

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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W. RACHMANOFF NAMED HONORARY MEMBER

At a recent Polonus meeting it was voted unanimously that W. Rachmanoff be awarded honorary membership in the Polonus Philatelic Society.

He is recognized as an eminent authority on the early stamps and philatelic history of Poland. His monogram VR or his small stamp RACHMANOW on the backs of stamps are a guarantee of genuineness. His mark on the early Polish locals such as the Germania and Austrian overprints enhances their value. His full command of Polish, Russian, French and German enlarged Rachmanoff's circle of friends and his philatelic sources, giving him an international status.

Rachmanoff is an honorary member of the Societe Francaise de Timbrologie, the Philatelic Alliance in Torun, the International Alliance of Philatelists in Dresden, and now the Polonus Philatelic Society of Chicago. He is also a founder-member of SAVO in Vienna, and a member of the Philatelic Academy in Paris, and the Collectors Club in New York.

Rachmanoff's outstanding contribution to philately came in 1935 when he reissued and expanded the impressive Polanski monograph on Poland No. 1 and on Poland's history of the 18th and 19th centuries, added numerous full plates, embraced German and French texts, so that the album by W. von Polanski and W. von Rachmanoff, published by Die Postmarke in Vienna, DIE POSTWERTZEICHEN UND POSTSTEMPEL VON POLEN IM 18. UND 19. JAHRHUNDERT stands to-



day as the prime reference on Poland's classic No. 1 and its postal history. Our knowledge of that stamp has expanded over the intervening 30 years and we hope that our research students on this stamp scattered from Poland to Australia, from England to America, will come forth with an equally impressive supplemental issue.

Die Postmarke No. 10 (Vienna 1933) devoted its full book to Rachmanoff's description of Poland's zloty issues of 1924-1933. The Collectors Club Philatelist of January 1950 included his article on Poland's Second Poznań Issue (Scott's 77, 78); the September 1952 issue included an article on Russia No.

1; and the September 1955 issue presented Rachmanoff's article on Poland No. 1. These articles were reprinted in Polonus Bulletins and his presentation on Poland No. 1 is available from Polonus in booklet form for one dollar plus postage.

Włodzimierz Rachmanoff 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, becoming a specialist in the stamps of eastern Europe. After his return to Warsaw, Rachmanoff began collecting Switzerland, and within six years his collection was awarded first prize in 1922 at the International Exhibition in Geneva.

In 1919 he began forming a highly specialized collection of reborn Poland, 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 of stamps and covers of 1858-1860, received a gold medal as well as in Antwerp and Brussels.

Between 1923 and 1935 he contributed his time and effort to the founding and development of the Polish Postal Museum in Warsaw, and 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 Rachmanoff was a member of the jury at philatelic exhibitions in Gdańsk (three times), Berlin, Hamburg, Königsburg, 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 Königsburg, also a plaque SAVO in Vienna for his pre-stamp postmarks. He won a gold medal for his Poland No. 1's at FIPEX in New York in 1956.

During the war years Rachmanoff lived in Warsaw which was then occupied by the Germans. Fearing the day when his huge stamp and cover collection might be bombed or burned by the exigencies of war, he removed his Poland No. 1 material into a compact package to carry on his person. Sure

enough his home was destroyed in the uprising of 1944 and utterly destroyed. Rachmanoff with his wife and daughter (and with his Number 1's) escaped. He made a specialty of numerical town cancellations on Poland No. 1 which is more complete than any other.

After the war Rachmanoff came to New York where he now resides. He joined Polonus upon his arrival and has been helpful with his world of information. At first he was employed by Stolow and later by Mercury Stamp Company. He now lives in retirement enjoying the antics of his beloved granddaughter.

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SOMETHING NEW IN POLAND NO. 1

by Tadeusz Gryzewski, Warsaw, Poland

A noteworthy service in the realm of Poland No. 1 was rendered by Myron Steczynski of Chicago, who broke the traditional custom of looking at the stamp from the viewpoint of its usage. Beginning with W. Polanski, the collections and studies of this stamp were limited to the types and to the numbers of the postal cancellations. So it was that for many, many years very little was known of the stamp itself.

Then along came Myron Steczynski who called attention to the imperfections and flaws on this first stamp of Poland and who built and classified his collection on this basis. A direct result of his studies was a most revealing article in 1960 in Linn's and in the *Polonus Bulletin*. Due to his initiative, I became deeply interested in this perplexing subject and published several articles in the philatelic press, both in Poland and abroad.

Quoting Steczynski's article at length in the *Polish Philatelist* No. 14 (1960), I expanded and dwelt on it and included two enlarged photographs of the stamps furnished me by the well-known novelist A. M. Piwowarczyk, in which he detected two distinct designs of the crown. Examining these photographs, I noticed that the two are of somewhat different sizes and this difference is even evident in the reproductions in the above article. I was highly intrigued by this oddity and began to study the matter deeply to find the cause of this difference. Parenthetically speaking, Mr. Piwowarczyk also noticed this difference and tried to account for it, but could not come up with the answer.

As it sometimes happens, I was helped by mere chance. Looking over the collection of John Kołpak, I noticed a No. 1 cover where the entire frame of the stamp was so badly damaged that practically all the 10's in the four corners were wholly or partly illegible (Fig. 1). This cover was back-stamped November 26, 1863 in St. Petersburg (Fig. 2). It provides food for thought.

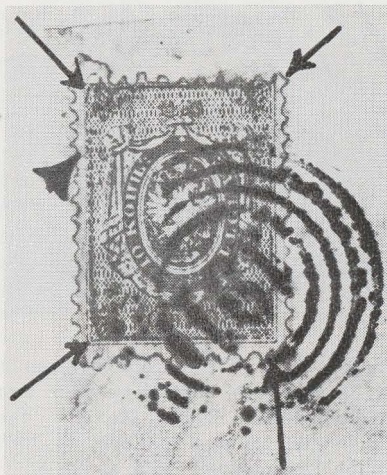


Fig. 1

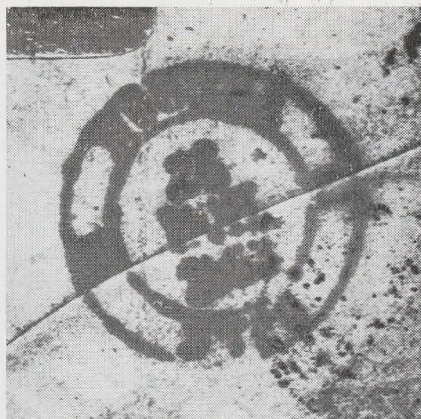


Fig. 2

A stamp with the left frame similarly and just as extensively damaged is in the collection of M. Bojanowicz of London (Fig. 3). I measured the stamp on the cover most accurately and found it to be 16.75 x 22.75 mm. My thinking ran along the line that if the plates used for printing the stamps in 1863 were so far worn, there certainly was dire need to have them replaced. My suppositions proved correct because a number of stamps on covers dated in the period 1864-65 were smaller in size, namely 16.50 x 22.50 mm.

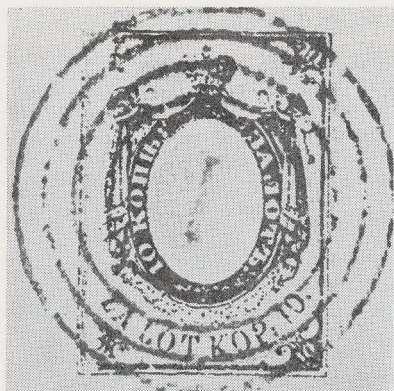


Fig. 3

On the basis of these observations it may be concluded that there were two distinct issues of Poland No. 1 — the first in circulation from 1860 to 1863 and the second from 1864 to 1865.

To the first issue I assign all stamps having the outer rectangular frame 16.75 x 22.75 mm. (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

To the second issue I assign all stamps having the outer rectangular frame 16.50 x 22.50 mm. (Fig. 5).

Inasmuch as the outer rectangular frame is not always clearly defined because of plate flaws, off-centers or interfering perforations, it is most convenient to measure the oval opening in the blue plate whose height measures

10 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in the first issue and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in the second issue. With a reduction in the size of the blue plate, the red plate was also correspondingly reduced so that the solid red oval around the eagle changed in height from 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ mm.

Since the difference in size of each stamp in the two issues is $\frac{1}{4}$ mm., the size of the entire sheet of 100 was obviously reduced by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. There is a possibility, however, that the spaces between might be different, and that the gutters between each quarter-sheet of 25 stamps might have been changed. This difference in gutters of the two issues might be justified by the fact that Polanski in his findings established the width of the gutters between the quarters from 8 to 9 mm.

The color varieties and perforations in each issue are still to be allocated. From the material at my command, I did determine that the classic blue



Fig. 5

oval variety occurs only in the first issue. Likewise the thin paper variety occurs only in the first issue.

A number of students of Poland No. 1 attempted and are still endeavoring to plate this issue on the basis of plate flaws and other characteristics. In my opinion, this problem will never be completely solved.

It is accepted that the printing plates were produced by electro-galvanizing and that the metal for both plates (blue and red) was quite soft and not at all durable. Most stamps of both issues have some sort of imperfections which might have changed as the plates wore. Evidence of such wear is found in illustrations in Polanski's work, where some of the same flaws and characteristics change somewhat with the different examples shown.

stamp in the strip of Fig. 6 has what is known as the "egg" flaw while the upper right corner of the third stamp in the same strip has its numeral 10 damaged. I would venture to say that stamps with the damaged left edge come from the first vertical column and that stamps with the damaged upper edge (or upper numerals) come from the first horizontal row. In this way the three stamps in Fig. 6 would be positions 1, 2 and 3 in the sheet.

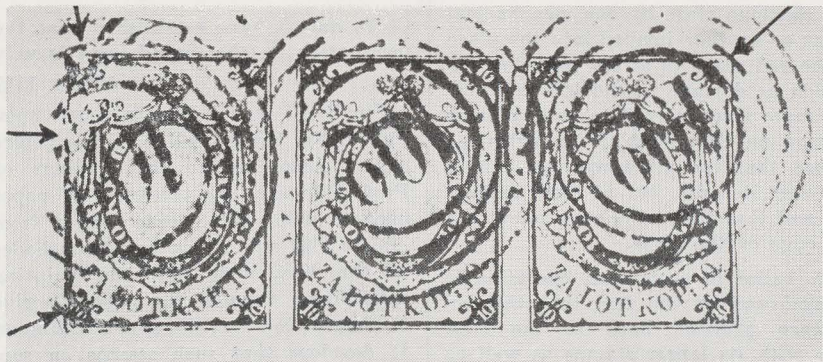


Fig. 6

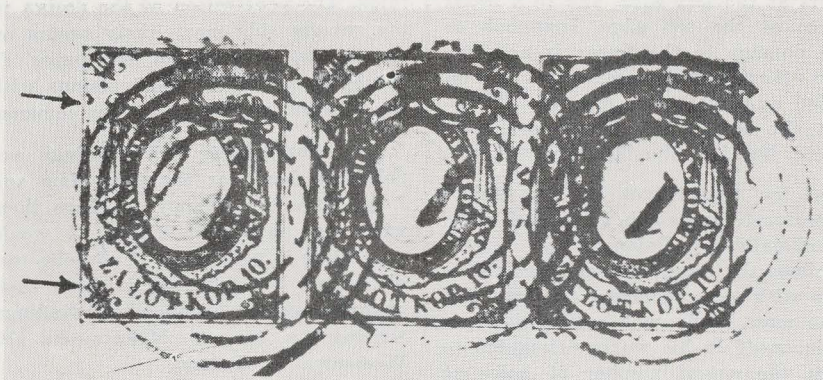


Fig. 7

In examining the flaws at the outer edges of the stamp, it is apparent that damage to the left verticle edge is most frequent and that it occurs in various ways. At one time I obtained from Mr. Bojanowicz photographs of two horizontal strips of three. As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, both strips have their extreme left edges damaged. In addition, the upper left corner of the first

This reasoning is supported by meager information about the "machine" or press on which these stamps were printed.

Olgebrandt's Encyclopedia of 1874 notes: "It is well to mention an invention of notable importance by Staf-fel, a Warsaw watchmaker, which is a machine to print postage stamps in two

colors without transferring the paper from press to press . . . " (the bold facing of the words is mine). I could not find a mechanical drawing of the machine. It must be emphasized here that the technique of simultaneous two-color printing was practically unknown. Staffel's invention appeared like a revelation, but it was not exploited later.

Early writings lead us to believe that the red color was struck first so that the blue plate by one mechanical means or another jumped into the place of the red plate to strike its color. Inasmuch as damage to the left edge occurs more frequently than to any other location on the stamp, it is logical to assume that the plate was not struck flat over its area, but at some inclination and that the strike occurred at the left edge of the plate.

My belief in some such operation is strengthened by the fact that this occurrence prevails both in the first issue with its larger stamps as well as in the second issue with its smaller stamps where the most frequent damage occurs at the left edge, and to a lesser degree at the top edge. Inasmuch as such damage to the frame is not constant, these occurrences cannot be regarded as actual plate varieties. Therefore, the only major plate variety in Poland No. 1 is the blue oval variety.

Let me return now to the subject of perforations, which is treated quite superficially by Polanski. He merely dismisses the large number of combinations with the conclusion that the machine most likely was quite primitive. Rachmanoff in his works attempted to count the actual number of holes at each of the four sides of the stamp. In my opinion, the matter should not be so complicated. We learn that the printing technique was highly developed with a machine of Polish invention producing 12,000 bi-colored stamps per hour, also special rollers for mechanical gumming. Why then should the perforating machine be so primitive, or why could there not have been more perforating machines as long as the printing rate was 120 sheets per hour?

In accordance with the compilation by S. Dolinski, we have

A. The more common perforations:

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ 12 12 $\frac{1}{4}$

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 12

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$

* 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

B. The less common perforations:

12 x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 12

12 x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$

12 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

C. To date I have established that the perforation on the second issue is only

12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$

Finally, I would like to touch upon Poland No. 1 on so called thin or pelure paper. According to the findings of Prof. Mikstein, the thickness of paper used to print this stamp ranges from .055 to .080 mm. There are dark shades of the first issue with the printing penetrating through the paper to give the impression that the paper is thinner. It develops that such stamps on supposedly thin paper are not so at all—that the paper is actually .080 mm. thick. The penetration of the design to the reverse side most likely occurs on an odd lot or stock of the paper. It should be noted here that stamps with the penetrating design are not common.

My observations and findings are published here for the first time and I am more than happy to share them with my philatelic friends. I would appreciate it very much if all collectors of Poland No. 1 would examine their stamps to concur or extend my findings, writing to me at Mokotowska 12, Warszawa 10, Poland.

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 Deutschtal (Kr. Gnesen)
 Komorze
 Korngut (Kr. Rawitsch)
 Gross Konarschin
 Konarschin (Bz. Danzig)
 Konojad (Kr. Kosten)
 Konojad (Westpr.)
 Kopnitz (Kr. Bomst)
 Kornatowo (Kr. Clum)
 Kornaty (Kr. Wreschen)
 Kurnik
 Crone (Brahe)
 Korritowo (Kr. Schwetz)
 Kosten (Bz. Posen)
 Koscielec
 Kirchplatz Borui
 Kirchenjahn
 Berent
 Kossabude
 Kossakau (Kr. Putzig)
 Kossowo (Kr. Gost)
 Lindenburg
 Kotschin (Kr. Schroda)
 Kotlin
 Klahrhefm
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Meet Member Walter C. Scholl, Old Time Balloonist



(Photo courtesy CHICAGO TRIBUNE)

At 75 years of age, Walter C. Scholl is one of the last of the old time balloonists and parachute jumpers. He made his first balloon ascension on July 3, 1906 and has been collecting balloon covers and memorabilia for more than half a century.

As a small boy, Scholl watched a woman make a balloon ascension and parachute drop at the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee. Thus began his interest in balloons and in 1900 he became an assistant to balloonist John Kincaid who made ascensions at Coney Island park, Milwaukee.

In 1909, Scholl came to Chicago and has lived here ever since. His first balloon ascension was made at Maple Park, Ill. Since then he has made some 400 balloon ascensions.

In 1955, while vacationing and doing research in Lafayette, Ind., Scholl suggested to the Tippecanoe County Historical Society, that they plan to observe the 100th anniversary of John Wise's ascension in the balloon "Jupiter" on Aug. 17, 1859.

On this occasion he carried 123 letters and 23 pamphlets which had been processed by the Lafayette Post Office, making it the first official air mail in history.

Thus, Scholl was responsible for setting in motion a centennial program that resulted in the issuance of the famous Jupiter Balloon stamp by the U.S. Post Office and the balloon ascension at Lafayette by Don Piccard.

Last February part of Scholl's collection of balloon covers, prints, medals, photographs and other items were displayed in the exhibition hall of the Chicago Public Library.

Nowadays, Scholl is a retired printer. As a Polonus member, he is a regular attendant at the Friday night meetings at Falcons Hall. He has one of the finest collections of Polish balloon covers. He is still interested in the history of the balloon and spends a great deal of his leisure time researching and collecting.

NEW ISSUES

On June 10, 1965 three pairs of stamps were issued to commemorate the International Year of the Quiet Sun. One pair of 60 gr. stamps represents the emblem of the International Year of the Quiet Sun. The pair of 2.50 zł. depicts a device mounted in Toruń for observing the Sun. The pair of 3.40 zł. shows the Solar System. (Each pair has different combinations of colors.) Printed by offset in sheets of ten at the State Printing Works (PWPW) in Warsaw. Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk. Quantities issued were 8,000,000 of each of the 60 gr.; 3,000,000 of each of the 2.50 zł.; 1,410,000 of each of the 3.40 zł.

* * *

On June 19, 1965 a set of nine was issued in connection with the Yacht Racing World Competition in the Finn Class held July 22 thru 29 in Gdynia. Values are 30 gr., 40 gr., 50 gr., 60 gr., 1.35 zł., 4 zł., 5.60 zł., 6.50 zł., and a miniature sheet of 15 zł. The subjects of all the stamps are yachts. Printed by polychrome offset on chalky paper in sheets of ten stamps at PWPW. The 15 zł. miniature sheet was designed by Ryszard Dudzicki and all the other values in the set were by Jerzy Jaworski. Quantities printed were: 30 gr. 7,500,000 copies; 40 gr. 8,000,000; 50 gr. 6,500,000; 60 gr. 8,000,000; 1.35 zł. 4,000,000; 5.60 zł. 1,410,000; 6.50 zł. 1,410,000; 15 zł. 960,000.

* * *

Along with their issues of nature topicals the Polish Post is planning a set of nine showing varieties of orchids. It will be multicolor rotogravure printed on chalky paper in sheets of ten by PWPW. Designed by Gabriel Dokalski. Quantities to be issued: 20 gr. 7½ million; 30 gr. 6½ mil.; 40 gr. 8 mil.; 50 gr. 6 mil.; 1.35 gr. 4 mil.; 4 zł. 2 mil.; 5.60 zł. and 6.50 zł. 1,410,000.

* * *

On October 8, 1965 a set of eight values will be released which will honor the outstanding results achieved by the Polish sportsmen at the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964. It will depict those sports in which Polish participants won medals (seven gold, six silver and

ten bronze). They will be multicolor rotogravure printed on chalky paper. at PWPW. Designed by Stefan Malecki. Quantities printed: 30 gr. 7 million; 40 gr. 7½ mil.; 50 gr. 6 mil.; 60 gr. 7½ mil.; 90 gr. 4½ mil.; 3.40 zł. 3 mil.; 6.50 and 7.10 zł. 1,260,000. The stamps are printed in ornamental sheets of eight stamps each along with a reproduction of the Olympic medals (both sides). The background of each stamp is printed in a metallic gold color, silver or bronze color respectively.

POLISH "PREHISTORIC" ERROR



Edward Nowak, Sr. reports that a discovery may be made in one of the ten-stamp issue known as the "Prehistoric Animals" emission. Browsing through stamps of this issue at a dealer's store in Boston, Mass., Mr. Nowak found a pair of 60 groszy — one of which had the price completely absent. Further search brought to light two more such m't copies.

(Reprinted from LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS)

— POLAND —

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545/6, B75/6	.95	1.25
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 10, 1965

Regular Business Meeting.

Friday, September 24, 1965

First Program Meeting of fall season. Guest speaker: George C. Kobylka, the publisher of the K-Line Album Pages. George will talk on his Olympic Game's Pages and particularly on the Polish Olympic Issues. Beeba to follow.

Friday, October 8, 1965

Regular Business Meeting. Reading of suggested changes to the Polonus Constitution and By-Laws will take place at this meeting.

Friday, October 22, 1965

Program Meeting. Speaker to be announced later.

IN MEMORIAM



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