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Roumanian Occupation Issues For "Pokucie" "C. M. T."

by Jan Czerniawski

Translated by Zdzislaw Jan Obara

HOW AND WHEN THE ISSUES CAME TO BE

On Saturday, May 24, 1919, the Ukrainian troops left Kolomyje and Monday May 26, 1919, the Roumanian armies entered Kolomyje and the Pokucie area. The first few days of the occupation all communications were at a standstill. Residents were forbidden to have lights on or leave their homes between sunset and sunrise. Only functions pertaining to the occupation were attended to and the Roumanian Colonel G. Liciu was in charge of the Army of Occupation.

Simultaneously all private correspondence was halted and the post office functioned for the convenience of Roumanian occupation troops only. The post office was called "Ofic. Tel. Postal Militar Divizia VIII". This was the state of affairs until June 12, 1919. It was on that day that Major Turbatu arrived as a representative of the central office of the Roumanian post office department in order to establish and regulate postal service in Pokucie. By inquiring at the post office in Kolomyje the Major found out that I was a philatelist

from pre-war times and that I had taken part in the issuance of Ukrainian stamps for Kolomyje during the Ukrainian occupation. He then invited me to join the post office staff in an advisory capacity. When I arrived he told me that he had been sent from Kolomyje by the Roumanian authorities for the purpose of organizing a postal service. The postal department's job was the resumption of normal postal service during the Roumanian occupation. He asked my opinion on the subject and my advice on the kind of stamps to be used during the Roumanian occupation. It was my suggestion that it would be best to use Roumanian stamps because very few Ukrainian or Austrian stamps were locally available. The Major told me that this was not advisable since the occupation was to be only temporary. He also said that a large amount of old Austrian stamps was found in the Czerniowce post office. It was decided to overprint these stamps in such a way so as to make sure that the regular Austrian stamps could not be used and that the overprint would only be an indirect indication of Roumanian occupation.

After much discussion it was decided that the stamps would be overprinted "C. M. T." The CMT represented "Commendementul Militar Teritorial" and meant the "Military Territorial Command." The overprint

Editor's Note:

Pokucie is a section in southeastern Poland occupied for a short time by Roumanian troops about the time of the breaking up of the Austria-Hungary Empire.

Table of Totals of Austrian Stamps and Postal Cards Overprinted with "C. M. T."
assigned by the occupation army command for Pokucie and the post offices listed below:

POST OFFICE	OVERPRINT													
	REGULAR ISSUES								POSTAGE DUES					POST CARDS
	1.20k. on 1k.	40h. on 5h.	60h. on 15h.	60h. on 20h.	60h. on 25h.	60h. on 30h.	1.20k. on 50h.	1.20k. on 60h.	40h. on 5h.	1.20k. on 25h. / 1.10	1.20k. on 25h. / 1.16	1.20k. on 30h.	1.20k. on 50h. / 1.25h.	40h. on 10h.
COPIES														
KOKOMYJA	220	8	2500	8000	2000	1400	1400	40	400	58	-	17	15	600
DELATYN	150	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	100	20	-	-	-	100
KANCZYN	150	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	100	20	-	-	-	100
ŚNIATYN	150	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	100	20	-	-	-	100
HORODENKA	150	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	100	-	120	-	-	100
TOTAL	820	8	4500	16000	3200	2600	2600	40	800	118	120	15 17	15	1000

(The remaining post offices received their stamps from the Kolomyje post office).

was to include the CMT and a new value. The monetary rate was 100 halerzy=1 Koruna. The first values to be issued were to be the 40 hal., 60 hal. and the 1.20 Koruny. After coming to a decision on the values to be issued Major Torbatu stated that he would leave immediately for Czer-niowice—where he would supervise the manufacture of the dies and the printing of the stamps.

During his absence the post office resumed service for private mail and current Roumanian stamps were used for postage. Upon my request as a philatelist a cover with two Roumanian stamps was prepared and cancelled June 12, 1919. This was the official opening of postal service.

I must mention here that because of the strict censorship of mail, private mail as such was almost non-existent. Most private mail was addressed to government agencies for governmental action on various matters. Late in the afternoon on June 14, 1919 Major Turbaku returned and brought with him the entire printing of the overprinted stamps. Soon after his arrival he invited me to the post office where he showed me the stamps. We looked at the stamps sheet after sheet to determine whether the overprint was clear, legible and acceptable. The Major then permitted me to list the totals of each overprint issued. (See table).

This table establishes the following facts:

- a. How many of each overprint were printed and on what kind of stamps.
- b. That part of the stamps were sent to the post offices of Lelatyń, Lanczyn, Sniatyń and Horodenka and the number sent.
- c. That in addition to the planned stamps old Austrian (Foreign and Domestic) postal cards were overprinted with a 10 halerzy overprint.

After distribution of these stamps Major Tarbaku issued an order that other post offices in the occupied zone could send to Kolomyje for their stocks of overprinted stamps. The major then told me that all available Austrian stamps had been overprint-

ed and that if these did not prove to be sufficient then ordinary Roumanian stamps were to be used.

WHAT VALUES WERE ACTUALLY ISSUED AND USED

From the table it is noticed that only thirteen different Austrian stamps were used for overprinting. They are:

- a. On regular Austrian issues of 1916
 1. 40 halerzy on 5 halerzy
 2. 60 halerzy on 15, 20, 25 and 30 halerzy
 3. 1.20 Koruny on 50 and 60 halerzy and 1 Koruna
- b. On Austrian Postage Due stamps of 1910
 1. 1.20 Koruny on 25 halerzy
- c. On Austrian Postage Dues of 1916
 1. 40 halerzy on 5 halerzy
 2. 1.20 Koruny on 25, 30, 50 halerzy and 42 hal (1917)

No other overprints on other stamps were issued during the entire occupation. All other issues are counterfeit and were made after the occupation. For clarification I must add that the major gave me free access to all postal information and as such all information came directly from the director of postal services for the occupation zone.

Of the other post offices in the occupied zone only Peczynizyn and Zablotow (360 each) and Obertyń (240) requested stamps. No other post office requested stamps. From the letters arriving in Kolomyje I determined that the stamps were being used in Kolomyje, Peczynizyn, Zablotow, Sniatyń, Obertyń and Horodenka.

I have letters from these post offices in my possession. At no time did I encounter any letters from Lelatyń or Lanczyn.

At the time of his arrival (June 14, 1919) the Major brought with him a copy of the postal regulations governing the usage of the CMT overprints. It was in German and entitled "Instruktionen betreffend die Wiederaufnahme des amtlichen und privaten Post und Telegraphenverkehrs im besetzten Gebiet". A copy of this notice was posted in the city hall, the county building, and the postoffice.

PRINTING INFORMATION

The overprints were made with three hand type dies. They were the 40 halerzy, the 60 halerzy and the 1 Koruna 20 halerzy. They were supplied to the postal department by the military authorities of Czerniowce.

As far as color is concerned, the complete issue which was in circulation was overprinted with dark blue-black ink. As such any stamps overprinted with other colored inks must be regarded as strictly speculative in nature.

After inspecting the stamps with Major Turbatu we found that there existed an inverted overprint on eight sheets of the 60 halerzy on the 20 halerzy. With the permission of Major Turbatu I purchased one block with the inverted overprint. There were also many stamps with a double overprint and I purchased a block of those also. All of the remaining stamps, including errors, were placed on sale in the post office. No other varieties were found.

The Roumanian occupation of Pokucie lasted until August 20, 1919. On that day all unsold stamps were returned to the Kolomyje post office and withdrawn from sale and postal use.

NUMBER OF "C.M.T." STAMPS RETURNED UNUSED

On August 20 I was called to the Kolomyje post office where I was given the opportunity to purchase some of the unsold stamps. The remainder was counted by the Major and taken with him to Czerniowce. The following is a list of stamps the Major took with him:

1599 copies of the 60 h on 20 h
12 copies of the 60 h on 15 h
130 copies of the 1.20 h on 50 h
41 copies of the 40 h on 50 h Porto
2 copies of the 1.20h on 50h Porto
30 copies of the 1.20 h on 25 h
(Porto 1910 issue)

No other unused stamps remained. On August 21st, 1919, the evacuation of Roumanian troops began and the Polish troops occupied all of Pokucie.

This therefore, is the whole story of the Roumanian CMT overprints.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF OTHER "C.M.T." STAMPS?

In every catalog we find in addition to the stamps I have listed a great variety of other stamps supposedly of this issue and quoted at fabulous prices.

The question arises then, where did these stamps come from? This was a puzzle to me for a long period of time. It was only in January 1920 that I had occasion to find the answer. A certain Dr. W. R. came to visit me. He was a philatelist and a stamp dealer. I mentioned to him my amazement at the new varieties being listed in the catalogs.

Dr. W. R. then told me the following: (a) A few days before August 20, 1919, a certain professor from Czerniowce (whose name Dr. W. R. did not disclose) went to the military post where the original stamps had been overprinted. He took with him 100 complete sets of Austrian stamps from 3 halerzy to 1 Koruna of the regular issues and 3 halerzy to 1 Koruna of the postage dues and had a government seal affixed. How he did this is not known. Then taking advantage of the Major's absence he had them overprinted with the CMT overprints. He then took the stamps to Vienna and sold them to various dealers. (b) After the occupation, i.e. in September 1919 there was organized a group of speculators who had a large amount of Austrian stamps overprinted with the CMT overprints and then took them to Vienna for sale to philatelic dealers. They also took the dies with themselves to Vienna to prove the authenticity of the stamps. Then in order to prevent any further printing this group had the dies destroyed. Dr. W. R., two representatives of a Vienna philatelic firm and a notary public witnessed the destroying of the dies.

It is true that these overprints were made with the original dies but since they were made without any authority and after the overprints were declared invalid for postal use they must be considered counterfeits. I do not believe that anyone can show me a cover using any stamps which I have called speculative and counterfeit.

THE 90 HELLER POSTAGE STAMP OF THE KRAKOW ISSUE

by John Gapinski

One of the very rare and very expensive stamps of the Krakow Issue is the 90 heller red violet stamp Scott #50. It is therefore not surprising that about 70 to 80% of these stamps in circulation are fakes and forgeries. Especially since it is easy to fake them and the basic 90 heller Austrian stamp is inexpensive even now.

Recently there was a flood of these forgeries, due especially to the demand of the increasing number of collectors of this interesting issue.

It is really a mysterious chapter in philately that these 90 heller stamps make. Already at the beginning of their existence they were considered great rarities and were as highly valued as the 10 kronen postage stamps. The records of the amount of this issue vary greatly: according to the information furnished by the Postal Authorities the number was 50; a report by Mr. Cunradis who officiated at the overprinting estimates the number at 300; and the information given by the "Filatelista Polski" claims the number to be 1300—and this latter information so far has not been confirmed, but also not challenged nor corrected. There is therefore a discrepancy of about 1000 stamps, which definitely were not delivered by the Postal Authorities for the overprinting.

According to the foregoing discussion therefore, all 90 heller stamps overprinted with Type V are to be considered fakes or forgeries. The 90 heller stamps overprinted with Type I, although similar to the 3, 5 and 10 heller stamps in regards to the small amount issued, were not used in regular service. They are to be considered as officially issued and are perfectly legitimate as collectors' material, because the small number of these stamps was delivered by the Postal Authorities as a "remainder" to be overprinted with Type I—which was used exclusively for the overprinting of officially furnished stamps.

Inverts of these stamps are not known, but there are many on the

market, most of which were overprinted with Type VB, and which should be designated as fakes.

The usual varieties occur, like the thin "Z" (about 30 possible), but the rarest ones are the double dot (3 possible) and the broken "A" (4 possible), and should be considered the gems of the Polish stamp collection.

It is beyond the scope of this short article to describe the fakes of this 90 heller stamp, because there are hundreds, and every one different. It is necessary therefore, for the lucky finder, before purchasing the stamp, to ascertain all the measurements, characteristics and the relative position of the rhombus to the word "Poczta" as described in previous articles of the POLONUS BULLETIN, or have it expertized by collectors with experience and available comparative material, to verify the genuineness.

POLPEX 1954

Mark these dates on your calendar: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 5th, 6th and 7th, 1954—for these are the dates scheduled for the largest showing of Polish stamps in the United States. Polpex 1954 will be held at Polish Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The Prospectus for the 1954 Polpex was mailed to all members. It is the desire of the Polpex Chairman Anthony Banasiak to have the members return them as soon as possible. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Let's make this Polpex the greatest ever!

Our Souvenir Sheet Theme will honor the poet Adam Mickiewicz on the 100th anniversary of his death.

Competition will be for the following trophies: Col. Larking Trophy—Grand Award; Dr. Kozakiewicz Trophy—Polish Research Award; Non-Winners Trophy; Best Other Than Grand Award Trophy (donated by Dr. Kozakiewicz).

A Gold Medal for Best Other Than Poland will be donated by Ben Reeves. General Awards will consist of Gold,

Silver and Bronze Medals.

A Polpex Auction will be conducted on Saturday during the show. Ted Light who handled last year's auction will conduct it again this year.

As it is customary, an elaborate program book or catalog of the exhibits is planned. Ads may be reserved by contacting Sigmund Bor, 5326 S. Laramie, Chicago 38, Ill. Full page ads cost \$15.00; half page—\$8.00; quarter page—\$4.00. Deadline is Feb. 15.

Arrangements will be made to have a tour of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Museum on Saturday during our show.

All this costs money! You can help Polpex 1954 by becoming a Patron. A contribution of \$1.00 will make you a Patron. Your name will appear in bold face type in our colorful program book. Please send your contribution to Chester Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

NEW ISSUES

J. J. Domar

We have received notices of the following recent releases:

Complete set of three Stamps Commemorating Period of "Renaissance" in Poland.

Date of issue: November 6th, 1953

Nominal value: 20 gr. red brown, 80 gr. violet, 1.35 zl. bluish grey

Perforation: 20 gr. and 1.35 zl. 12½ x 12½, 80 gr. 12½ x 12½

Paper: White unwatermarked

Gum: White

Process: Steel plate engraving

Measurement: 20 gr. and 1.35 zl.—25.5x31.25mm, 80 gr.—31.25x25.5mm

1. Complete set of three commemorative stamps honoring Building Scheme of Socialist Warsaw:

Date of issue: November 30th, 1953

Nominal value: 80 gr. light red, 1.75 zl. blue, 2. zl. dark brown

Perforation: 12¼x12

Paper: white unwatermarked

Gum: white

Process: steel plate engraving

Measurements: 43x25.5 mm.

2. Official Stamps

a. Stamp for ordinary official mail "Zwykła", without denomination, pale blue, issue 1952, Perf. 11, rotogravure.

b. Stamp for registered official mail "Polecona", without denomination brick-red, issued 1952, Perf. 11, rotogravure.

We were also informed that the following may be issued:

December 15th, 1953 (or about): Poland's Beauty—compl. set of four bicolored stamps, 20 gr., 80 gr., 1.75 zl. and 2. zl. printed in rotogravure.

December 20th, 1953 (or about): Winter Sports—compl. set of three stamps—80 gr., 95 gr. and 2.85 zl., printed in offset.

December 30th, 1953 (or about): Children Education—compl. set of 3 stamps—10 gr., 80 gr. and 1.50 zl.,



Top row: Building Scheme of Socialist Warsaw Commemoratives.

Bottom first three: Renaissance Commemoratives.

Last two: Official stamps.

printed in rotogravure.

January 10th, 1954 (or about): Development of Electric Railway—com. set of two stamps—60 gr. and 80 gr. Printed in steel plate engraving.

Mr. W. Szymlek furnished us with the following information:

The semi-postal stamp of Poland, Scott's #B42 Issued in 1946 in honor of the Polish Postal Employees killed in the German attack on Gdansk, September, 1939, and withdrawn from circulation in 1947 was made available for Philatelic purposes at a price of 1. zl. It was sold by the Committee for the Care of the Defenders of Gdansk Post Office and their families at the Regional Post and Communication Directorat in Gdansk, Plac 1 Maja 7 /8. It also was available at all Local Councils of Postal and Communication Workers Unions, at all Main Post Offices throughout the Wojewodztwo Gdansk-Wrzeszcz and Sopot. Money derived from this sale was for the support of the widows and orphans of the Gdansk Post Office Defenders.

CORRECTION

In our December Bulletin List of Members, #2 Choynacki, Henry J., 5049 West 29th St., Cicero 50, Ill. was incorrectly listed with the Chicago members. The fact that he specializes in A. M. G. issues was omitted also. Sorry.

IN OUR MAILBOX

"On Dec. 17th thieves broke into my office and stole about \$3000.00 worth of Poland mint and used blocks and about 300 covers which I have acquired in the past 35 years. 90% of the covers were Poland dating to 1917, World War I, World War II, etc. There were many desirable covers in this lot. There were Vatican covers, many Topical items on covers pertaining to music and medicine. My complete Krakow Issue was among that stolen, First Flights, etc. Will you please notify some of the dealers in and around town warning them about this."

Dr. V. L. Koran
917 Macabee Bldg.
Detroit 2, Michigan

Editor's note:

Be on the lookout for these stamps and covers. Inform your dealers. If something turns up, notify Jack Domar at 3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill. Phone GUnderson 4-4375, or write Dr. Koran direct at above address.

"I noticed in the last Bulletin that there seems to be little information about philatelic activities in Poland.

"Being able to get hold of a December number of the 'Filatelista (Biuletyn Zarzadu glownego Polskiego Związku Filatelistow)' I wish to pass some information on to you.

"Reference sources for stamps from 1944 to date—

- a) Periodicals I. 'Filatelista Polski', II. 'Przegląd Filatelistyczny'.
- b) Handbooks: I. 'Znaczkí Pocztowne Polski Demokratycznej.' II. Katalogi T. Gryzewskiego.

"This number contains instructions for those who wish to have their stamps expertized by the 'Sekcja Znacwów—Oddział Krakowski P. Z. F.' The members of this section are:— Prof. Dr. Zbigniew Kukulski, Prof. Stanislaw Mikstein, and Mgr. Jan Ryblewski.

"Sale of stamps and all philatelic accessories is done by 'Panstwowe Przedsiębiorstwo Filatelistyczne'."

Edward D. Wolski
4832 Brandywine, N. W.
Washington 16, D. C.

PAY YOUR DUES!

Your membership in the Polonus Philatelic Society expires January 31. You can save the Society much expense and trouble by sending in your dues now. Mail your check or money order for \$2.50 to the new treasurer: Joseph Banasiak, 3016 W. 41st St., Chicago 32, Ill.

NEW MEMBER

Dr. A. Atlas
141 W. 81st St.
New York 24, N. Y.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Joseph Scheer
1639 Ducharme Ave.
Montreal 8, Quebec, Canada
Andree Frodel
Idlesleigh, Alberta, Canada

TID BITS

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of member Anthony Klocek of Chicago who passed away Dec. 31st, and that of member Alexander Brusnicki who died at Springfield, Mass.

Thos. Tenczar put on the uniform of Uncle Sam's Army and was last heard from at this address:

Pvt. Thos. Tenczar, US 55433626
Med. Det. 5015 ASU USAH
Camp Atterbury, Indiana

Larry Zieler, now serving with the Air Force in England, is rumored to have married an English girl.

At the Jan. 8th meeting the following nominations for officers of the Society were made: Anthony Banasiak, President; Zdzislaw Obara and Barney Fialkowski, Vice President; Sigmund Bor, Secretary; John Banasiak, Treasurer; Matt Pristika, Librarian; Chester Makowski and John Bobo, Directors. Elections are to take place at the Jan. 22 meeting.

Dr. Uznanski's exhibit of U. S. Christmas Seals was the very best in the Christmas Seal Class at the Caritas Exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark. The judges unanimously awarded him First Prize.

Five Gift Certificates were donated to the Polonus Society by H. E. Harris and Co. of Boston, Mass. A drawing was held at the Nov. 27th meeting among the members present. Winners were members Kloskowski, Barth, Bobo, Banasiak and Dr. Uznanski. All unanimously donated their prizes to Stamps For The Wounded.

BULLETIN RATES

At a recent meeting the following rates were established for members who wish to advertise in the Polonus BULLETIN:

One inch ad—\$1.50
One-quarter page—\$4.00
One-half page—\$7.00
Full page—\$12.00

These rates are for members only.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Adam Kloskowski, Secretary
2528 N. Drake Ave.
Chicago 47, Ill.

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Chicago 47, Ill.

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
4329 Walton St.
Chicago 51, Ill.

Associate Editors this issue
Jack Domar
John Gapinski

Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

The Nov. 27th meeting was followed by a Beebe. Tasty herring and cheeses were on the bill of fare.

Stamps for the Wounded



THE WAR IS OVER . . . BUT THE MALADIES LINGER ON

Yes the maladies of war linger on and on. You can see for yourself if you visit the veterans' hospitals.

Give now! Give generously! The war is not over for those men still in the hospitals!

Send your donation now to Stamps for the Wounded, c/o Barney Fialkowski, 2633 N. Emmett St., Chicago 47, Ill.