



Polish Postal Booklets

by V. Rachmanov

In 1937 and 1938 the Polish post office issued five different stamp booklets to resemble those issued long before by other countries. Inasmuch as the issues were on a trial basis to determine whether booklets would meet with popular demand, the quantities were not large, and before philatelists had oriented themselves, the booklets were sold out at post offices, especially the first two issues. Furthermore, due to their limited editions, these booklets were not distributed to all post offices, but mainly to the larger first class offices, or only in one region, as, for example, the fourth issue, which was current only in Upper Silesia.

These booklets are so rare that most Polish philatelists do not even know of their existence, to say nothing of their scarcity abroad, where a booklet may only be found in a collection here and there. To my knowledge, none of these booklets has ever been described in the Polish philatelic press and only one of them has been described and listed in America. Even the Polish Postal Museum in Warsaw did not have a complete set of these elusive items.

In order to acquaint American collectors of booklet panes or of specialized Poland with the booklets, I am giving a short description of each of the five issues.

The **FIRST BOOKLET** was issued at the beginning of 1937 at 2.00 zlotys. It included blocks of four of the 10, 15, and 25 groszy stamps (Scott No. 295, 296 and 298). The cover was grey, and include advertisements on the cover and on the interleaves of the "POSTAL PUBLICITY" in Warsaw.

These booklets were distributed chiefly through the Main Post Office in Warsaw. No date nor quantities were announced on the cover, but the issue is said to have been 1,000 booklets.

The **SECOND BOOKLET** has a greenish-grey cover with a bottom identification S 1 15 V 37 / 5000. It includes four each of the 5, 10, 15 and 25 groszy stamps (Scott No. 308, 309, 310 and 298). The cover and the interleaves have ads of the Warsaw City Gas Works. The price of each booklet was 2.20 zlotys. Quantity issued according to imprint on cover was 5,000.

The **THIRD BOOKLET** has a likeness of a railway platform clerk on its yellowish cover, and the control numbers S 2 30 VI 37 / 20000. Contents the same as the second booklet. The cover and the interleaves include postal rates and ads. 20,000 issued.

The **FOURTH BOOKLET**, with a dark orange cover, has a likeness of railway platform Clerk, and the control number S 3 10 VIII 37 / 10000. Stamps are the same as in the second and third booklets. On the cover and on the interleaves are ads of the Upper Silesian Gas Works in Katowice. 10,000 issued and circulated in Upper Silesia exclusively.

The **FIFTH BOOKLET**, in a grey cover, portrays two hands, one of which is receiving and the other paying money. A red lightning bolt forms the background. Above and below the illustration is the caption, "POSTAL MONEY ORDERS ARE CHEAP AND RAPID" and the identification S 4 15 IV 38 / 20000. Stamps included are four each of the 5, 10, 15 and 25 groszy (Scott No. 308, 309, 317 and 312). The cover and the interleaves are devoted



In the top row, left to right, above we see, respectively, the booklets 1, 2, and 3, referred to in the author's accompanying article. Across the bottom are numbers 4 and 5.

V. RACHMANOV

Vladimir Rachmanov, author of the article on Polish Postal Booklets, was born in Warsaw on April 27, 1886. Since 1905 he has collected the stamps of Hannover, Russia, British Colonies, and also rural issues. In 1907 he joined the Philatelists Club in Petersburg, where he was in contact with Breitfus, Faberge, Schmidt, Lentz, Kirchner, Mertens, etc, becoming a specialist in the stamps of eastern Europe. After his return to Warsaw, Rachmanov began collecting Switzerland, and within six years brought his collection to such perfection that he was awarded first prize (gold medal) in 1922 at the International Exhibition in Geneva.

In 1918 he began to interest himself particularly in the issues of reborn Poland, forming a highly specialized collection, which he used as a basis for the first handbook of Polish stamps, published in 1925.

At the exhibition in Warsaw in 1928, his Polish collection received a gold medal and the honorary award of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. For his collection of stamps and covers of 1858-1860, he received gold medals in

Antwerp, Brussels and Warsaw.

Between 1923 and 1935 he contributed his time and effort to the founding and development of the Polish Postal Museum in Warsaw, was for several years president of the Polish Philatelic Society in Warsaw, also the first president of the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Poland.

In the years 1928-38 Rachmanov was a member of the jury at philatelic exhibitions in Gdansk (three times), Berlin, Hamburg, Koenigsburg, Paris, Vienna, Prague, Copenhagen and Torun. For his philatelic works he was awarded a gold medal at TIPEX in 1936, and a special plaque NORDOST in Koenigsburg, also a plaque SAVO in Vienna for his pre-stamp cancellations.

Rachmanov is an honorary member of the Societe Francaise de Timbrologie, the Philatelic Alliance in Torun, the International Alliance of Philatelists in Dresden; founder-member of SAVO in Vienna, and member of the Philatelic Academy in Paris, the Collectors Club in New York and the Polonus Philatelic Society in Chicago. He and his family are now making their home in New York.

to postal rates and ads, 20,000 issued.

The booklets we have mentioned were released by the Ministry of Posts and by the enterprise "POSTAL PUBLICITY," the latter paying for the preparation of the booklets in return for a fee charged for carrying the postal advertising and publicity in the booklets. The booklets were made by hand in a somewhat primitive manner, utilizing the two left-hand columns with their margin as the binding edge and stapling the various blocks of four with the interleaves and cover into an assembly.

Postal booklets were not received with favor by the Polish public, and coupled with the fact that their preparation was costly and bothersome, further emissions were abandoned in 1938.

The Pulaski Stamp Club is having a Party Saturday Sept. 18th in conjunction with the S. P. A. Convention. All Polonus members have been invited to attend.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Casimer Dabrowski #191

423 So. Witmer St.

Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Theodore John Fraczek #322

3 Park Street

Amsterdam, N. Y.

Albert Kolaczewski #192

3238 N. Pacific Ave.

Chicago, Ill.

Bronislaus A. Zaremba #227

6540 Cassandra Dr.

Bell Gardens, Calif.

V. Rachmanov #348

214-17—47th Ave.

Bayside, N. Y.

W. Urbanski, president of the Poznan Philatelic Club, reports that the PORT GDansk vertical overprint on the 1 zloty Moscicki, Scott's 1K24, is being counterfeited to defraud collectors. We saw such fakes on used copies prior to the war. Genuine stamps have horizontally watermarked paper, perf. only 11½, overprint dark blue, and if cancelled, should have the PORT GDANSK handstamp.

NEW ISSUES

As reported in the June 1948 Issue of the POLONUS BULLETIN, all of the contemplated New Issues have been released.

The first, "Swieto Morza" set.

It was released on June 23rd, roto-gravured and in three values as follows: 6 zloty purple, (ship launching), 15 zloty carmine (ship being loaded), and a 35 zloty blue-gray (racing yacht, "Gen. Zaruski"). Each stamp bears the emblem of the Polish Merchant Marine in whose honor they were issued. A special cancellation was used on the official First Day, June 26, 1948.

The second "Tour de Pologne Issue."

In connection with the VII bicycle race around Poland, organized by the "CZYTELNIK" Publ. Co., together with the Polish Bicyclist Organization "Zwiazek Kolarski" a special set of commemorative stamps was issued on June 23rd, roto-gravured, in values of 3 zloty—dark gray, 6 zloty—brownish and 15 zloty—green.

These stamps were designed by N. Jarczewska and K. Witkowski, issued in a restricted quantity of 200,000 of each value. All are of the same design, showing two cyclists racing along a highway; over them on a ribbon are shown the dates of the race "2. VI. -1948- 4. VII."

The inclosure bears the inscription "Wyscig Kolarski" /VII/ "Dookola Polski," (Seventh Circuit of Poland bicycle race) in the bottom center the corner, the value, and in the right corner the emblem of "CZYTELNIK."

An item of unusual interest not only to philatelists but to all sport fans as well, is that a decorative folder with a detailed map of the racing route is being issued by the "CZYTELNIK" Publishing Co. This folder will have not only the above mentioned stamps, but a special different cancellation on each stamp and also date cancellations from all major cities on the racing tour.

This interesting and valuable souvenir cachet of the VII bicycle race will be created in this manner: Together with the racing team a special automobile will carry these folders along the entire racing route and on every stop of the tour in major localities they will be presented at the re-

spective local Post Offices for a date cancellation.

J. Bienecki
Stanislaw Mikstein
R. A. Wilson

A 500 zloty value is to be added to the current "Centaur" Airmail series.
Aero Philatelists News

The third set mentioned in the June issue of the Bulletin was released on July 21st in the City of Wroclaw.

It is of four values, 6 zloty, blue; 15 zloty, orange-red; 18 zloty, lilac and 35 zloty, deep brown.

The size of each stamp is 20x34 mm. All are of the same design which is a modernistic memorial. Rockets and a searchlight are shown shooting upward from the right lower corner to the left upper corner.

Across the top in three lines read, "Wystawa Ziem /Odzyskanych / Wroclaw 1948. (Exhibition to commemorate regained territories, Wroclaw 1948.) The value is just below 1948 on the fourth line.

A special cancellation was used. It is a single line circle 35mm. in diam., with a space 9 mm. wide for the date, just below the center. In a semi-circle around the top are the words, "Wystawa, etc." below which are shown the tops of buildings in the city. Along the bottom is the name of the city and postoffice number. (Wroclaw 1).

M. A. Rayall de Ragan

The fourth and final were additional values of the "Wiosna Ludow" series.

Three additional values were released on July 22nd although the official First Day was July 23rd according to the special cancellation used.

The new values are: 30 zloty, deep brown; 35 zloty, deep green; and 60 zloty orange red.

The 30 zloty stamp bears the portraits of S. Worcell, P. Sciegienny and E. Dembowski. On the 35 zloty value are the portraits of Gen. H. Dembowski and Gen. Joseph Bem. The 60 zloty value bears the portraits of F. Engels and Karol Marks (Karl Marx).

With the exception of F. Engels and Karl Marx, all of the above are early Polish revolutionists or fighters for freedom and liberty.

The size of each stamp is 29mm x 23½mm and all are roto-gravured.

J. Bienecki
M. A. Rayall de Ragan



Additional Information on the Souvenir Sheet "Kultura Polska"

As mentioned in the last issue of the Bulletin, Polonus said that it would attempt to verify alleged irregularities in the distribution and sale of these sheets. The following are some reports from members:

"Rec'd New Culture sheet and the two other sets mentioned in the June Issue of the BULLETIN at face plus postage, etc. (400 zloty for a dollar). The sheets apparently are not as hard to get as reported as I have rec'd 10 sheets.

J. J. Czarnik #353

The last day of sale at the Post Offices was June 30th. The sheets were still obtainable until that date—and at the regular price of 500 zloty at the Post Offices of Grudziadz and Poznan.

I have received a sheet, bearing the consecutive nr. 06851 purchased at the Post Office Zabkowice on June 16th at the regular price of 500 zl., and another one from Grudziadz, purchased at the local Post Office on June 27th with the consecutive nr. 40608 at the same price—500 zloty.

The number of sheets issued evidently was higher than 30,000 and they were sold at the Post Offices for the regular price of 500 zloty.

Walter Szymlek #280

Member Myron Steczynski has a sheet nr. 42,522. Who can top this?

Our members in Poland are urged to send in their comments.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mirosław Bojanowicz

40 West Hill, Wembley Park
Middx., London, England

Mr. Richard Estka

Diplom. Volkwirt
Lippstadt, Westf.
British Zone, Germany

John Waksman'ski

3724 Fullerton
Chicago 47, Ill.

Robert A. Wilson

USPOLAD OMGUS
Embassy, Warsaw, Poland
APO 742, c/o P. M., New York

WARNING!

Some months back, just prior to POLPEX 1948, there was submitted to me for an opinion and possible sale a miscellaneous lot of stamps of the present Polish Government.

These stamps were either "double perf'd," "perf'd thru the center," "part perf." or "imperf. between."

They were originally sent to my contact by a member of Polonus in Poland, a man who at one time was connected with a Polish philatelic magazine and who in my opinion is well qualified to determine whether the material is genuine or spurious. But he evidently is getting old and nearsighted since, in my opinion he had overlooked one of the rankest, most amateurish attempts to defraud the collector.

An examination of any of these stamps immediately discloses that the double perf. is in every instance a perf. 11, clean cut. An example of one crude attempt is a copy of Poland Scott's B43 which regularly is perf'd 11, rough cut, but has the second perf. clean cut. Also in this lot are found imperf. stamps, partly perf. or perforated to appear as imperf. between.

We suggest that every precaution be taken before a purchase is made of this "junk." If some of this material has been submitted to our members we would appreciate knowing who the party is so that if additional cases are found, more drastic steps will be taken.

Along with the stamps mentioned above a lot of Tajna Poczta was submitted and the price asked wholesale was about the cheapest so far asked. Prices asked have run from \$6.00 to \$40.00 a sheet. Well, in my humble opinion, any one paying over a nickel a stamp is just being very philanthropic. Actually no proof has ever been submitted that a need ever existed for these stamps, they saw no legal postal duty, therefore again it is my opinion they are mere scraps of colored paper and not even pretty.

They were also perf'd 11, clean cut.

J. J. Domar

According to Chambers Stamp Journal member Dave Lidman has been appointed Chairman of the literary board of the newly formed Austria Philatelic Society.

THIS FELLOW DOMAR

In the spring of 1939, a group of men and women heeded the call of Chester Mikucki to organize a club of collectors interested in the stamps of Poland. Most of these men were strangers to each other. I doubt if any of the forty odd collectors present knew more than half a dozen others. I for one, had never been to a stamp club before, and had never seen a stamp exhibition. My interest was that of a general collector with U. S. no doubt a favorite.

At this and subsequent meetings, it developed that there was among us a collector who exhibited the stamps of Poland at several shows and usually came through a winner. This person was none other than Jack Domar—the fellow who was co-chairman with Bert Powell of the very first Polpex in 1940—the fellow who knew where to get the frames and tables for the show—whom to contact in all matters philatelic and philanthropic—what to do and what not to do to put affairs over both in a financial and in a social way.

Before I forget, I want to mention that Jack's greatest asset to the Club is the absolute dependability to put things over in a big way. This is due not only to his inherent ability and dynamic personality, but due to his deep love for Polonus. Jack is never too busy to do things for Polonus. He has been our president, our secretary, our sales manager, our editor and our chairman of this and that.

He drew up the lovely presentation certificate for Harry Lindquist and has contributed generously to the philatelic press. Finally, Jack is now undertaking to head our Publications Committee with all its headaches and responsibilities. This has always been a tough job. Chicago members who attend our meetings know of the constant pleas for material and for other help. Jack was always in the background getting photos and illustrations. He was always on the alert to write to anyone—anywhere, who might write or translate an article.

He is in constant touch with other Clubs and has the most prolific grapevine of anyone in the Club. He, therefore was the most logical choice as chairman of the Publications Committee, and we all wish him well in his untiring efforts.

—M. E. S.

WHEN POLONUS MEETS

Dr. S. F. Galaszkiwicz, Sec.

Twenty-two members gathered at the July 23rd meeting under the chairmanship of Adam Kloskowski, who presided in place of President-Elect Chester Mikucki, still on the sick list. Jack Domar reported on Polonus publicity releases, and Doc Kozakiewicz reported on Duke Uznanski's talk on Upper Silesia at the July 15th meeting of the Chicago Philatelic Society. Jack Domar further reported on private partial perforations of regularly imperf stamps of Democratic Poland and on double perforations of regularly perforated stamps. Members should beware of these fabricated curiosities. The new souvenir sheet with the "Famous Americans of Poland" arrived and members observed consecutive numbers above 42,000 indicating a larger issue than the 30,000 originally reported. Jack Domar will prepare new cards for life members.

NEW COMPLETE POLAND CATALOG

Mr. T. Gryzewski has just issued a complete catalog of the stamps of Poland, including all major varieties from the #1 issue of 1860 to the present moment. He has established the price at \$2.00 per copy and has named our member V. Rachmanov as exclusive agent. Members desiring a copy can write directly to Mr. V. Rachmanov, 214-17 47th Ave., Bayside, New York, or to M. E. Steczynski, 4154 N. Le-Claire Avenue, Chicago 41, Illinois.

TID BITS

On August 5, Chester Mikucki telephoned Jack Domar from his home and reported definite progress in his long siege. Chester hopes to join the Polonus boys at an early meeting.

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Ben Reeves recently visited member Vince Domanski at his home in Philadelphia and reports the S. P. A. prexy doing well after his recent illness.

* * *

S. P. A. members of Polonus are requested to cast their ballots for members Ben Reeves and Stephen G. Rich who are running for Directors at Large of the Society of Philatelic Americans.

If you prefer, why not send your Proxy either to Ben or Steve.

Ben's address is, 4429 N. Keystone Ave., Chicago 30, Ill.

Steve's address is 118 Sunset Ave., Verona, N. J.

We noticed also the member Ray Bartz of Detroit is the Chairman on Credentials and Election.

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Col. O. H. Schrader, U. S. A. Ret'd. is showing at the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held Aug. 21 to 29th in Basle, Switzerland.

* * *

Member Fritz Billig announced in STAMPS that the permits of all stamp dealers in Yugoslavia were cancelled the first part of May, and every stamp dealer has been obliged to liquidate his business.

Previous to this we understand from Edwin Mueller similar action was taken in Bulgaria, so it is quite possible the same plan will be followed in all other countries under Russian domination.

Stamp dealing in Russia has been a government monopoly for many years, and all transactions must be handled through the Soviet Philatelic Agency which is run directly by the government.

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Do any of our members have the address of member Wladyslaw Smak, formerly of Chester, England, R. A. F. Sealand. Recent letters have been returned with no forwarding address.

* * *

Steve Rich was the guest at station WNBC Stamp Club for June 19, 1948.

Steve has so many interests it was difficult to select which ones to feature on the broadcast, but he did mention the fact that he was taking an active part in the promotion of the next STAMPEX Exhibition which will be held in East Orange, N. J. on Oct. 15-17, 1948.

Steve was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Class of 1951 of the Essay Proof Society.

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The well-known philatelic firm in Lodz, Tadeusz Gryzewski, is about to issue a complete catalog of Polish stamps 1860 to the present. The book will be fully illustrated and will give

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Chester Mikucki
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current prices in Poland. Our member, Mr. V. Rachmanov, 214-17 47th Ave., Bayside, New York, will have exclusive distribution for America. As soon as the book will be published, we will notify all members as to price and other arrangements.

* * *

Associated Press correspondent Larry Allen reports from Warsaw that the Polish government has received its stamp printing, perforating and gumming machine which was looted by the Nazis during the last war and taken to Vienna. Mr. Allen adds that now it will be possible for Poland to provide stamps which stick in place of the present issues which do not.

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Detroit News—Chambers

We note that our good friend Burt W. Brownier in the July 19th issue of Chambers Stamp Journal stated that as far as is known, Mr. Clarence H. Dawson, president of the Palomar Philatelic Society is the first person to propose that a stamp be issued commemorating the Palomar Mountain Observatory.

We are sure that Burt would be interested to know that Polonus member Mr. L. V. Michal revealed a letter to Postmaster General Farley and the "Western Stamp Collector" proposing such a stamp at the July 9, 1939 meeting of the HAWTHORNE STAMP CLUB. Secretary H. R. Larson at the time was also requested to draw up a resolution and forward it to the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs.