

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS MEETINGS

In an effort to stimulate more interest in the activities of the Polonus Philatelic Society, it was decided at a recent meeting to send a copy of the minutes to all members. Printed below are the

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 13, 1974

at Weisz Stamps & Coins Hall
3936 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago

Meeting called to order at 8:30 p.m. by President Chester Schafer. Due to absence of Secretary, minutes of previous meeting were dispensed with. Treasurer Al Rybarski reported a checkbook balance of \$493.16 and \$95.98 cash on hand giving the club a working capital of \$589.14.

President Schafer read correspondence from W. Gruszczyk informing us that member John Chalecki of Canada passed away. A moment of silence was observed to his memory and to the memory of the late honorary members J. P. Rux and Frank Prochot.

Mr. Schafer read another letter from member H. F. Zebrowski of Davidsonville, Md., whose exhibit at Polpex '74 was lost in the mail. He requested a participation award certificate. It was suggested that the Polpex Commit-

tee send him another certificate.

Report by Auction Chairman Roman Reinowski was given. He distributed new auction sheets for mounting lots and explained the method of pricing lots submitted for auction and filling out the forms. Librarian Chairman John Bartczak said he will turn over duplicate copies of the society's philatelic literature for the auction. The next Polonus auction date was set for Oct. 25.

Librarian John Bartczak reported that the Library Committee is cataloging the material of the Polonus library and this list will be eventually available to the membership.

President Schafer presented the matter of POLPEX '75. Roman Reinowski recommended the dates of March 8 & 9, 1975 at St. James Auditorium and so moved. Seconded by Frank Wolosewick and passed. Discussion took place and various themes were suggested to honor contemporary Pole-Americans, Poles in the Revolutionary War, Polish settlers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc. The theme selected was Polish-American explorers, but the final decision was left up to the Polpex committee and chairman, whoever they may be.

(Continued on Page 325-7)

EASTERN GALICIA 1919

R. P. Knighton

At the end of the first World War conditions in central and eastern Europe were in a chaotic state; old empires were disintegrating and nationalistic groups were emerging. Postal systems were subject to considerable strain, and censorship of mail was generally in force. The area under review is East Galicia, the provinces of Stanislawow, Tarnopol and Lwow, which together formed the Southern tip of the new Republic of Poland when the boundaries were fixed at the conclusion of the war.



In 1910 the population of East Galicia was recorded as approximately eight millions, nearly half being Poles and half Ukrainians, with a fairly high Jewish population in the towns, especially Lwow. The biggest towns were Stanislawow, Tarnopol and Kolomyja with Lwow as a very large city. Writing in "Peasant Europe" in 1934, Tiltman refers to the area being predominantly agricultural where Tarnopol and Horodenka areas had 80% of arable land, falling to Dolina and Kosow with only 10%—all the places are referred to later. The very poor standard of production was blamed on the misrule of Austrian landowners and the fact that 40% of the land was in the possession of relatively few Austrian & Polish families and the two million small holdings were too small to mitigate the extreme poverty of the peasant owners.

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It is necessary to note a little general history of the period as a background to postal history at that time.

- 1914 Sept. Count Bobrinsky entered Galicia with a Russian army, attacked and broke the Austrian front at Lwow.
- 1915/1916 The war flowed backwards and forwards over Galicia. In 1916 the Turks sent an army corps to Galicia to help the Germans.
- 1917 March The first Soviet formed in Russia.
- June 22 Central Committee (RADA) elected and headed by Hrushevsky, and the Autonomous Ukrainian Republic proclaimed.
- July 1 Russian offensive near Brody, General Kornilov's 8th Army made successful advance from Stanislawow towards Halicz and Dolina. Later all Russian gains were lost to an Austrian attack.
- July 16 The Ukrainian Government formed with Vinnichenko as Premier and Petlieura as Minister of War.
- Dec. The Russian (Communist) Government formed the Ukrainian Socialist Government at Kharkov.
- 1918 Feb./Mar. The Central Powers made a separate peace with Russia at Brest Litovsk. Communist forces entered Kiev and the RADA fled to Zhitomir.
- 1918 April German and Austrian armies occupied the Ukraine, staged a camp and appointed Skoropadsky as Hetman.
- Oct./Nov. The Polish Commission for Liquidation operated from Krakow until the First Polish Central Government was formed in Warsaw.
- Nov. 1 Count Huyn, the last Austrian Governor in Lwow armed the Ukrainians and proclaimed an independent West Ukrainian Republic on Nov. 9th.
- Nov. 11 King Karl of Austria, the last Hapsburg, ceased to rule.
- Nov. 22 The Polish Army captured Lwow and the West Ukrainian Government retired to Stanislawow.
- 1918 Dec. Following the collapse of the Central Powers, a Directorate of Five assumed power in Kiev with Vinnichenko as Chairman and Petlieura as Commander in Chief.
- 1919 Jan. 22 The Union between the Ukrainian and West Ukrainian Governments proclaimed: the Red Army reoccupied Kiev. The Directorate of Five moved to Vinnitza.
- Jan. Count Rakowsky headed a delegation of the Central Committee of the Soviet to meet and negotiate peace with the RADA. A Soviet Socialist Republic was founded at Kiev.
- Jan. 27 Poland issued its first definitive issue of stamps. In Fenigi and Marki currency for Northern Poland and Halerze and Korony for Southern Poland.

May	26	Roumanian Army occupied Kolomyja but nearly all Eastern Galicia under Polish control.
Sept.	1	A White Russian army under General Denekin entered Kiev, but Denekin would not co-operate with Petlieura against the Reds, refusing to negotiate with "separatists."
Dec.	22	Kiev evacuated by White Armies. All Ukraine in Red Army hands.

The following postal study is largely based on a collection of about 130 covers in the author's possession, covering the period January to August 1919. Most of the stamps used are the then current 1916 Arms of Austria series, the 1917 Emperor Charles I issue but the 1916 Postage Due stamps were also used as ordinary postage stamps and occasionally, the Express stamps of the same period. There was considerable variation in the amount paid for postage. The normal rate for letters was 40 heller and 1 krone 60 heller for express letters, but letters with 15, 20, 39, 40, 50 and 80h. all passed through. Some covers show differing amounts for postage for delivery to the same place and sent at the same time. Unusual combinations of stamps occur, such as one cover with four Austrian stamps and one Ukrainian Currency stamp, sent from Probuzna to Wien 28.4.19, and another with two Austrian and 20 fil Hungarian, Harvester type—all tied with Stryj c.d.s. 24.4.19.

As was customary on the continent, many writers put their name and address on the back of the envelope and "Galicia" or "Ukraine" feature on most covers according to the writer's race or wish. Some writers also showed their sentiments by adding Charity Labels. Polish ones showing Sobieski, but more usually Ukrainian Legion ones—a military scene in blue, pink or green. It is, of course, the postmarks and censor marks that are of particular interest. The former fall into three well defined groups. (1) Austrian and Polish types; (2) Postmarks in Russian characters; (3) Postmarks in the form of the place name only. The first type are circular date stamps with the date in the centre and the place name in the upper section and a letter or number below. They are found used all over the area and include such places as Brody, in the north, Sniatyn, in the south, and Bolechow further west. It is interesting to note that some places used both languages: Podkamien Bei Brody/Podkamien Kolo Brody, and Stanislaw/Stanislawow.

The postmarks of the second type are also circular date stamps, the difference being that the name is in Russian characters. Tarnopol is most frequently found (April-May 1919), Kopczyce and Zbaraz and others and all these places are situated in the eastern section of Tarnopol province. There is also a short string of places from Rydky, west of Lwow, through Zolkiew to Kamionka—Strumilowa all with this type of postmark on the Austrian stamps. In this part of Galicia it is the Ukrainian, and not the Russian language that is used. There is considerable difference but most of the characters are the same and the term "Russian characters" is used loosely here to cover both languages. There is almost a continuation of the semi-circle from Kamionka round Lwow running through Przemyśl, Sambor, Drohobycz and Bolechow where in April to June 1919 Austrian

stamps were not accepted as valid for postage. The stamps on covers from these places were not cancelled and the covers marked "T" either unframed or within a circle, with serifs and without serifs and occasionally so marked in manuscript.

This non-acceptance of other countries' stamps or even of certain issues is not uncommon and is particularly liable to occur when opposing armies and administrations take over new areas. What is often more surprising is how some letters go through the post with out-of-date issues or peculiar mixtures of stamps or controls.

The third and scarcest type of postmark comes from the eastern part of Tarnopol province, and consists of the place name set up in type, with no date or frame. As the words are long, the stamps are well "tied" and the covers, from Kopyczynce, Chorostkow and Podhaje appear to be private mail sent to addresses in Galicia and Italy. It is this sort of covers that raises so many queries. The stamps are the Austrian Emperor Charles, issued May 1917, but as there is no dated postmark, it is impossible to know exactly where the letters were sent. One cover has 25h., another 20h. and the one to Italy 15 heller, and all covers have the adhesive control label described below.

The use of the control label is another puzzling feature of Galician covers and shows the Polish Eagle, with a Polish inscription meaning "Control, in Krakow, of letters going abroad." From the wording one would assume that the label would be attached to all mail leaving



EXAMPLES OF EASTERN GALICIA MARKINGS

south-east Poland for other countries. It seems, however, to have been used indiscriminately and is found on covers going to other parts of Poland, to Central Europe, England and to America, but some covers coming from the same places at the same time and even to the same cities are without this label. Although the Eagle and inscription indicate its use by the Polish Authorities, several covers have also a Ukrainian Charity label on them. The earliest date of use was March 1919 and the latest, September 1919. There are two printings of the label, both in dull red on white porous paper; they differ slightly in the size of the eagle and in the clarity of the printing. A large proportion of Galician covers bear censor cachets but comparatively few have both the control label and a censor strike. Examples with both come from Brody, Drohobycz and Golovni.

Several covers have military cancellations consisting of two sets of numbers within a square. The object of this type of postmark was, of course, to disclose the place of dispatch only to those who knew the location to which the number had been allotted; but the security precautions were not so strict in 1919 as in the Second World War, and nearly every cover bears the sender's address on the back. These came from the Sokol district, some but not all have the control label and one sent to a Barracks in Krakow has a Ukrainian Legion Charity Label! The Austrian stamps always make up to 25 heller on each letter.

On some covers the stamps are not cancelled by a Post Office strike, but with a censor strike and too many places have adopted this procedure (and on stamps stuck in various parts on the front and back) for it to have been done by chance. Censor strikes, which included place names, used in this way were from Kolomyja, Szerniczka and Stanislaw.

Reference has been made to the Governor of Lwow arming the Ukrainians and the proclamation of an independent West Ukrainian Republic in November 1918. On the 3rd December, 1918, the Director of the Post Office in Kolomyja wrote to the Council to say that the stock of stamps was insufficient, the stock of some values was almost exhausted and only those values that were seldom used were remaining. He asked for permission to surcharge certain values, including one for the postage on newspapers, stating that there were three newspapers in Kolomyja being sent by post, often unstamped, and causing the subscribers to pay double the postage. The request was forwarded to the District Military Command, who on December 5th, 1918 issued Order No. 1456 to the Administration of the Service of Posts and Telegraphs in Kolomyja, ordering them to alter the value of Austrian stamps and add Ykp H.P.—an abbreviation for Ukrainian National Republic. New stamps were to be introduced for registered letters, 30 sot. The issue and use of the stamps was to be made in all the post offices in the Military District. The stamps were prepared by the printing firm of W. Brauner in Kolomyja and ready by December 10th. In January 1919 the charge for registered letters was increased to 50 sot, and new stamps were printed by the same firm, different only in value to the earlier issue. 5,000 were printed and a further 5,000 in March, and in view of the number printed it is surprising how few copies are to be seen. A careful check was kept

of the numbers printed to prevent speculation and even misprinted copies were used. The collection has several covers bearing these registration stamps, usually sent from Kolomyja (covers also bearing Kolomyja censor strike) but also at Horodenka, a 30 sot. being used on 18.3.1919—two months after the rate had been raised to 50 sot. The issue was short-lived and by the end of May all Galicia was under Polish control.

There are in this collection a number of covers which deserve special mention because of their rarity or unusual features, and including:

1. A cover from Krechowice bei Dolina with Polish Control label, Ukrainian Legion Charity label and each stamp of a block of four 5h. being cancelled in manuscript Ykp (Ukrainian National Republic).
2. A cover with three 15h. stamps cancelled with the Stanislawow Military Censor, a strike repeated on the reverse of the cover which is addressed to the Royal Italian 3rd Corps Command at Innsbruck, Tirol.
3. Cover on which the Austrian stamps are cancelled with a strike in Ukrainian reading Field Post Office No. 2, the date 12.3.19 is added in indelible pencil. The cover was sent to Bavaria via Stryj, Budapest and Vienna.

The place Kutý is struck in different forms. One postmark, in Ukrainian lettering, has N for the last letter instead of the Russian I, and in a censor strike the second letter Y turns the bottom part entirely to the right (see illustration).

Several covers bear controls which embody a Ukrainian trident, usually in a large circle which gives the military command and the place. Two tridents only resemble the types used in Ukraine for overprinting stamps, the others are quite different. Kutý from where the two types come is almost on the Rumanian border.

In 1919 and the succeeding years, the map of Europe was redrawn. Postal systems became more uniform and standardised: only the covers that have survived tell of the struggles, of hopes and aspirations realised or lost, of the peoples in those troubled lands of East Galicia, Western Ukraine.

(Continued from page 325-1)

At our next meeting on Sept. 27th at Weisz Stamp & Coins Hall, Jim Mazepa reported that he would speak on "The Development of the Polish Post in the Kingdom of Poland and Russian Administered Polish Territories to 1830," with special attention paid to postal routes and postal rates during this period.

John Bartczak proposed and moved that a record of the minutes of each meeting be sent to members so that non-present

members be informed of our business. Motion seconded by Frank Wolosewick and passed.

The decision of whether Polonus meetings will continue at Weisz Stamps & Coins Hall is to be made at the Sept. 27th meeting.

John Bartczak proposed the enlarging & improving of our "Polonus Bulletin." After much discussion, President Schafer appointed Mr. Bartczak to head a committee to make a study, investigate the feasibility of a

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Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. with 15 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
 Al Rybarski,
 Acting Secretary

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