

**COMING EVENTS*****POLPEX 2004*****Mar 19-21**

The Chicago Chapter will hold its annual POLPEX at the White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave in Niles, IL.

Polpex 2004 will honor the following events: The 150th Anniv. of the First Polish Settlement in America at Panna Maria, Texas, and the 60 Anniv. of the Warsaw Uprising in World War II. Cacheted envelopes and special postal cancellations will be issued for both events. The Polish Museum will exhibit material documenting the founding of Pana Maria. A rare collection of Polish Home Army covers from the Warsaw Uprising will be exhibited. In addition The Polish American Numismatic Association will participate and is expected to have five exhibits.

Polonus members who wish to exhibit should contact Arkadiusz Walinski, 7414 Lincoln Ave. #D, Skokie, IL 60076-3898. All exhibitors will receive a medal.

POLONUS

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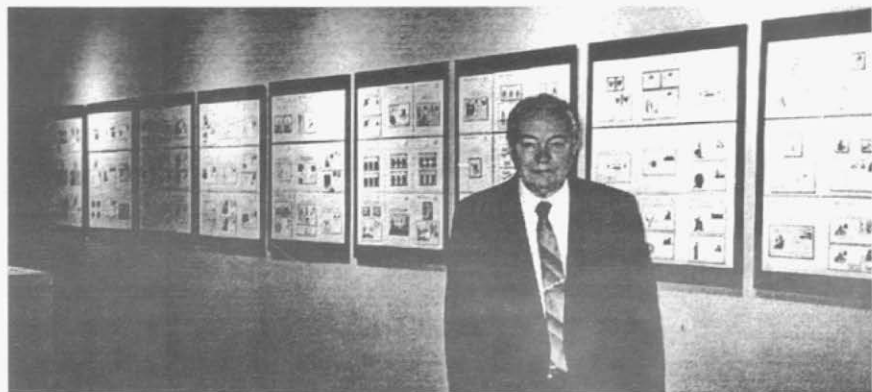
IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 3 | Pope Exhibit by Chet Schafer | 13 | Przedborz City Post by Leslaw Schmutz method of printing |
| 4 | Aero-Philately by Jacek Kosmala, Zbigniew Korszen and Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski, Polish Directional Airmail Labels | 21 | Philatelic Websites Worth Visiting by Erv Mrotek |
| 9 | ABC's of Philately by Erv Mrotek exhibiting revisited | 23 | Editor's Notabilia by Hank Bieniecki |
| | | 24 | New Members |

25 YEARS OF JOHN PAUL II EXHIBIT AT POLISH MUSEUM

By: Chet Schafer

During October and November 2003 the Polish Museum of America in Chicago held an exhibition of John Paul II artifacts, pictures, books, postage stamps, and commemorative medals. The Polonus Philatelic Society participated in this exhibition by providing 61 frames of stamps, cachets and first day postmarks commemorating Pope John Paul II from the extensive collection of Arkadiusz Walinski.



Arkadiusz Walinski in front of a small part of his exhibition at the Polish Museum. All available wall space was devoted to his Pope philatelic material.

Walinski's exhibition was divided into sections of the Pope's visits to the North, South and Central Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Caribbean and Middle East. Over 120 countries have issued Pope John Paul II stamps and special postmarks. To date 650 stamps have been issued to commemorate the Polish Pope and over 2000 postmarks have been documented. New stamps and other philatelic material continue to be issued.

POLISH DIRECTIONAL AIRMAIL LABELS

*by: Jacek Kosmala, Zbigniew Korszen,
Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski*

The first regular airmail service by the Polish society for aerial communication in post-World War I Poland, was established on September 5, 1922. On that day, „Polska Linia Lotnicza AEROLLOYD” (Polish Air Line Aerolloyd) inaugurated postal flights between Gdansk, Warszawa and Lwów. In July, 1923, P.L.L. AEROLLOYD initiated a new route between Warszawa and Kraków, which was then extended to Wien in April, 1925. One month later, AEROLLOYD converted into „PLL AEROLOT”. The new carrier rapidly expanded internal airmail services, with regular postal flights between Kraków and Lwów in June, 1925, and the city of Lodz added to the existing route in October, 1926. In November, 1927, the city of Brno in Czechoslovakia became connected with the regular postal flights between Warszawa and Wien.

Between April, 1926 and June, 1928, an array of so called directional labels (DL) was introduced to the public. Some of them were attached to airmail covers flown by P.L.L. AEROLOT, often prior to the actual inauguration of regular airmail services. Back in 1972, Kazimierz Gryzewski, a true „godfather” of Polish aerophilately wrote: „these labels, issued by the Polish Airlines, were used only by Warszawa 19 – Port Lotniczy (Warszawa Airport) agency. They were attached primarily to the passengers’ luggage. One may suspect that DL were also applied to small parcels sent from Warszawa 19 agency. Moreover, flown letters and postcards with DL do exist...” Indeed, a number of envelopes with these labels were sent to prominent Polish aeophilatelists of that period, including Tadeusz and Kazimierz Gryzewski in Warszawa, E. Labécki in Lwów, E. von Baggo in Gdansk, and T. Krzyszkowski in Kraków. Interestingly, DL were attached to envelope fronts, which was against the rule setup by The Polish Ministry of Posts, that allowed any label to be attached to envelope backs. Despite this technical irregularity, and their philatelic character, DL especially those on flown covers, should be considered an integral, quite unique, and colorful part of Polish philately.

To date, DL are entirely omitted from the airport sections of earlier "Ruch" and more recent "Fischer" Polish catalogues. However, DL on flown covers are being encountered at international auctions, and needless to say, they are very highly valued and sought after. Dr. James Mazepa was the first who attempted to catalog DL, and their postal usage (1,2). However, over twenty years has passed since these seminal publications, and extensive research has been done by a new breed of Polish aerophilately enthusiasts. Their findings, sometimes conflicting with those of Dr. Mazepa, were recently published by Kosmala and Korszeń in Polish "Filatelista" monthly (3). This is an English version of that article, with some additional comments and thoughts by the co-chair of the Polonus Aerophilately SG from this side of the Atlantic.

The four major types of DL can be categorized by their design, shape, and color. First, we describe the types and subtypes, then catalog all known varieties recorded to date, and finally illustrate the key examples.

1. **Type I Directional Labels** (see Figure 1, page 515-L1)

This rectangular label, measuring 65 mm wide and 100 mm long, consists of two parts. The upper part (51x70 mm frame) shows an airplane soaring above the globe, and depicts the existent AEROLOT routes. The inscription reads: „POLSKA LINIA LOTNICZA" (Polish Air Line) "KOMUNIKACJA PASAZERSKA/PRZEWÓZ POCZTY I TOWARÓW" (For passenger communication and mail/merchandise transport). The bottom part is a tab (53,5x10 mm frame), with a city name. The exception is the Łódź label, which lacks the tab and shows rubber-stamped city name in violet on its upper portion. All type I DL have been seen in black. In addition, five additional colors have been recorded, including: „do Gdanska" – red, „do Lwowa" – yellow, „do Krakowa" – green, and „do Wiednia" – blue/black and blue. A black „do Lwowa" is the only known DL to appear together with L.O.P.P. label (1 gr) on the very same letter flown from Warszawa on December 20, 1926. Semi-official L.O.P.P labels were issued by The Air Defense League to support the development of Polish air force. In type I, we distinguish twelve DL to six cities, with the earliest flown on August 16, 1926 (do Lwowa), and the latest flown on November 15, 1927 (do Wiednia).

2. **Type II Directional Labels** (see Figure 2, page 515-L2)

This rectangular label measures ca. 74x48 mm. It consists of the oval (62x38 mm) showing the Junkers F-13 aircraft, and the

AERO-PHILATELY

inscription: „POLSKA LINIA LOTNICZA / AEROLOT S.A. / Zarząd: Warszawa, Nowy Świat 24. / Telefon 9-00” (Polish Air Line / Aerolot / address and telephone of the Warszawa home office) The oval is surrounded by orange or blue vertical lines. These DL were flown to Warszawa, Kraków, Lwów and Gdansk. All but those flown to Warszawa carry labels with the destination city, stamped in violet: LWÓW or LWOWA, KRAKÓW or KRAKOWA, and GDANSKA. In type II, we distinguish eight DL, with the earliest encountered flight on April 21, 1926 (KRAKOWA), and the latest one on July 17, 1927 (LWÓW).

3. Type III Directional Labels (see Figure 3, page 515-L3)

This hexagonal label is ca. 108 mm wide and 70 mm high. It depicts a stylized aircraft over the city, inscription „POLSKA-LINJA-LOTNICZA / AEROLOT” (Polish Air Line / Aerolot), and „P.L.L.” on both sides of the central rectangle. It also shows flight destination, e.g., „Z WARSZAWY / DO LWOWA”. There are three subtypes of type III DL.

(a). A black design on white paper. This label was found on letters flown from Warszawa to Czerniowce, Gdansk, Kraków, Lwów, Łódź and Wien. In addition, labels from Wien to Kraków and Lwów have been recorded. Of interest are rare letters flown from Warszawa to Lwów and Gdansk, carrying labels with inscription „z Warszawy do” (from Warszawa to), and rubber-stamped destination in red or violet. Another unusual flown piece has attached „z Wiednia do” (from Wien to) DL plus a hand-written „NACH WARSCHAU” (to Warszawa) note. In Type III (a) subtype, we distinguish twelve different DL.

(b). The central rectangle with stylized aircraft is non-black. There are known labels from Warszawa to Lwów in green, from Wien to Kraków in light-green, from Kraków to Łódź in dark-green, and from Wien to Lwów in green. In type III (b) subtype, we distinguish four different DL.

(c). The entire label, with partial destination, e.g., „Z GDANSKA DO” (from Gdansk to) is non-black. Of interest is a pink label with inscribed just „DO” (to), and no destination at all. Of the seven different DL in type III (c) subtype, only one has been recorded on a letter flown from Lwów to Warszawa.

4. Type IV Directional Labels (see Figure 4, page 515-L4)

These labels differ in size and color, yet their overall design with a stylized aircraft and destination, is similar. There are three known subtypes of type IV DL.

(a). „Do Gdanska” (to Gdansk) label is diamond in shape, and measures 70x70 mm. The black design and inscription are on light-violet paper. Just few letters with this label sent from Warszawa between April 26 and June 28, 1926 have been recorded.

(b). „Do Warszawy” (to Warszawa) is similar with (a), but on a green paper. It is known on a flown piece from Gdansk.

(c). „Do Lwowa” (to Lwów) label is rectangular in shape and measures 97x78 mm. The black design and inscription are on a pink paper. These more frequently seen labels are known on covers flown between April 26 and August 16, 1926.

These four types of DL are the only encountered during the 1926-1928 „pioneer” period of air services in Poland, and interestingly no others were recorded later on. As suggested earlier (2), it is a reasonable guess that between 25 and 100 of each DL type were actually flown. Considering all the existing varieties, and 75 years of turbulent history, this makes DL very scarce indeed.

The authors thank Mr. Roger Szymański (Milwaukee, WI) and Mr. Wojciech Grabowski (London, UK) for invaluable information on their collections.

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POLISH DIRECTIONAL AIRMAIL LABELS

N°	Type	Destination	Color	Postal Usage
1	DL 1a	do Gdanska	Black	09/17/26
2	DL 1b	do Gdanska	Red	08/28-9/18/26
3	DL 1c	do Krakowa	Black	09/18/26
4	DL 1d	do Krakowa	Green	08/31-09/18/26
5	DL 1e	do Lwowa	Black	8/16 - 12/20/26
6	DL 1f	do Lwowa	Yellow	08/31/26 07/17/27
7	DL 1g	do Lwowa	Blue	Label
8	DL 1h	Lodz	Black (no tab)	10/06/26
9	DL 1k	do Warszawy	Black	09/12/26-07/26/27
10	DL 1l	do Wiednia	Black	09/23/26-04/14/27

AERO-PHILATELY

11	DL 1m	do Wiednia	Blue/Black	08/28/26-11/15/27
12	DL 1n	do Wiednia	Blue	09/23/26
13	DL 2a	Gdanska	Blue	06/10-06/28/26
14	DL 2b	Gdanska	Orange	05/6-06/28/26
15	DL 2c	Kraków	Blue	05/19-06/14/26
16	DL 2d	Krakowa	Orange	04/21-08/14/26
17	DL 2e	Lwów	Blue	06/15-07/31/26
18	DL 2f	Lwowa	Orange	04/26-08/31/26
19	DL 2g	No inscription	Blue	06/10/26 (Kraków-Warszawa)
20	DL 2h	No inscription	Orange	Label
21	DL 3a	z Warszawy do Czerniowiec	Black	Label
22	DL 3b	z Warszawy do Gdanska	Black	07/30/27
23	DL 3c	z Warszawy do	Black	Gdansk (in violet)
24	DL 3d	z Warszawy do Krakowa	Black	07/22/27
25	DL 3e	z Warszawy do Lwowa	Black	07/15/27-06/06/28
26	DL 3f	z Warszawy do	Black	07/05/28 „Lwowa” (in red or violet)
27	DL 3g	z Warszawy do Lodzi	Black	03/15/27
28	DL 3h	z Warszawy do Wiednia	Black	06/04/-08/26/27
29	DL 3i	z Wiednia do Krakowa	Black	Label
30	DL 3k	z Wiednia do Lwowa	Black	Label
31	DL 3l	z Wiednia do	Black	„Lwowa” (in red)
32	DL 3m	z Wiednia do	Black	„NACH WARSCHAU” hand-written 09/ 05/27
33	DL 3n	z Warszawy do Lwowa	Black + Green	Label
34	DL 3o	z Wiednia do Krakowa	Black + Light-Green	Label
35	DL 3p	z Wiednia do Lwowa	Black + Green	Label
36	DL 3q	z Krakowa do Lodzi	Black + Dark-Green	Label
37	DL 3r	z Lwowa do	Yellowish	Flown to Warszawa 07/14/27
38	DL 3s	z Gdanska do	Pink	Label
39	DL 3t	z Krakowa do	Light-Green	Label
40	DL 3u	z Lodzi do	Orange	Label
41	DL 3w	z Wiednia do	Green	Label
42	DL 3x	z Wiednia do	Blue	Label
43	DL 3y	Do	Pink	Label
44	DL 4a	Do Gdanska	Light-Violet.	04/26-06/28/26
45	DL 4b	Do Warszawy	Green	Label
46	DL 4c	Do Lwowa	Pink	04/26-08/16/2

The Trials and Tribulations of a First-time Exhibitor The Saga Continues

By: Erv Mrotek

OK, so I'm not really a "first-time" exhibitor, but I'm so new to this wonderful hobby of ours (less than two years) that I still feel like it. After my experience as a true first-time exhibitor at Texpex in Dallas last April (see the related article in Bulletin 513), I was motivated to enter my exhibit at Aripex in February 2004 (www.aripex.com) where Polonus will be one of the guest societies and where it will hold its annual meeting.

My exhibit is entitled "The Polish Prisoner of War Camp Posts". It covers the postal history of the formal intra-camp postal system authorized by the Germans and set up to allow communication among Polish officer POWs located in different barracks. These camps were like small cities, generally containing 5,000 or more prisoners. The POWs were not allowed to move between barracks, and would be shot by Nazi guards if they tried. The postal system allowed friends assigned to different barracks to stay in touch.

At Texpex I received so many great exhibit improvement ideas from the helpful critiques given by the judges that I decided to expand it from five frames to ten frames. I also decided to include all four POW camps, not just Woldenberg, which was the largest of the four camps. Since this required extensive updates and additions, I was concerned about my exhibit not being ready at Aripex.

One of my best friends, Dick Phelps, lives in Plano Texas. Because of this, I regularly attend Texas shows. One of the country's best local shows is the Mid-Cities Stamp Show (www.mid-citiesstampclub.com/stampshow.htm) in Grapevine Texas, the location of DFW Airport. Mid-Cities is part of the Texas Series of local shows and uses APS-certified judges, so even though the judging may be somewhat more forgiving than at a national show, it is still superior to most local shows.

ABC's

I decided to enter my first 10-frame effort in this show to get a reading on where it needed improvement. I felt that exhibiting here would also highlight the "holes" in my collection and give me time to fill some of them before Aripex.

I had been researching and working on the text for material for the other three camps on and off for six months, so I focused my efforts on completing this task and trying to fit my exhibit into ten frames. This immediately showed me where I had deficiencies, so I put out the call for help to all my friends and trusted dealers. Our very own Hank Bieniecki supplied the bulk of what I needed. Without his assistance I could not have exhibited (thanks Hank!).

I also spent considerable time reviewing my notes from various judge's critique sessions. I attend these sessions at every show I visit, whether I exhibit or not. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to attend critiques if you plan to exhibit.

I arrived and set up my exhibit the evening before the show started. This is important because an exhibit looks different mounted than it does in a 3-ring binder or a box. If something is wrong, I can correct it overnight and replace the pages prior to the start of the show. I immediately saw some problems. Fortunately, I brought along the file that contained the exhibit pages. That night I made the corrections at Dick's house and Friday morning, before the show, I replaced the two pages that contained errors.

One hint I'd like to share is this: I attach my mounts with Scotch *removable* double-coated tape (item number 667). You can remount an entire page in about a minute. Each piece of tape is good for a half dozen remounts. A friend of Dick's, who is a chemist as well as an exhibitor, tested the tape for us in special "aging" machines that can simulate years of aging in a few weeks and found the tape does not damage exhibit mounts or their content. Using this tape will save you hours of effort and frustration.

I now had my exhibit in frames and ready for judging. I spent the rest of the morning looking at the other exhibits and perusing dealer stock.

In the afternoon I attended a seminar on exhibit synopsis writing. This was so helpful that I am writing an article on this subject, but

suffice it to say that a synopsis is your way of explaining to the judges those things you'd like them to know about your exhibit. It's like pulling the judge aside as he is about to evaluate your exhibit and talking to him about it.

In this seminar I also learned about a group called the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (www.aape.org), which I joined. AAPE is a worldwide organization of stamp collectors who exhibit their collections competitively and work together for the betterment of philatelic exhibiting and judging standards and practices. In my opinion, this is \$20 well spent if you plan to exhibit on a somewhat regular basis. Not only do you receive a quarterly magazine containing numerous articles aimed at improving your exhibit, but when you join you also receive a bonus magazine containing a 10-year composite of the "best of" articles from the 1986-1996 quarterly publication.

However, possibly the most significant benefit AAPE provides is its critiquing service. You can send a photocopy of your exhibit to AAPE and they send it to a judge qualified in your area of collecting. The judge will critique your exhibit right on the photocopy and send it back. The service is free. You only pay postage to and from AAPE and to and from AAPE to the judge.

Not long after the seminar I discovered that my exhibit had won a gold medal. Since the judges are APS-certified, the awards are very meaningful. I was ecstatic!

An hour after receiving this incredible news I went to the judge's critique. As usual, it was very helpful. As I've said over and over, this is a "must do" if you're even remotely interested in exhibiting.

After the judge's critique we went to the Awards Dinner. This provided an opportunity to socialize with other philatelists and make new friends in a casual setting. After the meal there was well-deserved recognition of the people responsible for putting on the show. Following that, the exhibitors were given their certificates and awards. This started with the bronze awards and worked up to gold.

As the gold awards were being handed out, my name was not called. I was starting to think my certificate had been misplaced, when it finally was announced as the last name on the list. As it turned out,

ABC's

there was a reason for this. Not only had I won a gold award, but also Best of Show, the Grand Award, the Best Foreign Exhibit award and the Texas Series award! I was dumbstruck, overwhelmed, stunned, you-name-it. This was one of the happiest moments of my short philatelic career.

As winner of the Texas Series award, I am expected to exhibit at the Texpex national show in Dallas in April 2004 (<http://users.waymark.net/txpex/>). Since Dallas is where Dick lives, and Texpex is where I started my exhibiting career, I was planning to exhibit there anyway, but winning the Texas Series award will make exhibiting in Dallas extra special next year.

Now that my heartbeat has slowed down, I am more motivated than ever to give a good showing at Aripex. I am probably a few years away from a gold award at a national show, but I am having a great time working towards that goal. I've learned more about my collection that I ever thought possible. I've made many new friends and had a lot of plain old-fashioned fun. My collection now has more meaning for me than ever before. It's no longer an "accumulation," but a historical tribute to those brave Polish officers who were interned longer than any other prisoners during World War II.

For all these reasons, I again make the plea to you to dust off that wonderful collection you've spent years of loving care assembling and share it with the philatelic world through exhibiting. Good luck!

THE METHOD OF PRINTING OF THE FIRST TWO STAMPS OF THE PRZEDBORZ CITY POST: TYPOGRAPHY NOT LITHOGRAPHY

by: Leslaw Schmutz

*Translated by Stanley T. Wlodek, from Przegląd Filatelistyczny,
No.1, October 2002.*

The first stamps of the city post of Przedborz, issued December 18 1917, and cataloged (Fischer) as 1 and 2, have been treated in a few major (1, 2, and 3) as well as minor (4) studies. These stamps were issued both perforated (Figure 1) and imperforated.



*Figure 1. The perforated stamps of the first
Przedborz city post stamp issue.*

All of the above cited publications, as well as monographs (5, 6) and catalogs (7, 8, and 9) contain the information that these stamps were produced by flat bed lithography at the "Panskim Works" in Piotrkowie Trybunalskim (2, 6, 7).

The original author of the opinion that the Przedborz stamps No. 1 and 2 were printed by lithography was Stanislaw Mikstein, who described the first Przedborz issue in a series of articles published in "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" published in 1935 (1) and 1966 (6). In the monograph (5) that details the construction of the printing form of Przedborz stamps No. 1 and 2, we can read that: "By lithographically duplicating the image of one stamp a matrix of 8 images, 4 in two vertical rows was obtained. Then by copying this matrix - to a lithographic stone in four groups of eight stamps, one obtained a matrix for printing of the whole sheet." This view has been held to this time.

Independently from S. Mikstein, Jan Dudzinski (2) also published a study of the Przedborz stamps in the 1935 "Ilustrowanych Wiadomosciach Filatelistycznych". In this article he also expressed

PRZEDBORZ

the opinion that the stamps under discussion were produced using flat bed lithography. He even gave the name of the printer, the lithographic shop "Zakład Panski" in Piotrkowie Trybunalskim. He also supported S. Mikstein's theory concerning the construction of the lithographic printing form.

Czesław Danowski and Jerzy Gryzel also published studies pertaining to the first Przedborz series in the 1982 "Historyczno-Badawczym Biuletynie Historycznym" (3). In this study S. Mikstein's theory was somewhat modified. On the basis that the distances between the eight stamp blocks varied in different sheets, these authors suggested the hypothesis that the thirty-two stamp sheets of the first Przedborz issue were produced in four applications of an eight image lithographic printing form and not in one operation with a thirty two image form (1).

In the eight stamp repetitive construction of Przedborz 1 and 2, S. Mikstein identified eight different image types, repeating themselves four times on the same fields of the eight block form in each of the thirty two stamp sheets. See Figure 2.

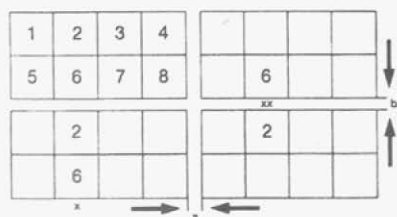


Figure 2. Schematic of the sheet positions of the Przedborz stamps No. 1 and 2. The sheet contained thirty two stamps made up from four eight stamp sectors. The position of the eight types of stamps in this printing is indicated in the first sector. These positions were repeated in all of the other three sectors. The x and xx symbols indicate the separation from sector 3.

Figure 3 shows examples of two varieties of vertical pairs of the 2 grosze value of the image types 2 and 6. This can be a normal pair of stamps with type two above type six, designated by x in Figures 2 and 3, or a pair of type six above type two from two different adjoining eight block groups, as designated by xx in the same Figure.

A discriminating examination of different examples of the stamps under discussion allows the determination of the exact repetition of the characteristics of these images. See Figures 4 to 7. The details of the outside frames of each type also exactly repeat themselves.

These are the characteristics of images produced by printing with an uneven surface, typography. In this type of printing a printing plate with the image produced by raised surfaces is covered with ink and pressed into the paper, leaving exactly the same image in succes-



Figure 3. Vertical pairs of the first Przedborz stamp. On the left, a pair of imperforated stamps of the types 2 + 6 that exist in each eight stamp segment, designated by the X in Figure 2. On the right, a pair of perforated stamps of the type 6 + 2 but obtained from the center of the sheet, as indicated by xx in Figure 2.



Figure 4. Top left hand value number from the imperforated pair in Figure 3, with the second from the left vertical shading line broken (see arrow), an identifying characteristic of the type 2 image position.



Figure 5. Top left hand value designation of the bottom stamp in the perforated pair in Figure 3, with the characteristics of the type 2 image, indicated with an arrow, as in Figure 4.

Figure 6. The bottom left value designation of the bottom stamp in the imperforated pair of Figure 3. The break in the top left frame, indicated with an arrow, defines the type 6 impression.

Figure 7. The lower left value designation from the top perforated stamp in Figure 3 shows the characteristic frame break, indicated with an arrow, of the type 6 impression.

sive impressions, and creating in the margins of the imprinted image edge areas devoid of ink that has been squeezed out in the printing process. The characteristics of these edge areas are also repeated in each successive image. This repetitiveness in appearance is the result of the raised position of the typographic form, above the surface, that is not printed. The edges of the print form do not allow the ink to flow past the edge. The ink covered printing plate transfers its image in exactly the same way on each impression.

As is well known (10), a very characteristic feature of print from a typographic printing plate, that permits easy recognition, is the physical indentation of the image into the printed paper. If the printing pres-



Figure 8. The first Przedsborz stamp, with gum, and with a courtesy cancel.

sure is large enough, this indentation results in an impression that can be seen on the back of the stamp. In the case of the stamps under discussion here, this characteristic indentation is sometimes not visible. This is due to the appreciable thickness of the paper, which in stamps with the gum intact, varies from 0.095 to 0.100 mm., being in the upper range of what would be considered a medium thickness paper.

In used stamps, well washed and thus without gum, the thickness of the paper varies from 0.085 to 0.090 mm. The pressure used in the printing of these stamps was apparently often not large enough, for a paper of this thickness, to always allow the indented transfer of the image to the opposite side. A detailed examination under oblique illumination however, always allows the observation of the impressed image on the obverse side and the edge impressions characteristic of a typographic print.

Examples do occur with a well evident impressed image on the reverse side. One such stamp is illustrated in Figure 8.

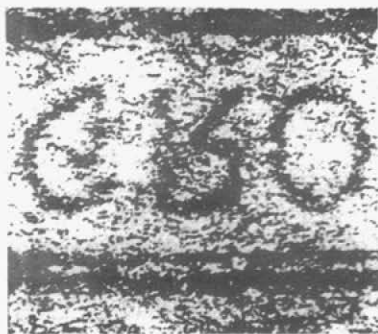


Figure 9. A transmitted light image of a section of the stamp in Figure 8, showing the letters GRO(SZE) as viewed from the back.

Figure 9 presents the reverse side of the stamp shown in Figure 8, with the letters **GRO(SZE)**, as revealed when viewed in transmitted light. Figure 10 shows the same area of the back side when viewed in low angle oblique illumination. Here, as indicated by the arrows, the impression of the letters **GRO**, but particularly the letter **G**, and the lower frame lines, are clearly seen.

The impression of the images of Przedsborz 1 and 2 through to the

reverse side, and the exact repetition of the details of the images in various examples of the same image type, as well as the appearance of the borders, **are excellent proofs that the first Przedsborz issues were printed by a typographic process.**

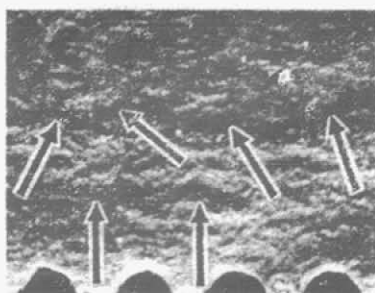


Figure 10. A photograph of the same area, as shown in Figure 9, but taken with inclined illumination. The top arrows point to the indented letters GRO(SZE), the bottom arrows point to the indented bottom frame lines and the direction of the oblique illumination.

In the case of a lithographic impression the printing plate is a perfectly flat image of the stamp transferred using a lithographic ink that is fixed after transfer. The layer of lithographic ink is so thin that no image can be transferred to the reverse side by impression. The edges of a lithographic impression, which lie on exactly the same level as the image free part of the printing form, do not limit the flow of ink past their border. Thus in a lithographic printing process you do not get the exact repetition of the image details in successive printings. For example: the 50 halerzy, lithographically printed stamp of the Polish Liquidation Commission (PZL) in 1919 (Fischer 63, Scott 69) is shown in Figure 11. Figure 12 illustrates a portion of this printing on two different stamps, both from sheet position fifty six. Comparing the two images of the same area, from the same fifty sixth position, it is possible to clearly observe the differences in the shape of the letters **SKA**, different details in the borders and varying characteristics in the details of the letters.



Figure 11. A stamp, from the Polish Liquidation Commission (PKL) issue of 1919, (Fischer 63, Scott 69) printed by lithography.

In the light of these facts considerations of the construction of the lithographic printing form for stamps No. 1 and 2 of the Przedborz issue (1, 3) are not pertinent. At the same time, the hitherto mistaken conclusion that these stamps were printed by a lithographic process can be misleading to the non informed collector. The past opinion that these stamps were printed by lithography would, in their



Figure 12. Appearance of the same area, of two 50 halercy stamps of the PKL issue (Fischer 63, Scott 69), from position 56.

authentication, (4) first lead to the verification of the printing technique. If such verification would not confirm the lithographic nature of the image, the examination would have to conclude with a negative finding. But this is wrong, the original stamps are printed by typography and as such they would have to be judged as forgeries, which would be absurd.

Those that have studied the first Przedborz issue up to this time, did not correctly identify the printing technique and, in addition, presented various versions of the construction of the assumed lithographic printing

form. 80 years have passed from the time these stamps were printed, thus it is high time that our knowledge of their printing was corrected.

Below, I thus present the results of my studies of the construction of the printing form for stamps No. 1 and 2 of the Przedborz issue.

The even positioning of the stamps in blocks of eight, and the exact repetition of even the smallest details in their images on all four blocks of eight in the sheet, leads to the conclusion that the typographic printing forms for the production of the first Przedborz series were created in the following manner:

1. The approved image of the stamp was photographed eight times, and these photographs were carefully glued on to cardboard in the arrangement 4 x 2.
2. This eight image arrangement was then photographed and the resulting negative, with the stamp images in the approved size, was then printed onto a photosensitive emulsion on a zinc plate, producing a positive image of the stamps on the plate.
3. Using various washing and etching procedures the zinc was removed from the image free areas to obtain an eight image typographic printing form.
4. This process was repeated three more times so as to obtain four eight-image forms.
5. These four forms were then nailed separately to a wooden

base to obtain a printing plate of the normal, approximately, 23.6 mm, thickness.

6. The four small eight image forms were then "blocked" into one big four sector typographic plate with 32 images.

The varying distances that appear between the eight stamp sectors on different sheets (compare distances a to b in Figure 2) may have been caused by:

1. Repeated reconstruction of the printing form. It is possible that the form was taken apart and then reassembled during the printing of successive stamps or proofs.
2. Or, the use of separating strips of varying thickness.

The even positioning of the eight stamp sectors in the sheet makes it impossible that these stamps were, as claimed by some authors (3), printed by the separate and successive impression of one eight image form. In such a printing process, it would be difficult to prevent the shifting and, or, non horizontal impression of the eight image plate in producing a sheet with thirty two images.

The above article was prepared from the paper presented by the author at the VIII Scientific Congress of the Polish Philatelic Academy, held in Ciechocinek in 2001.

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** continued on page 22*

PHILATELIC WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

by: Erv Mrotek

This periodic feature reviews Internet Websites that may be of interest to Polish Philatelists. Polonus does not endorse, vouch for the integrity of, receive support from, or provide support to, any of these sites. Web browsers beware!

Although I visit the sites listed at the time I write this feature, a site could be gone by the time you try to access it.

Please email your thoughts and suggestions to me at erv@mrotek.com.

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: <http://www.aape.org/index.html>

The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors is a worldwide organization of stamp collectors who exhibit their collections competitively and work together for the betterment of philatelic exhibiting and judging standards and practices. AAPE membership is open to all philatelists who love, and participate in, the world of stamp shows.

Polish Stamp Auction: <http://www.europeanstamps.net/countries.asp?country=Poland>

This web auctioneer organizes periodic auctions of Polish postage stamps. Their service includes interesting articles and publications on Polish philately.

A Short History of Poland on Stamps: <http://www.gopoland.com/history/>

There are seven pages or "chapters" to this brief history lesson that include: Beginning of Nation; Rise to Glory; First Republic & Partitions; Erased But Not Forgotten; Rise from Ashes: Second Republic; Black Clouds Again: Second World War; Under Communist Yoke.

WEBSITES

Click the links on the right-hand side of the page to navigate the pages.

Stamp Encyclopedia Poland: http://www.home.zonnet.nl/ben_nieborg/

Stamp Encyclopedia is an online stamp catalog where you can find images and background information about all that is depicted on the postage stamps, sheets and decorative labels of Poland.

Nutmeg Stamp Sales: <http://www.nutmegstamp.com/>

Nutmeg has a lot of auctions and all of their catalogs, including recently completed sales, are all online. Most auctions offer Polish material and, occasionally, an Polish POW Officers Camps items are also offered.

Polish Collecting Study Group: <http://home.golden.net/~medals/PCSG.html>

This site's purpose is to promote contact between collectors of Polish stamps, coins, paper money, medals and other historically significant items. It contains a list of names, email addresses, each showing their Polish collecting interest. You can have your name listed free.



** continued from page 20*

New members will receive all the "Bulletins" for the year in which they join. All memberships are based on the calendar year.

(1) Dues, (2) Article for publication, (3) Changes of address, (4) Inquiries regarding and Applications for memberships, (5) General matters or complaints pertaining to the Society should all be sent to:

Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2, Maryville, IL 62062

EDITOR'S NOTABILIA

by: Hank Bieniecki

2004 Dues: Rather than using a pre-printed dues envelope, effective for 2004 the Society will send the membership a **2004 Dues Form**. Please complete the form and use the self-addressed envelope to mail it and your payment. If you have already sent your 2004 dues, please just discard the form.

Changes in Bulletin Publication: As I have discussed in past articles and addendums, the printing of the Bulletin 300 miles away from my location near St. Louis, had presented numerous production, technical and logistical challenges. In late 2003 a printer was located in this area, which had the facilities to assist me in resolving many these problems. Bulletin 514 was the first issue produced by our new printer. After this "test" issue was mailed, I was pleased to receive a very complimentary call from Chet Schafer, Editor Emeritus and co-owner of the print shop that had produced the Bulletin for over 50 years. I trust the rest of the membership will agree that we are maintaining the high quality standards of our publication.

This issue marks the first use of color illustrations in our Bulletin. Due to cost issues, it is still not feasible to print the full Bulletin in color. However by using a center insert format, we will be able to provide color when it is merited by the material.

In 2003, three rather than four Bulletins were issued. Rather than try to catch up, I have elected to instead provide four high quality Bulletins in 2004. I hope the membership will understand this rather practical decision, which will save our Society the cost of one mailing, and let your Publication Committee and Editor focus on the future.

Polonus Website: Last year it was announced that the Members Only Area would be available to those members who provided a User Name and Password. Unfortunately that has not been the case. Members who wish to have access to the on line Question & Answer feature are requested to contact me at biistamp@charter.net.

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