

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue #82

February 1950

POLPEX To Honor 90th Anniversary Of The First Polish Postage Stamp

In 1860 a postage stamp was issued for use in the Kingdom of Poland. Today, 90 years later, this event is being commemorated in philatelic circles in Poland, and here in America by the Polonus Philatelic Society. The Poland Stamp No. 1 is the theme of POLPEX 1950.

March 3rd, 4th, and 5th are scheduled as the dates for the largest American exhibit of Polish stamps at the Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

POLPEX 1950 will feature outstanding material in No. 1's from collections of outstanding Polish collectors.

Colorful Seals in rose and blue, will have the No. 1 stamp as the central design. They will be printed in Polish and English and will have the traditional music bar.

Prospectus forms have been mailed out to all members and those who intend to exhibit are urged to send in their entries as soon as possible as the show is limited to 250 frames. For the first time at a POLPEX a trophy for previous non-winners will be among the awards.

It is planned to have articles on Polish stamps written by Polonus members, appear in other philatelic publications in conjunction with the show. Watch for them!

Visitors at the show will receive a beautiful souvenir catalog which will live up to Polonus tradition.

Admission to the show is free. Don't forget the dates—March 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

AN APPEAL

The catalog for POLPEX 1950 is now in preparation. Many of you re-

member what a beautiful issue we had last year. The cost of printing it is high, however, and in order to meet expenses of this and the exhibit, contributions from Patrons and Goodfellows are most welcome. To have your name appear in the catalog as a Patron costs one dollar; as a Goodfellow twenty-five cents. Kindly send your contribution to Mr. Stanley Kucharz, 2100 W. Cullerton St., Chicago 8, Ill. Please be as generous as you can.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

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Herbert J. Bloch
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Middle Village, L. I., N. Y.
Miss Pelagia Schultz
1321 Fairmont St., N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

NEW MEMBERS

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1961 Wilmot Ave.
Chicago 47, Ill.
John M. Snyder #405
37 Temple Ave.
Witthrop 52, Mass.
Joseph Lewandowski #406
75 Ashley St.
Buffalo 12, N. Y.

OUR READERS SPEAK

"I wish to express my pleasure that I receive from reading the BULLETIN. It has widened my knowledge of Poland considerably and I hope it will do so in the future."

—Robert J. Dybas, Troy, N. Y.

A Few Words On the Stamps of the First Army Corps in France and England

by Dr. A. Hartman

(translated from FILATELISTA POLSKI by Walter Szymlek)

In the FILATELISTA POLSKI May and June issue appeared an article by Prof. St. Mikstein under the title: "Postage Stamps and Their Classification in Polish Philately." This is an important and interesting article and is seized very objectively.

In classifying the Stamps of Poland, under the position CII, 3, I. Corps in France and England, Prof. Mikstein made reservations from lack of documents as to their authenticity.

Since the issues C II 3, I. Corps in France and England are well known to me, I would like to share this knowledge with the general philatelic public.

As founder and for long duration the chairman of the Association of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, I became well acquainted with this whole affair and I wish to warn Polish philatelists from collecting these speculative labels.

During my stay in France in 1939-40, I was interested in the affairs of Polish Philately. It was known to me that the Postal Section of the Ministry of the Treasury of the Polish Government in Paris has approached the French Ministry of P. T. T. with the purpose of discussing the Postal Problems for the Polish Army Camps. At that time the Polish Army Camps were mushrooming in France and the problem of postal regulations became actual and acute.

I have heard the French authorities took a positive attitude toward the Polish postulates for establishing separate Camp-Post Offices equipped with special cancelling stamps. No separate postage stamps were contemplated, as there was no need for such, because the mail from Army Camps including private mail, was free. It was sufficient to mark the envelopes only with the initials F. M. (for: "Franchise Militaire") and for this reason there was absolutely no need for Postage Stamps.

However the fall of France in 1940 prevented this realization and annihilated all future plans.

The Polish Camps in France were using a great number of various seals with names of the units and or local-

ities. These however were the seals of the units as such only and have nothing in common with postal stamps, which were French. Those seals often appear on envelopes with ledger numbers and mailing dates. Outside of this no other Polish markers were ever used.

After my arrival in Great Britain in 1940 I read in the philatelic press about the appearance on the market of some very rare "postage stamps" of the Polish government during its stay in France. I established then that those were French regular postage stamps with perforated initials "W. P." in the center. I directed my inquiry to the Postal Section of the Polish Government in London from where I received the answer that the Postal Section of the Polish Government during the stay in France had issued no postage stamps.

On recommendations of the Postal Section the matter was turned over to the Police. It established then, that one Lt. Alexander Stocki, working in the "Regina" (the seat of the Polish Government in Paris) for the Ministry of War, on his own accord and without the permission or any authorisation from either the Polish or the French proper authorities, perforated the initials "W. P." into the French postage stamps—in this manner creating the postage stamp of the I. Corps in France.

Lt. Stocki declared that he supposedly brought only a few sets of these stamps to Great Britain, which he "miraculously" saved when the ship on which he was sailing from France—so he told—was torpedoed and sunk together with the remainder of the "Polish Stamps." Therefore the "saved copies" were supposed to be a real "curiosum," and were sold by Lt. Stocki at fabulous prices.

I must emphasize here that I sailed on the same ship "Clan Fergusson" as Lt. Stocki and despite the pursuance of the ship by a submarine, nevertheless I landed safely in Liverpool—knowing nothing about the ship "going to the bottom."

The Postal Section in London would
(continued on page 82-3)

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.

(continued from previous month)

The 'Russisch Polen' overprints were issued May 12, 1915, for the benefit of the civil population in the occupied district of Lodz. These stamps, as well as those issued for other districts, ensured delivery of correspondence to a post office only and not to the addressee's abode. Later, facilities for a house to house delivery were accorded by the German Authorities. This I will deal with under the heading of Local Stamps.

The second set of German Stamps, procured from Berlin, appeared on August 1, 1915, after the fall of Warsaw and the complete occupation of Northern Poland. The German Administration of this territory was vested in a Governor-General, who had the stamps overprinted "Gen. Gouv. War-

**Gen.-Gouv.
Warschau**

schau" in two lines in black gothic type. The 2½, 7½ and 15 pfg. appeared first, and the remainder of the values up to 60 pfg. during 1916-1917, as they were required. The stamps remained in circulation until November 1918.

On Germany's occupation of Kurland, Lithuania, a third set of German stamps was overprinted, "Postgebiet Ob. Ost." (North-East Postal District) in two lines in black gothic type. The 3, 5, 10, 20 and 40 pfg. values appeared on January 15, 1916, and the remainder of the set up to the 1 mark on August 1, 1916. The 60 pfg. was not overprinted or issued. These stamps remained in circulation until November 1918.

As far as I have been able to discover, there are no overprint varieties



in any of the three issues, but all the overprints may be found in matt and glossy ink. There are of course many shades, especially in the 20 pfg. value. Whilst Germany overran Northern Poland, Austria was doing the same in Southern Poland, but no special stamps were issued by them. Austrian Field Post stamps, bearing postmarks of Polish towns, are, however, of some interest to specialists.

In 1916 the Polish Civilian Authorities in Warsaw decided to print and issue a special set of stamps, to be known as the Warsaw Citizen's Post, for the delivery of their correspondence in Warsaw and suburbs. Professor Edward Trojanowski of Warsaw designed and had lithographed on paper watermarked with horizontal wavy lines, at the printing establishment of M. Jan. Cotty, a set of four values. The stamps were inscribed, "Poczta Miejska 1916" (Municipal Post 1916). The 2 gr. showed the statue of Sigismund III, the 6 gr., City Arms of Warsaw, the 10 gr. White Eagle of Poland,

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(Cuts courtesy Henry J. Choynacki)

and the 20 gr. the Sobieski Memorial. This issue was, however, forbidden by the German Governor-General (Von Beseler). These stamps may be found both imperforate and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

III. AFTER THE ARMISTICE, NORTHERN POLAND

As soon as possible after the Armistice (November 11, 1918) the Polish Authorities set to work to organize a postal service, but they were faced with many difficulties in the shape of inadequate printing works and scarcity of paper and other material for printing stamps, for it must be remembered that no stamps had been printed in Poland since 1860.

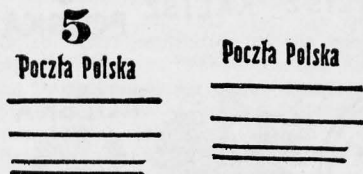
The first stamps to appear were the four values above mentioned; these were overprinted "Pocztą Polska" (Polish Post) and surcharged with new values in fenigow. This, by the way, is the first known instance of a local stamp being raised to the status of a State Issue.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 54 stamps, 9 stamps horizontally and 6 stamps vertically. There were evidently several printings of the overprint as shown by certain varieties. All values of the first overprinting show a dot against the "c" in "Pocztą," making it appear like a broken "e." This is on the 12th stamp in the sheet. The 3rd stamp of the first overprinting of 10 fen. on 6 gr. shows the "1" of the right "10" with a straight serif at top. In the second overprinting, the "1" on No. 3 is normal, but one finds the straight top serif on No. 31. In the third overprinting all the "1's" are normal. All four values are found with the overprint inverted, the 5 fen on 2 gr. and the 50 fen. on 20 gr. being very scarce thus. Other varieties in the overprint may be found, such as missing and defective letters—but these are not constant. The post office obliterations on these stamps are usually "Warschau" or "Warszawa" and "Lodz" but I have some post-

marked "Bendzin" and "Sosnowice."

The stamps were issued on November 17, 1918 and were in use for a few weeks only. I do not think any sheets were issued imperforate, all the imperforate sheets of the unissued stamps being subsequently perforated after being overprinted.

In the meanwhile the stock of overprinted German stamps was being collected and made use of all over Northern Poland. In Southern Poland, stamps left behind by the Austrians were also used after being overprinted.



(Cuts courtesy Henry J. Choynacki)

The best known provisionals are those issued for Warsaw and the district around it. A fairly large stock of German stamps overprinted, "Gen. Gouv. Warschau" was at hand, and these received the overprint "Poczta Polska" with four bars obliterating the German overprint and "Deutsches Reich." The 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40 and 60 pfg. were issued on December 5, 1918. As the supply of the 5 pfg. stamp was exhausted after two days, the 2½ and 3 pfg. for which there was little or no demand, were surcharged "5" in addition to the overprint. Similarly the 7½ pfg. were issued with the overprint alone. The overprint exists both in matt and glossy ink, and there are many shades of the stamps, especially in the 20 pfg. denomination.

Forged overprints are known, but seeing that this issue is a comparatively common one, it can be taken that these forgeries were done to defraud the revenue and not the collector. Further on, I shall have occasion to mention other forgeries made to defraud the Post Office. Some of these forgeries are extremely scarce, as the fraud was soon discovered. I have five examples—the only ones I have seen so far—used on pieces of entire; 3 pfg. postmark illegible; 5 pfg. postmarked "Zgierz" and dated "14.1.19"; 10 pfg. "Lodz 15.1.19"; 20 pfg. "Lodz 23.12.18"; and 25/7½ pfg. town illegible, but

dated "18.1.19." The overprint is slightly larger than the original and the type used, although similar at a glance to the type of the original, differs from it notably in the "a" of "Poczta" and the "ka" of "Polska." The obliterating bars are thicker, and the two lower bars are spaced 1¼ mm instead of 1 mm. I have not seen any forgeries of the inverted and double overprint.

Owing to the haste in which these provisions were produced, several errors and varieties in the overprints are to be found, and the following are the principal ones:

- (a) "Pocata" for "Poczta"—No. 2 on the sheet.
- (b) Inverted "s" in "Polska"—No. 11 on the sheet.
- (c) Dot between "o" and "c" of "Poczta"—No. 16 on the sheet.
- (d) Inverted "k" in "Polska"—No. 49 on the sheet.
- (e) Inverted "l" in "Polska"—No. 63 on the sheet.
- (f) Top of "l" and "k" in "Polska" broken off—No. 65 on sheet.
- (g) "Polska" spaced thus, "Po l ska"—No. 80 on the sheet.
- (h) "Poczto" for "Poczta"—No. 86 on the sheet.
- (i) Third obliterating bar very faint or missing—No. 97 on the sheet.

Other lesser varieties are to be found, such as dots and strokes between letters, broken obliterating bars, letters faintly printed, etc., etc.

As fresh batches of the German remainders were overprinted, some of the errors and varieties occurring in the preceding overprints were corrected, but other mistakes were made in the overprints elsewhere in the set. It is therefore only possible to group these errors and varieties together according to printings by examining entire sheets.

On the sheets which I possess, I find the following errors and varieties grouped together:

(a) (c) (e) and (i) appear together on sheets of the 5, 5 on 2½, 5 on 3, 10, 15, 20, 25 on 7½, 30, 40, and 60 pfg.

(i) appears alone on the 25 on 7½ pfg.

(b) (d) (g) and (h) appear together on sheets of the 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40 and 60 pfg.

(b) (d) (f) and (h) appear together on sheets of the 5 on 2½ pfg.

**Poczta
Polska**

Aleksandrów.

**Poczta
Polska**

BŁONIE

Blonie.

**Poczta
Polska**



Brzeziny

**poczta
POLSKA**

Ciechocinek.

**POCZTA
POLSKA**

Grodzisk.

POCZTAPOCZTA

PocztaPolska



**POLSKA
POCZTA**

**POCZTA
POLSKA**

POCZTA



Izbica.

POLSKA POLSKA

Kalisz I.

Kalisz II.

Kalisz III.

Kalisz IV.

KALISZ KALISZ

POLSKA

Kalisz V.

**Na skarb
narodowy**

Kolo I



Kolo II.



Konin I.



Polska Poczta

Konin II.

POLSKA



POCZTA

Konin III.

**Polska
poczta**

Polska Poczta

**Poczta
polska**

**Polska
Poczta**

**Polska
Poczta**

Łęczyca
Łęczyca.



Łowicz.

Luków

Ostrołęka
Ostrołęka.

Ostrów
Ostrów.

**Polska
poczta**

**POCZTA
POLSKA**

POLSKA POCZTA

**POCZTA
POLSKA**

Ozorków

Ozorkow.

Płońsk.

Podgębice.

Pułtusk.

POCZTA POLSKA

POLSKA.

**Na Skarb
Narodowy**

**Na Skarb
Narodowy**

**POCZTA
POLSKA**

Włocławek I.

Włocławek II.

Włocławek III.

POLSKA.

POCZTA POLSKA

POCZTA POLSKA

Sieradz.

Skierniewice

Zduńska Wola I

Zduńska Wola II

(b) and (f) appear together on sheets of the 15, 25 on 7½, and 60 pfg. There should be yet another printing showing (a) and (b) together on

the sheet. I have left-corner blocks of the 20 and 30 pfg. in the double overprint showing both these errors.
(to be continued)

not acknowledge the competition in issuing of postage stamps—lodged a complaint against Lt. Stocki with the Military Court. Since the Military Courts were created for the trial of cases of transgression against army discipline—the case of an unlawful emission of postage stamps was treated as an insignificant jest and Lt. Stocki was acquitted since the Court did not discern any offense in his activities.

When Lt. Stocki found himself in Scotland (Edinburgh) he began his work with the Military Geographical Institute of that place, and having contact with the map printery, released his own labels with the inscription "Poczta Polowa I Korpus W. P. Polish Field Post." He then released a whole mass of various stickers in a variety of colors as well as "misprints," that is double impressions, inverts, etc. The primitive execution and the gaudy colors alone are creating an optical mistrust to that sort of stamps of the Field Post. Those stickers were however tolerated by the Field Post Office at Edinburgh for propaganda purposes and even courtesy cancellations on thousands of copies were made, due to Lt. Stocki's personal acquaintances with the postal personnel.

The Postal Section in London had looked on their competitor through their fingers. But when Lt. Stocki advanced to overprinting his stickers "Doplata" and slipped them in the Field Post Office in Edinburgh which used them for postage dues on letters, the Postal Section in London put an end to those practices, prohibiting all courtesy cancellations, affixions or any kind of use of any of Lt. Stocki's products.

Lt. Stocki prolonged his philatelic (business) activities in Scotland, even became secretary in the "Association of the Polish Philatelists in Great Britain." In this position he perpetrated several misuses and also falsified the seal of the Association and consequently was dropped from the list of the Association.

In his subsequent activities Lt. Stocki put out a catalog which was published under the name of H. M. Smith P. T. S. "Polish Post 7 Years War 1919-1945." This catalog deals mainly with the propaganda and appraisal of his own "editions" which are described on pages 12-18. Pages 20-24 contain the

letters from France with seals of military units, which have nothing in common with the Post and do not belong in a stamp catalog.

Pages 26, 28 and 30 show the photographs of those covers and pages 35-44 Airgraphs, put out also partly by Lt. Stocki.

Very obscure is also the origin of the so-called "Block from Coetzndan," described in the same catalog on page 13.

Summarizing the above we conclude that the editions of Lt. Stocki are of a character:

1. Strictly private and speculative.
2. Issued without the need and knowledge of the Postal Authorities.
3. The speculative character undermined confidence abroad in Polish Philately with a derogatory effect on propaganda.
4. All profits from the sale of these labels went to the pockets of their originator.

In view of the above it seems to me as proper to ignore completely all these speculative labels in a philatelic collection.

If however someone would want to collect them—then he should classify them properly as **Labels Philatelically Worthless.**

As a footnote I wish to add that even before the war Lt. Stocki became notorious for an affair with his Air-Mail labels during the flight of Lt. Orłinski "Paris-Warsaw-Tokyo."

INFO FROM POLONUS MEETINGS

For the first time in the history of the Society, nomination of officers took only 15 minutes. The following were nominated and promptly accepted: Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz, President; Anthony Banasiak, Vice-President; Barney Fialkowski, Secretary; Adam Kloskowski, Treasurer; Roman Siwe, Librarian and Historian; Dr. L. Kozakiewicz and Chester Makowski, Directors.

The Treasury balance is reported at \$416.53.

At the January 13th meeting, John Wendt donated the fish, bread, onions, etc., for the Beeba that followed. At the January 27th meeting, Barney Fialkowski donated the meat, fish, etc. Chicago members who attend the meetings wholeheartedly approve and partake of these refreshments which are a welcome ending to our Society sessions.



The three values of the "Men of the Year" series

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

A communication EZ-260 from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs of Poland viz—we have been informed that the 15 zl. stamp reported in the Jan. 1950 BULLETIN was issued on the 26th of November. Three additional values were released on December 20, 1949—500,000 of each value were issued. The additional values are a 5 zloty reddish-brown, a 10 zloty red, and a 35 zloty sepia.

Under date of December 10 another communication PZ-#260 was received from the same department of the issuance on December 6 of the "Men of the Year" issue also reported in the January 1950 issue.

They were designed and engraved as follows:

Value	Designer	Engraver
10 zl. violet—M. Watorski, M. R. Polak		
15 zl. red-brn—Watorski, Lukaszewski		
35 zl. blue—M. Watorski, B. Brandt		
Total quantity printed—500,000 sets.		



This announcement also stated that the stamp to honor the Polish-Soviet friendship, the Mickiewicz-Pushkin issue, was released late in December. U 82-4

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chester W. Makowski, Chmn.
2215 W. Cortez St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

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2114 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 22, Ill.

Associate Editors this issue
Walter Szymlek

is a 15 zl. violet, designed by M. Mil-
eager and engraved by B. Brandt.

Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs
Poland

MEMBERS MART

Poland Stamp Booklet, Rogers Cat.	
\$100, only	\$17.50
N30-55 complete used, cat. 14.98, only	\$5.25
306-7 mint	\$2.00
370-2 cpl. imperf.	\$5.00
C14 Imperf.	\$2.50 each
1K1-11 mint, cat. 18.20, net	\$10.00
1K1-11 used, cat. 10.15, net	\$5.00
3K17-20 mint	\$3.50

Want also offers from collectors and
dealers in Poland.

John Skotnicki

2543 W. Superior St., Chicago 12, Ill.

Still have a few complete volumes
of the original Polonus Magazine which
preceded the Bulletin; \$2.00 postpaid;
single copies 25c (none of No. 6); Act
promptly; address Henry J. Chojnacki,
5049 W. 29th Street, Cicero 50, Ill.

Poland Roosevelts—single set \$1.25,
souvenir sheet \$2.50.

General Government complete mint
or used, 168 values \$8.00.

What else do you need?

Joseph Bieniecki, 2140 Iowa Street,
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