

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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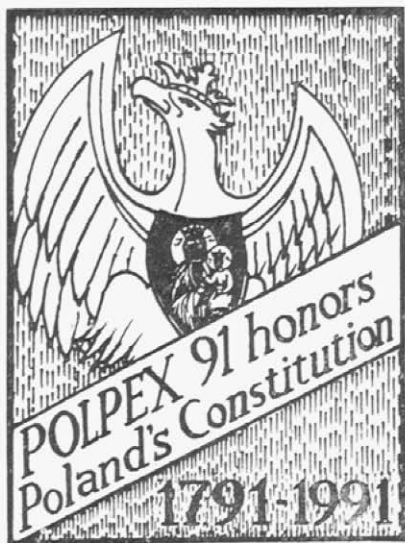
Jan.-Feb., 1991

POLAND'S CONSTITUTION 200th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED AT POLPEX '91

This year Polonus celebrates an important historic event at its annual Polpex — the 200th anniversary of Poland's May 3rd Constitution. In 1787 the United States came forth with their constitution, the first ever such document of a democratic government. Poland's document of May 3rd, 1791 was the second such important constitution from the countries of the world.

POLPEX 91, the annual exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society, will be held March 15th, 16th and 17th, 1991 at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. A U.S. Postal Service booth will operate on the premises.

In conjunction with Polpex, Polonus will issue three different colorful cacheted post cards, one for each show date. Friday's cachet will show the title page of the historic Polish Constitution as it was printed in the English language in London in 1791. Saturday's design will reproduce the 1939 Poland 55 gr. stamp, the only Polish stamp honoring this event. Sunday's cachet is modeled after a drawing that appeared in a Polish history book describing the event. All postal cards will receive a special Polpex cancellation. The price of each postal card is \$1.00, a set of three costs \$2.50.



The traditional souvenir sheets will be issued with the pair in a descriptive folder selling for \$1.00. The popular souvenir cards will also be printed showing both the Poland and U.S. Constitution commemora-

tives. These souvenir cards will sell for \$2.00 mint, and \$2.50 used. Polpex program catalogs will contain the list of the exhibits, a historical article, ads, patrons and well wishers. These are priced at \$2.00. Orders for all items should be sent to Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, Illinois 60171. Please enclose \$1.50 additional for postage and handling.

Have your name appear in the program catalog as a Polpex Patron for a contribution of \$5.00 or more. Or you can be listed as a Well Wisher for \$2.00 Send your remittance to the Polonus Treasurer, Box 82, River Grove, Illinois 60171.

Admission to Polpex is free. Youngsters will receive free philatelic gifts. Door prize drawing will be announced every hour. Given away as door prizes will be four copies of Poland No. 1, twenty pre-stamp period covers and other material. Three copies of the No. 1 stamp and the pre-stamp covers were donated by Joseph Bieniecki of Granite City, Illinois.

On exhibit will be some 80 large size frames competing for the special PANA Constitution medals to be awarded to gold medal winners. A bourse of 25 dealers from Chicagoland and distant parts of U.S. and Canada will operate at the Polpex.

Prize winning exhibits will be awarded at the Beeba-Banquet on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the sumptuous Polish style dinner are \$20.00 and are available from Polpex Chairman Romuald Odrowski, 5327 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641 — telephone: 312 - 545-2089.

AN UNUSUAL STAMP OF POLAND

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The illustration shows the Polish stamp Scott no. 169-A, 1000 Mk, orange, issued in 1923 during the Polish inflation. These stamps were line perforated with gauges ranging from 10 to 14½ mm., with numerous cases where horizontal perforations differ from vertical perforations.



On this particular stamp the perforations on its top and on its sides are made with the gauge 13½, but its bottom is perforated 10½. The only way this could have been achieved is by starting to perforate a sheet of these stamps on one perforating machine and finishing it with another machine.

Ten such stamps were made; this one is the fourth stamp in the row of ten.

New Members

- 1406 Krzysztof Zukowski
4442 N. Monitor
Chicago, IL 60630
1407 R. Scott Carlton
8249 Four Worlds Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45231

- 1408 Tadeusz Sokolowski
8456 N. Olcott Ave.
Niles, IL 60648

REINSTATED:

- #1143 John F. Szuch
P.O. Box 329
Medina, OH 44258

Polish Armed Forces In Canada During World War II

Jan Danielski, Ph.D., and Piotr Madej, B.B.M., C.G.A.

Reprinted from the CANADIAN PHILATELIST



Fig. 1 - Registered airmail cover from the Polish Training Camp in Owen Sound taken by train to Toronto, then by air to Montreal.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The attempt to form a Polish Army in Canada is one of the less well-known episodes of World War II. It was precipitated by many factors which may be summarized as follows:

- (1) As a result of co-ordinated attacks by the Wehrmacht on September 1, 1939 and the Red Army on September 17, Poland was occupied by German and Soviet forces;
- (2) The responsibility for rebuilding the armed forces on foreign soil was undertaken by the Polish government-in-exile in France, and after its collapse in June, 1940, in Great Britain;
- (3) There was a great need for manpower for the army, but very few resources were available. The Polish authorities counted on Americans of Polish descent, who during WWI strengthened the ranks of Gen. Haller's army in France with about 22,500 volunteers; and

- (4) Since the United States proclaimed their neutrality at the beginning of the war, and no recruitment activities would be tolerated on American soil, Canada, just like twenty years before, became the logical choice.

The first step was initiated as early as September 18, 1939 by the Polish Consul General in Ottawa, who, through a formal note directed to the Department of External Affairs, proposed a recruitment scheme for Polish nationals and those of Polish extraction. This was intended as part of the rebuilding of the Polish army in France, since the collapse of Poland was anticipated shortly due to a surprise Soviet attack on the rear of the Polish army fighting against the Germans.

The first response from the Canadians was not at all positive. Although the Department of External Affairs did not object to the recruitment, it restricted it to the territory of Canada and to Polish nationals who were not British

subjects. The ban on recruitment of Polish nationals in the United States dealt a serious blow to Polish intentions. Not only Canadian attitudes but also the defeat of France in June, 1940 further delayed this undertaking.

The fall of France and the loss of the just-rebuilt Polish units precipitated the next diplomatic steps. In July, 1940, a Polish military mission headed by Colonel F.A. Rola-Arciszewski, arrived in Canada to negotiate technical problems of recruitment and training. By the beginning of 1941 significant progress had been made. After long discussions, the Canadian government released a memorandum setting out the conditions of recruitment on its territory. The most important of these were as follows:

- no Canadian or British subject may be recruited without individual permission from the Canadian authorities;
- the Canadian government will not bear any costs related to army pay, transport, meals and accommodation of the volunteers;
- the Canadian government will not be held responsible for medical and hospital costs as well as pensions and similar outlays;
- Polish representatives may not recruit those working in the basic industries in Canada;
- volunteers will be properly informed of the conditions of their recruitment in Canada; and
- Polish military personnel will be governed by Polish military law and will be judged by Polish military courts. However, if Canadian law is violated, then the Canadian courts take over.

The main problem for both sides was financial in nature. From the beginning, the Canadian government required a deposit to finance the recruitment scheme. Polish suggestions for a loan to finance this undertaking were not accepted. Therefore, the Polish government had to pledge \$2,000,000 in gold and \$400,000 in cash with the Bank of Canada as a guaranty of covering the costs of recruitment and training. The agreement was finalized at the beginning of April of 1941 during Gen. W. Sikorski's (Prime Minister and C. in C. of the Polish army) visit to Canada.

Local authorities were much more supportive to the Polish undertaking. In Windsor, Ontario, which had been chosen as a recruiting centre for the Polish units in Canada, the city authorities transferred two buildings, namely the Old East Windsor City Hall and the residence known as the Henckel House, to the

Poles on a rent-free basis. Those premises had to be altered and renovated with the costs borne by the Polish government.

Windsor had been chosen for its convenient location close to the main centres of Polish-American communities in Detroit, Milwaukee and Chicago. Since there was not enough room for all projected personnel and recruiters in Windsor, the Polish military mission rented the North American Furniture Factory building in Owen Sound, Ontario. Thus, finally, the headquarters and the recruiting centre were located in Windsor and the training centre and camp were set up in Owen Sound.

Although originally the Canadian government agreed to recruit no more than 7,000 volunteers, the Poles planned on about 70,000 armoured corps personnel to be organized by 1942. However, during the entire period of operation only 1,250 volunteers had been recruited of which 903, after military training, were sent to the Polish units in Great Britain and the Middle East.

There were two main reasons why these plans failed. In June, 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union which became a member of the anti-Axis coalition. Agreements between the Soviet Union and the Polish government-in-exile were signed, which provided for the formation of a Polish army in Russia. Through these agreements, an additional 50,000 soldiers were to be released and sent to Great Britain. We have to remember that during its aggression against Poland in 1939, the Soviets captured about 250,000 well-trained Polish servicemen and during the two years of occupation of Eastern Poland, they deported about 1,200,000 Poles to Siberia. The second reason for the failure of the scheme was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. The United States joined the anti-Axis coalition and subsequently the main source of Polish volunteers dried up. On May 20, 1942, C.-in-C. Polish Army, Gen. W. Sikorski, issued an order which suspended the recruitment of volunteers with American citizenship and released all those already inducted, from service in the Polish army.

When, by the end of 1941, it was noticed that the recruitment quotas could not be met, the organizational structure of the Polish units in Canada was scaled down. The headquarters in Windsor was closed down in the middle of 1942, and the C.-in-C. Polish Army in Canada, Maj. Gen. B. Duch was transferred to Scotland.

All the duties and functions of the former H.Q. were taken over by the Polish Military Mission, and after its closure in May, 1942, by the Polish Air Force Mission in Canada. The Air Force Mission continued recruitment and training, but only for the Polish air force in Great Britain (as part of the Commonwealth Training Plan).

In May of 1942, a decision was made to close the military camp and training centre in Owen Sound. The existing armoured forces training school for non-commissioned officers was transferred to St. Andrews, Scotland, and the remaining personnel were relocated to Windsor on September 5, 1942. Eventually, they also left Canada for Great Britain. The decision to close the Windsor recruiting station was made on March 6, 1943, and its final closure took place on May 20, 1944.

During its short existence, the Poles built up an extensive administrative and organizational structure to fulfill their far-reaching goals. Some major parts of that structure are summarized below:

H.Q. Polish Armed Forces in Canada - existed between July, 1941 and May, 1942; located in the Henckel House, George St. and Riverside Dr. in Windsor; C.-in-C.-Maj. Gen. B. Duch, Chief of Staff-Lt. Col. Z. Wzacny.

"Fighting Poland" Newspaper - from July 17, 1941 to April 1942; first located at H.Q. then at 849 Kildare Rd., Windsor; highest circulation attained - 20,000 copies.

Polish Military Mission in Canada - in existence from July, 1940 to May 20, 1943; located in the Henckel House; the heads of the mission were the following officers: Col. F. Rola-Arciszewski, Lt. Col. J. Ilinski, Navy Capt. W. Zajączkowski and Air Force Col. S. Szuk.

Polish Recruiting Station, Windsor - existed officially from May 3, 1941 to March 6, 1943, with first volunteers signed up on March 23, 1941 and final close-down on May 20, 1944; located - Barracks #1 in the East Windsor City Hall, Druillard and Riverside Dr.; Barracks #2 in the Burroughs Building.

Polish Military Camp and Training Centre, Owen Sound - opened August 6, 1941 and closed in May, 1942, with final liquidation on September 5, 1942; was located on the premises of the North American Furniture Company.

For official and administrative purposes of the above branches, special rubber head stamps were used. To date, the following have been recorded:



Fig. 2 - Reverse shows postal route of the cover as it left the training battalion of the Owen Sound camp on May 2, 1942, deposited to the Toronto - Owen Sound (No. 2) RPO to Toronto and by Air-mail to Montreal, arriving the next day May 3, 1942. Note coat of arms seal across flap of sealed envelope.

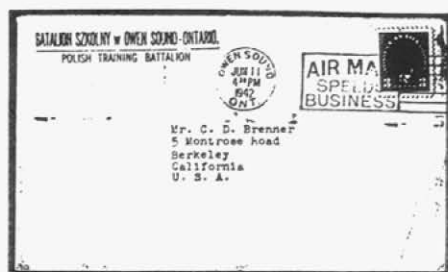


Fig. 3 - Cover from Polish Training Battalion in Owen Sound (June 11, 1942) utilizing normal first class rate to the U.S.

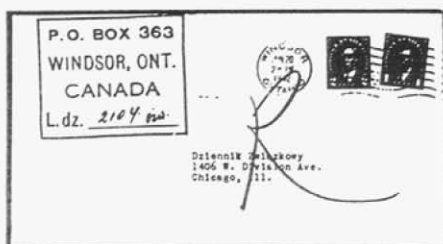


Fig. 4 - Address hand stamp on official cover to Chicago posted around the time of the H.Q.'s closing down. Note the registration number and abbreviation "osw." (most probably means "oświata" - education as the originating department).

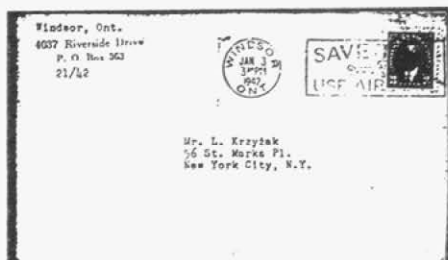


Fig. 5 - Combination typewritten/stamped address of the H.Q. Polish Forces in Canada used on official correspondence, with the registration number of the document as entered in the official registry.

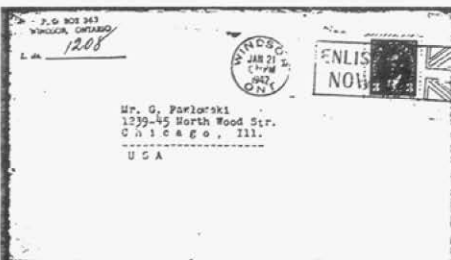


Fig. 6 - Another type of hand stamp for use on official correspondence from the H.Q. of the Polish Forces. The initials "L.dz." stand for "liczba dzien-nika" that is registration number.

Listing of Polish Forces Head Stamps and Seals

DOWÓDZTWO ODDZIAŁÓW W. P. w KANADZIE
H.Q. POLISH ARMED FORCES IN CANADA

DOWÓDZTWO ODDZIAŁÓW W.P. W KANADZIE
REFERAT OSWIATY

H.Q. POLISH ARMED FORCES IN CANADA
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Dowództwo Oddziałów W.P. w Kanadzie
Redakcja "Odsiecz - Polska Walcząca
w Ameryce"

H. Q. Polish Armed Forces In Canada
"Fighting Poland" - "POLMILITPRESS"

POLSKA MISJA WOJSKOWA W KANADZIE
POLISH MILITARY MISSION IN CANADA

size	known uses	remarks
65x10 mm	on official documents only	administrative headstamp
71x19 mm	as above	as above
83x28 mm	on picture postcard sent to England	as above
57x10 mm	on official documents only	as above

POLISH ARMED UNITS IN CANADA
RECRUITING STATION, WINDSOR

OSRODEK REKRUTACYJNY W. P.W WINDSOR
ONTARIO.

POLISH RECRUITING CENTRE



DOWÓDZTWO OBOZU im. TADEUSZA KOŚCIUSZKI
POLISH MILITARY CAMP



POLISH MILITARY CAMP

BATALION SZKOLNY W OWEN SOUND-ONTARIO.
POLISH TRAINING BATTALION

59x8 mm	as above	as above
62x17 mm	-on official documents -on ID's for recruiters -on leave passes	as above
Ø 37 mm	-on official documents -on ID's for volunteers -as a seal on reverse of envelopes	official coat of arms seal
70x10 mm	on envelopes only	administrative headstamp
Ø 37 mm		official coat of arms seal
59x4 mm	on envelopes only	headstamp
64x10 mm	as above	administrative headstamp

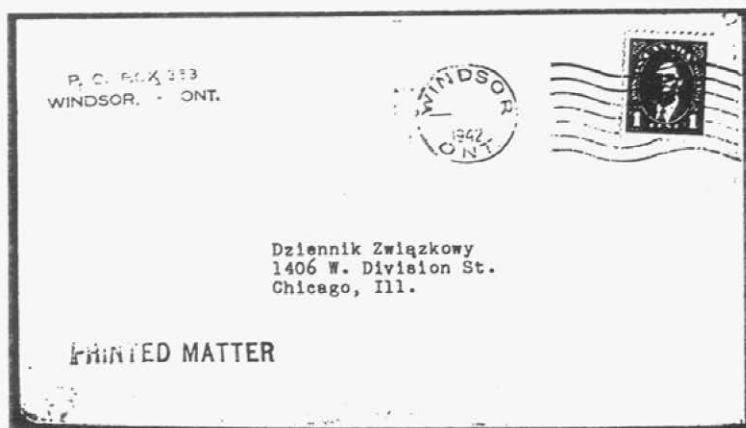
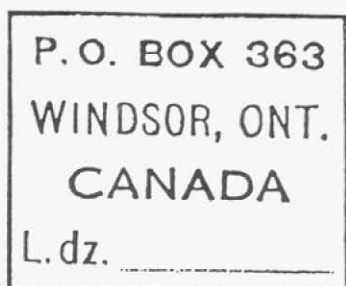


Fig. 7 - P.O. Box 363, Windsor, Ont. (H.Q. Polish Forces) stamp on a printed matter rated cover to Chicago.

LISTING OF RETURN ADDRESS MARKINGS



P.O. BOX 363
WINDSOR, ONTARIO

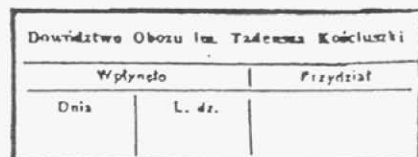
L. dz. _____

4037 Riverside Drive
P. O. Box 363

P. O. BOX 363
WINDSOR, ONT.

size	known uses	remarks
60x50 mm	envelopes only	"L.dz."-an abbreviation for "liczba dziennika" which means registration (filing) number for outgoing and incoming mail.
38x15 mm	as above	as above
41x8 mm	as above	shows the H.Q. address
39x7.5 mm	as above	

INFORMATIONAL/INSTRUCTIONAL MARKINGS



size	known uses	remarks
73x27 mm	on incoming mail only	translation of the text: "Command of the T. Kosciuszko Military Camp/Received - Distributed/Date - Registration Number"
45x4 mm	on envelopes only	

PRINTED MATTER

ADDRESSING AND MARKING OF POLISH FORCES CORRESPONDENCE

During their stay in Canada, the Polish forces neither established their own field post system nor utilized the Canadian one; they made use of the regular Canadian postal system. Unlike the Norwegians at Little Norway, Ontario, the Poles did not have their own field post office in Canada and hence did not utilize any special postmarks. There were no special postal privileges granted and all correspondence, whether official or private, was subject to

regular postal rates.

The Poles rented two post office boxes, P.O. Box 363 in Windsor and P.O. Box 106 in Owen Sound, and these were the only return addresses that the authors have seen on available correspondence. Special hand stamps with these post office box numbers were applied on official correspondence. On private correspondence, the return address was either typed or handwritten. The reason for this practice could have been to maintain wartime secrecy.

To date the authors have recorded five

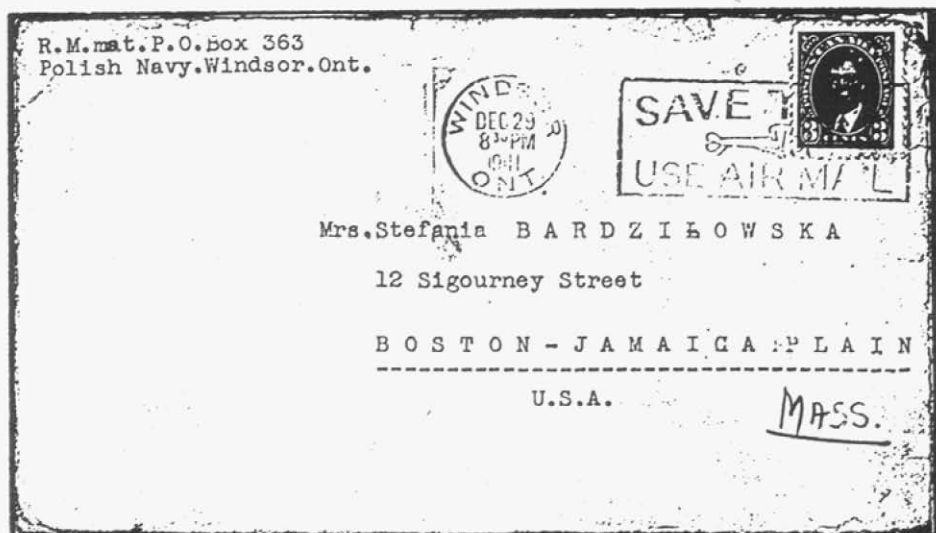


Fig. 8 - Private correspondence, showing sender's initials only. Mrs. Bardzilowska corresponded with many servicemen in Polish units throughout the world providing moral support for those who could not correspond with their families in occupied Poland.

different post office box hand stamps, all with the Windsor address. The existence of the Owen Sound post office box is known from return addresses written or typed on two different covers. Both appeared to be of private origin. It is the authors' belief, however, that a special hand stamp(s) bearing the Owen Sound P.O. Box number must have also been in use, but so far has not been seen.

Post office box hand stamps were probably applied only on official correspondence. Their registration number (in Polish "liczba dziennika," abbreviated "L. dz.") for outgoing mail was added by hand or typed in. Very rarely, administrative/official head stamps or seals are seen. These usually appear in the space reserved for return address, or at the top of the back flap of the envelope. The coat-of-arms seals were also struck on the back across the sealed part of the envelope. It is not known whether these head stamps and seals were sanctioned for use on correspondence since their primary purpose was to certify validity and/or attest the origin of official documents. It is entirely possible that covers bearing these are philatelic in nature.

The "printed matter" stamps were probably used on mail handled in both Windsor and Owen Sound, although so far only the one used in Windsor has been recorded. Also, receiving and distribution stamps must have been

used in both locations, although to date only the Owen Sound one has been recorded.

It appears that private correspondence from either the staff or the recruits themselves does not bear any special markings. Both full names and initials were used, although full names were generally avoided, probably where the sender had family in Poland against whom reprisals could be made by the Germans. In that case initials were used followed by the rank in Polish, P.O. Box number, arm of service, city and province. Figures 9 and 10 show both of these methods of addressing private correspondence. The word "mat" appearing in the address on Figure 9 is the Polish equivalent of an English naval non-commissioned officer's ranking.

In summary, the above article attempts to present a part of Canadian postal history not yet fully explored. It should be of interest to Canadians, because it happened on Canadian soil with the full permission of Canadian authorities. As well, it is of interest to those collecting Polish military postal markings for obvious reasons. The authors attempted to present all types of markings that were used on correspondence and documents. No doubt there are others, or other methods of addressing such correspondence. Thus, as a parting note, the authors will be grateful for any additional information, as well as good photocopies of

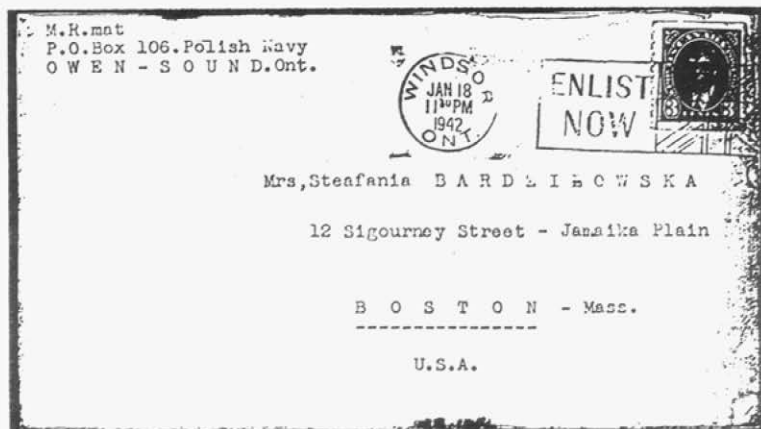


Fig. 9 - Private correspondence, with sender's initials only, confirming existence of P.O. Box 106 used by the Polish Training Camp in Owen Sound.

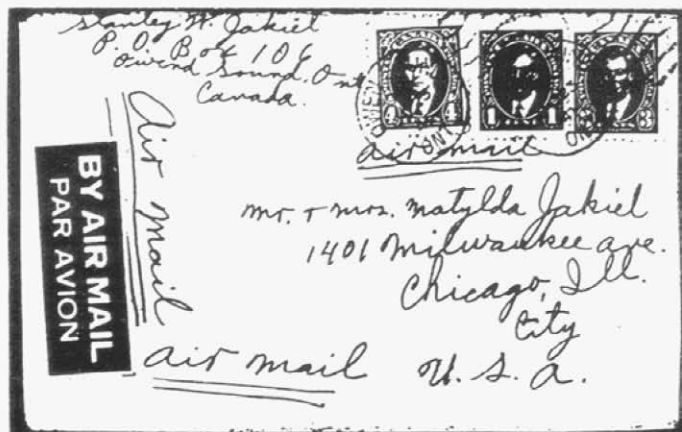


Fig. 10 - Airmail cover sent to Chicago on Oct. 23, 1941. Note the full name of the sender and the Owen Sound P.O. Box number. Compare with Fig. 9.

material related to the above. If anyone is in possession of such, please inform the authors at 25 Stockbridge Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M8Z 4M6 (P.S. Madej). All related costs will be reimbursed.

Finally, the authors wish to express their appreciation to Mr. J. Niebrzydowski of New Britain, Conn., Mr. T. Gobby of Chicago, Ill. and Mr. E.R. Toop of Ottawa, Ont. for providing most of the illustrative material in this article.

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S.M. Piaskowski, "Kroniki Polskiej Marynarki Wojennej 1918-1946" (Polish Navy Chronicles 1918-1946), vol. II 1938-1941, Sigma Press, Albany, N.Y., 1987.

K.U. Sanne, "Norwegian Exile Mail 1940-1945," *The Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation*, Thousand Oaks, Ca., 1986. ☞

Chemically Made Forgeries of Polish Stamps

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Inks of authentic postage stamps can often be chemically changed to produce fakes of proofs, or of color errors. This applies to stamps of the world. Only some examples of such forged stamps of Poland are discussed here.

1. Stamps printed with composite inks.

The 1 gr. stamp of 1925-27, Scott no. 227 is printed with a brown ink which is a mixture of green and red inks. Soaking such a stamp in certain organic solvents removes the red fraction of the ink and the stamp becomes bright green. Some of the solvents do not affect the gum thus mint and used stamps can be produced, which imitate non existing color proofs. The same applies to Scott Nos. 216, 228, 265 and to postage due stamps: J-68-82, J-84-91. The black color of the 1 zł. Mos-cicki stamps, Scott No. 255 can be changed into a bluish green, the violet Scott No. 258 can be changed into a blue stamp. Using different solvents, the brown stamp Scott No. 152-A can be changed into green, red, or grayish blue.



FIGURE 1.



FIGURE 2.

2. Multicolored Stamps

In most multicolored stamps one or more colors can be removed to imitate errors. As examples are shown here, Scott No. 2449 without the red circle in its center (Figure 1) and Scott No. 773 without its denomination and "Polska" (Figure 2). Another example (not shown here) is Scott No. 611 with its red frame and inscription removed.

Most often these forgeries can be recognized because the missing colors were not completely removed and faint spots of the removed color are visible under a strong magnification (about 100x). If the removed color was imprinted in intaglio one can see the colorless impression made with the engraved die. In typographically printed stamps the colorless impression can be seen only occasionally but of course no trace of the imprint is visible in stamps printed lithographically or by offset techniques. Being on authentic covers does not prove that such "errors" are genuine; stamps can be removed from covers, treated chemically and then glued on again.

Papers with colored underprints can be changed chemically into white papers. Sets of Scott Nos. 639-643 were thus fabricated without the tinted backgrounds. Another well known example is Scott No. 829 on white paper. Genuine rare proofs of these stamps on white paper do not exist but their paper is very thick while in the chemically made forgeries its thickness is normal.

Numerous other examples of such forgeries could be given. They are often offered for sale at exorbitant prices and many collectors are being defrauded in this manner.

The RUSSIAN POST in the EMPIRE, TURKEY, CHINA and the POST in the KINGDOM of POLAND

This 196 page cloth bound book, that I have purchased recently, is giving me some insight into Polish covers and the postmarks used under the control of the Russian Government, from 1851 to 1870. This book was copyrighted in 1981, and originally issued August 21, 1941. It was originally compiled in Russian by Sergej Vasil'evich Prigara, and translated into our language by David M. Skipton. The American version was promoted by the New York Chapter of the Russian Philatelic Society, "Rossica", and can be obtained from one of their members, for approximately \$46.00. If any interest is shown to purchase this book, you may be able to contact Mr. Norman Epstein, who resides in Brooklyn, New York

A full description and illustrations are shown of the Polish cancellations, that were used during this period, which include: Russian and Polish (bilingual) postmarks, and postal stationery.

Mention was indicated of postcards used in Warsaw during the period of 1890 to 1892, where some were printed in Polish only, and Polish and Russian. An illustration was not shown, to which I think would have assisted me in my personal collection for reference purposes.

Nineteen pages were devoted to the Polish use of domestic mail, when the Russian government permitted the Poles to print their own, and use of same, including communications between the Empire and the Kingdom of Poland. Just one small illustration was shown of the stamp produced by the Poles in Warsaw. Impressions of the handstruck stamps used on envelopes are shown, but not in full size, for expertization purposes. Four pages were devoted to show the Polish and Polish/Russian cancellations used, that were used during that time with extreme clarity.

A list of numbered cancels for the Kingdom of Poland, with their city/town names and province is listed, (where 269 are listed).

Paragraphs also explained the design of the "Mailcar Postmarks", and "Railway Postmarks in the Kingdom of Poland".

Personally, I think it was a good investment for the Polish collector.

Eugene Dreger, P.E., USNR Retired
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••••• POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY •••••

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• Changes of address, problems with
• receiving the Bulletin, should be ad-
• dressed to: Polonus Philatelic So-

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60171. General matters pertaining to
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