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FILATELISTYCZNEJ "POLSKA 73"

P.Z.F. "Polonus"



GREETINGS AND WISHES OF SUCCESS
TO THE EXHIBITORS AND ORGANIZERS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP
EXHIBITION "POLSKA 73"

Polonus Philatelic Society

POLSKA 73

POLSKA 73, Poland's giant international philatelic exhibition, honoring the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus, will be held in Poznan, August 19 thru September 2. Polonus members will exhibit in the competition and will also be present at most of the festivities.

The international exhibition will be the largest ever held in Poland, and philatelists from almost 100 countries from all over the world will participate.

Vice President, Alfred Szebel, will officially represent Polonus at the Poznan exhibition and has already received a personal invitation to meet with the President of the P.Z.F. Zygmunt Hampel. Along with Szebel, there will be Frank Wolosewick, J. P. Rux, Joseph Migala, Walenty Poniecki and Dr. Miet Kamienski. Numerous entries have been made by Polonus members and a detailed listing of them with the final results will be printed in the next edition of the Polonus Bulletin.

The U.S. Postal Service announced that United States participation in the World Philatelic Exhibition, "Polska 73", will feature the first display in Poland of the world famous "Moon Letter" which the Apollo 15 astronauts cancelled in 1971.

Additional U.S. exhibits will include materials related to the issuance of the recent Copernicus stamp and 36 album pages of die and plate proofs dating from the first U.S. stamp in 1847.

A souvenir card will be issued in honor of **POLSKA 73**. The card which will be printed in limited quantities by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, will

be distributed to participants at **POLSKA 73**, and will be available at \$1.00 each through the Philatelic Sales Unit shortly after the issue date.

The complete title of the Exhibition is the "Światowa Wystawa Filatelistyczna", and this wording appears across the top of the card. The card depicts three stamps issued in honor of Nicolaus Copernicus. Appearing at the left is the eight cent U.S. stamp in honor of Copernicus. At the right are two Copernicus stamps, of differing denominations, issued by the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

A brief commemoration of the exhibition and a description of the stamps appears in Polish over the signature of Postmaster General E. T. Klassen.

Requests for the **POLSKA** card should be addressed to "POLSKA Souvenir Card," Philatelic Sales Unit, Washington, D.C. 20036, enclosing \$1.00 for each card, plus a 50-cent handling charge per order.

The Copernicus exhibit will contain among others about 30 stamp designs which were submitted to the Postal Service by the Polish American Congress. An 8-cent stamp honoring the great Polish astronomer was issued with a ceremony April 23 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Only infrequently does the United States issue a postage stamp for a non-national, but in this case it joined a number of other countries in commemorating the 500th anniversary of Copernicus' birth.

Collectors of first day covers ordered 734,190 special cancellations of the stamp. This was

(Continued on page 313-7)

Austrian Machines Used On Polish Perforations

(Specially on "LARGE EAGLES") During the Polish Mark Period

By W. MASŁOWSKI mgr. juris (Wilno) and A. BROAR

Historical Background

During November of 1918, the new state of Poland came into existence after 150 years of divided subjugation by Russia, Prussia and Austria. As a result of World War I, these three Powers had collapsed with the consequence that at the Treaties of Versailles and St. Germain Poland was recognized as an independent state. This meant, that although for Poland it brought her freedom from foreign domination, for the Polish people it meant enduring further hardships, in order to rebuild a new life from debris of the former

Apart from external problems, such as defending its newly obtained liberty, Poland had an enormous task ahead in the unification of the country owing to its long subjugation, which created psychological as well as physical disruption between the three dismembered parts, this in itself raised many difficulties in establishing an united Poland. A difficulty arose due to the fact that the dividing Powers left behind a legacy of three types of currency which was still in circulation a year after the liberation, especially in the central and southern provinces. It was a matter of roubles, marks and koronas, it was therefore of paramount importance that the currency should be controlled in a single unit and consequently, currency reform was high on the list. Russian roubles were ignored, but the koronas backed by an Austrian gold reserve in the south (in Małopolska) Austrian Galicia, had to be re-

deemed. Finance problems such as printing the new "Mark" bank-notes compelled the Warsaw Government to contact the Vienna State Printing Works (V.S.P.W.) in November 1918 for assistance. Poland did not possess the equipment for printing the required notes, neither was any machinery available for perforating the proposed issue of postage stamps.

In these circumstances, the printing of the notes were carried out by V.S.P.W., but the perforating machines for the stamps were transferred to Warsaw. The first "Definitive" issue in Marks appeared in February, 1920, for all provinces throughout Poland. Since then and until April 1, 1924, the Polish Mark (consisting of 100 Fennigi) was the official currency of the State and for that reason we will refer to this period as the "Polish Mark Period".

The Subject of the Article

This is about two issues of the "Large Eagles": 1st issued from June, 1921 until January, 1923, and the 2nd from February, 1923. In all there are 9 denominations. These are recorded as No. 170-172 and 192-198 in Gibbons Catalogue or Polish Catalogue "Ruch" No. 135A-138 and 139-143. We shall treat them, in our investigation, as one set, due to the similarity of their perforations. It should be emphasized that the "Large Eagles" perforations are typical for all the Polish Mark Period adhesive stamp printings of the period under review i.e. 16 sets of stamps. (Apart from postal due

stamps and special issues).

The Method of Investigation

The "INSTANTA" perforating gauge was used for all measurements. This particular perforating gauge was invented by L. P. Rank, in 1944 and is based on geometrical theory of convergency of lines in space and it is considered as the most suitable measuring device for checking the perforation variations of the stamps involved of the period.

The "Odontometre" invented by a Frenchmen in 1866 is pragmatical and unable to cope with these perforations and was discarded. As an example, Col. Larking's measurements were carried out by the use of the "Odontometre" and when we checked his measurements, we found many discrepancies. His famous check list of perforations unfortunately does not present a realistic picture. The same may be said of the check list published by "Polish Postal Signs".

It should be noted that our main subject of investigation is a "HOLE". Its size, shape, layout and the distance between them, measuring from center to center.

"Half" we recognize as a basic unit of perforation. Perf. 10, 10½, 11, 11½, 12, 12½ and so on are our "halves". Accordingly with Instanta, "half" is divided by 5 "decimals". For instance 11½ perf. — is from 11.25 up to 11.75. It allows us to register the exact position of any measurement in the limits of a "half".

We have attempted to connect our investigations with quality of the paper used (see our Main Chart, fig. No. 1). The method of our approach is largely dictated by the theories already e-

MAIN CHART

N° OF ITEM.	TYPE OF PERF.	TYPE OF PERFORATION	ACQUAIRE OR IRRÉG.	DATE OF PRINTING		J U N E 1 9 2 1										FE
				DENOMINATION		25 M.		50 M.				100 M.				
				P. GAUGE	PAPER TYPE OF HOLES	RIBBED	PARCHMENT	GROUP I	PARCHMENT	RIBBED	THIN	THICK	THIN	RIBBED		
1			REG.	9	ONE TYPE											
2			IRR.	10½	LARGE HOLES											
3					SMALL HOLES											
4			REG.	11	LARGE HOLES											
5					SMALL HOLES											
6			REG.	11½	LARGE HOLES											
7					SMALL HOLES											
8			IRR.	12	TO 12½											
9			IRR.	12½	TO 13											
10			REG.	13	LARGE HOLES											
11					SMALL HOLES											
12			REG.	13½	LARGE HOLES											
13					SMALL HOLES											
14			REG.	14	ONE TYPE											
15			REG.	14½	ONE TYPE											
16			COMB PERF.	11½ : 11¾	LARGE HOLES											
17			REGULAR		SMALL HOLES											
18			FRAME P. ROTARY	12¾ : 12½	ONE TYPE											

nunciated, but we could not find any response to the adaptation of these theories on the stamps examined. Presumably the main obstacle was the adoption of the poor equipment used by the Polish Printing Works. We will make one exception only — to the pelure paper. "Pelure" is a French name, in free translation means "Onion Peel". It is very

[illegible]

thin, almost transparent, crisp, smooth and brittle paper. Used in Poland from 1922 for harrow perforation only.

Terminology

We introduce two terms: CONSTANT and INCONSTANT perforations. Both these terms required defining. The perforations during the Polish Mark period were special ones, due to

financial and technical circumstances. This necessitates us to use a new terminology which, in our opinion, will assist us to describe the results of our research into this most perplexing maze of perforation varieties.

By "Constant", we mean that the characteristic measurements of the perforation are uniform throughout and show no variation whatsoever.

By "Inconstant" we mean that the characteristic nature of the method of production employed in producing the perforation shows a marked contrast from the normal. Thus the perforating gauge can show an expansion "downwards" or "thickening upwards" causing overlapping of the "adjacent half", mentioned above. It should be noted that the "inconstant" perforation can be observed on regular or irregular perforations, as we shall demonstrate later.

Some Denominations

We have divided the 25 mks. denomination into two groups. Group I — all those copies with relatively normal impressions, printed on thin wove, ribbed and parchment papers, with several shades of color.

Group II — all those copies printed from worn plate in two shades: lilac-yellowish and lilac - brown - yellowish. We have placed the issue of Group II to February-March, 1922 onwards.

From the perforation point of view it is necessary to note that in Group I these had been perforated by machine with gauge 11, whilst those from Group II by a machine with the irregular gauge 10½. This division exclude 25 mks. printed by die 'B'.

LINE PERFORATION

Generally.

Line perforation (in normal circumstance) is used only when the size of an image cannot fit that of existing comb or harrow perforating machines. Line perforators are known for their small capacity of production. The capacity of the line perforating machines, taking into consideration the complete set of 15, was about 3 to 4 million stamps per day of 8 hours, while modern machines in other countries could cope with 3 million stamps per hour, i.e. the U.S.A. issue of 1908-1910. Poland obtained perforating machines from Austria, which were, with some exception of the guillotine type. In the case of the Large Eagles, however, the line machines had been used only since June, 1921, until December, 1922.

All line perforations were "stroke" type (punched or pressed). That means they were performed on by guillotines. The evidence is as follows:

1. The stamp sizes are differentiated.
2. The sizes of the sheets of 100 varied.
3. Perforations often are made obliquely.
4. During perf. process, sheets were shifted by hand.

We will consider the irregular, regular, compound and mixed perforations.

Irregular Perforation.

There are common characteristics to all irregular perforations; they have longer segments of regularity, but often on single stamps can be found in two or three different measurements in horizontal or vertical directions. All have inconstant perforations which run out of alignment.

They are common during the Polish Mark period, similar to those found on Austrian stamps used in 1877.

There are three irregular perforations to be found on Large Eagles:

- 1). $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13; 2). 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$; and 3). $10\frac{1}{2}$.

PFALZ and RICHTER, Austrian philatelic students, in their publication edited in 1969, Vienna, claimed an additional perforation 9 as an irregular perf. They described it as "fluctuated from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 10". We did not find any irregularity, except an inconstancy. But we have not seen any sheet of 100 of these stamps.

1). **Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13** called by Pfalz and Richter as perf. 13, fluctuated (according to them) from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13. The perforation has large holes; they are larger than those of perf. 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ and a genuine perf. 13. Perforator with gauge $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 can produce perf. 13 so far as 12.8 and 12.9; but more often extends downwards and overlaps even perf. 12. Blind perf. to be found. This was used on all denominations of Large Eagles, except for the 400 mks.

2). **Perforation 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$** . This is the most difficult perforation of all irregular. It extends from 11 to 18, but these are extreme measurements which were found on a few blocks (see fig. No. 2). Common measurements are from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 13. It is a very "inconstant" perforation, used on all denominations, except the 400 mks.

3). **Perforation $10\frac{1}{2}$** . Pfalz and Richter called these perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$ and described it as "fluctuated from 10 to 11". On this we agree.

(To be continued)

POLSKA 73 (Continued)

nearly twice the number of special cancellations for six stamps previously issued in 1973. One hundred and fifty million Copernicus stamps were printed in two colors.

The U.S. Postal Service will be represented at "Polska 73" by Walter Zachariasiewicz, Coordinator for International Technical Cooperation, Office of International Postal Affairs.

NEW ISSUES

Polish Cavalry

On December 23, 1972 a set of eight stamps were issued showing riders in the Polish Cavalry during the 10th to 20th century.

- 20 gr—a Piast knight, 10-11th cent. 6,500,000 issued
- 40 gr—an equestrian, 13th cent. 6,500,000 issued
- 60 gr—an equestrian from Wł. Jagiełło's cavalry, 15th cent. 6,500,000 issued
- 1.35 zł—an equestrian from a hussars' company, 17th cent. 6,500,000 issued
- 4.00 zł—an equestrian from the National Guard Uhlans, 18th cent. 1,300,000 issued.

4.50 zł—an equestrian from the Congress Kingdom, 1831.

1,300,000 issued

5.00 zł—an equestrian from the light Cavalry Regiment, 1939. 1,000,000 issued

7.00 zł—an equestrian from the Light Cavalry Regiment, 1945. 1,000,000 issued

Rotogravure printed in multi-color on chalky paper in sheets of 25 stamps by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by L. Maciąg.

Copernicus' 500th Birthday

On February 18, 1973 a set of five commemoratives were issued honoring the great Polish astronomer.

1.00 zł—Portrait by M. Bacciarrelli. 10,000,000 issued

1.50 zł—16th cent. portrait from Toruń. 10,000,000 issued

2.70 zł—Portrait by Zinck Nor. 3,000,000 issued

4.00 zł—A copy from the Strasbourg clock. 5,000,000 issued

4.90 zł—Copernicus in his observatory by Jan Matejko. 1,000,000 issued

Rotogravure printed in multi-color on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by H. Chyliński.

MOVED TO A NEW, MODERN LOCATION

Because of our expanded philatelic operations, it has been necessary to move our offices to larger quarters. The address of the new office is 6687 Northwest Highway, Chicago, Illinois 60631. Our new telephone number is (312) 763-6693.

We are conveniently located on Chicago's northwest side. The new offices are easily accessible by automobile (parking is available for our clientele), public transportation, taxi or commuter train (the Northwestern R.R. Edison Park Station is two minutes distant). O'Hare International Airport is a ten minute drive away.

Please plan to visit with us soon.

ROMAN J. BURKIEWICZ

NEW ISSUES (Continued)

New Polish Postal Code System

On January 1, 1973 the Polish Post Office announced a new postal system to direct mail properly. A 1.50 zloty was issued on May 5, 1973 showing an envelope properly addressed with postal code number. Rotogravure printed on chalky paper in sheets of 50 by PWPW Warsaw. Quantity issued: 20,000,000. Designed by H. Chyliński.

KOPERNIK CANCELLATION

From Walter Szarejko of Middleville, N.Y. we learned that the post office of Poland, N.Y. 13431 is using a three-line cancellation: 'MIKOLAJ KOPERNIK/500th ANNIVERSARY/1473-1973'. Last date of use will be August 31, 1973.

U.S. COPERNICUS STAMP PLATE PRINTINGS

Chester Makowski inquired of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving on the various plate numbers and the printings on the Copernicus commemorative. He received the following information:

Plate No.	Impressions
34105	135,999
34106	119,634
34107	46,632
34110	52,746
34111	115,055
34112	126,981
34114	126,981
34115	133,476
34118	94,809

Total Impressions 952,313

As there were 200 stamps in a printing sheet, and a sheet is counted as one impression — the total quantity of stamps printed thus far would amount to 190,462,600.

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

— Annual Dues are \$4.00 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, August 24, 1973 —

Regular business meeting beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, September 14, 1973 —

Business meeting. Members attending POLSKA 73 will report on the show at this meeting.

Friday, September 28, 1973 —

Program meeting. Speaker and topic to be announced in next bulletin.

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