent SFOR.

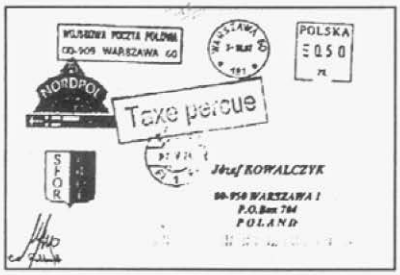


Photo 15

That situation did not provoke any significant changes in the postal system. The only innovation was the SFOR logo printed on envelopes. (Photo 15). It is a shield divided vertically in two parts: the left one is white with blue letters, SFOR, the right side is blue with white letters СФОР. The envelope in the photograph 15 is a peculiarity—in its lower left corner there is the rank (CO Polbat) and the signature of the sender, who was the commanding officer of the battalion at the time.

Apart from the battalion, the NORDPOLBde, NSG and NSE Polish

served at SFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo. They were very busy and away from the battalion. They rarely took part in sending letters by military mail. They sent letters and postcards by local Bosnian mail or by the military mail of other countries taking part in the SFOR mission.



Photo 16

Here I would like to make a remark. Other countries fixed postal rules were

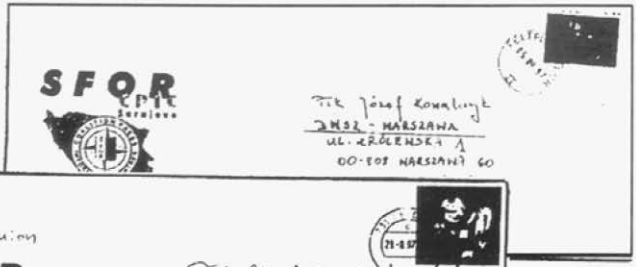


Photo 17

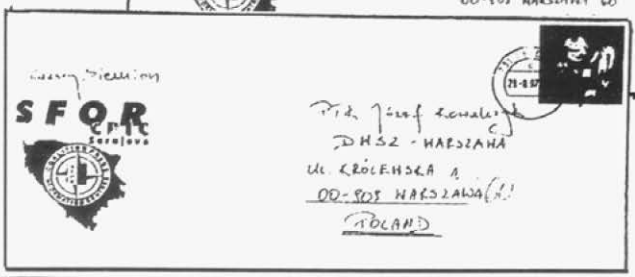


Photo 18

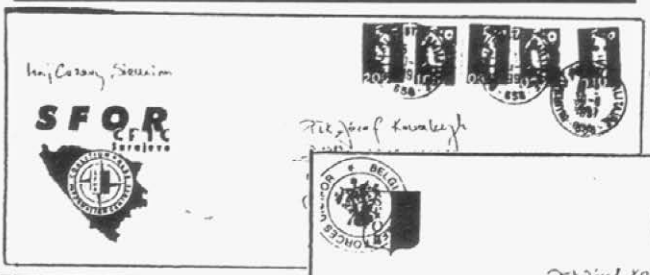
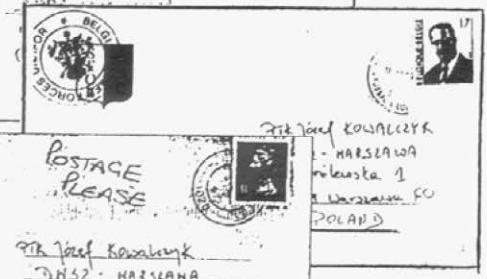


Photo 19


Photo 20

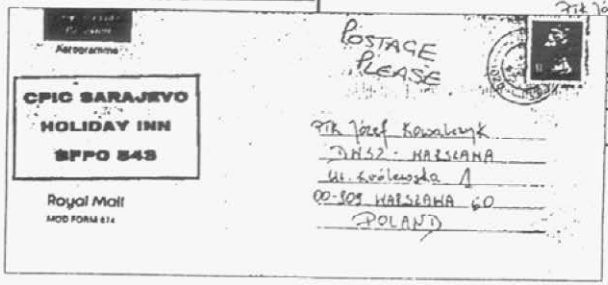


Photo 21

less convenient for their soldiers who had to buy postage stamps of their own countries when they wanted to send letters.

In photo 16 the Reader can see the frank of the Dutch military mail, in (17) a Norwegian one, and subsequently a German (18), a French (19), a Belgian (2), and a British one (21).

I would like to focus for while on the last one. At the time when it was sent to a British officer was the Head of the "Coalition Press and Information Center" (CPIC). The presented Royal Mail aerogramme form was given by him to a Polish officer and was later sent by British Field Post Office 543 which managed CPIC when it Headquarters were still in "Holiday Inn" in Sarajevo.

An average time of delivery of letters and parcels from Banja Vrucica to Poland was two weeks. No wonder that at the age of computers and cellular phones the correspondence was not as popular as some years before. A soldier who could either communicate by telephone or Internet or to write a letter, provided it would have been delivered after more than ten days, naturally chose the first possibility.

In 1997-99 NORDPOLBde and the Polish Battalion did not change the rules of sending letters. In 1998 a new stamp was introduced informally, but it was soon commonly accepted – it was rectangular (5.7 at 4 cm) and, usually, a violet one. In its upper left corner there is an image of the Wawel Dragon (the Polish Camp in Banja Vrucica near the



Photo 22



Photo 23

town of Teslić was called "Camp Dragon") and underneath the NATO emblem. There are also words: "16bpd SFOR 1998-1999; POLSKI KONTYNGENT WOJSKOWY; BiH–TESLIC; CAMP DRAGON" (photos 22-23).

The Hungarian Post Office in Pécs used two types of date stamps: one of 2.5 and the other of 3 cm diameter (photos 22-23). The Polish Army Post Office in Warsaw ceased to stamp envelopes sent from Pécs and marked "Taxe Percue" which meant that the Postage had been paid. In my opinion it was a good decision, because there was no place to further

stamp the envelopes. I want to underline that after the transfer from the Polish Army Post Office to "Warsaw 60" Post Office but before the



Photo 24

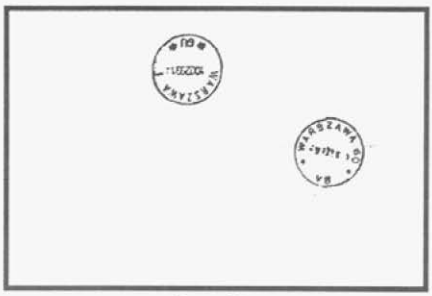


Photo 24a



Photo 25

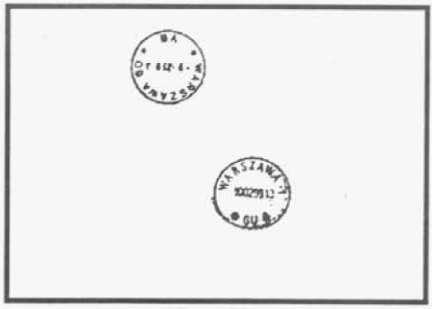


Photo 25a

delivery to the addressee, private letters were marked on the reverse with the date stamp of the post office.

In January, 1999, there was the third anniversary of our contingent's participation in NATO forces in Bosnia Herzegovina. On that occasion the commanding officer of the military unit No. 2059 (i.e. Polish Battalion in SFOR) in point 9 of the daily order No. 18, dated January 22, 1999, allowed to introduce into circulation 100 special series of envelopes from January 20. They were numbered from 001 to 100, had a color logo of NORDPOLBde in the lower left corner, an emblem of parachurte forces and an English text "16th Airborne Battalion, 3rd Anniversary in NORDPOLBde Bosnia Herzegovina, January 1996-January 1999" (Photo 24). He also agreed to introduce another 100 envelopes, numbered from 001 to 100, with a slight difference in the English text: "16th Airborne Battalion, 3rd Anniversary in Bosnia Herzegovina, January 1996-January 1999" (Photo 25).

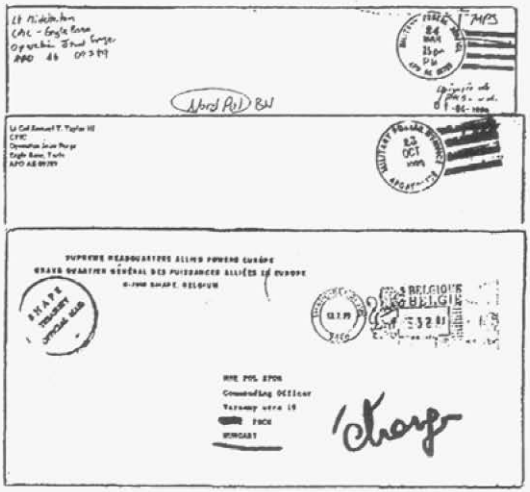
How many of these envelopes were actually used in postal circulation, I cannot tell: I think that only a part of them. Some of those envelopes have been given to local authorities as gifts, so they could not have reached Poland–they are a philatelic rarity. The presented envelopes have▸

been used in the postal circulation and they were by "Warsaw 60" from the Polish Army Post Office to "Warsaw 1" Post Office, where I rent a post office box.



Photo 26

A few words should be said on the official correspondence. The Polish Contingent received numerous letters from the local authorities and institutions. In Photo 26 we have an example of an envelope of a registered letter from Teslic. In such envelopes e.g. monthly telephone bills would be sent. There was also official correspondence within SFOR units which was manged by the American military mail system (photos 27-28).



Photos 27, 28, and 29

The second one has an interesting history, as it "traveled" for almost two months. From Tuzla (a town about a hundred kilometers away from the Polish Battalion SFOR in Banja Vrucica) the American Military Post Office sent it to Warsaw. There, the Polish Army Post Office sent it back to our NSE in Hungary. From there it was finally delivered to Banja Vrucica.



Photo 30

Another interesting speciment is the envelope sent by the NATO Headquarters to the commanding officer of our NSE in Hungary (Photo29). Both sides had to keep in touch in order to manage together all costs and expenses of IFOR, and later SFOR mission.

At the end I would like to present an envelope which contained a parcel from SFOR to the institution which is responsible for all our military contingents serving abroad – the International Missions Division of the Department of Military Foreight Affairs of the MOD.

Warsaw, 2000 May

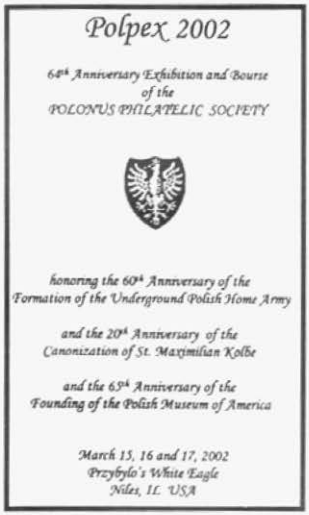
The author, Col. Józef Kowalczyk, retired, has been interested in the aspects of correspondence of Polish soldiers abroad in UN and NATO peacekeeping missions for many years. From 1989 to 1998 he has participated in organizing Polish military contingents and he took part himself in different peacekeeping operations in several countries.

POLPEX SOUVENIRS









Souvenir Sheets & Folder

Souvenir Sheets with descriptive folder pictured on Pg. 15



Set of
3
Covers with
3 different
Cancellations
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