

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

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NO POLPEX IN 1967?

At the October 28th meeting a discussion was held regarding Polonus joining COMPEX in their next annual exhibition to be held in May, 1967.

The greatest advantage our society would gain would be the exposure to the enormous crowd that Compex draws. Compex is usually held at the downtown LaSalle Hotel on the Memorial Day holiday week-end. It is a combined philatelic exhibition of many Chicagoland stamp clubs. Over 1000 frames are shown and there is usually a dealers' bourse of about forty tables. It gets a large amount of publicity and it is an outstanding national philatelic event.

Many members objected to joining Compex for the reason that Polonus would lose its identity — that it would be overlooked as just another participating club.

For twenty-six of the twenty-seven years Polonus has been in existence there has been a POLPEX. If we join Compex we must agree not to hold a Polpex that same year. Why suddenly now are we to stop putting on an annual exhibition?

Our last Polpex which honored Poland's Millennium was a very well attended show. Many of the people who came were not philatelists — but they at least now know a bit more about the stamps of Poland than they knew before.

The Beeba was poorly attended, but then it could have been because it was held at an odd time of the year, during summer.

Our Sales Chairman reported the largest sale of Polpex seals at this last

show. The U.S. postal station did a brisk business at the show selling the 5-cent Poland's Millennium commemorative and cancelling them.

The main purpose of the Polonus Philatelic Society is to promote Polish Philately. Well this certainly was done at the last Polpex. Would we promote it more by joining Compex?

What brought about this movement to join Compex is the lack of interest members have been showing recently. Attendance at the meetings has been dropping. Where before we would have as much as thirty members show up on a Polpex mounting night, this last time we barely had ten. The burden of the show was on the shoulders of too few.

Some members may feel that they're getting old. Well they should have seen Dr. Kozakiewicz and Walter Scholl lifting those frames. Both of these youngsters are well in their seventies.

By joining Compex we would exert less effort in performing our one annual function—that of putting on a show. But why Compex?

Here in Chicago there are clubs that still puts on shows of their own. The First Czechoslovak Club have had their own exhibit as has the Lithuanian Philatelic Society. Why not join forces with these clubs in an annual exhibit?

The history of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Lithuania has crossed many times. Here at least, the philatelic material would be related and would have a definite attraction for Polish-Ethnic peoples. At least by putting on a Pol.-Czech-Lith. show Polonus would not lose its identity.

— Your editor

THE 1944-1946 CANCELLATIONS

By Derek Palmer

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Every specialist of Polish stamps knows full well, that this country is exceptional in many ways, and it would be hard to name a philatelic speciality that cannot be found among its interesting issues. There is material for the plater and the student of overprints. Those blessed with good eyesight and infinite patience can enjoy hunting for the multitude of perforation varieties in the stamps of the early 1920's. For those interested in philatelic byways there are the numerous local issues, while the "Cinderella" enthusiast can have his fun with the speculative and bogus stamps, of which there quite a number. There is no need to emphasise the absorbing interest of Poland's classic No. 1, regarding which so much yet remains to be discovered, in spite of the intensive study which a fortunate few have been able to dedicate to this great classic stamp.



Fig. 1

Few countries can rival Poland in the extraordinary variety of its postal history; wars and revolutions, uprisings and occupations, plebecites and invasions — all have left their mark in philately. While many of these events can be recognized by a glance at a cover, with others it needs considerable historical knowledge to discover and then interpret their real significance.



Fig. 2. (Left) and Fig. 3. (Right)

The study of Polish cancellations and postmarks is one of its most fascinating features. There have been the brave attempts to obtain at least one specimen of all the three hundred-odd numeral cancellations that were used on the classic No. 1. Others can find much entertainment in the less expensive hunt for unusual cancels on the more modern issues after Poland became independent following World War I until its seizure by Soviet Russia after World War II.



Fig. 4. Straight-line cancellations from (top) Bystrana Slazku, Bzorzowicz Kamien, Golasowice; (center) Michalowice, Pawlowice, Radlin; (bottom) Wodzislav Sl. and Zwardon.

Illustrating these notes are a number of provisional cancellations used towards the end, and shortly after World War II and which, presumably, were hastily made to replace the metal cancelling devices used during the Nazi German Occupation. Many of the German obliterators were probably lost during the upheaval at the end of the hostilities. Others, quite likely, were deliberately destroyed to eliminate the last trace of the German names given to Polish towns and villages by Hitler's army of occupation.

The Different Cancellations

The most simple obliteration noted was a pencilled cross, of Zywiec (Fig. 1);



Fig. 5. Straight-line obliterations, with dates, from Goleszow, Piekary Rude and Rajcza.

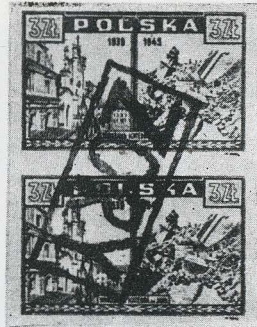


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Jasliska cancelled with the town's name written in ink across the stamps (Fig. 2), but later progressed to a rubberstamp, although the date was added in manuscript (Fig. 3).

A straight-line rubberstamp appears to have been the most frequently used obliterator, of which several specimens are shown (Fig. 4). Some places added the date to their straight-line marking, such as Rajcza and Piekary Rude (Fig. 5).

Zory's large framed town name is noticeable (Fig. 6). Zabowice used a large triangle, and placed the town's name alongside to the left (Fig. 7).

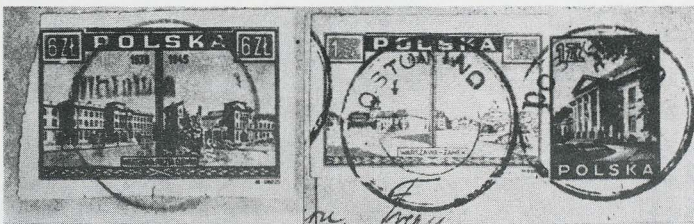


Fig. 8. (Left) Milowska dated circular cancel; (Right) Postumino undated.

Circular cancellers did not seem to be so frequent; of those illustrated Milowska included the date, while Postumino did not (Fig. 8).

A number of towns and villages used their official Post Office rubberstamp for cancelling. There are "Urząd. poczt-telegraf/Janow kolo Katowice" (Fig. 9) and similar types from other places (Fig. 10).

An attractive cancellation is the large circular official seal bearing the Polish eagle, used by the post offices of Trzeciwiec and Zelgoszcz (Fig. 11).



Fig. 9. Rubberstamp used as a cancel from Janow Kolo Katowice.



Fig. 10. Post Office rubberstamp used as cancels, Glucholazy, Powidz, Radogoszcz k/ Lodz and (bottom) Zabrze.

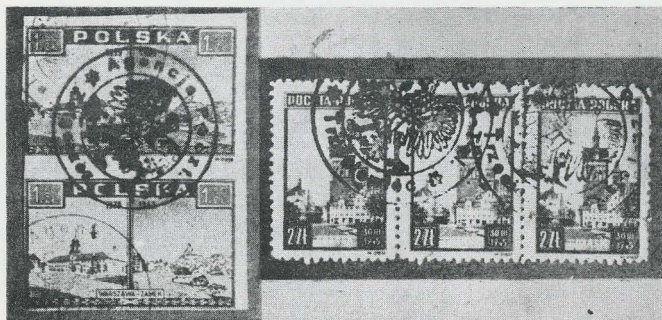


Fig. 11



Fig. 13. Circular cancellations from which names have been entirely eliminated, (top) Jaroslaw, Jelenia Gora and Miasteczko Slask; (center) Przyszowice and Pszow and (bottom) Rybnik.



Fig. 15. (Top) Warsaw and the two bottom cancels are from Opatow.



Fig. 12. Cut-down bi-lingual cancellations of (top) Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Lubien, (bottom) Sanok and Konin.

Another interesting group is that of towns which cut down German bi-lingual obliterations, thus, eliminating the German names and leaving only the Polish ones. This produced lopsided cancellations, as can be seen from the examples in Fig. 12. Other towns used circular cancellations from which all the wording had been removed and, then, adding their name with rubberstamps or even in manuscript (Fig. 13).

A straight-line rubberstamp from Zabierzow obviously had the German word "bei" cut out from in front of the abbreviation "/Kr." (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14

Biala Podlaska brought into use a circular cancellation and inserted the date in writing. As befitted the capital city, Warsaw had a well-made circular rubber cancellation, the date being added by a separate rubberstamp; Opatow did likewise (Fig. 15).

There were probably hundreds of these provisional cancellations used throughout Poland from 1944 to 1946, and undoubtedly many more types remain to be described. Fortunately, the stamps employed at the time were generally of large size and complete cancellations can be found on a single copy, an advantage not often available to the specialist. It is hoped that this study will facilitate further investigation in this entertaining and relatively unexplored field.

BOSTON CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

The Polish Philatelic Society of Boston will hold its Annual Exhibition on Sunday, November 27th at St. Stanislaus Church Hall, Chestnut St., Chelsea, Mass. The theme of the show will be Poland's Millennium. The exhibition is open for competition to all collectors of stamps of Poland, Polonia and associated material. For applications and information write to Louis C. Bakula, 13 Little Lane, Peabody, Mass.

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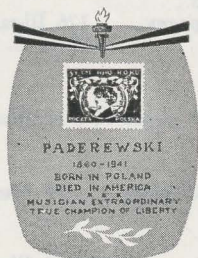
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