

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLAND AND HER DEMOCRATIC NEIGHBORS



"Poland and Her New Democratic Neighbors" will be the theme of POLPEX 93, to be held March 19-20-21 at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. Some forty frames of exhibits have already been promised. Besides Poland, countries to be shown will be Lithuania, Belarus, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, and Germany. Polpex entry forms are available from Arkadiusz Walinski, 7353 W. Estes Street, Chicago, IL 60631.

A U.S. Postal Station will operate at Polpex using a special cancellation. A souvenir card, a pair of souvenir sheets, cachets, and a program catalog are planned.

With this issue of *Polonus Bulletin* we enclose a remittance envelope. As it is time to renew your membership by paying dues, we also ask that you be a Polpex Patron or Well Wisher. Polpex is our main event of the year — let's make our 1993 show the best that we can.

OUR FIRST POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE EXHIBIT

Our first Polish American Heritage Exhibition, a joint venture with the Polish American Numismatic Association, was most successful. It was a good turnout of people for the opening ceremony reception held on Friday, October 9th, at the Polish Museum of America, 984 North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago.

The Honorable Edward J. Derwinski, our distinguished guest, admitted that he was a stamp collector but never got around to mount his collection. He was introduced by Edward G. Dykla, Chairman of the Museum Board and President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Other speakers at the ceremony were Andrzej Jaroszynski, Deputy Consul General of Poland; Roman Strzelecki, *Polonus* President, and Louis Koncza, P.A.N.A. President.



Left to right: Mrs. Jaroszynski; Louis Koncza, Pres. PANA; Hon. Edward J. Derwinski; Roman Strzelecki, Pres. *Polonus*; Andrzej Jaroszynski of the Polish Consulate and Chester Schafer, Exhibition Co-ordinator. (Photo: Edw. Blicharski)

Medals of General Pulaski, struck for the Bicentennial in 1976, were presented by Chester Schafer, the Exhibition Coordinator. Honorary presentations were made to Mr. Derwinski and Mr. Dykla. He then proceeded and presented one to Fred Szebel for his exhibits of Kings of

Poland and Poland's Millennium; to Mrs. Edward Link for her late husband's exhibits of Kosciuszko and Pulaski; Arkadiusz Walinski for his Pope Visits to America and Polish Scouting in the U.S.; Stanley Dobrzycki for Paderewski; Jacek Mleczko for Kosciuszko; Roman Strzelecki for the Polonus exhibit and Louis Koncza for his P.A.N.A. Medal exhibit.



Pres. R. Strzelecki looks on as Edward G. Dykla, Pres. PRCUA and Chairman of the Museum Board introduces our honored guest. (Photos: E. Blicharski)



Maria and Arkadiusz Walinski with Mrs. Elzbieta Link in front of Mrs. Link's late husband Edward's exhibit of Kosciuszko and Pulaski material.

After the program all present enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by Kasia's Deli and imported wine from Stanley Stawski. Among those present, besides Polonus and PANA members with families, there were many notables from the PRCUA and other Polonia organizations. Representing the Lithuania Philatelic Society was its president, John Variakojis.

The exhibition was on display for the rest of October where in addition to normal traffic, some seventeen buses of visitors viewed the exhibition.
—Chester Schafer, Exhibition Coordinator

WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION "POLSKA '93"

Due to internal problems in Poland, the Organizing Committee of "POLSKA '93" is delayed by about two months. Just received a Press Release which brings the following news:



Lech Walesa, the President of the Republic of Poland accepted the Honorary patronage. -

2. At the "Tematica Genova '92" the Board of Directors of F.I.P. appointed an International Jury for the Polska '93 Exhibition. It is comprised of 41 jurors and 9 apprentices, seven of whom are from Poland.
3. The Organizing Committee received provisional entry forms of over 800 exhibits from 60 countries all over the world.

Over 50 exhibits were accepted from the United States. The Commissioners of East and West mailed the Final Entry Forms which should be returned to them before January 5th, 1993 with the form fee, etc. Only 15% of the U.S. Preliminary Entry Forms were rejected by Polska '93.

The schedule for POLSKA '93 will be as follows:

May 7—(Friday)	Philatelist Day - the Centennial of Organized Polish Philatelic Movement
May 8—(Saturday)	FIP & UN Day
May 9—(Sunday)	Aero- and Astrophilately Day
May 10—(Monday)	Youth Day
May 11—(Tuesday)	Post and Postal History Day
May 12—(Wednesday)	Traditional Philately Day
May 13—(Thursday)	Thematic Philately Day
May 14—(Friday)	Nature Day
May 15—(Saturday)	Europe Day
May 16—(Sunday)	Exhibitors and Philatelic Press Day

Presently the Organizing Committee is preparing Bulletin 2 which will feature an interesting article written by Zbigniew Mikulski: "Insurrection Post in Warwiski in 1923", about Polish stamps which are very valuable but hardly known. On the basis of his 30 years experience, the author offers new informations about the printing of these stamps and their distribution. The article is highly recommended.

FALCON TRAVEL BUREAU, INC. will offer a group rate on LOT Polish Airlines Boeing 767 flights from Chicago and New York with no change of planes. A block of seats has been reserved for departure May 4th and return May 18th. For those who wish to either return sooner or later, we can reserve your flights for the requested dates at the time of booking at no extra charge.

Airfare from New York - round trip - May 4th: \$799 + \$18 tax

Airfare from Chicago - round trip - May 18th: \$849 + \$18 tax

Upon arrival in Warsaw on LOT Polish Airlines on May 5th, you will be provided with ground transportation to POLSKA '93/Poznan.

From other cities in the U.S.A. there are special add-on fares to connect to LOT out of Chicago or New York, i.e. Miami: \$234.00.

These rates are as of November 1st and are subject to change. If you wish to fly on other carriers we can also make those arrangements for you, but they require a change of plane.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty or Wanda at:

9018 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714.

Phone: (708) 298-0550 - Fax: (708) 298-0553.

Anybody interested in accommodations, touring Poland or participating in events accompanying the exhibition is requested to contact:

ORBIS S.A. Biuro Obsługi Cudzoziemców

Pl. Gen. H. Dąbrowskiego 1, 61-894 Poznań, Poland

Tel.: (48) (61) 330-221, Fax: (48) (61) 332-211.

or Falcon Travel, (address and phone above).

—Fred Szebel

The 40 Fen. issue of 1920 – Scott #101, Ruch #97

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

I have always been intrigued by the Polish Provisional Issue of January 1921 (Scott No. 153, Ruch No. 120). In checking the literature on this issue I found several articles in the *Polonus Bulletin* or reprinted articles from other publications.¹⁻⁶ More recently, Włodarski⁷ expanded on some statements in the Polish catalog.⁸ The most recent Polish catalog⁹ provides little additional information on this issue.

After examining the above literature, studying the two sheets that I have, and examining a number of stamps loaned by Mr. Joe Bieniecki, I concluded that I needed to know more about the basic stamp which was the precursor of this issue (Scott No. 101, Ruch No. 97). This article will be concerned with the basic stamp (Scott 101, Ruch 97), and will be followed by a second article dealing with the overprinted stamp (Scott 153, Ruch 120).

Since the amount of precursor material I had for study was limited, Mr. Joe Bieniecki loaned me seven sheets or parts thereof and some loose stamps. Although the amount of material for study was still limited, some information can be added to that in the catalogs and to those articles where mention was made of the precursor stamps.

Machowski¹⁰ provided details on the design of the 40 fen. value, which consisted of the crowned Polish eagle, a value tablet below, two line "POCZTA POLSKA" at the top, and Roman fasces on the right and left sides. At the extreme lower corners are the artist's initials "E.B." (Edward Bartłomiejczyk). The design is reported as 17 x 22 mm. in size (my measurements show 17.2 x 21.55 mm. with slight differences depending on the amount of ink applied). In a continuing article,¹¹ further characteristics were given, namely: the printing form consisted of four 10 x 10 panes with the two top panes placed upright and the bottom ones upside down with vertical gutters between panes measuring approximately 20 mm. and horizontal gutters measuring approximately 17 mm., the accounting numbers at the top of each pane were framed with three vertical long lines on each side and eight vertical short lines above the numbers, with vertical lines in the color of the stamp along the left and right selvage. He identified the printing form as 3a with the accounting number frame noted as 17 x 15.5 mm. (my measurements show 16.5 — 16.6 x 15.1 — 15.2 mm.). The paper used was wove, whitish, smooth and heavy with white highly glossy or light brown gum. According to him¹¹ the imperforate stamps were classed as printer's waste.

The catalogs^{8,9,12} report that these stamps were line perforated 9, 10, 10:11½, 11½, 11½:10. Additionally, perforation 11½ shows larger and smaller perforations horizontally or vertically. Steczynski³ also reported smooth and rough perforations. The perforation varieties listed¹² include missing perforations at top, bottom, right and left sides, and double perforations horizontally and vertically.

Although Larking² listed three shades — bright violet, pale violet, and deep violet, current catalogs^{8,9} list two colors — dark violet and red violet.

In reporting on flaws, Machowski¹¹ stated there were a considerable number to be found in this issue: various shapes and sizes (dots, dashes, white or colored spots, missing parts of a design, etc.), in some cases they were constant throughout the whole life of the used plates. ,

Two varieties, which occurred on the same sheet, were reported by Larking², namely: "P" in "POLSKA" damaged in position 73 and a white spot in the "S" in position 91. These varieties are reported to be in Sector 1.⁸ Varieties found in Sectors 1, 2, and 3 are listed and illustrated in part in PZP,⁸ and are tabulated below:

PRINTING VARIETIES NOTED ON PP. 164 AND 165. PZP*

Pos.	Sector				Description
	1	2	3	4	
5	+				11(K) damaged
8	+				Lines in left fasces opposite 7(P)
12	+				Dot inside 1(P)
41		+	+		Dot extending 7(P)
41					Dot by 1(P)
43		+			Slant line of 4 broken
50	+				Dot below 9(L)
51	+				Dot above 11(K)
60	+				Damaged 12(A)
63		+			Spot below lower frame
70		+			White spot on background cross-hatching opposite right fasces
73	+				Damaged 7(P)
89		+	+		Bottom of 3(C) extends upward and slightly left
89	+				Bottom of 3(C) extends upward and to right
91	+				White spot in 10(S)

In his article,⁷ Włodarski associated certain basic sectors with overprinting varieties in four specific groups. He listed the precursor printing varieties in three sectors as follows:

PRINTING VARIETIES REPORTED BY WŁODARSKI⁷

Pos.	Sector*				Description
	a	b	c	d	
8	+				Dash on Roman fasces at left of 7(P)
8			+		Spot on left Roman fasces at top
12	+				Dot in 1(P)
15			+		7(P) joins shading
24		+			10-11 (S-K) joined
31			+		Dot by 7(P) at bottom
41	+				1(P) cut inside
41		+			Dot extends 7(P)
43		+			Slant line of 4 broken
50	+				Dot below 9(L)
51	+				Dot above 11(K)
52			+		Dash extends to 8(O) at bottom
63		+			Dot above lower frame line
66			+		Spot extends to 6(A), cut 8(O)
73	+				7(P) damaged
75	+				Thin white line across left ribbon
75		+			11(K) increased in size at right end
78			+		Spot extends to 7(P)
81			+		3(C) broken at bottom
89	+				Lower stem of 3(C) extended to right
89		+			Lower stem of 3(C) extended upward and slightly left
90	+				10(S) broken at top
91	+				White spot in 10(S)
94			+		White spot by left fasces at left
98	+				Dot extends to 8(O) at right

* Sectors a, b, and c correspond to Sectors 1, 2, and 3, respectively

Neither tabulation provides any information on possible varieties in Sector 4 (Sector d, Włodarski nomenclature). All varieties observed under magnification are listed below in more detail. Listed also are presumed Sector d varieties.

PRINTING VARIETIES NOTED BY STRAUB

Pos.	Sector				Description
	1	2	3	4	
4			+		Dash inside 2(O) upper right, dot 8(O) below middle
4			+		Dot below and slightly to right of left leg of 12(A)
8	+				Dash in Roman fasces at left of 7(P)
8			+		Spot in left Roman fasces at top
9				+	11-12 (K-A) joined at bottom
10		+			Dot bottom of 7(P)
11		+			Dot below loop of 7(P)
12	+				Dot inside 1(P)
13			+		Dot touching frame between 5-6 (T-A)
15		+			Bottom of 7(P) joins shading line
22			+		Short left serif top of 5 (T)
24		+			10-11 (S-K) joined at top
26		+			Dot bottom of 3(C)
28			+		Small dot in 2(O)
31			+		Spur at bottom below 7-8(P-O); dot upper left outside 8(O)
33		+			Break 3(C) at top
36			+		Dot bottom right serif 1(P)
40		+			Dot below and between 7-8 (P-O)
41		+	+		Extension left side 7(P)
42			+		7-8 (P-O) joined
43		+			Slant line of 4 broken
43	+				10-11(S-K) joined at top
50	+				Spur lower left side 9(L), blob below right serif 9(L)
50			+		Dot top left serif 9(L)
51	+				Dot over 11(K)
51			+		Dot to right and outside 2(O); two dots outside 8(O)
52	+		+		10-11 (S-K) joined at top
52		+			Dot upper left of 3(C)
52			+		Dash extends to 8(O) at bottom
60		+			Dot bottom left outside 2(O)
62		+			Dot below 7-8 (P-O)
63		+			Damaged numeral tablet at left (some)
63		+			Dot or smudge above lower frame line
64		+	+	+	Dot inside 7(P)
66		+			Dot right side of 6(A)
67		+	+	+	Dot inside 7(P)
69			+		Dot inside 2(O)
70		+			Dot below 11(K)
71		+			Dot above left top serif of 1(P)
73	+				7(P) damaged
75	+				Thin white line across left ribbon
75		+			Spot attached lower right leg, right side of 11(K)
78			+		Dash left side 7(P)
81		+			Dot or dots above 6(A)
81		+		+	Dash in center of 2(O)
81			+		Break in bottom of 3(C)
82			+		10-11 (S-K) joined at top
84			+		Dot in 2(O) slightly below center
87	+	+	+	+	Dot in 1(P)
87			+		Dot attached to or below 3(C)
89	+				Lower stem of 3(C) extends to right
89		+	+		Lower stem of 3(C) extended upwards and slightly to left
89			+		Dot in opening of 3(C), bottom stem of 3(C) thickened and extends to right

PRINTING VARIETIES NOTED BY STRAUB (continued)

Pos.	Sector				Description
	1	2	3	4	
90	+				10 (S) broken at top
91	+				White spot in 10 (S)
94		+			White spot left Roman fasces at left
96		+			Dot inside 3(C)
97		+			Dot outside 3(C)
98	+				Dot extends to 8(0) at right

This preliminary study, which leads to a partial plating of this issue is based primarily on the characteristic varieties found in "POCZTA POLSKA". Numerous other varieties have been observed, particularly in breaks in the design of the fasces, the tablet containing the "40" and "f.", etc. To really plate the varieties, access is needed to full sheets of the printing of this issue. This issue, and particularly after overprinting, can be considered a plater's dream.

I would appreciate hearing from individuals who have full sheets or large portions of these sheets, which would permit a more complete identification of this interesting and oft-neglected issue.

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Report from Poland: visiting stamp shops

By **TERENCE HINES**

Warsaw, Poland, seems to be quite active philatelically. This city of about 1.8 million people has numerous stamp shops. They are scattered all over town and not concentrated in any one stamp district.

While I've not been to all of them, I have visited a considerable portion. Their stock seems to be very thin, especially in the area of Polish stamps. Every shop I visited has a display of gaudy Third World topical material often cancelled-to-order. Trying to find even common Polish material can be a problem.

For example, a friend recently asked me to help her put together a gift for a friend of hers in the United States who is a collector. I decided that a mint set of the Polish airmails would be appropriate to the amount she wished to spend. Such a collection comprises Scott C1-56 (I excluded the very expensive 1948 souvenir sheet, C26Cd), the imperforate versions of C28-31 and CB1 and CB1-a. The total Scott value of this collection is \$209.48, and it retails for about \$175 in the United States. Thus, it is not a terribly rare or expensive collection.

In spite of this, it required repeated visits to six different shops to put the collection together. Only one shop had any copies of the first airmail set (C1-9) issued in 1925. No shop had all the stamps I wanted. Three had nothing other than the most recent issues.

When I completed the collection, I'd paid about 25 percent less than average U.S. retail. But the difficulty in obtaining even this common material more than made up for the savings.

My total outlay for the collection was about \$130. This may not seem a lot, but wages are very low in Poland. The average monthly income of a Warsaw wage earner is said to be about \$200. Thus, the collection I'd put together had cost the equivalent of 65 percent of a month's wages. With this sort of constraint on income, it is easy to understand why the Warsaw stamp shops don't have better stocks than they do. They can't generate enough cash to purchase inventory from abroad, or, perhaps, even from domestic sources.

In spite of the poor stock available, the shops I've been in are usually busy. Customers may be only buying the equivalent of 50¢ or \$10 worth of stamps, but they are buying. And each shop does seem to have several specialty items with prices that are, by local standards, astronomical. For example, one shop had two different denominations of the 1957-58 airmail series (C41-51) in imperforate pairs. The asking price was 2,500,000 zlotych per pair, equal to \$185.00.



Hunting for Polish airmail stamps in Warsaw can be a challenge. Terence Hines, the author of this article, could find only one shop that sold the first airmail set of 1925. The one-grosz value is shown.

Only one of the shops I've visited has any kind of stock of covers and postal history material. This is the same shop that had almost none of the early (pre-war) airmail stamps that I was looking for.

In general, covers and postal history material are not available at the local shops, with this one exception. The cover box that is such a feature of U.S. stamp shops just doesn't seem to exist in Warsaw.

Cacheted first-day covers abound, however. Unaddressed covers with commemorative cancels also are popular. Poland must lead the world in the production of commemorative cancels. In the years 1982-1986, 1,713 different commemorative handstamp cancels were produced.

In a somewhat surprising contrast to the lack of postal history material in the shops, the contents of the two major philatelic monthlies published in Poland indicate a considerable interest in postal history subjects. The oldest monthly, published by the Polish Philatelic Union, is "Filatelista", currently in the 839th issue. It is published in Warsaw and costs 7,000 zloty (about 50¢) an issue. It contains about 28 pages per issue and measures about 6½ inches by 8 inches. I have not been able to determine its circulation.

The other national philatelic publication, "Filatelistyka Miesięcznik" or Philatelic Monthly, is much newer. Its current issue is No. 28. It is slightly larger than Filatelista, running about 44 pages per issue. Its print run is 10,000 copies per issue. The price of a single copy of Filatelistyka Miesięcznik is 10,000 zł., about 75¢.

Articles in recent issues of both magazines reflect the emphasis on postal history. Representative titles, roughly translated, include the following: "Telegraph Receipt Stamps"; "Moving Faulty Overprints on the Overprinted Stamp Issue of 1991, 1,000 zł. on 40 zł. and 1,500 zł. on 50 zł."; "Postal Cards of the General Government Overprinted 'POST-KARTE'"; "More on the Official Cards of the General Government"; "More on International Correspondence with Lithuania, 1939-1940"; and "How to Build a Collection of Registered Mail Labels."

The titles reveal not only an interest in postal history, but an interest in varieties of modern Polish stamps, overprints and labels. In addition to the aforementioned and other articles, each issue of the two monthlies features regular listing of new issues, both Polish and international; news of Polish philately; information about new commemorative cancels; and, most notably, listings of what is probably the most popular Polish topical — Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II listings contain not only relevant stamps but also cancels and meter imprints.

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Stow. Filatelistów POLONUS

At the October meeting, Arkadiusz Walinski cited that in reading articles on Polonus in the Polish press, he has seen the Polish name of Polonus Philatelic Society written out in at least ten different ways. Isn't it time we establish our society's name in Polish officially? "Stowarzyszenie Filatelistów POLONUS" has been the best so far. What do you think?

STAMPS TO LOOK FOR AND STAMPS TO AVOID

Reprinted from "Polski Przegląd Filatelistyczny" of London, England

1.5.1924: DEFINITIVE ISSUE IN NEW CURRENCY



1 złoty = 100 groszy

S.G. Nos. 218-28 P.Z.P. Nos. 182-92

There were two printing errors:

1—25 Gr. slate-blue instead claret - £.3500 M.;
£. 5250 U

2—30 Gr. grey-blue instead violet - £. 175 M.;
£. 105 U.

To cheer you up the normal 30 Gr. M. is currently quoted at £. 21, used only 17p. whilst imperforate-proofs are £. 50 each.

The above stamps were not forged but those which were issued on Jan. 5, 1925 for Gdansk had the overprint forged. The first forgery is not difficult to recognize since the dimensions of the overprint are different. (Every "PORT GDAŃSK" overprint was the subject to various philatelic forgeries.) During the last war, forgers got hold of the original plates of the overprint, and produced inverted overprints which, of course is difficult to recognize. All the original stamps were perforated comb $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ only, and there is no record of any original stamps printed with inverted overprint. Only 10 Gr. and 25 Gr. values were printed on thin paper — thin=0.05 mm, medium 0.07 to 0.11 mm for the paper in this issue. My other concern is that some dimensions and perforations quoted in P.Z.P. handbooks, which we all regard as a "bible", are not always correct or exact. You can easily check if you have an engineering steel ruler machine calibrated in $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1.0 mm, and apply that ruler to check the length of the word "GDAŃSK" of the overprint.

In order to assist in tracing "PORT GDAŃSK" some forgeries, I attach below a table of dimensions of the original overprint and of some of the forgeries. (see also Plate I.)



Thickness of the letters 'D'

	A	B	C	D	Perf.	Over lettering
P.Z.P. Dimensions	7.1	15.5	1.1	0.6	$11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$	
Actual Dimensions	7.0 - 7.1	16.0 - 16.1	1.0 - 1.1	0.55 - 0.7	—	Letters are very sharp and even
Dimensions of a forgery	7.0 - 7.1	15.8 - 16.1	1.0	0.6 - 0.7	$12 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$	Untidy edges, horiz. bar of toners at ends

1.10.1924: PRESIDENT STANISŁAW WOJCIECHOWSKI



S.G. No. 229 P.Z.P. No. 193

Mint copies are steadily rising in value - £. 22.
Proofs, impert. - £ 130.

All issues of GDAŃSK, i.e. overprints, were subject to various forgeries against philatelists. Of these the most dangerous were those perpetrated during World War II since the original plates were used to produce overprint, especially inverted.

In the example below the type and its dimensions are identical with the genuine, but the poor quality of ink and of the imprint, also fact that the cancellations are not of GDAŃSK P.O. make one doubt of its genuineness.

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WANTED

I am looking for some values of
1919 Krakow Overprints in full
sheets. Also "Poczta Polska" on
G. G. Warschau in full sheets.

Zbigniew Korszen
ul. Wojciechowska 18
20-704 Lublin - Poland

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A corrected and up-to-date list:

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Merry Christmas

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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