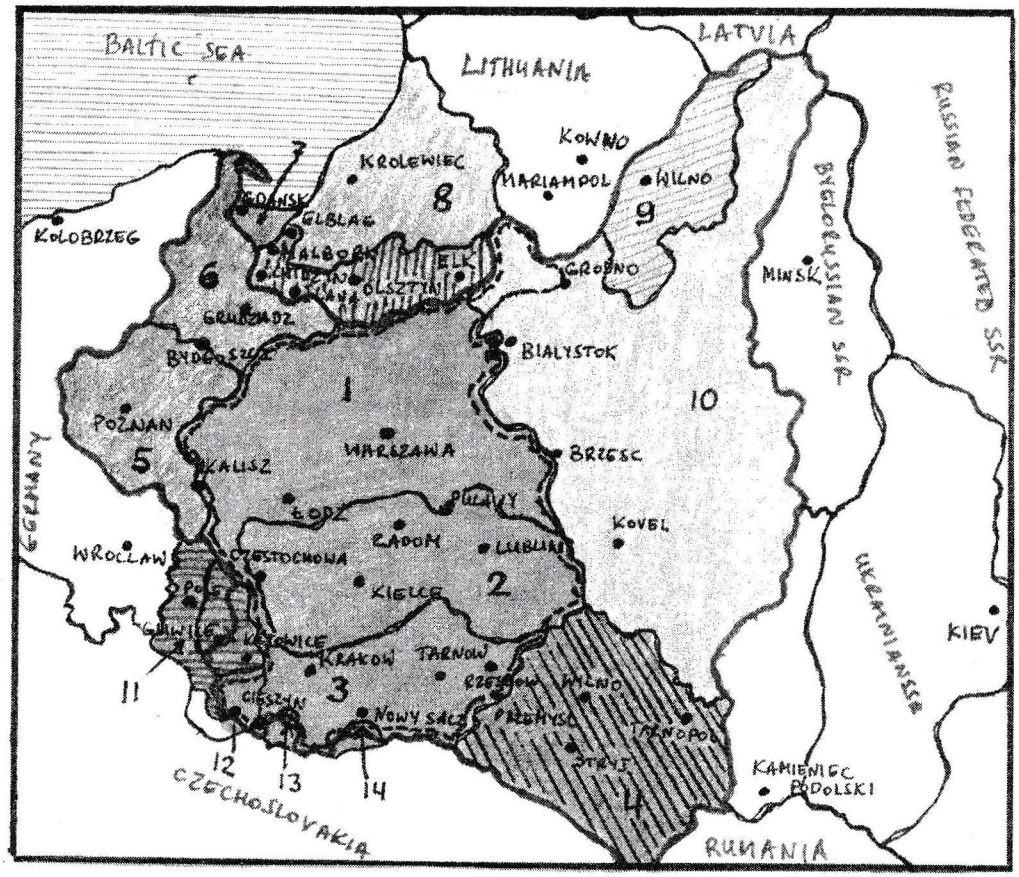
BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

No. 528 Fall, 2007



Frontiers of the former Kingdom of
Final frontiers in 1921-22.
1, 2, 3, 12 - Areas which became independent before the Armistice.
8, 11, 12 - Plebiscites administered by the International Allied Commission.
5, 6, 7 – Status determined by the Treaty of Versailles.
5, 11 – Uprisings against Germany.
4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 – Armed conflicts, war with Western Ukrainian People's Republic, Soviet Russia, Germany, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia.
11, 13, 14 – Divided by the Council of Ambassadors, League of Nations.

Inside -

The Reconstruction of Poland (1918/21 and its impact on Polish Philately ... 2
Overview of Polish Displaced Persons Mail in Germany – 1945 12
Society News 16
New Issues 19
Rebuilding of Warsaw Labels – an update 22
Unusual Postal Directional Handstamp 24

Cover Story

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF POLAND (1918-1921) AND ITS IMPACT ON POLISH PHILATELY

By Zbigniew Adam Chojczak

Introduction

The rebirth of the Polish Republic after WWI has been a complex process and a challenge not only for the student of Polish history but also for the Polish philatelist. The turbulent period from 1918 to 1921 has witnessed concurrent wars, uprisings and clashes of territorial claims. This period has also produced a wealth of philatelic material in the form of occupational issues, local overprints, provisional and national issues for various regions.

WWI ended with the defeat and the collapse of Austria, Germany and Russia, the three powers that had partitioned Poland in the last quarter of the XVIII century. Each of the three empires have already been making plans for the future Polish state in order to gain support for demanding military conscripts and requisitions. Millions of Poles served in the three armies and some of the heaviest fighting on the Eastern Front took place in the Kingdom of Poland and Galicia. Military activities resulted in heavy casualties among the civilian and soldier populations and caused terrible destruction of public and private properties. When the hostilities ceased, the new state had no frontiers, no government and no diplomatic relations with other nations. Instead, there were several centers of authority, contending parties and social-economic regional groups, remnants of Austrian, German and Russian institutions, several official languages and judicial systems. Couple these factors with the diplomatic frictions among the Western Allies during the Paris Peace Conference, the Versailles Treaty and the sessions of the League of Nations and one gets an extremely complex challenge facing the new state. Contrary to the popular belief, the reconstruction process was not accomplished by the allied diplomats and ambassadors. The new republic became involved in concurrent wars and armed conflicts over territorial disputes with Germany, Czechoslovakia, Soviet Russia, Lithuania, Western Ukrainian People's Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Republic and Belarussian Soviet Republic. Some of the conflicts were settled before the peacemakers convened or while they were still in session. Several disputes were contested in direct violation of the allied peacemakers' resolutions. The actions of various military operations were directly responsible for the initial stage in the process of territorial recovery.

The map (**Fig. 1**) shows the territorial acquisitions and losses during the reconstruction period. The disputed areas are numbered in a somewhat chronological order (some of the events took place simultaneously). There is also some overlapping of events due to uprisings in Wielkopolska and Upper Silesia, military actions initiated by other countries in Central Lithuania, Eastern Galicia, Sląsk Cieszynski, Spisz and Orawa, Plebiscites administered by the International Allied Commission in East Prussia (Powisle, Warmia and Mazury) and Upper Silesia, the various conditions stipulated by The Treaty of Versailles and the decisions of the Council of Ambassadors at the League of Nations.

The map shows the areas that formed the initial core of the young state, the approximate two parts of the former Kingdom of Poland and Małopolska; the acquisition of Wielkopolska and East Pomerania without Gdansk; the loss of East Prussia and Gdansk with Powisle; the loss of parts of Upper Silesia, Cieszyn Silesia, Spisz and Orawa; and finally the addition of the sizeable area in the East after the Polish-Soviet conflict.

What follows is a list of the 14 territorial regions, each identified by the number on the map and each in each listing several main events:

1. Former German occupation of the northern part of the Kingdom of Poland. (Russian partition) Authority taken over by the Regency Council and Pilsudski's government in Warsaw. Ratified by the Treaty of Versailles.

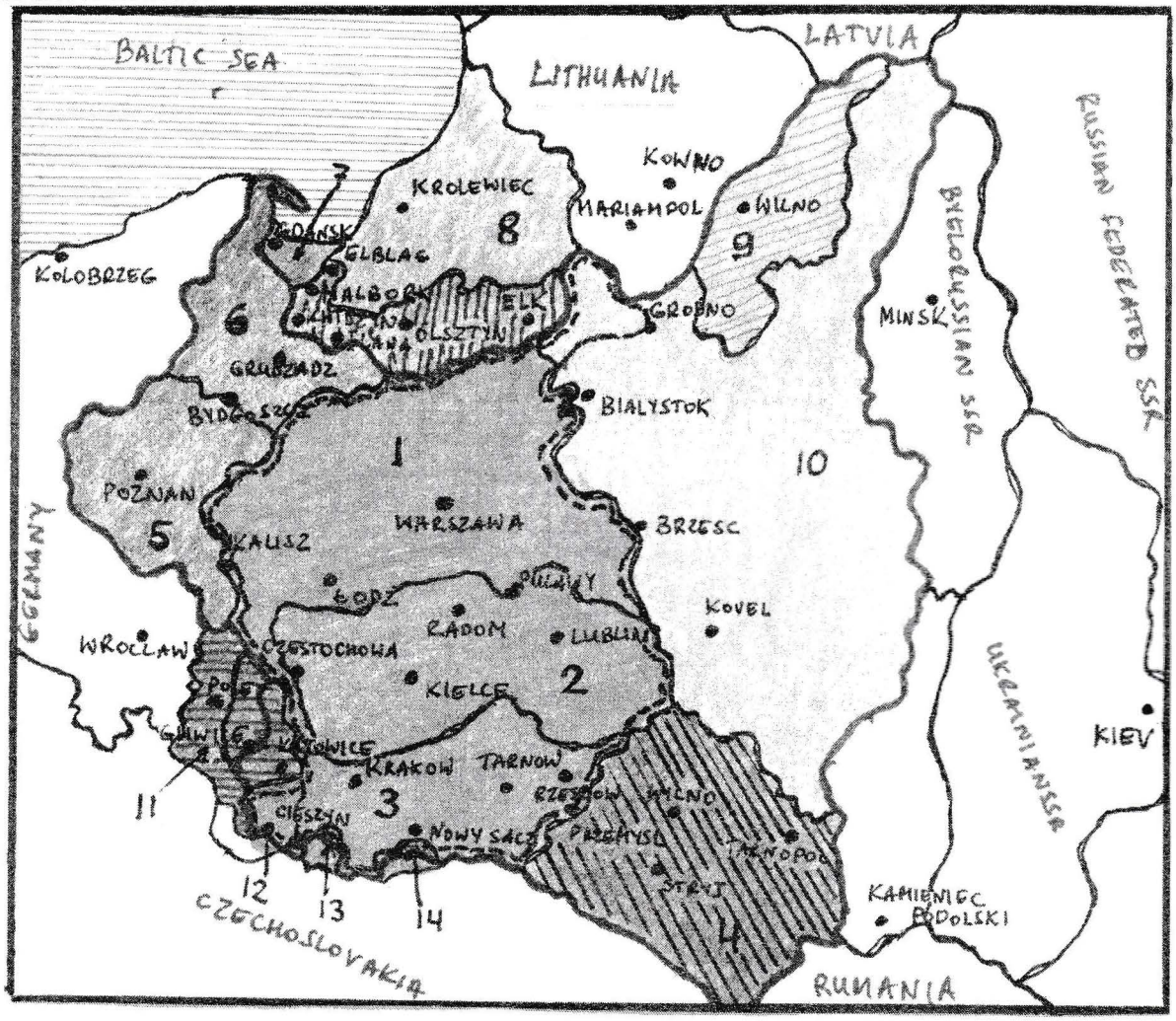
2. Former Austrian occupation of the southern part of the Kingdom of Poland. (Russian partition). Control assumed by the Polish People's Government in Lublin headed by Ignacy Daszynski. Independence confirmed by the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.
3. Western Galicia (Małopolska – Little Poland). Former Austrian partition. Control taken over by the Polish Liquidation Commission headed by Wincenty Witos. Return to Poland ratified by the Treaty of Versailles.
4. Eastern Galicia (Volhynia, Bukovina, parts of Transcarpathia and Carpathian Ruthenia). Former Austrian partition. Disputed with Western Ukrainian People's Republic and the Soviet Russia. Occupied by Polish troops and reoccupied again after the Red Army offensive. Eventually given to Poland by the League of Nations in 1923.
5. Greater Poland (Poznan, Wielkopolska – Greater Poland, former Duchy of Posen). Former German partition. Uprising speeded up the secession from Germany. Confirmed at the Paris Peace Conference (Treaty of Versailles)
6. Western Prussia (Eastern Pomerania without Gdansk, the Polish Corridor). Former German partition. Status ratified by the Treaty of Versailles.
7. Free City of Danzig (Wolne Miasto Gdansk). Former German partition. Polish demand for a return to Poland rejected and the free city status ratified by the Treaty of Versailles. Fueled by British intentions to keep the ally of France, Poland, weak. Supervised by the League of Nations.
8. East Prussia (Prusy Wschodnie). Former German Partition. Plebiscites in Powisle, Warmia and Mazuria supervised by the Allied Plebiscite Commission. Overwhelming majority vote for Germany. Small area with the villages of Janowo, Napromik and Grunwald given to Poland.
9. Central Lithuania (Litwa Sródkowa). Former Russian partition and former German occupation in WWI. Disputed with Lithuania. Polish occupation after the retreating Red Army following the defeat in the Battle of Warsaw. Decided by the popular referendum.
10. Eastern Borderlands (Kresy Wschodnie, Podlasie, Polesie, Western Belarus, part of Volhynia). Former Russian partition and former German occupation in WWI. Disputed with Soviet Russia and after the collapse of the Red Army offensive given to Poland by the Treaty of Riga in 1921.
11. Upper Silesia (Górny Slask). Former German partition. Disputed with Germany. Original demands for return to Poland due to large Polish population rejected, causing a series of uprisings. British politics at work again, depriving Poland of a rich industrial region. The uprisings, coupled with German domestic problems, forced a plebiscite which gave Poland southeastern part of the disputed area.
12. Cieszyn Silesia (Slask Cieszyński). Former Duchy of Teschen. Former Austrian partition. Disputed with Czechoslovakia. Originally became a part of the newly formed republic. Occupied by Czech troops and contested by Polish army. Authority assumed by the Council of Ambassadors of the League of Nations without organizing a plebiscite. Poland was given the western part of the Cieszyn Silesia while the eastern part, the Zaolzie (Transolzia), was awarded to Czechoslovakia in 1920. Poland annexed this territory in 1938 in order to forestall German incorporation.
13. Orawa (Orava). Formerly a part of Hungary of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Disputed with Czechoslovakia. Brief altercation between Polish and Czech troops. Divided by the Council of Ambassadors of the League of Nations in 1920. Poland retained the north- western part, Czechoslovakia was given the south-eastern part.
14. Spisz (Spis). Formerly also a part of Hungary. Usually listed together with Orawa as Spisz and Orawa. Disputed with Czechoslovakia. Ruled on by the Council of Ambassadors in 1920, giving Poland the northern part and the southern part to Czechoslovakia.

The balance of this extended article will contain more detailed description of each of the 14 regional conflicts. Each section will have a more detailed map with principal cities and towns in order to facilitate the geographic placement of names usually seen in postmarks and cancels. Each section will also provide a short sketch of the political and military activities. And finally, each part will have a short description of postal developments and will be illustrated with samples of available stamps.

The emphasis will be placed on the transition from the postal systems of the contending WWI parties, Austria, Germany and Russia, through the use of existing stamps and implements, private and local issues, provisional emissions, first issues of the legitimate regional postal agencies, to the issues of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs for the unified Republic of Poland.

Author's note: because I do not specialize in the philately of some of these areas and issues, I will treat each section as an overview rather than a research study and I will illustrate each with only these stamps that I have in my possession. I will, therefore, welcome the assistance of specialized collectors in producing some of the scans. I will also encourage some of the readers to write a more comprehensive analysis of some of the aspects of this interesting period in Polish philately.

Map of Reconstruction

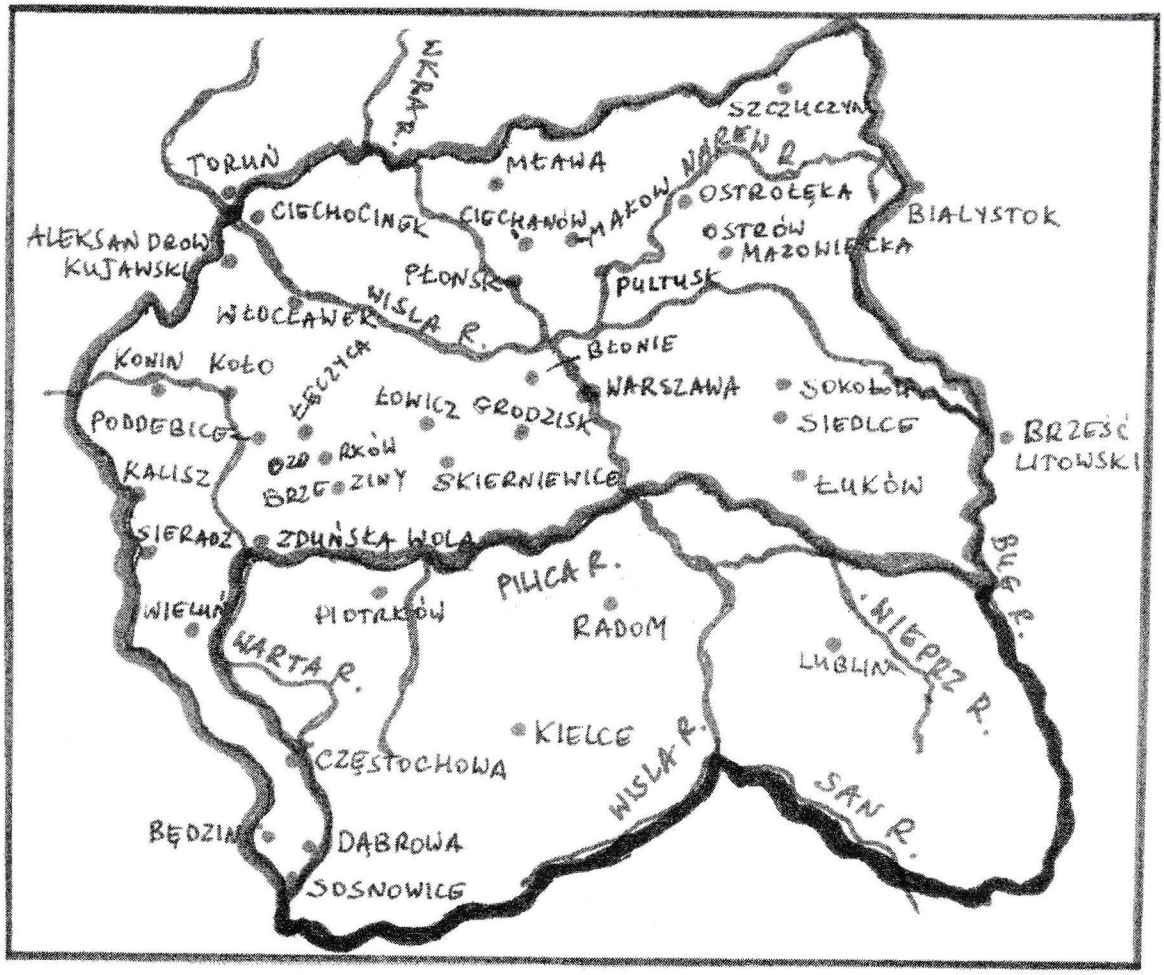


Frontiers of the former Kingdom of
Final frontiers in 1921-22.
1, 2, 3, 12 - Areas which became independent before the Armistice.
8, 11, 12 - Plebiscites administered by the International Allied Commission.
5, 6, 7 – Status determined by the Treaty of Versailles.
5, 11 – Uprisings against Germany.
4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 – Armed conflicts, war with Western Ukrainian People's Republic, Soviet Russia, Germany, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia.
11, 13, 14 – Divided by the Council of Ambassadors, League of Nations.

1. Northern part of the Kingdom of Poland (Russian partition) Occupied by Germany in WWI

German intentions towards the possible establishment of the Polish monarchy or a republic culminated in the formation of the Regency Council in 1917. The first act of the Council was the proclamation of independent and united Poland on July 10, 1918 and the subsequent transfer of authority to Josef Piłsudski and his government in Warsaw. The territory of the former German occupation, together with the territory of the former Austrian occupation was approximately similar in area to the former Kingdom of Poland and became the core of the future Polish state. **(Map on the following page)**

FORMER GERMAN OCCUPATION OF THE RUSSIAN PARTITION



Northern part of the Kingdom of Poland

Southern part of the Kingdom of Poland

Rivers

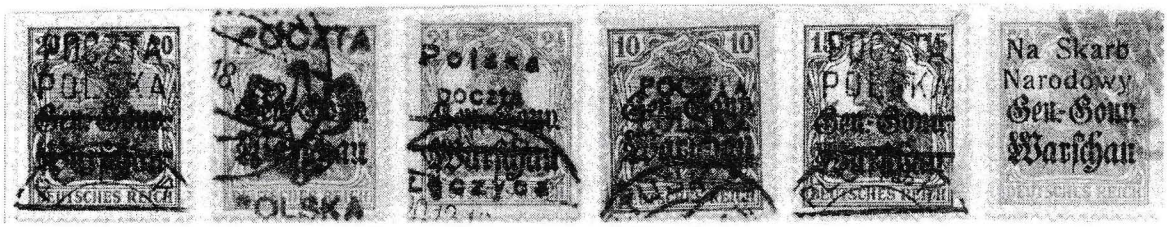
Principal cities and towns

The new government assigned postal responsibilities to the Ministry of the Interior which, in turn, created the Postal Administration renamed shortly after as the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. (M.P. and T.) During the first days of independence, post offices resumed their operations using German occupational General Gouvernement Warschau stamps, stationary and cancellation devices. Due to the shortage of stamps in some areas, the services were paid in cash. These stamps are considered the precursors of stamps issued by Polish authorities.



Occupation GGW stamps

The Postal Administration had begun its work by directing subsidiary post offices to nationalize occupational cancellers and existing postal materials. This led to a large number of provisional local overprints. (POCZTA POLSKA, Na Skarb Narodowy, various forms of eagle, bars, stars, etc.) Local overprints were made in such localities as ALEKSANDRÓW KUJAWSKI, BRZEZINY, CIECHOCINEK, GRODZISK, KALISZ, KONIN, LÓWICZ, PLONSK, SIERADZ, WŁOCLAWEK and others. It is necessary to mention here that these issues were not regulated by any formal announcement from the central authorities and were more of a spontaneous nature.



Local Overprints of GGW stamps

The Postal Administration was eventually required to issue new stamps since the supplies of occupational stamps begun to dwindle and disappear in some areas. On November 17, 1918 the first provisional stamps were issued by overprinting Warsaw local monuments stamps with POCZTA POLSKA and surcharged with new values. This is a fairly popular set with collectors offering a variety of early town postmarks, shades of printing ink in the design and the background, shifts in the overprints, inverted and double overprints and few printing errors and flaws in the letters and numbers of the overprint.



First provisional issue, monuments

The first provisional set was quickly sold out and the second set was issued by overprinting existing supplies of the GGW stamps with POCZTA POLSKA, four lines obliterating Gen-Gouv Warschau and Deutshes Reich and three new surcharges. The set was issued in two printings, on December 6, , 1918 and January 15.1919; each distinguished by a different printing type. This is a very challenging set to collect. The basic Germania stamps (1915-1918) show a variety of ink shades due to many reissues by either a flat press or rotary printing method. The GGW overprint exists in two types and was made with glossy, semi-glossy, dull or tarry black ink. The new overprint shows two types with subtypes, various shifts, inverts, doubles, many printing errors and flaws in the letters and numbers. The postal history collector will find many examples of private, official and philatelic correspondence with a number of postmarks. This set, however, also has been extensively forged and reissued by unauthorized speculators.



Second provisional issue, POCZTA POLSKA opts on GGW stamps

At the end of January, 1919, the ministry of Posts and Telegraphs issued its first definitive issue for this region (the former German occupation of Russian partition) and the former German partition (Wielkopolska). After the currency reform, this set was reissued in February, 1920 for usage in the entire republic of Poland.

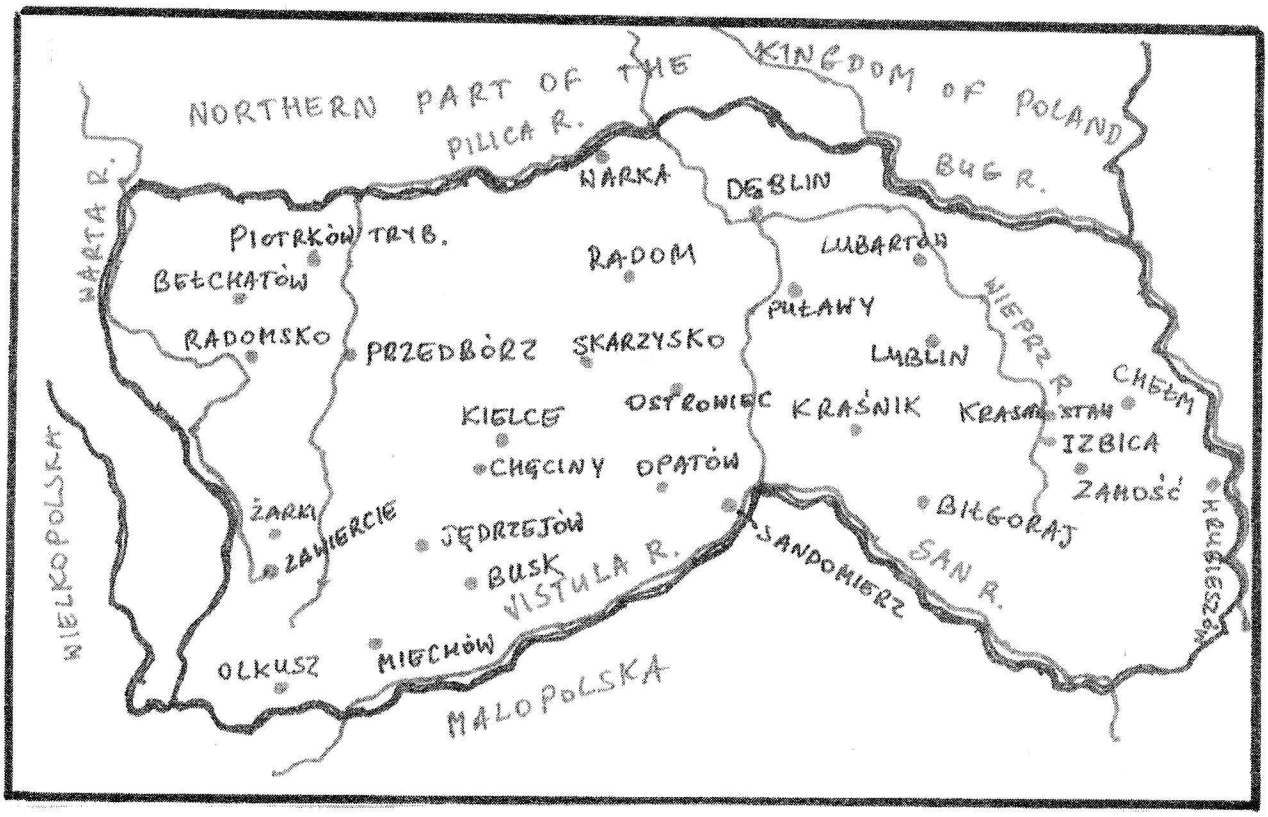
2. Southern part of the Kingdom of Poland (Russian partition) Occupied by Austria in WWI

The Austrian occupation of the southern part of the former Kingdom of Poland ceased at the end of October, 1918 and led to the formation of the Provisional People's Government headed by Ignacy Daszynski. The new government was coalitional with representatives from various socialist, social-democratic, peasant and intellectual factions. The main core, however, consisted of Piłsudski's sympathizers.

The Postal Directorate in this region was pretty much intact when the war ended and it was able to quickly adopt itself to new demands. On November 5, 1918, the Directorate issued a set of directives which validated existing postal regulations, approved the use of remaining Austrian stamps, terminated free field post services and established Polish as the official language. One of the regulations called for the obliteration from Austrian canceling devices all parts but the name of the locality. (Thus removing some parts like KuK Etappenpost, Kreis, In Polen etc.)

The Austrian stamps used at that time were the Emperor Karl I military field post and semi-postal stamps. Bosnian postage due, express and newspaper stamps were also kept as a reserve backup. These stamps were used for the most part of November and the beginning of December and even longer in some areas. This period has produced an interesting mixture of nationalized cancels and franking combinations. Some post offices solved the shortage problems with bisects.

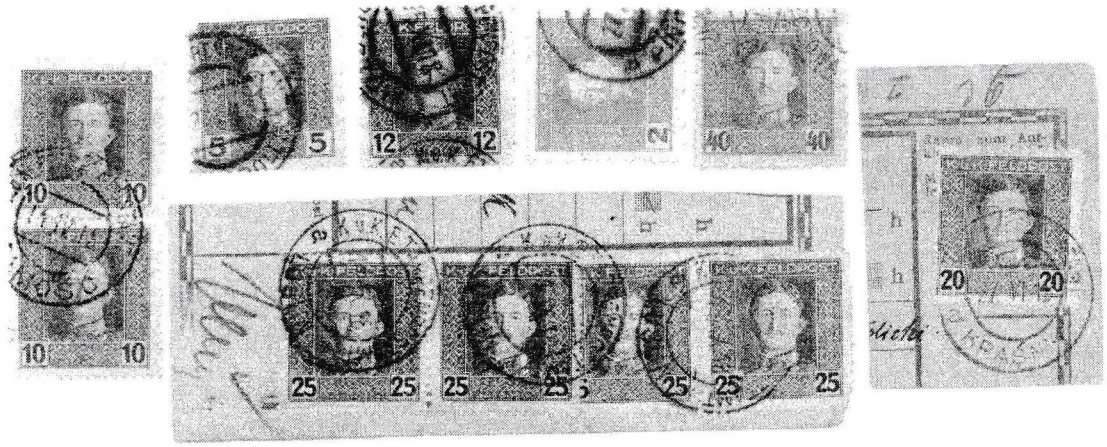
FORMER AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION OF RUSSIAN PARTITION
SHOWING PRINCIPAL CITIES, TOWNS AND RIVERS



Map of southern part of the Kingdom of Poland

As the government of Pilsudski begun acquiring more authority over the entire area of the new republic it begun influencing also the postal administration in Lublin by directing it to overprint the remaining supplies of stamps. This led to the issue of the first provisional issue by overprinting Austrian semi-postal Karl I stamps with POCZTA POLSKA and the Polish eagle. The printing process produced inverted and double overprints and a few constant varieties. The issue contained the printing waste which accounted for many printing and inking flaws. It was sold out in a week and a half

.

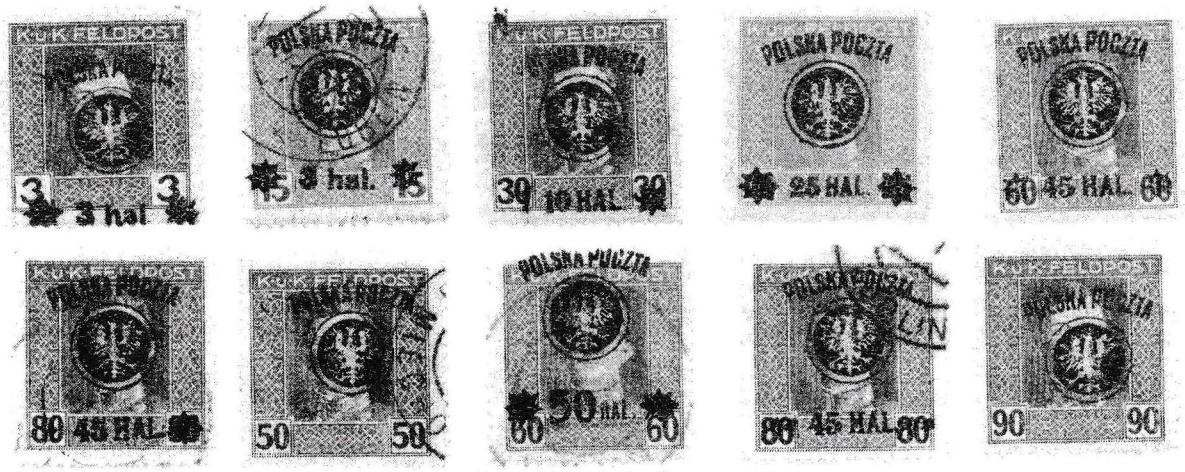


Austrian field post stamps used in WWI occupied Poland



Karlsfond provisional issue, Lublin

The second provisional issue was released two weeks later by overprinting Austrian third field post set with POLSKA POCZTA, eagle and surcharged values. The overprinting process required seven types and produced inverted and double overprints and a variety of printing flaws. The set is popular with collectors and the postmark specialist will find a challenge getting the many town cancels. There is an abundance of forgeries and privately created varieties.



Second Lublin issue

At the end of January, 1919, the ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Warsaw printed the first definitive issue for Southern Poland. This issue was valid in the territory of former Austrian occupation of Russian partition (southern part of the former Kingdom of Poland) and in the territory of Austrian partition (Małopolska). This set lost its validity after the currency reform and it was replaced the definitive issue of February, 1920.

3. Territory formerly partitioned by Austria (Małopolska)

The territory of the former Austrian partition from the XVIII century, known as the province of Małopolska (Little Poland) and as Western Galicia in the Austrian Empire, followed a similar path to independence as that by the Austrian occupied territory in part 2. After the Central Powers' signing of the Brest Litovsk peace treaty with Soviet Russia in March of 1918, the Austrian military command was able to transfer the bulk of its troops to the Italian and Balkan fronts. The empire exhausted its military and economic reserves to such low levels that many of the member countries, such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Serbia and Hungary began envisioning a swift conclusion of war in south-eastern Europe and making preparations for the regaining of independence.

With military activities coming to a halt long before the formal Austro-Hungarian capitulation took place on Nov. 3, 1918, members of various social-political groups began making plans for the transfer of power. On Oct. 28, 1918, authority was assumed by the Polish Liquidation Commission in Krakow, headed by Wincenty Witos, an activist from the Polish Peasant Party, founder of the Piast faction, the future member of the Polish Parliament and its Prime Minister. The primary function of the Commission was to maintain authority in Małopolska until independence and the formation of the central government.

The role of the central government was assumed by the Piłsudski faction in Warsaw after temporary actions of the Regency Council. Both of the provisional governments in Lublin and Kraków were gradually subordinated to the central government in Warsaw in order to improve Poland's status at the Paris Peace Conference. The various factions, however, were far from reaching agreement and were forced to compromise for the sake of national unity.

The transfer of the postal functions in Małopolska also followed a course similar to that of the other two parts of the former Kingdom of Poland. The central authority was in the hands of the M.P. and T. in Lwów, which was the administrative center for the entire Galicia region. Lwów, however, was the scene of Polish-Ukrainian armed conflicts as early as Nov. 1, 1918 and the Ministry could not operate on continuous basis, necessitating actions of the Krakow authorities and the Liquidating Commission. The eventual authority was delegated at the end of 1918 to the Ministry of Posts in Warsaw, which began issuing stamps for the various regions and, finally, for the entire Republic of Poland.

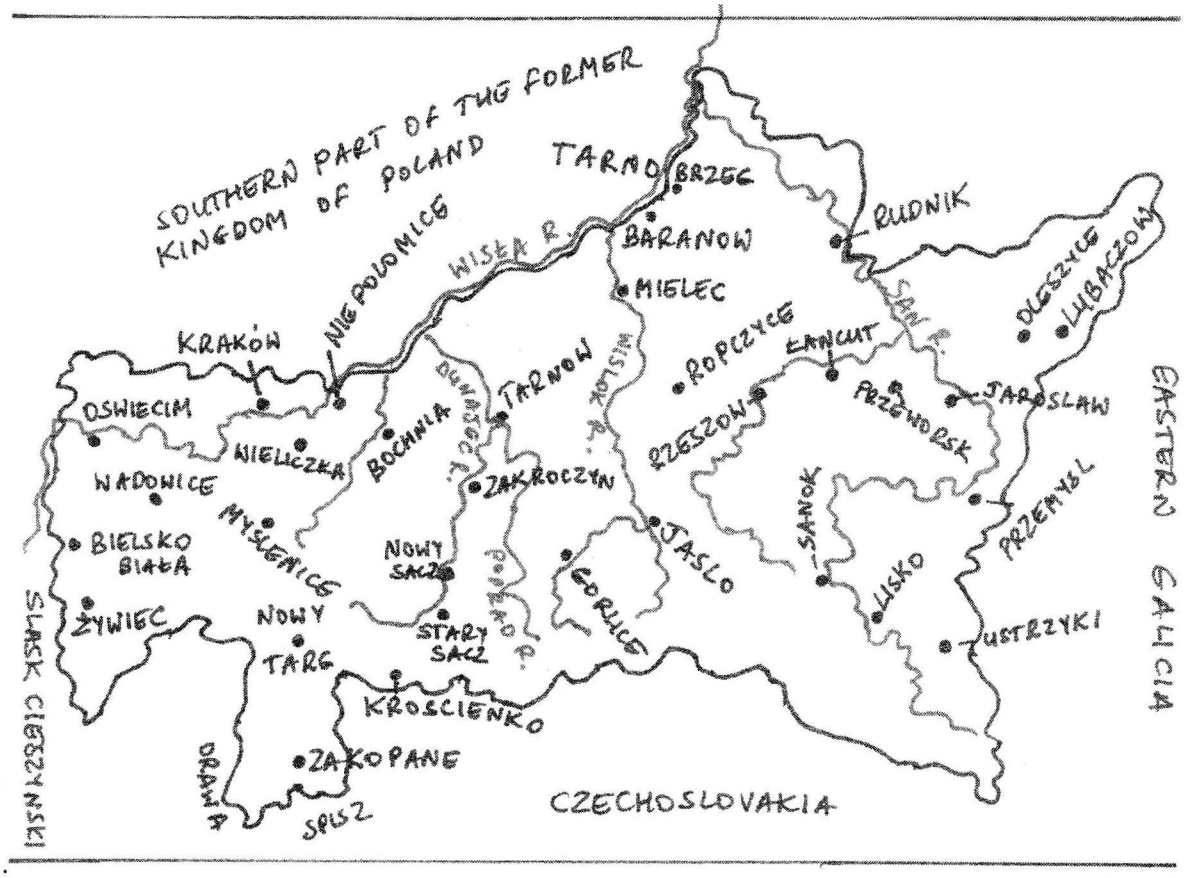
In the first days after the collapse of the empire, Austrian stamps continued to be used in Małopolska, mainly the emperor Franz Joseph issue of 1910 and the postage due and newspaper stamps of 1916. As in other regions, the usage was determined by the types and quantities of stamps available at local post offices. The post offices of Western Galicia followed the example of nationalization in other regions and began spontaneously overprinting Austrian stamps with local overprints: POCZTA POLSKA, eagle and sometimes the name of the locality. These local overprints were not regulated by central postal authorities and their origin was caused by either patriotic motives, or the desire to eliminate any reminders of foreign past, or limited local budgets or simply following the example of postal policies in Warsaw where the first overprinted stamp appeared. The map below shows the approximate area of this region with the major rivers, principal cities and towns which were also the most commonly known postal centers.

Some of the nations bordering the new Polish Republic, such as Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Rumania or Hungary, did not continue to use Austrian stamps and began supplying them to Western Galicia illegally. The ministry of Posts in Lwów decided to end the speculation and smuggling by directing postal authorities in Krakow to collect all the remaining Austrian stamps and stationary and continue the services with cash payments until new stamps were printed. The cash method, however, created so many problems and irregularities that the Ministry decided to overprint the remaining supplies, thus creating the famous Krakow issue of January 1919.

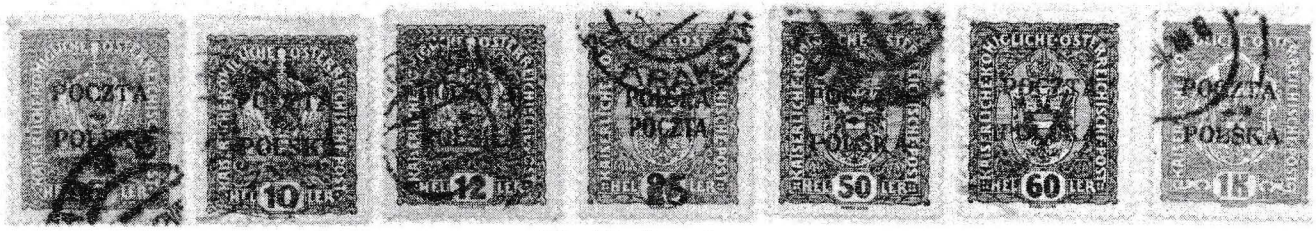
The decision to overprint Austrian stamps for the first provisional issue in Malopolska was approved jointly by the Lwów Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs and the Governing Commission (the former Polish Liquidation Commission), the highest political faction of this region. The overprinting was made typographically by the Kozianski printing firm in Krakow and lithographically by the Zielinski firm, also in Krakow by applying POCZTA, rhombus, POLSKA or POCZTA, ornament, POLSKA or POLSKA, POCZTA, 25 to Austrian stamps of 1910 – 1918. The typographic method produced two basic forms, with Form II having 5

subtypes: IIA, IIB, IIC, IID and IIE. The lithographic method produced types III and IV with subtypes IVA, IVB and IVC. In addition, Form I was unofficially used to produce Form V with four subtypes. Couple this with numerous constant printing varieties in the letters, digits and ornaments of the overprints and one gets an extremely challenging set to collect. The stamps were quickly sold out either due to postal needs or due to speculative motives. Because of very low quantities of some of these stamps, they were extensively forged and some of the counterfeits are very difficult to identify. The scan below only shows few of these items, much more detail description is beyond the scope of this article.

Map of Western Galicia (Małopolska)



Map of Małopolska



The Krakow issue

The supplies of the Krakow provisional stamps were quickly exhausted and the Governing Commission authorized the emission of the second provisional, the so-called issue of the Polish Liquidation Commission, even though the Liquidation Commission was already reorganized. The set was originally scheduled for release in February, 1919, but due to disagreements with the ministry in Warsaw did not reach the post offices until March. The stamps were printed lithographically at the Zielinski printing firm in Krakow and they were issued imperforate and without gum. The design shows the Polish eagle with crown in the heraldic shield, with symmetric ornaments and values in halerze (heller) and korona (krone) currency. The design on these stamps is

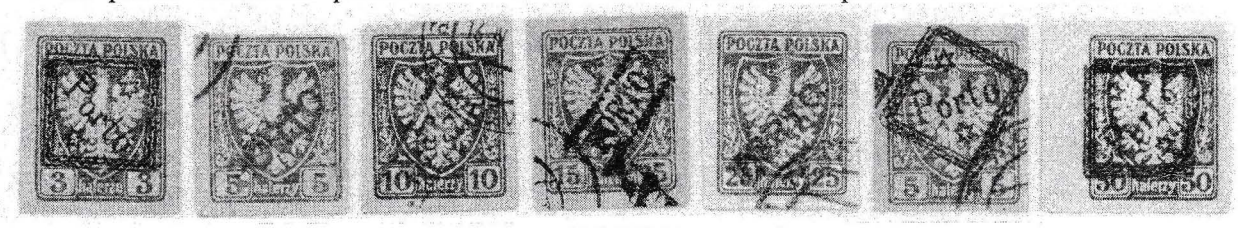
considered very attractive, especially since it was used and is still being used as the logo of the Polonus Philatelic Society. The printing process produced some ink shades, even within the same printing sheet. The lithographic process usually produces temporary and constant printing varieties, and this issue is no exception. There are many minor passing irregularities which occur from sheet to sheet and do not constitute printing varieties, just minor flaws. Eight of the eleven stamps exhibit constant printing varieties. The10 and 15 heller values exist with double print and the 1 krone stamp, which is printed in two colors, shows many shifts of the two inks. Used copies exhibit a whole range of nationalized Polish, German and bilingual postmarks, while the cover hunter will find it a challenge to assemble a working collection.

Since the set was issued imperforate and without gum due to a very rush order, several post offices applied private perforations to speed up the separation process. Most perforated stamps come from Zywiec, Dukla, Gromnik, Jaslo, Krakow 6, Kalwaria, Zebrz, Lezajsk, Ropczyce, Stroze, Szczurowa, Tarnow and Tuchow. Different types of adhesive substances with varying degrees of consistency and smell were also provided in different post offices, rendering the stamps, at times, completely useless to collectors.



Private perforations

The stamps of this issue were used not only to pay regular postage fees but also as postage dues in order to meet the demand. Traditionally, postage due stamps found a very wide use in the former Austrian partition, since they were used not only for mail with missing or insufficient postage but also to cover legal fees, postal money orders and parcels. The stamps with Krakow overprints were quickly sold out and the postal authorities posted the rates of additional tariffs and permitted the use of local provisional rubber stamps with Porto, Dopłata, capital T or symbol of the eagle. This led to large number of local postage due provisional issues which are a special collecting area in itself. But, because the only available stamps in the spring of 1919 were the Liquidation Commission eagles, these stamps were also used as postage due stamps either with local overprints or without them.



Postage due (PORTO) overprints.

The local postage due overprints were also used on the stamps of the definitive issue of the Ministry of Posts in Warsaw for the area of Austrian partition. In September of 1919 the Ministry finally issued a dual set of the Cornucopia postage stamps, one for the northern part of Poland and the other for the southern part. This set was reissued again in May, 1920 for the use in the entire Republic of Poland. Interestingly, the PKL eagle stamps were overprinted formally in January, 1921 to be used again as postage dues.

By 1921 the new Republic was able to consolidate various regional centers of authority into one central government in Warsaw. The new Poland became recognized by the western Allies and was able to institute a series of political, economic and social reforms. This was especially visible in the evolution of the Polish postal system, which managed to overcome tremendous obstacles and develop some sense of normalcy. All these changes, however, took place in the territories considered the core of the old Poland. The remaining parts of this reconstructing analysis will be devoted to areas that experienced armed conflicts, nationalistic demands, uprisings and arbitrations by the western allied peacemaking process.

(To Be Continued)

Overview of Polish Displaced Persons Mail in Germany - 1945

Chris Kulpinski

As Western Europe was liberated at the end of World War II, a virtual flood of ex-prisoners from concentration camps, POW Camps and work camps found themselves as refugees in a strange land. Poles, Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians, Russians, Ukrainians and others found themselves stranded.

Most of these people wanted to return home, others did not. Both of these situations caused concern for the occupying powers, just as they were trying to get the chaotic post war situation settled in Germany.

To stabilize the confusion, all refugees were temporarily forbidden movement and had to remain in place as settlement areas were quickly established with the help of the Red Cross, than in the Fall of 1945 with UNRRA and finally the IRO.

The need for communications was paramount. The Poles, who overran Germany as they were liberated from numerous Oflags and Stalags, work camps and Concentration Camps established communications quickly. In the American Zone, Oflag VIIa – Murnau, became the center of refuge activities from the very beginning. **(Fig.1)**

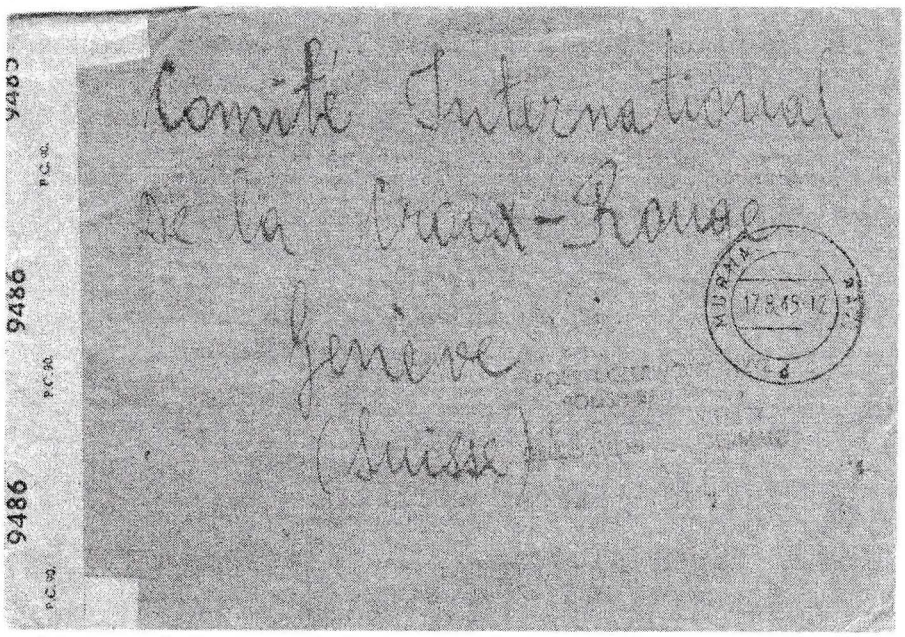


Fig. 1 – Cover from Murnau to the Red Cross in Geneva, cancelled with an obliterated German Murnau canceller. Cover was censored by the British and forwarded via Ankara. Dated August 17, 1945.

In the British Zone, postal communications were established as early as the first week of May. In the Lubeck region of Schleswig-Holstein, an inter-camp postal system was in full operation for all camps housing Polish nationals.

This system, including the printing of stamps and post cards was established with the blessing of the Allied Military Government. Although mailing privileges were free, stamps were sold to help maintain not only the postal system, but to help organizational expenses of local Polish refugee committees and to help extreme refugee problems.

Through June of 1945, local inter-camp mail was handled through a courier service of people traveling from one area to another. This included Red Cross and military personnel, as well as people from other agencies.

In July, 1945, the delivery of mail was taken over by the Polish 1st Armour Division and further order was introduced into the delivery of mail.

This system ceased at the end of October, when all mail came under the control of the various military governments of the Allied forces. All previously issued stamps and cards authorized by the military governments were withdrawn.

Friends and relatives who wanted to exchange mail with Displaced Persons in the American Zone could not write unless they first received a card (UNRRA Form #1 or IRC Message Card) from the Displaced Person. **(Fig.2)**

Displaced Persons were permitted to write a 2 page letter weekly after the initial card was sent. The IRC provided Refuge Message Cards which were used to establish a database of individuals. **(Fig.3)**

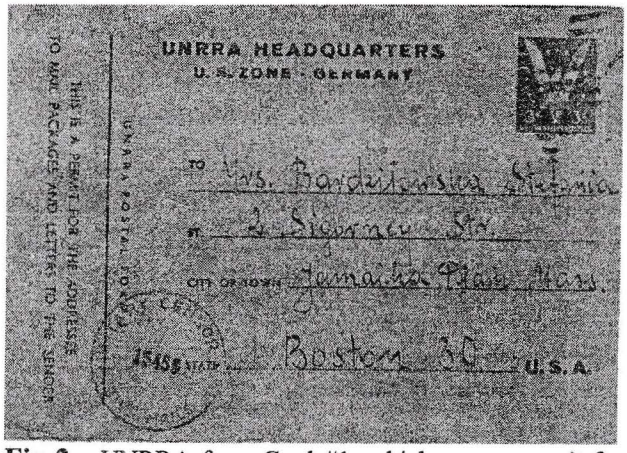


Fig 2 - UNRRA form Card #1, which was a permit for the addressee to send letters and packages to the sender.

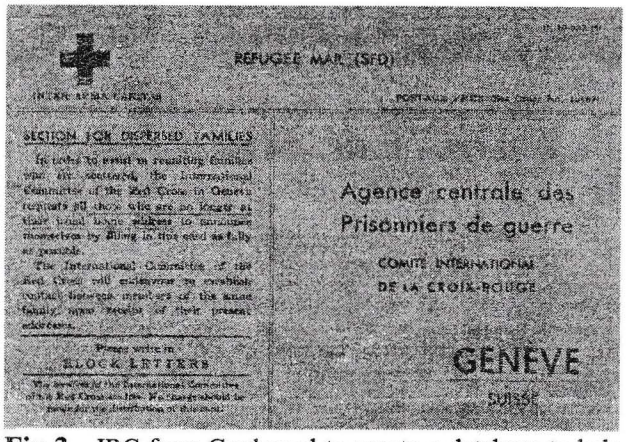
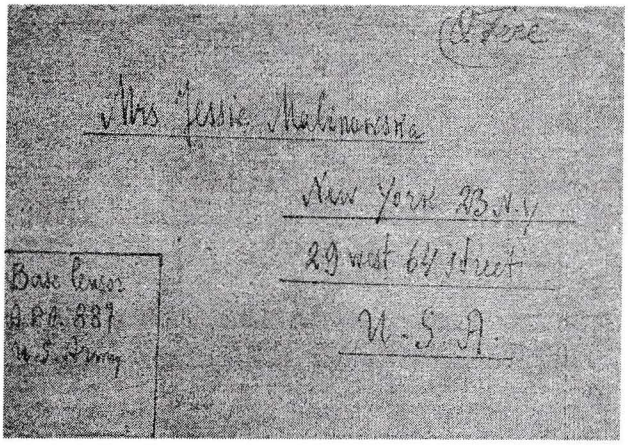


Fig 3 - IRC form Card used to create a database to help families re-unite. Anyone not living at their usual address was asked to identify themselves and where they are living.

Gradually, the German postal system took over operations. At first, displaced persons mail was free. Mail abroad, but within the British Commonwealth, was marked with a rectangular red **DISPLACED PERSONS MAIL//PAID.** Mail to the USA was marked "**FREE**" and is difficult to find **(Fig. 5)**. All of this mail going abroad was handled by the appropriate military units. In January 1949, the Reichspost was authorized to accept mail marked with a red, 2 line **DISPLACED PERSONS MAIL / PAID** for forwarding. To be free of charge, mail had to be posted through DPACCS centers (Displaced Persons Assembly Center) **(Fig. 4)**



Fig.4 - Straight line Displaced Persons Mail//Paid marking plus one of several types of DPACCS cachets.



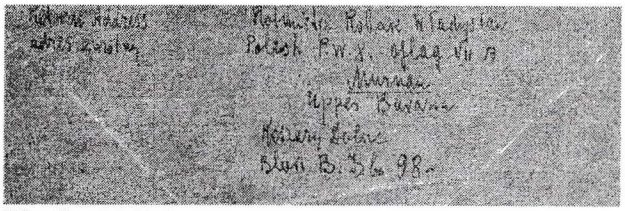


Fig 5 - Mail from Murnau in the American Zone to the USA, marked "FREE" and censored by the Base Censor at US Army APO 887, stationed in Murnau.

Within days of liberation, Polish nationals had printed stamps and cards for use in the Hamburg district and the towns of Lubeck, Pohls, Hamburg-Fischbeck, Rumpel, Bad Oldeslohe, Burg, Werden k/Hamburg and Braunschweig, as well as the Polish-Belgian Camp in Stubben.

The idea for a stamp to be used on the first day of liberation originated in a Polish Oflag Camp. Some

sources state that the woodcut was designed in Woldenberg, though I doubt that this was so. Extensive records were kept at that camp, and there is no mention of a proposed stamp that was to be used after liberation.

The first stamp, **LIBERTAS**, used by Polish nationals was printed from a woodcut designed by 2nd Lt. Pankowski and printed in Oflag XC and was expected to be used in the towns of Hamburg and Fischbeck and these town names were incorporated into the design.

The first printing in camp was 300 stamps, though some sources state that it was 360. The same night the order was received to vacate camp. The stamps, paper, ink and press were also taken. The group of prisoners rested for several days in Pohls and town names of Hamburg-Fischbeck were overprinted with the town name of POHLS. **(Fig. 6)**



Fig. 6 - The various stages of the transformation of the LIBERTAS stamp

The woodcut was then altered and Fischbeck-Hamburg was removed from the design. (Fig.6). Fig. 7 shows the stamp being used on a card going into intra-camp mail.

The stamp was also printed in blue for use in the women's army camp in Burg. It was used as well in Verden and Braunschweig.

In addition to the stamp, a series of cards, with the LIBERTAS stamp imprinted were issued. The different issues were printed, one with the word LUBECKA printed vertically to the right of the stamp, the other with LUBECKA removed.



Fig 7 – LIBERTAS stamp used on intra-camp mail

It is not the scope of this article to document all of the issues and charity labels issued at the time. However, I would like to propose a project to list as many as possible locations where Polish nationals applied either a camp CDS or any other identifying mark signifying that there were Poles there.

It is possible that there may be as many as 360 different camps. Most will only be identified by a return address

I will start with showing cancels that I have in my possession. I invite each and all to comb their collections for these post war covers and either scan and email them to me, or make a copy and mail it to me. I have already undertaken the project of putting everything together and creating a compact history of that time period. It is nearly 100 pages long, but there is much missing.

If you would like a copy, it is available at www.kulpinski.net/philately or write to me at 9350 E. Palm Tree Dr, Scottsdale, AZ, 85255

Various examples of cancellations and imprints found on Polish Displaced Persons Mail in and from Germany



Society News

Our membership is growing, even though we reluctantly had to drop a number of members due to lack of payment of dues. Listed below are 17 new members. Total **paid** membership stands at 201 members and growing. Please pay your dues on time, as it costly to send reminders.

Charles P. Satkewich - 1630
2141 Ashleigh Woods Court
Rockville, Maryland 20851

Aleksander M. Domaradzki - 1631
c/o DGL Polska Sp.z o.o.
ul. Wisniowa 40B, LOK 20
02-516 Warsaw, Poland

Paul J. Sopko - 1632
14912 E. 10 Mile Road
Warren, Michigan 48089-1565

Edwin H. Lugowski Jr. - 1633
3511 Illinois Street, Unit #1
Lansing, Illinois 60438-3139

Robert L. Nowicki - 1634
1980 Wayside Road
Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07724-4404

Robert Zeszotek - 1635
6304 Elmarge Drive
Independence, Ohio 44131-4916

David D. Lapa - 1636
125 Tolpa Circle
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020-4716

Leonard R. Allen - 1637
41628 Woodhaven Drive East
Palm Desert, California 92211

Paul A. Miktus - 1638
17871 Heritage Estates Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810

John M. Nawrot - 1639
4998 Battery Lane #421
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4964

Richard J. Trzaskoma - 1640
10801 Redmond Cove
Austin, Texas 78739-1634

Zbigniew W. Szymanski - 1641
6506 Knollview Drive
Spring, Texas 77389-3648

Eugene W. Bain - 1642
43391 Ballantine Place
Ashburn, Virginia 20147

Michael B. Wickberg - 1643
9530 Aldwick Drive
Dallas, Texas 75238

Andrew R. Olma - 1644
315 Main Street, Apt # 3
Sausalito, California 94965

Marek Brandys - 1645
7606 Westlake Terrace
Bethesda, Maryland 20817-6545

Robert I. Bolla - 1646
7615 W. Chestnut Lane
Edwards, Illinois 61528

Andrew Urushima dropped us note stating that his exhibit "*The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born and Woldenberg*" won a Single Frame Gold at Ameristamp and a Single Frame Vermeil at NAPEX. He plans to show his exhibit at Chicagopex in the fall.

CHICAGOPEX UPDATE - November 16-18

Word from the committee at CHICAGOPEX (late July) indicates that so far there are 16 Polish exhibits; including 4 one frame exhibits and 12 multi frame exhibits, 5 of which are from Poland. Cut-ff date for exhibits is August 15th, so by the time you get this Bulletin, it will be to late, however, there will be some exceptional exhibits, along with the 5 from Poland which, very likely, no one here in the States has seen.

For those wishing to make reservations, CHICAGOPEX will be held at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest, on Euclid Ave in Arlington Heights. You can contact the Sheraton for special CHICAGOPEX rates at 847-394-2000 or on line at www.sheraton.com. Please mention CHICAGOPEX for a special rate.
There will be at least 75 dealers present and since this is a meeting with a Pan-Slavic theme, there should be plenty of material to search through.

POLONUS will be hosting a hospitality room and a Friday evening reception from 6 to 8 pm. Please plan on attending, as nothing promotes and expands our interests as meeting and sharing material, information and of course, meeting new faces, or putting a face to a name. In fact, please take the time to e-mail **Hank Bieniecki** that you will be attending the Friday evening reception. This will help him get a better handle on how many are coming and therefore to make sure that there is an ample supply of the necessary libations and foods. You can reach Hank at hank@biistamp.com or 618-659-1325. Cost, including 2 drinks, is only $25.00.

EDITORIAL –

New and *active* members are so vital to the life blood of any organization. I recently received the latest copy of ***DYLIZANS***, the journal of the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain which contained a very disheartening editorial. Because of lack of participation i.e members not stepping forth to assume some responsibility in the various aspects of running the organization, the society has gone into "suspended animation". It will remain dormant until such time as it can reorganize itself. Until that happens and to the best of my knowledge, **POLONUS** is the only remaining society, outside of Poland, that is promoting Polish philately. In order to help the S.P.P. to regroup, the Board of Directors has offered to provide members of the S.P.P. copies of our Bulletin for the rest of the year in an effort to keep them engaged and interested enough to reorganize their Society.

The situation in Great Britain is a wake up call, because the same can happen to us. Every organization needs new ideas from fresh faces. We need people to accept invitations to run for office, we need people to write articles, we need people to exhibit; we need people to attend out yearly national meeting. We also need to hear from you with your opinions and comments.

Now is the time to act in some of the areas that you indicated on the recent survey as to your interest of participation in our Society.

ELECTIONS – by Bob Ogrdnik

If you will recall Bulletin # 523 and Jim Mazepa's article on **Polonus 2006 and Beyond**, the Board voted to maintain the current Board members until a proper election process could be put in place. I am pleased to inform you that such an election process has been established and the purpose of this article is to describe how this process will work. This will be the first formal election since the restructuring of our Society.

On September 15th, ballots shall be mailed to all members in good standing requesting their vote for seven (7) members to the Board of Directors, who will serve for a three (3) year term. **Completed ballots are to be returned by October 13th.**

The newly elected Board members shall select the following Officers from among their members: Chairman of the Board, President, and Vice President. The Secretary and Treasurer shall also be selected by the newly elected Board from among their members or from the general membership. If selected from the general membership, the Secretary and/or Treasurer will be considered non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

In addition to the election and selection of Officers, the Past President and Editor of the Bulletin shall become ex-officio voting members of the Board of Directors.

The results of the election and selection of Officers by the newly elected Board shall be announced at the Annual Meeting, to be held on Saturday, November 17th during Chicagopex 2007.

The above description of the election process is consistent with the latest By-Laws of the Polonus Philatelic Society. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Chair Bob Ogrodnik, Hank Bieniecki and Roman Sobus, wishes to thank you in advance for your cooperation in voting.

POLONUS WEB-SITE UPDATE by Hank Bieniecki

The Beginning: In March 2007 the existing Polonus website was replaced by a new dynamic website that incorporated state of the art software and was designed to allow for infinite expansion. In addition a Forum was added that allowed members to communicate by reading and posting messages and images. I published an article in Bulletin 525 and looked forward to the **Polonus Website (PWS)** becoming a key society asset that would both publicize our society on the internet, and evolve into a valuable tool for our membership.

Tale of Frustration: For about a month all was well, and expectations were high. Then apparently a "Hacker" took down **PWS**. Visitors to **PWS** found only a short nonsense message. I presumed that this was a one time problem and arranged for Prizemen, our programmer, to reinstall the site. We contacted **Network Solutions (NS)**, the largest website hosting company in the US, which I had elected to use to host our website. They assured us that their security was state of the art and we should encounter no further problems.

Within a few weeks a message appeared from **Network Solutions** that **PWS** was "Temporarily Unavailable". We presumed that **NS** was doing some server maintenance. Wrong again!!! **NS** had discovered some malicious code in the **PWS** files and without notice shut the site down and simply put up the notice *Temporarily Unavailable*. To add insult to injury, multiple phone calls to **NS** were not sufficient for them to reinstate the site. They required instead a lengthy fax giving all the details and promising PWS would not post malicious code again. This process took six weeks.

Within days of finally reinstalling **PWS** on **NS** the site was again "Hacked" and this time the hacker left a creative "game over message" in multiple languages as well as some graphics. At this point both **Przemek** (our programmer in Poland) and I had invested weeks of additional work. To date, Przemek and I have had little success in resolving the problem with **NS.**

No one will ever know why **PWS** as chosen by a Hacker or the purpose of the malicious code he installed. Why did the bridge collapse in Minneapolis at the exact moment those people were on it. Why is frequently a question without any answers!!!!!!

The Future: During the past three months of frustration we have learned two simple facts. First we need to use a hosting service other than **NS**. For the members this is totally transparent and of no consequence. Second we need to build far more security into the website than we initially anticipated. This has nothing to do with what the user sees. Think of it as Norton anti-virus for websites. If we had the funding we would hire an anti-hacker monitoring service used by many websites to protect them against hackers. However at this time we believe that moving **PWS** to a hosting site that **Przemek** can not hack, and building in new security features made available during the course of the last three month should provide adequate protection against random hacker attacks. If that is not adequate, I will investigate website anti-hacker services for use on my own future website and will extend those services to **PWS**. Bottom line is that our society will once again have a website that is state of the art on a shoe string budget. Keep your fingers crossed; light a candle or whatever you think will change our luck. Last but not least make use **PWS** when it is available again.

ARTICLES NEEDED –

Just like any publication, we need articles. You will have noticed that the bulletin is now 3 times as large as in the past, and you may have noticed new names contributing articles, but we need more. I would like members to step forward to write articles on forgeries, on World War II, (that is a huge area), something on the inflation period after World War I, and articles relating to theme collecting i.e. animals, religion, flora, fauna, and anything else that might stick your fancy.

As they say on the late night commercials, "we have editors staying by" to put finishing touches to your articles if you desire. All you need to do is put pen to paper, or finger tip to keyboard and type out an article using MS WORD. Don't worry about the style, fonts, spacing etc. I'll take care of that and oh yes, please send sharp scans of 300 DPI.

If all this is to technical for you, do as I do – check with the grandkids~!

New Issues – Dan Lubelski



15th Performance - Holiday Orchestra Performance

On January 14, 2007, the Holiday Orchestra performed for the 15th time to raise funds primarily for specialized medical equipment. Each year, with the help of thousands of volunteers, sponsorship companies and the people, funds are collected for specific purposes. This year the funds collected will go for saving children injured in accidents and for first aid training courses. Given it's outstanding contribution this year the stamp depicts the event on cosmic scale. The Polish Post continues to support the Holiday Great Orchestra events by issuing commemorative postcards and stamps, part of which are donated for auction.



Date of Issue	January 19, 2007
Sheet Format	Sheet of 100
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	J. Pietras
Fischer #	4148

Cities – Gorzow Wielkopolski

In the continuing series, the Polish Post has issued a stamp commemorating the city of Gorzów Wielkopolski, which celebrates the 750 anniversary of its existence. Gorzów Wielkopolski is the largest city of the Lubuskie Province, located fifty kilometers from the German border. The city is an important industrial center. It is nicknamed the "City of Greenery" – with 12 parks which cover an area of over 320 acres. The exact date of the city's birth is July 2, 1257. At that time it was called Landisberch Nova, i.e. New Landsberg. The city is located on the Warta and Klodawka rivers.

During its history it was not spared by wars and damage. The city lies within the borders of Brandenburg, which has been a part of the state of the Teutonic Knights, Prussia, Germany and Poland. Its current name began after World War II (1945). The 1.35 PLN stamp depicts the Paucksch fountain and the gothic Cathedral of the Assumption of Holy Mary, both symbols of this city.



Date of Issue	January 22, 2007
Sheet Format	Sheet of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	J. Gorska
Fischer #	4149

European Figure Skating Championships - 2007

From January 22-28, 2007, the European Figure Skating Championships will take place in Warsaw. This issue presents the silhouettes of couples figure skating under floodlights. The Polish Post has commemorated sports and famous sporting events for the last 70 years. Figure Skating as a competition became began in the second half of the 19th century and became an Olympic discipline in 1908. The last major event hosted by Poland was 99 years ago, also in Warsaw, and was one of the first European championships.



Date of Issue	February 08, 2007
Sheet Format	Sheet of 20
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	J. Skakun
Fischer #	4150

I Love You

This years Valentine's Day stamp is based on the motif of colorful hearts and butterflies, intertwined together. According to legend, Saint Valentine lived in the 3rd century and was the bishop of Terni near Rome. The patron saint of lovers secretly married young couples against the rule of the Roman Caesar Claudius II and was beheaded on February 14th. Claudius II felt that married soldiers were not at good as single soldiers. The British have been celebrating St. Valentines Day since the middle ages, while this tradition began in Poland around 15 years ago.

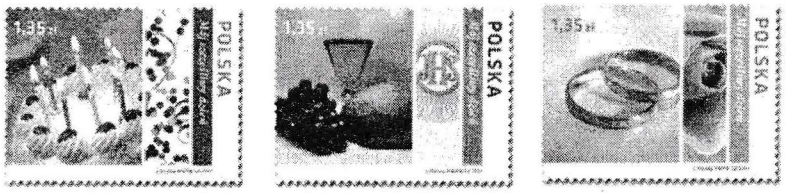


Date of Issue	March 20, 2007
Sheet Format	Sheet of 20
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	M. Blazkow
Fischer #	4153

50th Anniversary – Treaties of Rome

On March 25th, 1957 in Rome, the representatives of member states of the European Community of Coal and Steel (Belgium, German Federal Republic, France, Italy, Luxemburg and Netherlands) signed treaties establishing the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community. These Treaties became a foundation stone for the Integration of Europe.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of this important event, the stamp design features the national flags of all the EU member countries. In addition, The 3.55 PLN stamp shows an official logo of the jubilee celebration, the word TOGETHER, built up of the characters from various languages. Currently the European Union consists of 27 member states.



Date of Issue	March 30, 2007
Sheet Format	Sheet of 20
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Joanna Gorska
Fischer #	4154 - 4156

The Day of My Life

The Polish Post has started a new series of stamps under the title, "The Day of My Life". This series celebrates happy days in each of our lives. The first three stamps depict a Birthday Cake, Bread and Wine commemorating the First Holy Communion and Wedding Rings and a Rose. It is hoped that these stamps would be used on the mail to help celebrate these special days.



Date of Issue	May 26, 2007
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	A. Pagowski, M. Błazkow
Fischer #	4164

Polish Composer – Karol Szymanowski

Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937) was born in the village of Tymoszówka in Ukraine to a Polish gentry family. He started his education at home under his father's tutelage and continued it at different schools, including Warsaw. Before World War I, he had achieved fame in Europe as a composer. His further artistic career was influenced by his frequent travels and excursions. The events of the October Revolution, however, caused him a nervous breakdown when it banned him from his homeland. After time, he found a new home in Zakopane where for the first time he came into contact with the Polish highlander's folklore. Apart from musical compositions, Szymanowski proved to be an active writer on the subject of musical problems. He also worked as a teacher and tutor, first being the head of Warsaw Conservatory (1927-1929), and then the rector of the Higher Musical School (1930-1932). His many works include the operas "Hagith" and "King Roger" as well as the ballet "Harnasie".



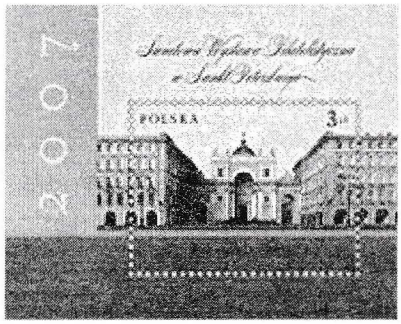
Date of Issue	May 29, 2007
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	K. Sowinski
Fischer #	4165

750th Anniversary - Kraków

The 2.40 PLN stamp depicts an aerial view of the city's core, the Old Market, a fragment of the original Locating Act and the City arms in cartouche.

The city of Kraków celebrates its 750th anniversary in 2007. In 1257, during the reign of the prince Bolesław the Shy, the locating privilege was conferred upon the city. The established city lay-out, with its market place and main streets, remains unchanged. The historic center of Kraków lays at the foot of Wawel Hill where the Royal Castle is located. Kraków has traditionally been one of the leading scientific, cultural and artistic centers of the country and Europe. As the former national capital, with a history stretching back over a thousand years, the city remains the spiritual heart of Poland. It is a major center of local and international tourism, attracting seven million visitors annually. Famous landmarks include the Main Market Square with St. Mary's Basilica and Sukiennice Cloth Hall, Wawel Castle with the National Art Collection, Wawel Cathedral with Zygmunt Bell.

^^



Date of Issue	June 12, 2007
Sheet Format	Block of 1
Printing Method	Engraved & Rotogravure
Designer	J. Gorska
Fischer #	Block 145

World Philatelic Exhibition – Saint Petersburg 2007

The World Philatelic Exhibition took place on June19 – 25, 2007 in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. The 3 PLN block depicts the St. Catherine of Alexandria Church, the oldest Roman-Catholic church in Russia. The old capital of Russia was established by czar Peter I in the 18th century. The city is famous for its "white nights", or the period around the summer solstice, when for a few days there is practically no real night. The theme for the exhibition is the 150th anniversary of the first Russian postage stamp.

^^



Date of Issue	June 15, 2007
Sheet Format	4 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	J. Gorska
Fischer #	4167 - 4170

Lighthouses

This issue is the second in the Lighthouse series started in 2006. The first stamp depicts the lighthouse at Gdańsk New Harbour. It was taken out of service in 1984 after 90 years of work. Its eight-sided tower was damaged during the World War II and repaired. The lighthouse at the Rozewie promontory is the northernmost one in Poland, the oldest one still working in Poland (since 1822), and the brightest one. It can be seen seen from a distance of 26 nautical miles. The third stamp depicts the lighthouse at Kołobrzeg. The original lighthouse was built in the 17th century at the entrance to the harbor. Frequently rebuilt, it was finally destroyed during the last days of the World War II. A few years after the war, however, a new lighthouse was erected on the base of the 19th century Prussian fortress. The last in this issue is the lighthouse at Hel. This current lighthouse is the fourth in this area, built in 1942. It is a 40-meters high eight-sided brick tower. The previous lighthouse was destroyed in September, 1939, by Hel defenders, as it proved to be an orientation point for the attacking German troops.

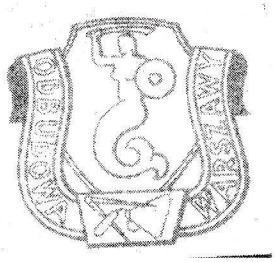
REBUILDING WARSAW LABELS – AN UPDATE

Terence Hines

In the 4th quarter 2005 (whole # 521) issue of this Bulletin I reported the existence of labels inscribed "Odbudowa Warszawy" – Rebuilding Warsaw. Since then several additional labels have come to light, including three of a previously unknown types. Following is a recapitulation and an update on this series of labels -



Type 1 - Known to exit in colors red and apple green.
SFOS – **S**poleczny **F**undusz **O**dbudowy **S**tolicy
"General Fund to Rebuild the Capitol"



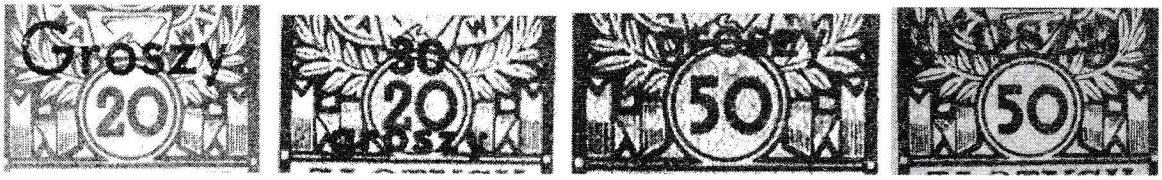
Type 2 – Known to exist in blue and apple green and without the **SFOS** designation



Type 3 - Small size - 15gr., red; 30gr., apple green; 50gr., light blue; 1zł, purple; 2 zł. blue; 5zł. purple

Large size – (Pictured) 10zł. red; 20zł. dark apple green; 50zł, blue

Groszy overprints of Type 3(large) labels – various sizes



As mentioned in the previous article, these "groszy" overprints do not match any of those catalogued by Kolakowski in his work on the devaluation of the Polish currency in 1951. The fund raising efforts for the rebuilding of Warsaw were 'semi-official" and therefore very likely privately overprinted when the devaluation took place. Since the overprints on stamps were done by an "official" government (postal) agency, they were recorded and classified. Very likely there are other types of "groszy" overprints on these labels from various printers and times.



It is interesting to note that organizations existed in other parts of the country that were involved in the raising of funds for the post war re-building of Warsaw, the capitol city.

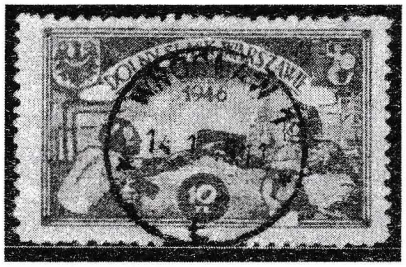
Type 4 - 5 zl. green; 10zl. blue, 20zl. brown

These are inscribed "**NA ODBUDOWE WARSZAWY**" at the top and "**KOMITET WOJ. SLASKO – DABR.**" at the base. This latter translates as "**Committee of the Province of Silesia-Dabrowskiego**"



Type 5 – 5zł. orange; 10zł. yellow brown

Inscribed "Dolny Słask – Warszawa // 1946 with the Polish Eagle in the upper left corner and the "Syrena", symbol of Warsaw at the upper right. The label clearly shows the handling of a brick, symbolizing the re-building effort.



Although issued in 1946, these labels were very likely still being sold to raise funds as late as 1949. The yellow brown 10 zloty stamp to the left has been removed from a cover and is clearly stamp – "Wrocław 1 / 14.1.49–11" January 14th, 1949 at 11 am.

This series is known both perforated and rouletted.

The post-war period in Poland was very difficult. The city was in ruins; lives were in upheaval. The question that comes to mind is who had the time or inclination to establish societies to raise funds to rebuild the city, when people were having enough problems trying to re-build their own lives.

It would be interesting to know how much money was actually forwarded for the re-building of the city.

Now, over 60 years after the end of WWII, we may never know the answer. Any input or addition would, of course, be welcome. Please email me at TerenceHines@aol.com.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Following is a list of web-sites relating to Polish philately that you may find useful. I know there are others and if you know of any, please let me knew so that I can include them in future listings. This list will be published on an ongoing basis so that you do not have to look through old copies of the Bulletin to find the information you are seeking.

American Association of Exhibitors – www.aape.org/index
American Philatelic Society – www.stamps.org
Cherrystone Auctions – www.cherrystoneauctions.com
E-bay – www.ebay.com
Fischer Catalogue – www.fischer.pl
History of Poland on Stamps – www.gopoland.com/history
Polish Collecting – www.polishstamps@yahoogroups.com
Polish Post Office – www.poczta-polska.pl
Polish Philatelic Literature in English – www.kulpinski.net/philately or PolishPhilatelicLiterature.com
Polish Philatelic Society – www.polonus.org
Polish Stamp Auction – www.stamps-pl.com
Polish Stamp Encyclopedia – www.home.zonnet.nl/ben_nieborg
Stamp Domain – www.stampdomain.com
Translation site – www.poltran.com/pl.php4
Worldwide Experts and Forgeries – www.filatelia.fi

Terry Kurzinski

I buy old stamps and Mail

P.O. Box 5845
Rockford, IL 61125
H 815-332-3264
C 815-262-9117 TKURZINSKI2002@YAHOO.COM

Polish Philatelic Literature for the English speaking collector

www.kulpinski.net/philately

Chris Kulpinski

9350 E. Palm Tree Dr. chris@kulpinski.net
Scottsdale, AZ 85255 480-585-7114

Unusual Postal Directional Handstamp

Chris Kulpinski



Recently I came upon a postal notation I had never seen before. It reads **"BRAK OPŁATY SKIEROWAĆ KOLEJĄ"**. (***Insufficient Funds to be sent by Rail***)

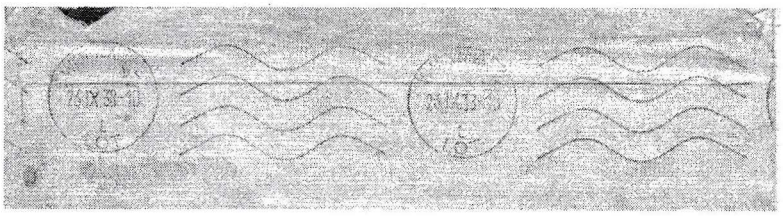
The notation is found on 2 different covers, from 2 different places, in 2 different years, but interestingly enough to the same individual in Camden, NJ. The rate for overseas mail at the time was 55 grosze. Both covers are franked with the correct postage.



The first cover is from Zaleszczyki (25.IX.38). Today, the town is part of the Ukraine and the town name is spelled Zaleszciki and is just a small town of about 13,000 people. The town lies on the Dniestr River, some 520km (about 310 miles- in a straight line) SE of Warsaw. The distance, however, that did not prevent the cover from being at the Warsaw airport the following day. (26.IX.33).

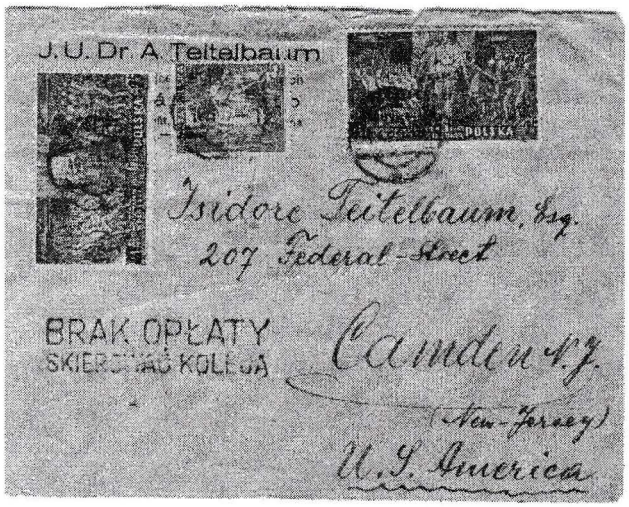
If the postage did not pay for transit by rail, how did the cover travel that distance in one day?

Machine cancellation on the reverse showing transit through the Warsaw Airport. >>>>>



The 2nd cover has an obliterated (by stamps) return address in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Obviously the cover could not have been mailed from Prague, using Polish stamps. Instead, it was mailed from Krynica in Poland and just across border from Czechoslovakia, but a fair distance from Prague. The date in the cancel reads 16.VII.39. The back stamp reads Warszawa 2 LOT – 17. VIII. 39. In this case it took a month for the letter to travel shorter distance of approximately 315 km. (about 190 miles) to the airport in Warsaw.

Since the letter was not be sent by rail, it is interesting to contemplate how the cover got to Warsaw. To my thinking, it had to be a very unusual mode (for us) because of the time involved. If the letter were transported by bus, truck or car, it would not have taken so long; which leaves us with a horse drawn wagon (not uncommon in those days), horseback, bicycle, or on foot.



I doubt that it was on foot, because after all, this was in the official hands of the post office. Bicycle, most likely not. A horse delivery is reminiscent of the US Pony Express, but at a much slower pace.

In my opinion, the horse drawn wagon is the most likely scenario. The journey would have included stopping at other outposts along the way to pick up mail and packages that did not have enough postage to pay for rail transport. The practice didn't last long, as the 2nd World War broke out several months later.

If the rate was correct, why was there an "Insufficient Funds to be Sent by Train" marking put on these covers and why did one cover take only one day and the other a month to reach the airport in Warsaw? Of course if you have an answer, opinion or observation, it would be welcome. Email me at chris@kulpinski.net