

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Mini-Polpex to honor John Paul II

Last fall the Polonus Philatelic Society held a Mini-Polpex at the Polish Museum of America in conjunction with October being Polish-American Heritage Month. The Polish American Numismatic Association participated with a display of medals. This year both organizations will again combine efforts and have another such exhibition on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

A documentary collection of philatelic material relating to the Pope compiled by Arkadiusz Walinski will be shown. PANA will show commemorative medals issued during the last fifteen years from the collection of Ted Maczynski.



The newly built Polish Youth Association Building (Dom Harcerski) at 6434 West Belmont Ave. in Chicago, will be the site of the Mini-Polpex to be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 16th and 17th, 1993.

An opening ceremony is planned for Saturday morning to which prominent religious clergy will be invited. A mini-bourse of some four dealers is planned as the main hall is limited in space. Dealers wishing to rent tables may contact Arkadiusz Walinski, 7353 W. Estes Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631. Tel. (312) 763-3597.

Polonus will issue a special commemorative cancellation which will be postmarked on a cacheted postal card to be designed by the Exhibition Coordinator, Arkadiusz Walinski.

It is the hope of Polonus and PANA that this exhibit will generate interest in philately and numismatics among the youth of Polish Scouts and attract new members to both organizations.

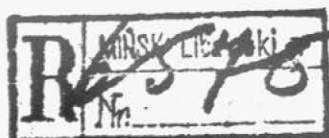
MIŃSK LITEWSKI REDUX

All knowledge is of itself of some value.

—Dr. Samuel Johnson

A year ago, I reported a "discovery" of another postmark of Mińsk Litewski. While the piously hoped for flood of further "discoveries" has not materialized, I received a letter from a Dutch philatelist, recognized as an expert in philately and postal history of Port Gdańsk, Mr. Hans Vogels, who has a beautiful cover with MIŃSK LITEWSKI 1 postmarks. It was sent by the Swedish Red Cross Mission in Poland, to Stockholm, Sweden.

Consequently, after a brief exchange of letters that followed Mr. Vogels was kind enough to obtain for me photocopies of two more covers with Mińsk Litewski postmarks: the first belonging to a German collector, Mr. Vaumund, and the second, illustrated in the January, 1990 German auction catalogue of Rudolf Steltzer.



The Steltzer catalogue illustration shows the German military post postcard, with a 25 fenigs Polish stamp and MIŃSK LITEWSKI 1 postmark with identifying code letter "d", as illustrated in Mr. Piekut's article published in the Fifty-Seventh American Philatelic Congress Book, in 1991.

Mr. Vaumund's cover on the other hand offers something new. In addition to already recorded by Mr. Piekut MIŃSK LITEWSKI postmark with identifying code letter "b", it carries standardized registration postmark (the so called *erka* in Polish). It is a rectangular postmark (approximately 42 x 12 mm. - scaled from photocopy), divided into two unequal fields vertically and with the right field divided again horizontally, also into two unequal fields. In the left field there is a large letter "R", in bold print, in top left field "MIŃSK Litewski a" and in the bottom left "Nr. _____". It was originally addressed to Saco, Maine, from where it seems, it found its way back to Europe and to the collection of Mr. Vaumund.

I would like to thank Mr. Vogels and Mr. Vaumund for their contribution to our common philatelic knowledge while expressing puzzlement and disappointment that I have not heard yet from any of the American Polonus members . . .

—Ryszard Z. Poddubiuk

(See article in Polonus Bulletin 453-8 of May-June, 1992).

AN EARLY POLISH NATIONALIZING OVERPRINT

At the end of World War I, in many post offices in Poland, Austrian and German occupational stamps were nationalized by overprinting. Here is shown a nationalizing overprint made at a much earlier date.

The overprinted stamp is on a fieldpost card mailed by a second lieutenant of the Polish Legions to Zurich, Switzerland. While legionnaires' fieldpost was free within Austria, mail sent abroad did require postage. Thus this card is franked with a 10 h. Austrian stamp overprinted in violet with a rubber stamp which depicts the Polish eagle.



This eagle is the same as the eagle in the cachette of "The Office of the Auxiliary Battalion of the 2nd Brigade" of the Polish Legions. The cachette is listed in the book by Jan Z. E. Berek "Pocztą Polowa Legjonów 1914-1918", London, 1968, p. 49 as handstamp number p 225. The overprinted stamp on this card is cancelled: "K.u.K. Etappenpostamt * Piotrków, 11 July 1915". The sender dated this card on its message side: "Kamiński, 6. VII".

—Stanley Kronenberg

POLONICA:

75th ANNIVERSARY of the BATTLE OF LEGNICA

Soon after the year 1200 the Mongol Empire was founded in Inner Asia under the victorious tribal leader Genghis Khan. In the east the mobile cavalry of the Mongols advanced rapidly toward China and in the west towards Persia and Russia. In 1241 they made advances into Poland and Hungary. On April 9, 1241, the Silesian Duke Henry II, a member of the Polish dynasty of the Piasts and the son of Saint Hedwig, led a numerically inferior army of Poles and Germans as well as members of the international order of knights into battle against the Mongols. The battle, which took place at Wahlstaet near Legnica was not a defeat for the Mongols; however, their rapid advance was halted for the first time because of the enemy.

A 100 Pf value was issued by Germany on April 9, 1991 to commemorate this event.



—Submitted by Eugene J. Dreger

PHILATELIC GEMS

U. S. PERFORATION VARIETY

By DONNA O'KEEFE

In its normal state, the 1933 United States 5¢ stamp commemorating Thaddeus (also spelled Tadeusz) Kosciuszko is a common stamp. The Scott catalog lists it at 40¢ unused and 22¢ used. However, a perforation variety exists. This variety catalogs at \$2,000.00 for a pair. Blocks of four realize even higher prices at auction.

The 5¢ Kosciuszko commemorative was issued on Oct. 13, 1933, to honor the Polish patriot who helped the Colonies in the American Revolution. Kosciuszko served with distinction at the battles of Ticonderoga and Saratoga. He oversaw the building of fortifications at West Point.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing printed the Kosciuszko stamp on a flatbed press from 400 subject plates divided into panes of 100 by horizontal and vertical guidelines. The panes were cut along these guidelines and distributed to post offices.

Shortly after the stamp's release, collectors discovered a perforation variety on a pane of 100 bought at a post office in New England. The pane contained stamps with the vertical perforations missing. This pane subsequently was broken up and sold as pairs and blocks. It is believed a second similar pane also existed.

As already mentioned, the Scott catalog lists horizontal pairs of this issue, imperf vertically, at \$2,000.00. As can be expected, blocks of four are much scarcer than pairs, and they realize much higher prices. On September 1, 1991, Matthew Bennett Inc. sold a block of four at auction for \$3,740. This block, shown here, also features the guideline arrow at left. While the Kosciuszko perforation varieties cannot compare in price or scarcity to the great rarities of the United States, they can be counted among the gems of the 20th century.



Only a few copies of the United States 5¢ Kosciuszko issue, imperf vertically, exist in blocks of four.

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Krakow Postal History Before 1918

By JANUSZ ADAMCZYK

(Translated from Polish by Stanley Kronenberg)

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)



The post in Kazimierz used these different postmarks which are found mainly on letters sent abroad from Kraków. This can be explained by the fact that the Austrian mail worked better and was more reliable than the Polish mail which was subjected to difficulties connected with the partition (photographs No. 3, 3a).



♥ CASIMIR

3



3a

The transfer of the postal service from Kazimierz to Podgórze was strongly opposed by Austrian postal authorities but even greater was the dilemma of moving the post office back to Wieliczka from Kazimierz since Podgórze was (in those times) only a small settlement. Finally Austrian authorities decided that the large distance of the post office from Kraków would be highly disadvantageous. Henryk Brandl was made the postmaster in Podgórze but already in February, 1781, he was suspended from his duties in connection with a postal theft. After being declared innocent, he was returned to office but as a result of another postal theft in August, 1782, he was dismissed together with the controlling postal officer Bogdangi. The duties of the dismissed officials in Podgórze were assigned to the baron Ebert and to the controlling officer, Thomas Muller.

In August, 1784, the post in Podgórze still used the postmarks of the previous post in Kazimierz. This resulted in a complaint by the district government in Bochnia, directed at the superior postal authorities which immediately issued applicable directives and sent to the post office a new stamp "V. Podgórze". The introduction of this postmark is the first known official act which concerns the use of postmarks on letters in Galicia in the 18th century.

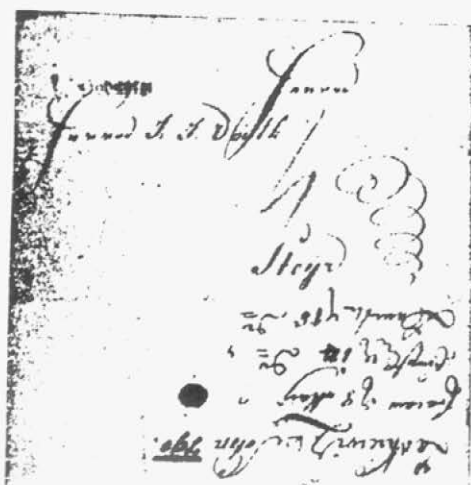
In addition to the above postmark which is known on a few letters from 1785–1786, Podgórze used two more postmarks known sequentially from 1790–1792 and 1792–1793 (photographs 4, 4a). This Post in Podgórze existed until October 31, 1796, when after the Third Partition of Poland, Austria occupied Kraków and installed its post office there.

✓ Podguzer

Vpodguzer

PODGOZIE

4



4a

On February 4, 1796, the Austrian Army occupied Kraków after the departure of the Prussian Army. The need of the moment caused almost immediately the opening of the postal route from Kraków to Russia to prevent the dispatch of letters from Petersburg through Warsaw which was in Prussian hands. The official takeover by Austria of the postal establishments in Polish lands annexed as the result of the Third Partition, took place on May 1, 1796. In Kraków a superior post office was created, headed by Piotr Tullius. The former director of the Post in Kraków, Gaspari, who lost his job was offered the choice of another station and until he assumed his new position, was offered 1000 zł. "renskie" per year.

In 1802, Florian Habel became the director of the superior Post Office in Kraków.

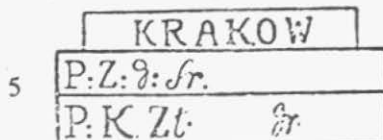
The Austrian post office was located at 575 Szpitalna Street and later in the Czulicki Building (later called Loebenstein House) at 531 Floriańska Street. In 1803 the post office moved to 15 Stradom Street and later to the house of the director of the Superior Post Office Florian Habler (mentioned above) at 19 Stradom Street.

During this period, in accordance with the contemporary regulations of Austrian mail of 1793, the post office in Kraków did not use any postmarks. The victorious campaign of Napoleon in Poland caused the incorporation of Kraków into the Duchy of Warsaw according to the Treaty of Schoubrun in 1809.

On July 15, 1810, the border post office of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw was established in Kraków. Its "border" character resulted from the fact that Kraków was the connection to routes abroad. At those times, there were tracks to Vienna and Lwów through Mogilany and to Silesia, to the Grand Duchy of Poznań, and to Prussia through Sławków. In addition, the tracks to Lublin through Cło and to Warsaw through Iwanowice originated in Kraków. At that time the post in Kraków used a postmark for the payment of mail arriving from abroad which did not show the



amount of payment for the dispatch from abroad and within the country service. Because of the very short period of its use, this postmark is very rare (photograph No. 5). As a consequence of Napoleon's defeat in 1812, Russian forces occupied the Duchy of Warsaw ending thus its existence.



In 1815, the Congress of Vienna decided to form the "Free, Independent and Strictly Neutral City of Kraków and its Surroundings," as a protectorate of Russia, Austria and Prussia. The areas of the "City" and "Surroundings" measured 1164 square kilometers and were inhabited by 95,000 persons. The existence of the post in the Free City of Kraków was regulated by the additional Treaty of April 21, 1815 between Russia, Austria and Prussia. Its text was:

"The Free City of Kraków reserves for itself the privilege of Post within its territory. However, each of the three Courts may according to its wishes have the freedom to have in Kraków its own postoffice for parcels mailed to and from other countries or to establish at the post office of Kraków a secretary responsible for the observation of this department. The costs of letters of internal mail will be regulated according to instructions jointly formulated by the commission mentioned in Article VII."

Until May 31, 1816, there continued to function in Kraków and its

territory, the posts of the former Duchy of Warsaw (taken over since 1815 by the "Kingdom of Poland") namely the Central Post Office in Kraków and the dispatches and postamts in Krzeszowice and in Cło. After this date their takeover (later in 1817 in Cło) by the administration of the Free City of Kraków took place. The Director of Post of the Free City of Kraków became Wawrzyniec Dorau, who held this office until his death in 1825. Andrzej Mężyński became the first secretary and after Dorau's death took the position of Director of the Post. After Mężyński's retirement, the Senat of F. C. Kraków appointed J. Gądomski as Director in 1833.

As soon as the postal activities of F.C. Kraków started, the following postal connections were activated:

The coach and horse riders' posts which transported weekly parcels and letters from Kraków to Iwanowice (at the border with the Kingdom of Poland).

Wagon and horse riders' weekly posts from Kraków through Cło to Brzesko.

Wagon and horse riders' weekly post on the route: Kraków-Krzeszowice-Olkusz-Sławków.

Wagon and two horse riders' posts from Kraków to Mogilany.

In addition, the F.C. Kraków post delivered (for the payment of two grosze per letter), mail to Podgórze where on November 1, 1816, the Austrians reinstalled a postal station.

The effective beginning of the development of the post in F.C. Kraków which brought the city considerable income was interrupted by Prussia, which decided to start a letter mail on December 1, 1816 and a wagon post on the route Kraków - Krzeszowice - Jaworzno - Słupno - Tarnowiec.

Ignoring energetic protests by the Senate of F.C. Kraków which were supported by the Tsar Alexander I, the Prussians unceremoniously perverted Article XII of the Additional Treaty about the postal organization in F.C. Kraków. The unilateral action of the Prussian Government not only accepted and sent via their carriers private and official letters in the districts of Chrzanów and Krzeszowice but also transported via their coaches travelers to Sławków. This was total lawlessness because in Krzeszowice was a Polish postal station. The sole and unimportant retreat by the Prussians was the liquidation of their horse relay post stations within F.C. Kraków. Under these circumstances the post of F.C. Kraków which was endangered by the Prussian competition, had to resign from its longest, (7½ miles) postal route due to its reduced profitability.

The conflict of interest between the post of F.C. Kraków and the Austrian mail occurred when it was observed that the post office in Podgórze delivered mail addressed to Kraków directly to the addressees. In addition this post office delivered the mail through intermediaries who were Jews from Kazimierz and who undertook the distribution of mail. In this manner the post of the F.C. Kraków lost a considerable part of its income due to the loss of their rights of moving mail to and from Podgórze. Initially the Austrians considered the protest by the F.C. Kraków but decidedly opposed it, when the Senate wanted to enforce its right by sanctions and fines.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

POLISH CANCELERS — 1918-1919

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph. D.

According to the Polish catalog,¹ German cancellers in use during the German Occupation of Russian Poland during World War I remained for varying periods of time after the Armistice in 1918. In the occupied territories, the German authorities established post offices originally to meet military and later to meet civilian needs. Post offices were established in 73 districts as listed and illustrated by ŻÓLKIEWSKI.² Although most of the districts used a single canceller, some had two, and others had more, for example: CZENSTOCHAU: 4; KALISZ: 4; ŁÓDŹ: 9; SOSNOWICE: 4; and WARSCHAU: 30. STRAUB^{3,4} identified additional cancellers.

Provisional and new cancellers were placed in use in many areas not served originally by their own local postoffices, and many of the original German cancellers were modified in various ways, which included removal of the German V (Vormittag - morning) or N (Nachmittag - afternoon, or substituting R (rano) and P (po południu), respectively; Polonization of the German spelling of the District, etc.

I have been interested in these cancellations and have observed them, particularly those seen on the First and Second Provisional Issues of 1918-1919. This article notes the changes in these cancellers through the use of tables, which facilitate additions by other collectors based on material they have.

In Table 1 are listed the cities and latest date of use based on covers I have or have seen.

TABLE 1
Cancellers — Warsaw Overprint Issues — 1918-1919
Old Cancellers Still In Use

BENDZIN	*a*	Found most frequently on covers after independence	SOSNOWICE	***	28.12.18
			SOSNOWICE	*a*	24. 2.19
			SOSNOWICE	*b*	11. 2.19
CZENSTOCHAU	*b*	3.2.19	WARSCHAU	**c	24.12.18
ŁÓDŹ	*a*	28.3.19	WARSCHAU	*1a	5. 3.19
ŁOWICZ	***	7.3.19	WARSCHAU	*1k	20.11.18
ŁOWICZ	*a*	14.3.19	WARSCHAU	*1m	31.12.18
PLONSK	***	22.1.19	WARSCHAU	*2f	27. 3.19
RADZYMIN	***	4.3.19	WARSCHAU	*2g	4.12.18
			ZYRARDOW	***	31. 1.19



Cancel ŁÓDŹ/12.2.19.12-1R/**b in which the name ŁÓDŹ was Polonized to ŁÓDŹ, and the V, which normally would follow the 12-1, has been replaced by an R.



Cancel KALISZ/27.1.19.10-1 V/**a with the original KALISCH Polonized to KALISZ.

TABLE 2
Changes Noted In Cancellers Used on Covers
Warsaw Overprint Issues - 1918-1919

Table 2 identifies modifications made in the various cancellers in use. Listed is the original form of the German canceller, the modified form, the changes made in the canceller, and the before and/or after dates seen on the covers.

Cancellers		Change	Remarks
Original	Modified		
KALISCH/date/**	KALISZ/date/**	KALISCH to KALISZ	Before 18.3.19
KALISCH/date/**a	KALISZ/date/**a	KALISCH to KALISZ	Before 28.1.19
KALISCH/date/*b*	KALISZ/date/*b*	KALISCH to KALISZ	Before 17.2.19
LODZ/date/**b	ŁODZ/date R/**b	LODZ to ŁODZ; V or N/R or P	Before 29.12.18
LODZ/date/*e*	ŁODZ/date/*e*	LODZ to ŁODZ	After 20.12.18; before 14.3.19
LODZ/date/*g*	ŁODZ/date/*g*	LODZ to ŁODZ	Before 2.2.19
	ŁODZ/date *j*		New canceler; before 31.3.19
WARSCHAU/date/**e	WARSZAWA/date/**e	WARSCHAU to WARSZAWA	Before 29.1.19
WARSCHAU/date/**g	WARSZAWA/date/**g	WARSCHAU to WARSZAWA	After 31.12.18; before 8.2.19
WARSCHAU/date/*lb	WARSZAWA/date/*lb	WARSCHAU to WARSZAWA	Before 7.1.19
WARSCHAU/date/*l	WARSZAWA/date/*l	WARSCHAU to WARSZAWA	Before 31.3.19
WARSCHAU/date/*lp	WARSZAWA/date/*lp	WARSCHAU to WARSZAWA	Before 17.1.19
WARSCHAU/date/*lu	WARSZAWA/date /*l/*lu	WARSCHAU to WARSZAWA; V or N/	Before 22.1.19
	WARSZAWA l/date/AI*		Before 30.1.19; new
	WARSZAWA l/date/a VII *		Before 25.1.19; new
	WARSZAWA l/date/a VIII *		Before 20.1.19; new
	WARSZAWA l/date/bI*		Before 12.3.19; new
	WARSZAWA 3/date/*c*		Before 20.12.19; new
	WLOCLAWEK/date/*c*	WLOCLAWEK to WŁOCŁAWEK; *c* - new	Before 4.1.19; new

In Table 3 are listed the provisional cancellers that have been seen along with pertinent notations, including whether these were substituted for the original German cancellers.

TABLE 3
Cancellers — Warsaw Overprint Issues — 1918-1919
Provisional Cancellers

DOBRZYŃ DR.	Arrival cancel: WARSZAWA/30.1.19.1-2■/*1u
GOMBIN	Arrival cancel: WARSZAWA/23.1.19.11-12■/*1u
*GRODZISK	24.1.19
*KOŁO	Arrival cancel: WARSZAWA/22.1.19.11-12■/*iu
*KOLUSZKI	Written 8.12.18
*KUTNO	Written 28.3.19
*LIPNO	In Russian *** 25.11.18
*PŁOCK	3.2.19 Arrival cancel: 1b/-6.II.19-4/KRAKOW 1
PŁOCK	Arrival cancel: WARSZAWA 1/-4.-3.-19/aVII
*WŁOCŁAWEK	Written 22.11.18
ZAWIERCIE	24.2.19 Arrival cancel: WARSZAWA/24.2.19.1-2 N/-

*) German cancellers used earlier

Table 4 lists new cancellers used and the date seen on the cover.

TABLE 4
Cancellers — Warsaw Overprint Issues — 1918-1919
New Cancellers

KĄLUSZYN	*j* Arrival cancel: WARSZAWA 1/-3.-3.-18/aVII*
ŁASK	*a* 13.3.19
ŁÓDŹ	*j* 31.3.19
WARSZAWA 1:	Al*, aVII*, aVIII*, bl*; 30.1.19, 25.1.19, 20.1.19, 12.3.19, respectively
WARSZAWA 3:	*c* 20.12.18
WARSZAWA SEJM	*b*
WŁOCŁAWEK	*c* 4.1.19

At this time I should like to acknowledge that Mr. Jungjohann, of Germany, provided Xerox copies of some covers showing cancellations noted in the article.

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3. STRAUB, Conrad P. Two unlisted Gen. Gouv. Warschau Cancellers, Bulletin, Polonus Philatelic Society (Chicago), Issue #423, pp. 5-6 (July/Aug. 1987).
4. STRAUB, Conrad P. Warsaw Cancellers — 1915-1918, Bulletin, Polonus Philatelic Society (Chicago), Issue #448, pp. 6-8 (July/Aug. 1991).

BOJANOWICZ COLLECTION IN BRITISH LIBRARY

Among the many philatelic collections in the British Library in London you will find the Bojanowicz collection of Polish Postal History 1938-1949, presented by the late Mirosław Bojanowicz in 1966, covering the wartime posts in Poland and Polish Free Forces. Visitors to London would do wise to stop by and see the marvelous collection of

this Polonus honorary member.

An impressive and colorful brochure has been printed by the library on their philatelic collections. Interested members may secure a copy of this leaflet by writing to: The British Library, D.R. Beech — Philatelic Collections, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, England.



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HOLOGRAM ERROR

Member Terence Hines of Warsaw notified us of an error on the 1991 15,000 zł. souvenir sheet issued for Philanippon 91. The entire holographic image of the butterfly is missing.

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