

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 166

January 1959

POLISH SEALS "MILITARIA" 1775-1795

By V. RACHMANOFF

By authority of the regulation by Franciszek Xawery Branicki, the Great Hetman (Commander) Royal, dated May 28, 1775, and by Michał Ogiński, the Great Lithuanian Hetman, dated June 18, 1775, all correspondence in military matters was exempted from the payment of postage, provided it was marked with a "MILITARIA" seal.

Prof. S. Mikstein in a brochure published in 1952, described ten different seals of this type dating from the 18th century. As collectors abroad do not generally even know of the existence of such seals, and although they cannot be considered as postal seals, but perhaps as prototypes of official stamps, I take the liberty of repeating the description of the ten seals mentioned by prof. Mikstein, supplementing the list by six others, which are in my collection of seals and postal marks of the 18th century.

1) "MILITARIA" seal of the Royal Chancellery in Warsaw. Letter written to gen. Kościuszko in Niemierów in 1791. On the left side of the cover is the seal of the Court Post Office for outgoing mail with an eagle and a postal horn below it. In my collection there are two letters from the same Chancellery, sent in 1792 and also addressed to Kościuszko. They have the Post Office seal as above, but instead of the "MILITARIA" seal, there is only the handwritten remark in the bottom left corner.

2) Seal of the Mounted Artillery Filiziers (?) Battalion, known from a cover written in Międzybórz on 21.3.1792.

3) Seal of the Royal Mounted Regiment in Pawołocz. Letter written by Wielowiejski to gen. Karwicki in Warsaw on 29.10.1790.

4) Seal of the National Cavalry in Ostróg, known from a letter from 1794, addressed to gen. Cichocki in Warsaw.

5) Impression of a seal used for sealing wax, of a regiment in Chudniów, known from a letter dated 4.8.1783, written by Walenty Chojnowski to Castellan Karwicki.

6) Seal of the First Royal Light Cavalry Regiment in Kozmin, known from a letter dated 11.3.1789, addressed to gen. maj. Karwicki.

7) Seal of the Royal Mounted Regiment in Ochnówka, known from a letter dated 20.II.1790 from Lt. Cieszkowski to the Regt. C.O. Karwicki in Warsaw.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

8) Seal of the Brigade Division of Great Poland in Nowe Miasto, known from a letter dated 3.7.1790 and written by gen. Czapski to Karwicki in Warsaw.

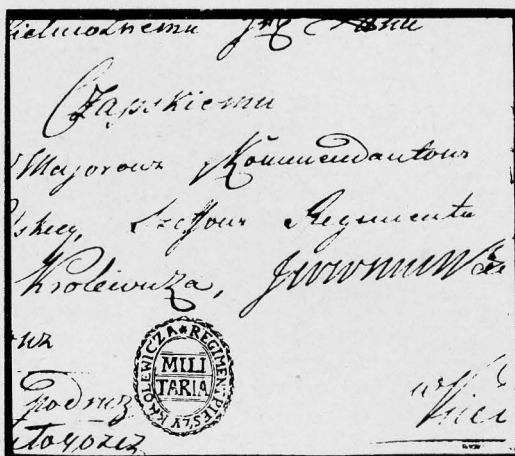
9) Seal of the Fifth Lithuanian Army Regt. in Słuck, known from a letter dated 8.XI.1779 in the garrison of Słuck written by Tyzenhaus to gen. Radziwiłł.

10) Seal of an unknown military unit, known from a letter dated 5.X.1790 in Charłyówka (?), written by Warant-Officer Jan Budzyński to Karwicki in Warkowice.

11) Seal of the Royal Infantry Regt., known from an undated letter addressed to gen. Czapski in Kielce. In upper left corner there is an impression of the post office seal of Cracow: capital "K" below a crown in a circle.

12) A wax-seal impression "MILITARIA" of an unknown military unit on a cover with hand-written date 4.IX.1779, addressed to Karwicki in Warsaw.

13) "MILITARIA" seal of an unidentified military unit on a cover with a hand-written annotation on reverse side "Sołobkowiec 1790 d. 4 Junii Gordon Major", addressed to Karwicki in Warsaw. At top of cover postal annotation "Tulsztyn". The seal crossed



No. 11

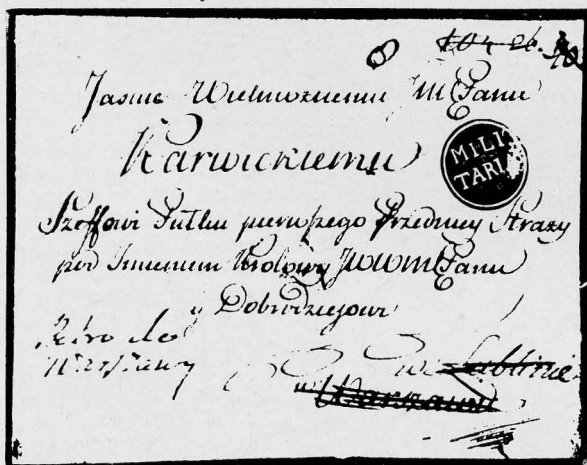
out with red ink, and the fee written out "zl. 1 gr. 6".

14) Circular "MILITARIA" seal of the Queen's Mounted Regt. on a cover with a hand-written annotation on reverse "1789 d. 19 kwiet. Kamieniec", addressed to Karwicki in Warsaw. In upper left corner post office seal "KAMIEN; PODOL:". Cover sealed with black wax and large regimental seal.

15) Seal of an unidentified military unit, known from a letter dated 15 September 1777 in Luboml, written by Col. Zawoyski to gen. Karwicki.

16) Seal of the "Little Poland Division of the National Cavalry" in Drzewice, known from a cover with hand-written annotation 9 July 1786, addressed to gen. Karwicki in Warsaw.

It can be assumed, that every military unit benefiting by the exemption from postal fees had a MILITARIA seal, therefore there are bound to be more varieties than the 16 described above. Over 170 years which passed since these were in use, and the last two world wars are to be blamed that the majority of archives was destroyed and such seals



No. 12



as well as post office cancellations of the 18th century are steadily becoming greater rarities in Polish philately.

20th POLPEX WILL FEATURE RARE 18th CENTURY COVERS

The rare Polish Military Covers described in Mr. Rachmanoff's article in this issue of the Bulletin, along with Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz's civilian mail covers from this era, will be viewed by Polpex visitors at our 20th Anniversary Exhibition Feb. 27, 28, March 1, 1959 at the Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago.

A total of thirteen major awards, consisting of trophies and plaques, are to be presented for the best exhibits. The most impressive award is the Polonus Grand Award, a giant trophy, standing 3 feet high, with a base 18 in. wide. This beauty is the dream of Dr. M. Uznanski who had planned it for years. The Polish eagle, globes, ornamentation, etc., are the ideas of the good Doctor who is responsible for this fabulous creation.



GRAND AWARD TROPHY

For the first time at a Polpex, a President's Trophy will be awarded. Only previous grand award winners are eligible to compete for this trophy. And a prize it is too! It's a wooden statuette of a Polish mountaineer playing a bagpipe—hand carved from Zakopane, Poland. Unusual special made plaques, each one of a kind, expressing the theme of the class they are awarded for — Locals, Plebes-

cites, Fieldpost, Offices Abroad, Prisoner of War and Topicals, are to be given away.

In addition to the Topical plaque award, the best Topical exhibit will receive an award certificate and Topical Handbook given by the American Topical Association.

At the traditional Beeba Party on Saturday night, Polish style food will be served, the awards will be presented and door prizes will be given away.

A reminder to those who plan on exhibiting—send in your entry application before Feb. 13th. Don't be left out.

This year, because it is the 20th Anniversary of our Society, many members who are not dealers, are taking ads in the Souvenir Program book which will contain a catalogue of the exhibits. This is a wonderful gesture on their part and we urge others to do likewise. The extra revenue that the program book brings in will be put to good use by the Society. Should you not care for an ad—be sure to have your name on the Patrons list. This costs but one dollar which should be sent to Chester Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

— Stefan Kochanski,
Polpex Chairman

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William Gorky, 443
6318 N. Western Ave.
Chicago 45, Ill.

Andre Prodel, 518
34 West 21st Ave.

Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Romualda Łoś

ul. Michałowska 11, Hrubieszów
Woj. Lublin, Poland
Stanley J. Blazewski, 539
519 West Second Ave.

Roselle, N. J.
Edward G. Wasiniak, 580
Central Civilian Personnel Office
7206th Support Group
APO 223, New York, N. Y.

Philatelic Documents of Poland's Fight For Freedom

By EDWARD NOWAK, SR.

(Reprinted from MEKEEL'S Weekly Stamp News of 7/4/58)

Since the VI Century after Christ, the Polish history stresses that Poles occupied that part of Europe known today as Pomerania, on the banks of Wartha and the Wistula rivers, and encompassing all the lands to the Baltic Sea.

The earliest histories note that one of the oldest tribes of Slavs lived on the banks of Wartha and was called "Polanie", "Polen", "Polaks" and from that name later on, all Polish tribes residing from the Baltic Sea to the Carpathian Mountains merged and their lands and territories became Poland.

In time the Poles spread to parts of Europe known today as Prussia, Mazovia, Chrobatia—up to Sudeten. Therefore the world history establishes that "in the lands of large valleys, between the rivers of Odra, Wistula, Wartha and Notecia lived, on open and arable land, people known as Poles who later founded Poland."

Since the dawn of recorded history, Poles were constantly raided by germanic tribes led by King Henry Ptasznik from the stronghold of Mersburg on the boundaries of Polish Pomerania—finally completely subjugating the

ancient Polish territory and making serfs or outright slaves of the inhabitants.

This expansionist movement continued for years until the Third Partition of Poland in 1795. Then according to documents signed by Germany and Russia (October 24, 1795)—"Poland ceased to exist as a nation or independent country."

One of the finest philatelic documents is a postal card "captured" with a German soldier on a battlefield at Verdun during World War of 1914-1918. That card and the picture it contains is a mute proof that Germany's intentions were to swallow up even the "Russian Poland"; that centuries old intentions were followed in order to conquer and insert the whole of Poland into the German Reich.

The tell-tale postal card, picturing Kaiser Wilhelm and several Polish cities captured during German invasion of Russia, was mailed by thousands to Germany by the soldiers. Top inscription on the card states "Our Prize In The East."

The card was intended to boost the morale of the beaten, retreating Ger-



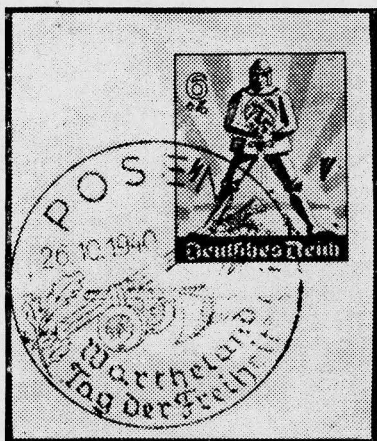
"Prize In The East"

man Legions and to bestir the diminishing patriotism at home.

Even during the German capitulation in 1918, preparations were being made for "Der Tagg" and the Second World War. Conquest and the annexation of Poland was still the aim and dream of Germany.

The new German "Führer" that emerged from the disastrous First War, almost accomplished the old ambition thru the Nazi "Anschluss" of Austria claiming rights to the Polish Galicia—only the Russian part of Poland remained for conquest. The carefully prepared plans were executed in 1938 and Germany invaded Poland.

The second philatelic document—this time of World War II era—proved the continuation of the will to swallow up Poland. The document was formed by postal cancellation of stamp issued during 1940. That cancellation in itself speaks volumes.



After World War II when victorious Allies, for the second time in a generation, dictated new boundary lines of Europe: defeated Germany still craved for conquest of Poland—or at least to retain the Polish territories conquered in years gone by. The Nazis, although beaten and burned out by constant aerial bombardments, still wanted Polish cities like Posen (Poznań), Kalisz, Gniezno, Wrocław, Szczecin (Stetin).

The special cancellation die, used extensively by Nazis to propagate "sym-

pathy for Germany," exposes an entirely different story.

The bold, top inscription in the cancellation spells Posen; the germanized name of a Polish city in Poznań. The center inscription are the dates for postal records and the likeness of a military cannon turned into a plow—which could be easily turned into its original, destructive state.

The two bottom lines in the cancellation are in itself a story. In translation they spell "Wartheland" (in Polish Pomerania) and "Freedom Day." The irony of the expressive but camouflaged special cancellation is that it tries to convey, after holding the Poles in subjugation for over a century, the Nazis are desiring freedom from the Poles.

The special cancellation die plus the Nazis issued stamp could also be translated into a threat; as a reminder of a new "Tag" and military retaliation in some future day.

There is a strong tendency to think that a new philatelic item will spring up in the near future; items that will continue to form philatelic record for posterity. Even now, post war Germany is stirring up smoldering war ashes by asking for revision of Polish-German boundary lines.

This revisionist movement alone will create numerous new slogans and postal cancellations because old desires and aims of Germany will not be cast aside after creating the above two philatelic items.

MIDWEST POSTAGE STAMP SHOW

March 13, 14 and 15 are the dates for the Sixth Midwest Postage Stamp Show, at La Salle Hotel in downtown Chicago. One of the main attractions will be the fabulous collection of Noel Goldblatt, of the well known Chicago merchandising family. This collection consists of stamps autographed by famous personages now current in the news.

RESIGNED

Robert Mitchell, 434
3833 So. Oak Park Ave.
Berwyn, Ill.

REVIEWS

An impressive 392 page volume — "400 Lat Poczty Polskiej" (400 Years of the Polish Post) was published in the Polish language by the Ministry of Communication, Poland, with Zofia Manterys acting as editor.

It is divided into fifty-one chapters, grouped under five topics, deals with the development of the Polish Communication Services as a whole and brings the reader up to date on its progress through the years.

For the collector of postage stamps of Poland there is ample information on all issues recognized as legitimate postage stamps, including locals, military, occupation issues, etc.

Excellent illustrations throughout the book, including proofs of some of the most colorful stamps of Poland together with a mint set of the Jubilee stamps and Souvenir sheets enhance its beauty.

Chapters on Postal History, Organized Philately and Philatelic Literature give expert information for write-ups for a general or specialized collection.

— W. S.

* * *

Although this has absolutely nothing to do with stamps of Poland we do feel that a mention of the beautiful job Marian Carne Zinsmeister did in preparing S. P. A. Handbook No. 10, which is a detail listing of the stamp issues pertaining to the Brussels Fair.

We are sure that many of our members probably collect these issues and to them this booklet will be invaluable.

We would suggest that anyone interested in Philatelic Literature on the Brussels Fair emissions, to obtain a copy from Henry O. Nouss, P.O. Box 2775, Hamilton Station, Pompano Beach, Florida. The price is \$1.00.

The handbook gives detailed data, which includes both Scotts and Gibbons 1959 catalogue numbers, First Day of issue, quantities issued, printers, designers, engravers—all in tabulated form. It is printed on a good grade of paper, stiff cover, and is well illustrated.

— J. J. D.

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 11

December 1958

Christmas time has come and gone and with the feasting behind us and all the decorations cleared away we all look forward to another good year of stamps ahead.

Our last meeting of the old year was held in the middle of December, instead of our customary "last Saturday in the month", so as not to clash with Christmas celebrations. As mentioned in last month's column, it consisted of a two-part programme — a quiz and an auction, Mr. E. Mason, our immediate past-president, prepared the questions for the quiz and acted as question master. The standard of questions was a very high one and as one of our members remarked "it made us use our brains!" But everyone present had an enjoyable time trying to puzzle out the answers.

When all the questions had been asked and all the answer sheets had been marked, we found two of the competitors had tied for first place — our President Mrs. Horowicz and our hard-working magazine editor Mr. Wagner. Mr. Bokiewicz, our secretary, came out as runner-up. To decide the winner, each of the two in first place was asked two further questions and on the result of these Mrs. Horowicz was finally proclaimed the winner. Unfortunately, though, she had presented the prize — a handsome pocket stock-book—and, with a typical goodwill gesture, she promptly handed this over to the defeated finalist, Mr. Wagner, to the combined applause of all present.

The short auction which followed after the interval for refreshments gave all members a chance to pick up a bargain or two, and the Society benefitted by charging a small commission on each lot sold. So we closed the old year on a note of friendship and co-operation and mutual enjoyment — all of which are facets of this wonderful hobby of stamp collecting.

— RON NEGUS

BE A POLPEX PATRON!

1959 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW!

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

As reported in the last issue of the Bulletin, we have finally received official notice of the following two sets:

On Dec. 10, 1958 a single stamp was issued to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the U.N.O. "Declaration of Human Rights." It is of a 2.50 zł. value printed by offset in a light brown color, size 25.5 x 31.25 mm., project by Sławka Gospodarek, plastic artist.

Also the set of five Airmail stamps was issued on Dec. 15, 1958 in the following values:

- 5 złoty grey and cherry—Old Market at Gdańsk
- 10 złoty green and sepia—Ruins of the Lwów Castle
- 20 złoty—yellow green and violet—Rope track on Kasprowy Wierch peak
- 30 złoty orange and olive—Dam at Porabka
- 50 złoty grey and pomegranate—The M/S Batory in Gdynia Harbor

On the upper part of each stamp is a silhouette of an airliner. Size is 25 x 51 mm., printed in steel-plate engraving and rotogravure, on watermarked paper.

On Dec. 16th, a single stamp was issued to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Polish Communist Party. The drawing depicts a red banner with inscription "K.P.P." (Polish Communist Party), held up by three hands. In the upper left on a field of violet are the dates 1918-1958. In the lower right is the value 60 groszy — and across the bottom "POLSKA". The size is 25.5 x 31.25 mm., printed in rotogravure. The stamp is the project of Alojzy Balcerzak.

Just before going to press we received a first day cover with a set of four sport stamps:

- 40 gr. royal blue and grey-blue—man on sail boat
- 60 gr. brown and orange—woman archer
- 95 gr. brown and green—two men runners
- 2 zł. dark blue and light green—horse with rider in a jump

A special cancellation on the cover shows an outstretched figure over the

letters "SPORT" with "Warszawa — 3-1-1959 R."

You will recall we expressed confusion in regard to the Postal Coach stamp — so, for clarification, it was printed two ways: in a sheet of six and in a sheet of one.

On October 26th, 1958, a souvenir sheet 13.2 x 14 cm. in size, comprising of six stamps, each of 2.50 złoty value, was issued in cream and dark olive.

On Dec. 12, 1958 the long awaited special miniature sheet, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Polish Postal Services, was issued.

Value — 50 złoty.

Dimension of sheet—8.5 x 7.5 mm.

Dimension of stamp—47 x 27 mm.

Imperforated

Printing and colors—The stamp is dark blue, steel plate engraved. Background in light-violet typographed.

The sheet is printed on specially prepared natural silk of Milanówek.

Designed by artist Hanna Przeczdzicka. Ornamental frame projected by Jerzy Miller.

The design shows a rustling stage-coach with a four-horse team with a typical country background, based on the painting of A. Kędzierski "Na Kieleckim Szlaku" (on the Kielce road).

On the upper right of the stamp are two dates "1558-1958", on the left "50 zł". The inscription below the stamp is "400 Years of the Polish Post 1858-1958 Jubilee Issue".

The sheet was printed at the P.W. P.W. works in Warsaw.

Official First Day Covers for this souvenir sheet was designed by S. Gospodarczyk and the special cancellation by J. Maciarczyk.

Quantity printed is not known as yet.

— ARS Polona

APPLICANT PENDING

Marian Duński

Gomunice, Poland

BULLETIN ADS — PRICE LIST

For Polonus Members Only

Full Page — \$12.00

Half Page — 7.00

Quarter Page — 4.00

One inch ad — 1.50

"POLISH INTER-CAMP POST IN GERMANY"

Private posts and their stamps are a controversial subject at the best of times. When the issue gets complicated by bogus posts, the matter becomes really difficult.

When, in chaotic conditions of post-war Germany, the numerous Polish exiles organized means of communications for themselves, some did it on a proper basis in the form of private posts. Other organizations tried to obtain funds for their — quite respectable—activities by means of labels, imitating private post adhesives.

M. Perzynski set out to segregate these issues in his list, which originally appeared in the form of an article in *FILATELISTA*, Warsaw. An English translation, in booklet form, amended by the author, has now appeared in the European Philatelic Library series. Consisting of 25 pages, the text matter is duplicated, while four large plates of illustrations are offset printed.

Modestly priced at 50c, post free, it is available from member J. C. Crimlisk, 9 Victoria Avenue, Fife, York-shire, England.

POLAND

No. 754 Olympic 60 gr.	
IMPERF mint	\$7.50
C34a Warsaw Air Souvenir	
Sheet IMPERF	5.00
Roosevelt Airmail San. 32-34..	2.00
Same in sheets of 16	40.00
Some, souvenir sheet mint....	3.50
1959 Warsaw Show "Stagecoach	
Sheet of 6	.75
New high value Airmails mint	
or FDC	4.00
400 Year Anniv. Sheet on silk	2.50
All new issues mint or first	
day covers at lowest prices	
400 year anniv. book, including	
stamps & proofs as mounted	
in book	5.00
1956 or 1957 Filatelista Maga-	
zine in bound volumes. each	3.50

Twin Eagle Stamp Co.

2140 IOWA

GRANITE CITY, ILL.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Roman Strzelecki, Secretary
1439 N. Bell Ave.
Chicago 22, Illinois
Adam Kloskowski, Treasurer
2528 N. Drake Ave.
Chicago 47, Illinois

Publications Committee
Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago 22, Illinois
Walter Szymlek
2341 W. Moffat St.
Chicago 47, Illinois

Associate Editors this Issue

Edward Nowak Sr., J. J. Domar,
V. Rachmanoff, Roman Strzelecki.
Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

NOTES FROM COLLECTORS

I have a very interesting cover with a Polish and a Russian stamp, mixed franking. The Russian stamp is 10 kop. 1858, perforated 12½ and Poland No. 1 cancelled by black killer No. 1, and red Warsaw 7/11 along side. On the other side of the cover is a two cocentric ring black postmark, within which is the Russian marking, reading "POLUCHENO V VILNE" or "Received in Vilna". Inside of the smaller circle is the date (illegible) at the top, at the bottom of the small circle in Russian UTROM or "in the morning".

In my opinion the sender brought this cover, already addressed and franked with a Russian stamp, from Vilna. In Warsaw he was told that he had to frank his letter with a Polish stamp, and he then affixed Poland No. 1, not wanting to destroy the envelope brought from Vilna. The letter was a small one and 20 kop. postage was not needed.

Mr. V. Domanski agrees with the explanation given above.

— Tadeusz Gryżewski
Warsaw, Poland

(The above reprinted from "The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately" No. 55, 1958.)