

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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SOME POLISH FORGERIES

by Herman Stallberg

Translation from the German by John Gapinski

THE POZNAN ISSUE OF 1919

(Germania overprinted "Poczta Polska")

In this issue there are more forgeries in circulation and in collections than there are genuine ones even though the value of this set is comparatively inexpensive. The forgeries are so numerous that many collectors

GENUINE

Width "Poczta" 11mm

" "Polska" 10.8-11mm

Overall distance of

numerals: 15.2mm

FAKE

12.1-12.2mm

11.4-11.6mm

16.8mm

In this set often, only the 5 on 2 fen stamps are faked while the rest of the set is genuine. In contrast to the majority of fakes of all other Polish overprints, these are very well

5

5

5

5

Poczta

Polska

Poczta

Polska

think that their fakes are the originals, while the latter are seldom seen. The genuine stamps are primarily recognized by their deep black overprints and by the slightly ascending and descending arrangement of the letters in the word "Poczta". The forgeries have often a blue-black and a dark blue overprint, and most of them have the letters in the word "Poczta" arranged in a perfectly horizontal line. Forgeries with deep black overprints have usually thinner letters. The numeral "5" on the 2 fen stamp is slightly curved at the top while in most forgeries it is perfectly straight.

executed, and can only be distinguished by comparisons with the few characteristics of the genuine stamps. There are two kinds of fakes known whose recognition is quite easy because the horizontal arrangement of the letters in the word "Poczta" deviates from the originals.

There are a great number of forgeries distributed of the 5½ fen stamp with inverted overprint, recognized by the too thin letters (black) but otherwise deceiving, closely copied from the originals in their type and measurements.

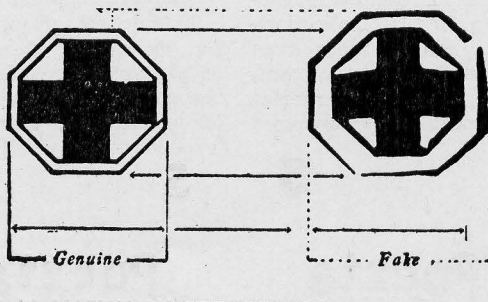
Very often these forgeries are made

on the Germania stamp of 1902 which has no watermark—positively a little too strong expectation of the gullibility of the collector.

THE RED CROSS ISSUE OF 1921

The forgeries of this issue are relatively badly executed and not as numerous as with the other overprints. They are less frequently found on individual stamps than on covers tied with other stamps and spurious cancellations. These fakes are recognized especially by the more brownish red color of the ink and the inexact execution of the double lines which enclose the Red Cross. These double lines are further apart in the fake overprints and not as precisely uniform.

The enclosing double lines are on the faked overprints partly thicker than on the originals, and often broken in several places. The breaks may also occur on the genuine stamps.



TID BITS

Polonus meetings are getting back in the groove again. At the October 26th meeting Program Chairman John Waksanski featured John Wendt showed a fine, complete Irish collection, gave an account of this country's history as portrayed on stamps, and enlightened us with the facts about the Blarney Stone and St. Patrick. After the meeting a Beeba followed with our President Dr. Kozakiewicz acting as host.

The Chicago Philatelic Society held its Exhibition Nov. 2, 3, and 4 at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, and awarded four Polonus members with major

The color of the overprint on the 5 and 20 mk. is dull cinnabar red, on the other values carmine. On the fake overprints the color is more brownish red or a too bright carmine. The highest value of this stamp, the 20 plus 30 mk., is more frequently faked than the cheaper varieties.

In examining these stamps small deviation in the drawing of the "30" may also be detected (on the forgeries the upper stroke on the numeral "3" is very straight and slightly ascending instead of horizontal), and the value indicating "MK" (on the forgeries smaller, often invisible) can be used as a means of differentiation. The former described characteristics are more dependable than the latter; the latter do not have to be considered seriously.

Forgeries which have similar thickness and distance between the double lines, can be differentiated by the deviating colors of the ink.

awards. A First Award went to Ben Reeves for his Heligoland, Second Awards went to Edward C. Hopps for his Thurn and Taxis, and to Col. O. H. Schrader for his Tibet. A Third Award went to Barney Fialkowski for his Albania.

In conjunction with this Exhibition the American Philatelic Congress held a session. They selected papers of member Edward C. Hopps for publication in the American Philatelic Congress Handbook.

Larry Zieler has done it again! After being discharged and living the life of a civilian for a month, he re-enlisted in Uncle Sam's Air Corps.

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.

PORT GDANSK

"The overprint "PORT GDANSK" is in two lines, and in thick block letters, and it varies in size according to the issue.

The following is a list of Polish stamps that have been overprinted:

5th Jan., 1925—overprint measuring $16\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ mm. on the first eleven values (1-50 gr.) of the 1924 issue of Poland; perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ only, and on (a) thin wove paper; (b) very thin, almost pe-lure paper.

1926—the same overprint on the 1925 issue of Poland, perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, on thin wove paper, and Die I only.

5 and 10 Gr.

1926-28—the same overprint, but measuring $17 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ mm. on the 1925-28 issues of Poland, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, unless otherwise stated. 5 and 10 gr. Die II, 15 gr. Die I (perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$), 15 gr. Die II (perf. $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$), 20 gr. (ship) Die I, 20 gr. (ship) Die II, 25 gr. (Pilsudski), 1 zl. (Moscicki) with various perforations.

The 75th stamp on a sheet of this issue has the "O" of "PORT" broken on the left.

1929-30—the same overprint, but measuring $15 \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ mm. on the 1928-29 Arms issue of Poland.

5, 10 and 25 Gr.

1931—the same overprint on the 15 gr. blue (Sienkiewicz).

In the last two issues the overprint on the 63rd stamp is dropped 1 mm. below the others; in the 48th and 118th stamps it is dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

XXI. PLEBISCITE ISSUES

EASTERN SILESIA

On the 15th May, 1920, stamps were issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs for the use of the inhabi-

tants in the plebiscite district of Eastern Silesia.

S. O.

1920

S. O. 1920.

Certain values of the first definite issue of 1919 and 1920 were adapted for this purpose by overprinting them "S. O. 1920" (Silesie Orientale 1920). The 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 fen. were overprinted in two lines, the 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 kr. in one line.

These overprinted stamps were issued for the duration of the plebiscite in Eastern Silesia under Polish administration. That part of Eastern Silesia under Czecho-Slovakian administration bore a similar overprint on stamps of Czecho-Slovakia.

Although the lower values were in mark currency, they were sold in kronen currency, and, during the plebiscite period, stamps in halerzy currency without overprint were also used.

On completion of the plebiscite, and the final division of Eastern Silesia, these overprinted stamps were withdrawn from circulation and replaced by the ordinary fenni and marki stamps.

The following check-list gives the varieties of paper and perforation to be found on these overprinted stamps:

	Perf.	10	11½	10 X 11½	11½ X 10		Perf.	10	11½	10 X 11½	11½ X 10
<i>Thin wove.</i>						<i>Thick wove.</i>					
5 fen.	•	•	•	•	•	1 kr.	•	•	•	•	•
10 "	•	•	•	•	•	1½ "	•	•	•	•	•
15 "	•	•	•	•	•	2 "	•	•	•	•	•
25 "	•	•	•	•	•	2½ "	•	•	•	•	•
50 "	•	•	•	•	•	5 "	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Thick wove.</i>						<i>Thin wove.</i>					
15 fen.	•	•	•	•	•	1 kr.	•	•	•	•	•
25 "	•	•	•	•	•	2 "	•	•	•	•	•
50 "	•	•	•	•	•	2½ "	•	•	•	•	•
						5 "	•	•	•	•	•
						<i>Ribbed.</i>					
						1½ kr.	•	•	•	•	•
						2½ "	•	•	•	•	•

The same plate varieties that appear on the normal stamp are found on these.

The following overprint varieties occur on all the fenni values, namely:

On the 30th stamp in a sheet of the early overprintings, the "O" of "S. O." is dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the "S," the stop being on the alignment.

On several stamps in a sheet, the date "1920" is not directly under "S. O.," but either to the right or left of it.

All the above issue are known imperforate.

It was first intended to issue stamps of a special design for the plebiscite district of Eastern Silesia. This, however, did not find favour with the International Plebiscite Commission, and the issue was abandoned. Proofs of these stamps are known to have been made.

UPPER SILESIA

On the 17th June, 1921, a set of seven stamps was issued by the Insurgent Government in Upper Silesia under Deputy Wojciech Korfanty, by Order No. 50, dated 15th June, 1921, and published in No. 13 of the "Dziennika Rozporządzen Naczelnej Władzy na Gornym Slasku" (Daily Order of the Government of Upper Silesia), dated 18th June, 1921.

In virtue of this Order these stamps had a circulation only in the district occupied by the Insurgent Army, and had the same right and privilege as the stamps issued by the International Commission for the whole of the plebiscite district.

The following values were issued: 10 fen. red, 20 fen. violet, 30 fen. orange, 40 fen. dark green, 50 fen. yellow-green, 60 fen. dark blue, 1 mk. brown-red, of uniform design, representing a group of factory chimneys. At the top of the stamp is the Silesian Eagle and 1921 in a circle; at the bottom "GORNYY SLASK" (Upper Silesia), the value being in the lower corners.



These stamps were typographed in the printing establishment of Karola Miarki in Mikolow. Owing to shortage

of paper at the printers, a further supply had to be procured from two different localities; hence part of the issue is found printed on yellow paper with yellowish gum, and the remainder on white paper.

In the hurry of the issue, the bulk of the stamps appeared imperforate, the remainder being perforated $11\frac{1}{4}$.

These stamps remained in circulation until the 5th July, 1921.

Shortly following the above issue, two further stamps were issued by the revolutionary authorities in Upper Silesia, known as the "Green Army."

These stamps, named "Green Post" stamps, were intended to be used as payment for carrying letters into Poland through the so-called "Green Frontier" from that part of Upper Silesia which was occupied by the Insurgents. Both stamps are of a 10 mk. denomination, and dark green. One is oblong, $36\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and the other is rectangular, $29 \times 40\frac{1}{2}$ mm.



The design is somewhat similar in both stamps, showing the Silesian Eagle and 1921, and inscribed "GORNYY SLASK POWSTANCZA" (Upper Silesian Insurrection) and "POCZTA POLOWA" (Field Post). A horizontal blank space, 3 mm. deep, cuts the stamp above the bottom label, which contains the value and the word "OP-LATA" (Fee).

The stamps are known both imperforate and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. In the perforated stamp, the perforation also divides the value label from the upper part of the stamp.*

Whether these stamps actually served the purpose for which they were intended is doubtful.



This completes the Plebiscite issues that were originated by the Polish Authorities.

Those issued under the control of the Interallied Commission, namely Upper Silesia, Marienwerder and Allenstein, should, in my opinion, be also included in a collection of Polish stamps, as well as the stamps of Central Lithuania in Polish occupation under General Zeligowski in 1920.

XXII. POLISH LEGION ISSUES

In 1914, and again in 1916, the Polish Legion produced two sets of stamps for its own personal use, but circumstances prevented their circulation. Since, however, they were the first Polish National stamps to be issued during the Great War, they should be of interest to specialists.



The first issue consisted of two values, 5 and 10 hal., of similar design, showing the Polish Eagle in a shield, surrounded by a wreath of foliage, national flags and cannon. Embodied in the design are the initials K N N, denoting "Komitet Niepodleglosci Narodowej" (Committee of National Independence), and the date of issue, 16th August, 1914, below. The colouring of the stamps is red-brown, the 5 hal. having a white background, and the 10 hal. a solid background of colour.

The second issue, in 1916, consisted of four values, 2 gr. brown, 5 gr. green, 10 gr. red and 20 gr. violet. These were large rectangular stamps showing the Polish Eagle and 1916 in the centre oval, and inscribed "Legionistom Polskim" above, the value being in the two lower corners. Poor imitations of these stamps, both perforated and imperforate, are very common. These have a crown above the eagle's head, and the values are in halerze instead of grosze. The original issue is lithographed, while the imitations are typographed.

1st POLISH CORPS ISSUES

After the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in 1917, and during Ker-

enski's Government, a group of Polish patriots decided to form a corps of Polish soldiers, who were serving in Russian regiments, in order to combat the Bolsheviks. This Corps was commanded by General Dowbor-Musnicki, and was concentrated near the fortress town of Bobrujsk.†

After a series of engagements with the Bolsheviks, the German Authorities, who were then in occupation of Poland, decided that this Corps should remain neutral, and concern itself solely with the administration of the territories it then occupied.

In connection with this administration, it was necessary to organise a postal service for the use of the civil population as well as for the military. This postal service, or Field Post, started to operate at the beginning of March 1918, under the official title of "Poczta Polowa" (Field Post). It was run entirely by the military authorities, and was limited to the territories occupied by the Polish Corps, namely Head Office in the fortress of Bobrujsk, with branches at Bychow, Rochaczew, Mohylow and Zlobin. Efforts were made to extend this postal service beyond the occupied territories, but this failed to materialise owing to the early disbandment of the Corps.

Technical difficulties prevented the Corps designing and printing its own stamps; use was therefore made of a stock of current Russian stamps found at the post office in Bobrujsk by overprinting them. The overprint of the first issue consisted of a small Polish Eagle with "POCZTA" above and "Pol Korp" below, both curving inwards. This overprint was executed at a private printing office in Bobrujsk.



The following Russian values were overprinted:

	No. overprinted.
3 kop. (1909-12)	2,000
4 " "	2,000
5 " "	10,000
10/7 " (1906)	700
10 " (1909-12)	10,300
15 " "	20,000
20 " "	20,000

25	"	"		2,000
35	"	"		20,000
50	"	"		10,000
70	"	(1917)		1,000

I know of no varieties of overprint in this issue.

The second issue, with the overprint of the "Polish Eagle" and "Pol. Korp." above, and surcharged with new values below, was done at the Military Printing Works of the Corps.

Pol. Korp.



k. 35 k.

This issue was as follows:

	No. ovpt. imperforate	No. ovpt. perforated
10/3 kop.	20,000	15,000
35/1 kop.	60,500	1,500
50/2 kop.	27,000	27,000
1R kop.	15,000	1,300

The 35/1 kop. and 1R/3 kop. imperforate, and the 50/2 kop. perforated exist with overprint inverted.

Some values show a double overprint.

I have found the following overprint varieties:

10/3 kop.—

no stop after "Korp" No. 90.

35/1 kop.—

broken "p" in "Korp" No. 5.

broken "o" in "Korps" and faint stop after first "K", No. 11.

two stops after "Pol", and broken "K" in "Korp", No. 44.

broken tail to "p" of "Korp", No. 100

50/2 kop.—

no stop after "Korp", No. 45.

On all the 1R/3 kop. the stop after "Korp" is dropped.

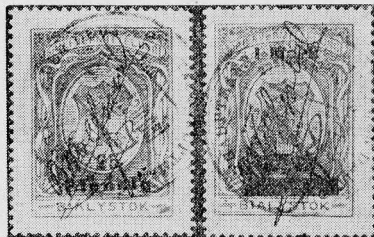
XXIII. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

BIALYSTOK

When the German military authorities were in occupation of Bialystok in 1916, they allowed the civil population to communicate with their friends, outside the town and abroad, by means of specially printed postcards. The price paid for these cards covered all postal charges.

Very soon, however, these cards were being extensively forged; whereupon General Ludendorff decided to issue special stamps to be affixed to them.

These stamps were of uniform design, and showed the Arms of Bialystok in a centre oval, and inscribed "BRIEFVERMITTELUNG" ((Conveyance of letters) above, and "BIALYSTOK" below.



The first issue, which was put on sale the 11th August, 1916, consisted of one value, 25 pfennig, which was overprinted at the bottom of the stamp in black.

The stamps were printed in small sheets of four stamps each, and 1150 sheets or 4600 stamps were printed.

No more than one sheet was sold to any one buyer at a time.

To guard against forgery, each stamp bore a secret mark, namely a small dot in the lower label between the "K" of "BIALYSTOK" and the two horizontal lines.

As a further check to forgery, the stamps before being sold, were supposed to be signed across by the superintending Post Office official, but, for some reason or other, some were not signed.

Used copies bear a large circular postmark in black, violet or red, and inscribed "DER DEUTSCHE STADT-HAUPTMANN Des Stadtkreises BIALYSTOK" (THE GERMAN MAYOR of the town of BIALYSTOK), and "BRIEFSTEMPEL" (postmark) in the centre between two lines wide apart.

On the 16th October, 1916, a second issue was made, the denomination of the stamps being changed from 25 pfennig to 1 mark, by obliterating the old value and surcharging with the new, at the top of the stamp. 1470 stamps were so overprinted.

This issue is found with two postmarks, one similar to that in the first issue, and one inscribed "MILITARKREISAMT BIALYSTOK STADT" (MILITARY DISTRICT OFFICER of the TOWN of BIALYSTOK), and "BRIEFSTEMPEL" in the centre between two lines close together.

GRODNO

In April 1919, after the entry of the Polish Army into Grodno, stamps were prepared for the use of the military authorities. These, however, did not meet with the approval of the Polish postal authorities, and were therefore suppressed.

The proposed issue consisted of the diagonal overprint "POCZTA POLSKA," and a surcharge "40 GR.," metal-stamped in purple on the 1, 2, 3, 5 kop. Russia 1917 issue.

Later, two German liaison officers, who happened to be in Grodno at the time, had another issue prepared for their own use on correspondence to Germany. This consisted of the overprint "V. P. Grodno" (Verbindungs Post Grodno) in Gothic characters, rubber-stamped in red on Russian stamps.

KOWEL

Poczta Polska

50 fen.

A town in the province of Volhynia, Southern Poland. Certain Ukraine and Russian stamps were overprinted "Poczta Polska" and surcharged with value in Polish currency, as follows:

- 30 fen. on 30 schagiw, Ukraine 1918 issue, imperf.
- 50 fen. on 50 schagiw, Ukraine 1918 issue, imperf.
- 50 fen. on 20 gr. red on green, Ukraine 1921 issue, imperf.
- 50 fen. on 15 kop. Russia 1909-12 issue, perf.
- 50 fen. on 20 kop. Russia 1909-12 issue, perf.
- 50 fen. on 1 rub. Russia 1917 issue imperf.

These stamps were issued on the 20th August, 1919.

WARWISZKI

This town is situated in Polish Lithuania, Neutral Zone, and north of Wilno. On March 3rd, 1923, it issued three stamps, namely 50, 100 and 200 mks. of the large eagle type of Poland (1921

-22) overprinted "SAMORZAD" (Self-Government) "WARWISZKI" in two lines, with a line between the two words.

These stamps were issued to defray the cost of Post Office couriers into Poland.

RUSSIA IN POLAND

In July 1920, when Northern Poland was invaded by the Bolshevik Army, the Polish stamps seized by them were overprinted in Russian letters (R. S. F. S. R. meaning Russian Federated Soviet Republics), and surcharged "10 P" (10 roubles).

The values so overprinted and surcharged were the 5, 25 and 50 fen. of the 1919 issue of Poland.

SLUCK

A town in South-Eastern Poland. It was occupied by the military forces of White Russia, who confiscated the Polish stamps found there, and overprinted them with the Arms of White Russia and with Russian letters (C. R. SI meaning Extraordinary Council of the District of Sluck), and surcharged them with new values "25" and "50."

The overprint and surcharge were rubber-stamped in black on the 5, 10, 15 hal. and 15 fen. of the 1919 issue of Poland.

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* We understand the value label was detached from the stamp when the letter was used on letters addressed to insurrectionist detachments whose correspondence was allowed free postage.—Ed.

§ General (now Marshal) Joseph Pilsudski's First Brigade, previously called "Legions," crossed from Krakow into what used to be "Russian" Poland on the 5th August, 1914, and was immediately engaged in hostilities with the Russian Army.

‡ Bobrujsk is now in Soviet territory and about 120 miles from the Polish frontier. It is situated about 320 miles north-east of Warsaw.

THE END.

NEW ISSUES

Two stamps of similar design will be issued on November 15, to commemorate the Festival of Polish Music. The stamps will be of similar design and show portraits of Fryderyk Chopin and Stanislaw Moniuszko. Values will be 45 gr. gray and 90 gr. red.
—Frank Warner.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

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Bridgeport, Ohio
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63-17 Boelsen Crescent
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Mira Walilko (Mrs. Roman)
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And did you let our Polpex Chairman know what you intend exhibiting and about how many pages? He's got to know! He's got to plan the Classes in the exhibit, decide on the prizes, and you've got to give him an idea. A government postal card costs one cent and the Polpex Director is Barney Fialkowski, 2633 N. Emmett St.,

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