BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Issue No. 86 June 1950

The Recent Polpex Articles

by M. E. Steczynski

Several articles by Polonus members appeared in the philatelic press a few months ago in connection with Polpex 1950. These articles were either translations from the philatelic press in Poland or else were the original work of well meaning Polonus members. Some of the statements in these articles did not agree in full with data presented previously in other articles, so that the editors of Polonus were asked to verify certain information sent to the philatelic press throughout America or which appeared in the Polonus Bulletin itself.

One of the letters asks us to reconcile certain information in one of the recent articles with a presentation by Rich and Domanski in the "Stamp Specialist Blue Book." The important question pertains to the date of issue which is generally given as January 1, 1860. We have referred the matter to our member Mr. V. Rachmanov, an outstanding authority and author with Polanski of the splendid treatise on Poland No. 1. This stamp was definitely issued on January 1, 1860 according to our new calendar (December 20, 1859 by the old calendar) in accordance with Circular No. 13 of the Postal Directorate of the Polish Kingdom (Russian Poland), dated 2/14 December, 1859 which also included the announcement that Russian stamps in private hands may still be used in Poland for three months to March 20/April 1, 1860. The above Circular is reproduced on Plate 7 of Polanski's book. Letters from January and February, 1860, with Poland No. 1 on them are known to exist, so there can be no doubt that Poland No. 1 was issued and in circulation from January 1, 1860 (our calendar). The main Russian Postal Directorate in St. Petersburg announced post factum in Circular No. 55 dated 4/16 March, 1860 about the already issued Poland No. 1, in order that Russian post offices would adhere to the ruling that this stamp was not valid in Russia proper, but only within the Polish Kingdom and to Russia.

Another question came up regarding the first master die for Poland No. 1. The original Polish article uses terms and descriptions which were translated into English in an academic sense, and which were not correct in a technical sense, so a few explanations are now in order. This original die was cut and not etched, so it would reproduce in relief and not letterpress. In relief printing, the original die could have shown embossed white feathers on the wings of the eagle, and an embossed Polish coat of arms on the breast of the eagle. In actual reproduction of the stamp, however, unscreened etchings were used, so that there was no embossed or shaded effect. The red dotted background was removed from behind the cloak of the coat of arms and other minor changes were made when the printing plate was prepared.

Mr. Rachmanov also refers to the article in the SPA Journal and reprinted in the Polonus Bulletin concerning the unique mint block of 6 Poland No. 1's which block was illustrated and described extensively. Part of the discrepancy arose from the fact that the author had in mind an illustration of the block with sheet

margins, whereas the accompanying illustration did not have the margins. Apparently there were also many errors of fact in the article because Mr. Rachmanov brings out the following:

1. Although Polanski descended from old Russian nobility, he did not have the title of a count.
2. In the French issue of Polanski's book, as well as in the Polish issue, the Poland No. 1 block of Dr. Tislowitz was not and could not be reproduced because when these editions were published in 1920 and 1922, this block was still in England and Dr. Tislowitz did not own it. In Poland, the existence of this block was not known.
3. The block of 8 No. 1's reproduced in original colors in Polanski's work is not a copy of such a block but is definitely a fantasy set up from the design of one individual stamp.
4. In the German edition of the book published in Vienna in 1935, (by Polanski and Rachmanov) the Tislowitz block is reproduced on Plate XIA.
5. Dr. Joseph Tislowitz always lived in Krakow and not in Warsaw.
6. There must be well over two dozen Ikaros handbooks in the U. S. A. because Mr. Rachmanov alone has more than this many copies on hand.
7. Dr. Tislowitz acquired the block of 6, also the vertical pair related to this block (evidently from a block of 10) back in 1932 or 1933 in London. In 1940, when the A. Faberge collection was being sold in London, Poland because of its occupation by the Germans, was entirely cut off from England and no one in Poland could buy anything in England. In 1940 Dr. Tislowitz already was not in Krakow because just before the war he went to Lwow where he was later arrested and taken away, so that his fate to this day is unknown. It is believed that he is not alive.
8. Finally, Mr. Rachmanov definitely states that this block of 6 never was the property of A. Faberge but was owned by the well-known English collector Dorning Bakton who specialized in classical blocks and had a unique collection of such items. Dorning Bakton died in 1932 and several years later his collection was sold at auction in London where Dr. Tislowitz acquired his copy.

* * *

One of the articles in "STAMPS" dealt with the Krakow overprints and stated that setting II was made only after the first plate showed evidence of mechanical disintegration. There was no "plate," as the authors pointed out previously—they merely used improper terminology at this point. Setting IIA was cast and locked up presumably at about the same time as setting I in order to overprint the smaller format of the rose-red postage dues. This form was later adjusted to fit stamps of other formats, producing settings IIB, IIC, IID and IIE. The last two settings included only the lower 50 positions, so that the total number of typograph (letterpress) positions is 500 and not 550. The possibilities for any one stamp do not exceed 200, however, and this is for the 1 kr. value which was overprinted with setting I and setting IIB. The 6 heller was overprinted with setting I and IIE, making 150 possible positions. Most of the Krakow overprints occur in 100 positions. The 15 heller postage due occurs only in the 50 positions of setting IID. The 10 kr. postage due with the black overprint, occurs only in 15 copies, each one in its distinct position. The lithographed overprints (setting III and IV) are not ordinarily "plated" for positions.

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POLAND

The Postal Issues During and After the Great War

by the late COL. R. N. W. LARKING, C.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

SOSNOWICE

Other interesting issues emanated from the township of Sosnowice, close to the borders of the German frontier, in the Province of Kielce. On February 18th, 1916, two values were issued: 3 kopecs, blue, and 10 kop., brown. The centre of the stamp showed the Town Arms, the value being in the four corners, with the inscription "STADT SOSNOWICE" on the left



side, and "MIASTO SOSNOWIEC" on the right; "KOP." is shown in the top and bottom labels. The stamps were lithographed and perforated 11½. The Postal Cancellation was a date in numerals only. This issue was in use until March 14th, 1916, when they were suppressed by the German Governor-General.

On May 23rd, 1916, the same types were again issued. The colours were, however, changed, the 3 kop. being in pink and the 10 kop. in dark blue; in addition each stamp had the Town Arms defaced by a vertical coloured stripe 5 mm. broad. The 3 kop. had a green stripe, the 10 kop. a red stripe. This issue lasted until July 8th, 1916, when it was again suppressed by the German authorities. Used stamps bore the same cancellation as in the first issue.

On July 24th, 1916, the local authorities had another try and issued a large triangular stamp in red bearing the Town Arms in the centre, "STADT" on the left side, and "MIASTO" on the right, with "SOSNOWICE" in the bottom label. In order to avoid their suppression by the German authorities, no value was indicated on the stamp, the value (3 kop.) being embodied in the cancellation. In spite of this, however, they were suppressed by the Germans on August 6th, 1916.



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The post office cancellation was a square frame covering almost the entire stamp and inscribed "Stadtbriefbef./Miejs. Eksp. list./the date/3 kop." Cancellations are found in black, violet, red, and green.

ZAWIERCIE

Another interesting Local issue which had a very short life was produced in the town of Zawiercie in the same province. As there was no German post office in this town, letters to and from Sosnowice, the nearest post town, were franked with these Locals.

On January 10th, 1916, two values were issued. The 10 pfg. showed a landscape in an upright oval, in green, surrounded by a design in pale violet, and the inscription "POST DER STADT POCTZA MIASTA ZAWIERCIE" in white letters, and the figures "10" in the lower corners. The 20 pfg. showed a view of the school in an oblong oval, in brown, surrounded by a design in deep grey-blue and the same inscription; the values appeared on the four corners thus: "20," "PF.," "FEN," "20." The stamps were lithographed and perforated 11½. There were two post office cancellations, (a) "ZAWIERCIE" in block letters across the stamp, (b) a circular cancellation with the date and "STADT POST" in an appendage below.

The printing consisted of 10,000 of the 10 pfg. and 5000 of the 20 pfg., but as the issue was suppressed by the German authorities on January 14th, 1916, four days after being issued, only 1377 of the 10 pfg. and 85 of the 20 pfg. were actually sold over the counter. These should have the name "Zawiercie" handstamped in violet between two vertical stamps as a control. The remainders were sold without this imprint.

When these Locals were suppressed, German occupation stamps received the cancellation "ZAWIERCIE" in large block letters in black.

ZARKI

A rather belated Local issue was that from Zarki in the same province. This town issued three values on October 10th, 1918. They are all rectangular stamps, all of the same design and showing a view of the Market Place and Church. The 3 halerzy is in blue, the 5 hal. in red, and the 12 hal.



in sage-green. The stamps were lithographed and perforated 11½, and the number of each value printed was 5000.

On October 19th, 1918, horizontal pairs of the 3 hal. were handstamped in red with "6 halerzy 6" in a small rectangular frame, so that each stamp received a half of the surcharge. The 5 hal. was similarly surcharged "10 halerzy 10," and the 12 hal. "24 halerzy 24." These stamps were in issue whilst new values were being prepared, and 5000 of each were issued.

On October 28th, 1918, the new values, 6 hal., violet, 10 hal., green, and 24 hal., orange, were brought into use. The issue consisted of 10,000 of each value.

Used copies are cancelled with a large circular obliteration in black showing the Polish Eagle in the centre, and inscribed "ZARKI KROL POLSKIE."

Imperforate copies are known of all the issues, but many forgeries exist both perforated and imperforate. The forgeris are very coarsely printed and the shades differ from those on the originals.

This completes the Local issues of stamps which served a proper purpose, and which were used in conjunction with the stamps of the authorities in occupation of the districts.

VARIOUS

Instead of their local stamps, Warsaw and Sosnowice sometimes used rubber cachets, inscribed "POCZTA MIEJSKA" and the value of the fee to pay for house to house delivery, which were stamped on the correspondence. Warsaw had six issues of four cachets each in different colours. The first issue on October 1st, 1916, consisted of the following values: 2, 6, 10, 20 grosze; the second issue of

the values 2, 7, 11, and 22 grosze came into use on April 30th, 1917. On May 1st, 1917, the currency was changed, and the third issue showed the values 2, 7, 11, and 22 fennigow, which were in use until February 1st, 1918, when the following values were issued: 5, 10, 20, and 30 fennigow. On June 2nd, 1918, the same values were issued in different coloured cachets, and the colours were again changed on September 8th, 1918. Sosnowice had four cachets: 3 kop. and 5, 10, 40 fen.

Cachets of various designs may also be found on correspondence connected with the following towns for "house delivery:" Aleksandrow - Pograniczny, Czeladz, Czestochowa, Lodz, Otwock, Pruszkow, Siedlce, and Wloclawek. Usually the cachet on letters posted before 12 p.m. was in red, and after 12 p.m. in violet.

Local issues also appeared from other towns, but, as they had no useful purpose to serve, official sanction for their use was not granted, and they were soon suppressed. Some however, passed through the post, and, therefore, I will give a list of them.



Checiny, in the Province of Kielce, printed two series of four values each in 1919. These stamps were quite unnecessary as the first definite issue for Poland was then in circulation.

The stamps are oblong and show a view of the Checiny ruins and inscribed "POCZTA MIEJSKA M. CHECINY," the value being in the two lower corners. The first series consisted of the following values: 3 hal., red on buff, 5 hal., brown on rose, 10 hal., blue on pale blue, 12 hal., black on pink. The second series consisted of the values: 2 hal., brown on buff, 4 hal., green on pale green, 5 hal., black on buff, and 8 hal., brown on pale blue. Innumerable shades of each value exist. The stamps were lithographed and are found imperforate and perforated 10 and 11½

Another issue appeared in February, 1918, from Luboml, the former Russian town of Ljubanl, in the Province of



Volhynia. Five values were printed, showing five different views of Luboml, and inscribed "POCZTA MIEJSKA LUBOML" on the left, the same inscription in German in the top label, in Hebrew on the right, and in Russian in the bottom label. The value is met with inverted. The series consisted of the following values on white paper: 5 hal., green, 10 hal., red, 20 hal., dark green, 25 hal., blue, and 50 hal., grey. The three lower values are oblong. The stamps were typographed and are found both imperforate and perforated 11½. Several shades exist of each value, and the paper varies from thick wove to almost pelure paper.

A second series was prepared in the following changes of colour: 5 hal. red, 10 hal., dark green, 20 hal., blue, 25 hal., grey, and 50 hal., brown.



In 1918, Opatow, Province of Kielce, issued five values: 10 hal., yellow, 20 hal., pale green, 50 hal., pale blue, 1 kr., red, and 3 kr. blue. All the values showed the Town Arms in the centre of the stamp. The halerzy values were inscribed "Magistrat M. Opatowa," the figures of value being in the upper corners; the krone values were inscribed "Magistrat Miasta Opatowa," the figure of value being in the centre.

This now completes all Local issues which appeared before the evacuation of the various armies of occupation in Poland. Other Locals, etc., which ap-

peared after the evacuation, I shall deal with at the end of this article.

VI. THE FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE

I now come to the first definitive issue for the Republic of Poland, which began to appear early in 1919. The designs for these stamps were adapted from a series of proof designs printed in Berlin in 1918.

The following is the history of these proofs. Early in 1917 Germany, having in view the restoration of the Polish Monarchy under a German ruler, requested the Chief of the Civil Administration in Warsaw to authorize the "Warszawskie Towarzystwo Artystyczne" (Society of Artists of Warsaw) to issue a circular calling on their members to compete in designing a series of stamps for their country. One of the conditions was that each design should bear the inscription "KROLESTWO POLSKIE" (Kingdom of Poland). Twenty-six money prizes were offered, ranging from 150 mks. to 1000 mks. The closing date for the competition was the first of December, 1917.

One hundred and fifty designs were submitted by thirty-two artists, who sent in from three to six designs each. Thirteen designs were subsequently chosen from among those by M. Edmund Bartlomiejczyk and M. Edward Trojanowski. On the eleventh of January, 1918, the Society of Artists in Warsaw issued a booklet containing all the designs reproduced in halftone or line, together with an inset containing the thirteen chosen designs in colour. Shortly after this the Imperial Printing Works, Berlin, had the designs engraved, the thirteen chosen designs were struck off in colour, and the remainder in black on India paper. These were mounted on a triple cardboard folder and circulated amongst the various German Embassies and Legations then existing in Europe for their information. Owing, however, to the collapse of the German offensive, the thirteen chosen designs never got beyond the stage of proof impressions. I have seen a set of these stamps postmarked!

The following is a complete list of the values intended to have been issued: 3 fennigow, brown and 5 fen., green, with design of the Polish Eagle; 7½ fen., violet, and 10 fen., red, the Sobieski Memorial; 15 fen., dark green and 20 fen., blue, the Polish Eagle; 30 fen., orange, Crown and Shield; 40 fen. dark blue, a Polish Uhlan; 60 fen., sepia, Ploughman and Oxen; 1 marki, violet, Sobieski Memorial; 2 mk., Prussian blue, Husbandman and Scythe; 3 mk., purple on buff, St. Batory; and 5 mk., red on orange-buff, the Polish Eagle.

The first definitive issue for Poland consisted of two series of twelve stamps each. One series for Northern Poland, which included the Province of Posnania, and the other series with the same designs for Southern Poland, including Galicia and Austrian Silesia. This was necessary owing to the different currencies then circulating in the north and south of Poland. The values for Northern Poland were in "fennigow" and "marki," those for Southern Poland in "halerzy" and "korony." Both series were typographed at Warsaw.

The following values were issued:—

3, 5, 10, 15 fen./hal., showing the Polish Eagle on a Baroque shield. The artist's initials "E.T." (Edward Trojanowski) may be seen over the "O" and "K" of "POLSKA." The 20, 25, and 50 fen./hal. are smaller stamps and show the Polish Eagle in the centre, flanked by two upright Roman fasces. The artist's initials "E.B." (Edmund Bartlomiejczyk) are seen in the extreme lower corners of the stamps. The 1, 1½, and 2 mk./kr. are oblong stamps, and show a starry heaven with the top of a granary in Kazimierz on the Vistula, near Cracow, and below is a fantastic shield decorated with a sickle and sheaves of corn. The initials "E.B." are seen in the extreme lower corners of the stamps.

(to be continued)



NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

A recapitulation of the previous years' releases was made last year. It received much favorable comment, so we are repeating it again for the issues of 1949.

From a standpoint of cash value, it was one of the most moderate. The total face value being only 604 zloty for the 22 stamps or about $1.50 official rate of exchange.

The dates of issue from July 22nd on, are the official dates furnished by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph. This in some respects differs from announcements in the Polish philatelic press. Nevertheless we are accepting it as official.

The following is a summary:

Date of Issue	Issued for	Designed by	Engraved by	Amt. Issued	Color	Face Val. in Zloty
2-15	Reg.—Pres. Bierut	M.Watorski		4,000,000	Yel. Br.	2
2-15	Postage Due	Oqorkiewicz		2,255,500	Yel. Br.	100
2-15	Postage Due	Oqorkiewicz		2,258,750	Yel. Br.	150
4-29	Reg.—Pres. Bierut	M. Watorski		4,000,000	Green	3
4-29	Reg.—Pres. Bierut	M. Watorski		4,000,000	Violet	10
5-31	Trade Union Cong.	E. John		500,000	Red	3
5-31	Trade Union Cong.	E. John		500,000	Blue	5
5-31	Trade Union Cong.	E. John		500,000	Green	10
7-22	5th Ann. PKWN	W. Borowski	B Brandt	1,000,000	Grey	10
7-22	5th Ann. PKWN	W. Borowski	M. Polak	1,000,000	Red	15
7-22	5th Ann. PKWN	R. Kleczewski	S. Lukaszewski	1,000,000	Blue	35
9-27	U. P. U.	R. Kleczewski	B. Brandt	500,000	Vio-Gray	6
9-27	U. P. U.	R. Kleczewski	S. Lukaszewski	500,000	Blue	30
9-27	U. P. U.	R. Kleczewski	M. Polak	500,000	Green	80
11-27	Peasant Congress	L. Dabrowski & R. Piotrowski	S. Lukaszewski	500,000	Green	15
12-20	Peasant Congress	"	S. Lukaszewski	5,500,000	Red-Brn.	5
12-20	Peasant Congress	"	S. Lukaszewski	10,500,000	Red	10
12-20	Peasant Congress	"	S. Lukaszewski	500,000	Sepia	35
12-6	Men of the Year	W. Wotorski	M. Polak	500,000	Violet	10
12-6	Men of the Year	W. Wotorski	S. Lukaszewski	500,000	Red-Brn.	15
12-6	Men of the Year	W. Wotorski	B. Brandt	500,000	Blue	35
12-15	Mickiewicz Pushkin	M.Milberger	B. Brandt		Violet	15

All rotogravure stamps printed in the National Printing Office in Krakow.
All engraved stamps printed in the P. W. P. W. Office in Lodz.

A Rebuilding of Warsaw set of two values appeared. The Design of the first value (10 zl. violet) depicts a working man with a hammer in one hand and an olive branch in the other. It was designed by E. Johns. The other value a 15 zl., shows three men—



a soldier, a working man, and a negro. What it intends to represent is quite vague in my mind unless it could be in war and peace there is equality for all. If this is so, we are being misinformed. The design is by M. Sylina. Both are rotogravured.

Also issued was a 15 zl. brown to commemorate the Poznan International Fair.



A report from Poland advises that Scotts N52 and N53 (Gen. Gov. overprints) postage dues are being counterfeited.

A Peace issue is the latest release from Poland. It consists of 2 values, a 10 zl. green and a 15 zl. dark brown. The design shows a globe of the world with a dove atop it. An inscription on it reads "We'll fight for a lasting peace."

—J. Bieniecki

APPLICATIONS PENDING

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J. Lucziwek
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William A. Frye, Jr.
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Lansing 6, Michigan

TID BITS

At the April 28th meeting Program Chairman Anthony Banasiak presented a highly successful program. The speaker was member Ben Reeves and his subject "The World's Unusual Stamps and What's Wrong." His talk was extremely educational as it was illustrated with scientific instruments. This meeting was attended by 45 members and 9 visitors. An after-meeting snack was held. Food donors were Jack Domar, Doc Kozy, Sid Shayman, and Chester Makowski.

Member Bert Powell won a first award gold cup at the Ogden Hill Stamp Club Exhibit with his selected pages of Poland.

Member Roman Wojcicki won a first award with a 3 frame exhibit of Polonus souvenir sheets and covers at the Decatur Stamp Club 4th annual exhibit.

Member Colonel O. H. Schrader received the Reserve Grand Award at the Cedar Valley Stamp Club show at Waterloo, Iowa.

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POLAND

Roosevelt airs $1.25 Souvenir sheet $2.50
500 zloty airmail mint or used 85c
Culture souvenir sheet mint or used $2.00
396/412 perf and imperf 32 values mint $1.25
U. P. U. mint or used 35c
B59/62 ten sets complete with tabs $1.20
B31 mint, used or on cover $1.50
C1/9 used 1.50, C10 mint 40c, C11/12 mint $1.50 used $1.00
C13/18 45c mint, C19/20a 90c, C21/26 60c used 40c
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