

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

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A BOOK ON THE KRAKOW ISSUES IS PROPOSED

Our Canadian member, Dr. M. A. Kamienski, is considering using a translation of Prof. S. Mikstein's booklet on the Krakow Overprints as the basis for writing a book on this issue of Polish stamps. This would not be just a straight translation of an existing book written 38 years ago, but would include all the present knowledge about these adhesives. He proposes to write it in English, submit it to Polonus for publication, the object being:

To acquaint the English speaking philatelic public with Poland's most interesting, rarest and most expensive stamps.

Enlighten the philatelist of the wide field for philatelic research in this issue.

Remove some of the mystery and uncertainty about collecting this issue.

Give the collector some basis for determining the authenticity of these extensively forged issues. It is not the intention to make everyone an expert, rather to help him spot the obvious spurious stamps through a knowledge of the whole issue.

To add luster and prestige to the Society by helping its objective: "To aid in the detection and prevention of forgeries and fraud in philately, and to promote an understanding of

Polish culture, literature, and history through philatelic means."

Dr. Kamienski would use Prof. Mikstein's booklet as a source of material as well as articles in the Polish philatelic journals, like "Filatelista"; articles in past issues of the "Polonus Bulletins" including the pre-bulletin issues; Jan Ryblewski's book published in Poland; the four volume "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" and "Ikaros"; personal communication with various well known experts of this issue as well as his own collection.

The proposed work would have approximately 100 pages and contain about 80 illustrations and tables. Dr. Kamienski would be the sole author, but articles would be solicited from various experts and collectors. Where such material is used, the author would be credited.

Dr. Kamienski would bear the cost of submitting the typed manuscript with glossy photographs of the illustrations to Polonus. Polonus to arrange for the printing of the text, binding and making of the plates for the illustrations. The frontspiece page would have an acknowledgement to the effect: "Printed by the Polonus Philatelic Society."

This matter was taken up at the June 25th Polonus meeting. Costs and sales were studied. This is an ex-

pensive undertaking for Polonus with no assurance of any monetary gain. It was decided to present this matter to the members by way of our "Bulletin" in this manner:

If we were to publish this book, we would have to sell it for about \$15.00 a copy. To our members, however, we would offer this book at the special pre-publication price of \$10.00 a copy. How many of our members would buy this book at \$10.00 a copy?

We must have an idea in advance of how many books we will sell.

If you intend to buy this 100 page book on Poland's Krakow Overprints for the pre-publication price of \$10.00



— please send a card or letter telling us so. Mail it to Al Rybarski, 2435 First Ave., River Grove, Ill. 60171.

BOJANOWICZ HONORED

On the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the creation of the Polish Philatelic Press, the Polish Federation of Philatelic Journalists has awarded a special medal for merits for the development of Polish Philatelic Publications to leading philatelic writers, and for the first time to a Polish Philatelic Journalist abroad: Mr. M. A. Bojanowicz, R.D.P., London, for his articles published abroad.

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POLONUS PICNIC AUGUST 15

Sunday, August 15th is the day set aside for the annual Polonus Picnic to be held at Dr. Kozakiewicz's Aquilla Lodge in Powers Lake, Wisconsin. This year Polonus will host the Austin Philatelic Club at the picnic. Pack a lunch and bring the whole family. The sandy beach and clear water of Powers Lake are excellent for bathing. There are plenty of outdoor stoves for cookouts. Come as early as 9 a.m. and stay as late as 9 p.m.

To get to Powers Lake, Wisconsin from Chicago: take US 12 to Richmond, Ill. After passing Richmond, on the curve take Trunk "P" directly to Acquilla Lodge.

No postal cards sent to members this year — this is your only reminder. So mark the date — Sunday, August 15th on your calendar.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

"Sport Na Polskich Znakach Pocztych" (Sports on Polish Postage Stamps) by Fabian Bura.

48 pages, illustrated, presenting a chronological listing of all Polish postage stamps pertaining to Sports, plus the articles: "Theoretical Problems", "Practical Hints", "Information" and "Curiosities."

Published by RUCH, Warsaw. Total of 20,000 copies printed

It's a practical handbook, supplementary to the Polish Stamp Catalog, it presents information omitted in the catalog. Also lists postal cancellations used for the occasions of the sports events. Published in the Polish language only. —W.S.

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LITHOGRAPHIC FORGERIES OF INVERTED "PORT GDANSK" OVERPRINTS

by Stanley Kronenberg

All genuine "PORT GDANSK" overprints on Polish stamps are made typographically and so are most forgeries which I have seen. Recently I examined two stamps whose overprints are very well made and resemble genuine overprints according to dimensions, cut of the letters and positioning of the letters relative to each other but are made lithographically. The printing plates of these forgeries were probably made by means of a photographic transfer from the genuine overprints.

All genuine "PORT GDANSK" overprints can be determined as typographic either by observing them in light incident under a grazing angle, by pressing thin aluminum foil against the design in which a faint impression of the overprint shows up, or by observing the edges of the letters under a low power microscope; the edges appear darker and the impressions caused by the typographic printing are visible. These methods all indicated that these two stamps were not overprinted typographically.

The details of the forgeries are:

FORGERY I:

Scott 1 K 16 (Ruch z 51) inverted overprint on Ruch 210 d, mint, pale red, harrow perforation $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, rotary press printing, reengraved (plate II — the lines of the background do not cross the "15"). The overprint imitates form II as defined in Ruch; however only 15 gr. stamps printed with plate I were overprinted with this form while stamps printed with plate II were overprinted only with form V. (*)

The dimensions of the forged overprint are:

Length of "PORT" — 10.8 mm.

Length of "GDANSK" 17.0 mm.

Height of the overprint — 8.0 mm.

Distance between "PORT" and "GDANSK" — 1.7 mm.

Thickness of the letters — 0.8 — 0.9 mm.

Height of the letters — 3.15 mm.

The entire overprint is tilted clockwise by 4 degrees of arc.

According to the literature (**) inverted overprints in 15 gr. stamps of this issue have not been found.

FORGERY II:

Scott 1 K 17 (Ruch Z 52) inverted overprint on Ruch 211 b, mint; dark red, harrow perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$, rotary press printing, reengraved (plate II — the spiral of the ornament in the right upper corner does not end with two dots).

The dimensions of the forged overprint are:

Length of "PORT" — 11.0 mm.

Length of "GDANSK" — 16.8 mm.

Height of the overprint — 8.7 mm.

Distance between "PORT" and "GDANSK" — 2.1 mm.

Thickness of letters — 0.8—0.9 mm.

Height of letters — 3.3 mm.

The overprint imitates the overprint form III. According to literature (**) genuine, inverted overprints on 20 gr. stamps of this issue printed with reengraved plate have not been found (*).

On both forgeries the ink intensity and glossiness closely resemble those of genuine overprints. Both forgeries have on the back the expertization impression "RACHMANOW" in block letters made with a metal

stamp in violet ink. I compared this guarantee with other, similar impressions. The length of the impression on these forgeries is 8.3 mm while on stamps which I know have been expertized by Mr. Rachmanow, it is 8.6 mm — 8.7 mm.

(*) In the case of some Polish stamps of this issue both the original and the reengraved designs appear occasionally on one and the same sheet but for chronological reasons this does not influence the matter here.

(**) See e.g. "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" 1962 Vol. III, p. 91, and RUCH catalogue 1970, p. 289.

VARIETY IN BIE SOUVENIR SHEET FOUND!



Recently Zbigniew Mikulski found a variety of the BIE souvenir sheet in the form of a white spot next to the base of the left column on the middle stamp. This spot has been found on several souvenir sheets inspected thus indicating that it is due to a fault in the printing plate. Assuming that the BIE sheets were printed in a similar format as the "Fighters of Freedom" souvenir sheets two years later, where a printing sheet consisted of six souvenir sheets, and if the fault in the printing plate remained undetected from the start of printing, every sixth BIE souvenir sheet

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should have this spot. However, if the fault in the printing plate occurred sometimes during the printing process then even fewer souvenir sheets with the white spot were produced, depending upon the time at which the fault occurred. So — have a good look at your BIE souvenir sheets and see if you are one of the lucky ones who have the one with the white spot shown on the accompanying photo!

— J. J. Bialy

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