



POLPEX 2003 SPARKED INTEREST

By: Chester Schafer

This year's Polpex held March 14, 15, and 16, 2003, at the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois, created much interest as it honored Pope John Paul II on the 25th Anniversary of his Pontificate. Our Polpex covers printed in four colors with the portrait of the Pope and special cancellation sold out early Sunday. Orders were taken at the show, more were printed and sent to customers the following week.

As the exhibition was not for competition, we had only five philatelic exhibits. The best of the show was Arkadiusz Walinski's display of John Paul II stamps, cancellations, and postcards of his world travels during 2002. It took up sixteen frames. Mr. Walinski has practically a complete collection of such issues dating back to 1978. Can you imagine how many frames the whole showing would take?

An attempt will be made to display his whole collection during October at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago at a special John Paul II exhibition scheduled for the whole month.

All of the exhibitors at POLPEX 2003 received special Pope commemorative medals struck by the Warsaw Mint.

Among the exhibits were four cases of commemorative medals of John Paul II presented by the Polish American Numismatic Association.

We look forward to the next Polpex in 2004 which will honor the 150th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlement in the United States at Panna Maria, Texas.



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UPDATES AND COMMENTS

By: Hank Bientecki

I have the good fortune to be writing this article in Poland at the home of my associate, Dr. Konopka near Lodz. "Editor's Notabilia" will be a standard feature in future Bulletins. Its purpose is to provide a venue for the following:

- (1) Society informational updates.
- (2) Commentary on current or future Bulletins.
- (3) Comments from members.

Polonus Website: Available now is a revised and improved version of www.polonus.org. The site has been divided into two separate sections. **GUESTS** area is open to all who wish to visit our website for information about the Society. **MEMBERS** area will be restricted to society members. A User Name and Password will be required to gain access to the members area. This area includes the following resources (additional resources will be added in the future):

Question & Answer Feature: Members will be able to post questions they have about Polonus or any aspect of Polish philately directly on the website. Members with computer access will be able to post responses to those questions directly on the web site, or alternatively send an email response directly to the member posting the question. The user name of the person posting the Q & A will appear before the question. Members will be able to classify their questions, and that classification will also appear before the question. Under the User Name section of each question there will appear two Icons (symbols). By clicking on first Icon (document) a member may post a response directly to the question on the website. That response will appear directly below the question and be preceded by the User name of the responding member. Multiple members may post responses to the same question.

Alternatively by selecting the email icon (envelope) the responding member may send an email directly to the member asking question. For additional information about the use of Q&A, send an email to my attention at biistamp@charter.net

Study Groups: In the near future each SG will have following information posted on the webpage.

- (1) A short summary of the focus of each SG and
- (2) A list of the User Names of members participating in that SG.

Notabilia

By clicking on the member's User Name you will be able to send them an email and mutually determine how much personal information you wish to exchange.

Aero-Philately Study Group: In this Bulletin you will find the first article from Dr. Jerzy Kupiec, regarding the newly formed Polish Aero-Philately Study Group which will be co-chaired by Jerzy Walocha from Krakow. Each SG (*POW & DP, Provisional Issues, Locals, Aero-Philately*) will have a unique section header at the top of the Bulletin page indicating the SG or regular feature to which that article pertains.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Member's Area Access: During June all members will be able to gain access to the Members Area by typing in polonus (all lower case) for both the user name and password. **Effective 1 July 2003, members will need to have their own registered User Name and Password and email address.** Each member will have to send their User Name and Password and email address to biistamp@charter.net so that they may be registered in the web site. **User name** will be up to 8 alpha characters (example = hankbii). **Password** may be from 4 to 8 alpha numeric characters.

ABC's of Philately: Following this article you will find a new feature for our Bulletin designated the ABC's of Philately. This new section should be of special interest to the members of our society who are seeking to expand their philatelic experience. This first article by Erv Mrotek, relates his first experience exhibiting his POW collection, and I trust you will find it both educational and entertaining.

Articles for this feature do not require extensive research, footnotes, etc. Every member is welcome to submit articles about any aspect of philately, which they think may be of value to other members of our Society.

Bulletin Format Changes: To continue making the Bulletin easier to read and more user friendly, we will continue to implement additional format changes. Section headers at the top of each page will indicate the type of article/material appearing in that section. In addition starting in this Bulletin you will find a Table of Contents at the bottom of page 2. This will assist in future indexing as well as making it easier to find article of particular interest.

National Exhibition/Meetings: The National Polonus Exhibition/Meeting has been scheduled for 2004 at Aripex near Phoenix, AZ and for 2005 at St. Louis Expo, St. Louis Mo. For more details, see Exhibition Schedule appearing elsewhere in this and future Bulletins.

New Issues of Poland: Effective with the next Bulletin we will again begin to publish images and information pertaining to the new issues of Poland. This information will also be available at www.polonus.org. 

POLPEX 2003

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ABC'S of Collecting

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS of a FIRST-TIME EXHIBITOR

By: *Erv Mrotek*

I am in the process of exhibiting part of my Polish Prisoner of War Officer Camp Posts collection for the first time. This is a big step for me and involved a lot of preparation and work. What I never anticipated was that it also involved a lot of enjoyment and pure old-fashioned fun.

In this article I will share my experiences "real-time," because it is being written as I head for the show and I will continue to write it throughout the show. I hope that my experience will encourage others who have never exhibited to do so and those who have exhibited, but stopped, to start doing it again. I also hope my experience will encourage me to keep exhibiting. If you are reading this, it has. If not, well then I had a disaster and you'll never know about it.

The reason I am exhibiting is that I feel too many wonderful collections never see the light of day. Each of us who enjoys this wonderful hobby has something to contribute and share. Since this is my firm belief, I felt it was an obligation to "put my money where my mouth is," and do what I've encouraged others to do.

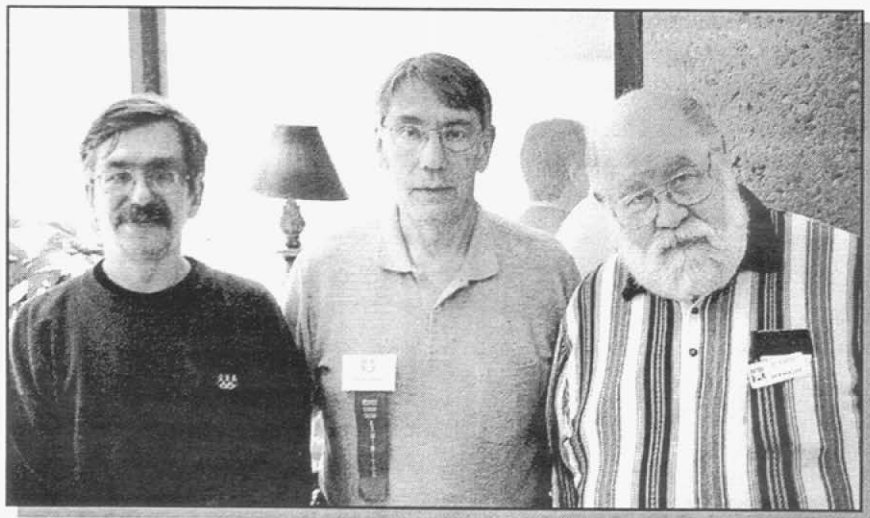
Thursday, April 10 - 12:15 p.m. CDT

Right now I'm sitting on an airplane flying from Phoenix to Dallas to attend the Texpex stamp show April 11-13. I attended last year too, but what makes this show so special is that this is where I will be exhibiting for the first time.

I am relatively new to philately, having purchased my first stamp in February 2002 after attending Aripex, my first stamp show, that same month. My friend Dick Phelps, who lives in Dallas, exhibited at Aripex 2002 in Mesa, Arizona, and invited me to attend. Stamp collecting was the furthest thing from my mind when I stepped through the doors of that show. I was sure I'd be bored. Instead, I was completely fascinated, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. To make a long story short, Dick became my mentor and, over the last 14 months, has opened a world to me I didn't know existed.

Dick has a fabulous Netherlands collection, amongst others, so quite naturally I started collecting Netherlands. However, at the show I had spotted a Polish Prisoners of War Officer's Camp Posts exhibit on the

last day of the show shortly before it closed. Being half Polish, I began to study it. I was totally captivated by the incredible beauty created by these prisoners under terrible conditions. Unfortunately, the show closed after I had only viewed 2 or 3 frames of the 10-frame exhibit.



*Two Polonus members and friend at TEXPEX 03
(left to right) Roman Sobus, Erv Mrotek, Dick Phelps*

Over the next few months I worked on my Netherlands collection, but I could not get the POW exhibit out of my mind. Eventually, with Dick's help, I tracked down the Aripex exhibit coordinator and sent him a letter to forward to the individual who had the POW exhibit. That wonderful person, Roy Koczarski, contacted me and gave me lots of encouragement.

Meanwhile, another person, Roman Sobus, noticed all my POW purchases on eBay and, having collected POW for over 15 years himself, contacted me and offered to help. What has resulted is a close friendship with Roman, who has become my POW mentor. Between Dick and Roman, I have the two best teachers and friends anyone could ask. Because of them, both exhibitors, I had no choice but to exhibit too.

I attended Texpep in April of 2002, my second stamp show but my first as a philatelist. Dick lives in Dallas and is very involved in putting together this show, serving as exhibit coordinator and awards chairman

last year. I studied all of the exhibits at the show, then attended the judge's critique session and started to learn what it takes to put together an exhibit.

Then another wonderful stroke of luck occurred. In July, while bidding on an item on eBay, I noticed that the seller, Chris Kulpinski, lived in Scottsdale. Since this was my old stomping grounds, I emailed him and we got together. Talk about hitting the mother load! Chris was the editor of the old POW Study Group newsletter that produced 42 editions from 1975 to 1987. All were written in English. Members of the Study Group included actual Polish Officer POWs. Thanks to Roman, I have a copies of these newsletters. Thanks to Chris, Roman and I have the pages we were missing. Chris also use to exhibit POW material, so he is an incredible resource.

It was the Pipex show in September that got me to seriously thinking about exhibiting. It was held in Vancouver, BC, and Roy Koczarski was showing his POW material. This is the exhibit that got me passionately involved in collecting this material. At this show Roy was going to have two 10-frame exhibits covering all four POW camps that had internal mail systems.

It was also my first opportunity to meet Roy in person and to spend as much time as I wanted with the exhibit that "started it all," so off I went. As a bonus, Roman also attended so he, too, could finally meet Roy. Like me, Roman only knew Roy from emails. Again I attended the judge's exhibit critique session.

In November I attended Chicagopex where Roman was exhibiting, and where Polonus was holding it's National Exhibition. Once again I attended the judge's critique session. This is where a person can really learn a lot about exhibiting. I also bought the new APS Exhibit Judging Manual, fourth edition.

My plane is landing, so I'll have to sign off for now.

Thursday, April 10 - 5:00 p.m. CDT

I'm at the show. It's exhibit setup time and I just hit my first disaster. My pages won't stay in the exhibit frame rails. They bend forward and fall out. I figure out what happened; I used a high-speed laser printer to



print most of my pages and it slightly curled them. I need to get stiffer page holders, but for now all I can do is go to the office supply store and get some double-sided, removable tape and come back early tomorrow morning and retry mounting the exhibit. I'll let you know how it goes.

Friday, April 11 - 8:30 a.m. CDT

Well, I got here early and the double-sided tape worked. All pages held, but the slight curl on each page shows. I helped set up exhibits and ended up doing 70 frames worth, but it was worth the sore leg muscles and bruised thumb from putting the screws in those frames. I talked to each exhibitor I helped. One thing I learned is that most of the people who exhibit frequently (four or more times a year) use stiff page holders, and the product I heard most frequently mentioned was 4 mil sheet protectors from Atlantic Philatelic Pouches. I looked on the Internet last night and the link is:

<http://www.atlanticprotectivepouches.com/mylar.htm>.

They are not cheap (\$109 per 100 for 8 3/4 x 11 1/4), but given the trauma I went through, they would probably be worth it, in my inexperienced opinion. 3 mil sheets are cheaper, but I'm "going for the gold," so I'll consider the heavier grade after the show is over. Who knows, I may not want to do this again.

Well, Dick and I have to go to the airport to pickup Roman, who is flying in at 11:00 a.m. Oh no! I see the judges walking over to my exhibit. I think I'd better leave before I rush over and beg for mercy! See you later.

Friday, April 11 - 8:30 a.m. CDT

Not much is happening today exhibit-wise, at least not that I can control. Six months of on-and-off effort with a final "big push" that amounted to well over 100 hours of research and effort, and now it is out of my hands. The judges are dancing around the exhibits and reciting whatever incantations they recite, and casting whatever spells they cast, in order to perform the magic that conjures the score that determines which, if any, award my exhibit will receive. I sit by, helpless to influence them. I guess I'll go haunt some dealers and soothe my nerves by buying some material.



Saturday, April 12 - 10:00 a.m. CDT

Although not all shows are exactly the same, Texpex is a national show that awards (moving from minor to major awards) a certificate for exhibiting (I think you'd have to exhibit "modern 37 cent US stamps" to get this), bronze (what I expect to get), silver-bronze, silver, vermeil, and gold. There are also special awards, "best of show" awards, and awards from societies participating in the show (like Polonus at Chicagopex in 2002). I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I don't totally bomb out.

Well, the moment of truth has arrived. We just got to the show and are about to walk in. I know it's silly, but I'm scared. I worked very hard on this exhibit and don't want to look foolish. Wish me luck.

Saturday, April 12 - 10:30 a.m. CDT

From the pits of despair to the pinnacle of euphoria! I earned a vermeil! I earned a vermeil! Yippee! I'm "pumped!" It was all worth it! There is a philatelic god! I can't believe it! I told my wife that any medal will do, just please, not a "certificate for exhibiting". As I walked in to the show today, I was ready to give up exhibiting if things really went against me. Now, I can't wait to exhibit again. I already have a page of notes on how to improve it. It's great to be alive!

At 4:00 we have a judge's critique session where the judges (seven at this show, five certified judges plus two apprentices) will publicly review any exhibit and critique it in detail. Most judges are very nice and are exhibitors themselves, so their comments are very helpful. One judge is assigned as the "primary" judge for each exhibit, even though all judges review it and make comments. The primary judge will explain exactly why my exhibit earned the award it was given. He will also be the one who will walk down to my exhibit and review it in detail, if I request it. I'll be back after the judge's critique.

Saturday, April 12 - 10:00 p.m. CDT

Well, the awards banquet is over. I didn't make it back after the judge's critique because it ran a bit long and I had also asked for a private review. Then Dick, Roman and I sat and talked for a while before the awards banquet began. ▶

Anyway, let's review what happened at the judge's critique first. **If you plan to exhibit, or are exhibiting, then looking at exhibits others have created and going to the judge's critique session may be the most valuable time you can spend at a show.** You should attend these critiques to see how the judges' view of various exhibits compares with your evaluation of those same exhibits. This is the fourth critique I've attended. I took copious notes at each (which I still have). It's a major factor, in my opinion, for the success I've had with my first effort. I also purchased, and more importantly I read, the judge's manual. It's worth the \$10. Get the latest one from APS, which is the fifth edition. Old ones are obsolete.

As for the awards dinner, not only was the conversation at our table great, and the food top shelf, but I was awarded not only the vermeil medal, but the APS Award for Best Material between 1940 and 1980, and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Excellence that covers a number of judging components I don't fully understand. I was told that only two exhibits at the show get this award, so I'm feeling pretty good right now.

Now That It's Over

I am thrilled with how everything turned out. It was emotional, but a whole lot of fun. Plus, I got to spend time with two of my dearest friends, which means even more to me than any exhibit award.

I attribute this modicum of success to three factors. First, I went to six shows in my first year as a philatelist, prior to exhibiting, and spent a lot of time looking at exhibits, seeing what I liked and what I didn't like.

Next, at three of the shows prior to this one, I attended the judge's critique. Fortunately, two of those shows contained exhibits featuring my unusual area of philately, so I heard first-hand what the judges thought of those two incredible displays. I also listened to what the judges said about the other exhibits from bronze to gold. From all this, I was able to learn a great deal about what judges look for and prefer. Exhibitors should create exhibits they like, but I've found that what I like and what judges appreciate is not too different. So, I've made the decision that building my exhibit must continue to be a source of tremendous enjoyment but, at the same time, I will also be trying to make it compatible with current judging criteria as long as that criterion doesn't affect my enjoyment.



Finally, I used four of my friends, all of whom have exhibited multiple times, as mentors/judges to critique my exhibit as I was building it. I received some excellent advice. In some cases I did not implement a suggestion because I still had to make the exhibit "mine," but if the comments made sense to me, I implemented them.

In Conclusion

Do I have any "secrets" I want to share? Not anything more than I've already mentioned. I've only exhibited once. I'm still very new at this and it would be arrogant of me to put myself in the position of a judge and say what you should or shouldn't do. If you are interested, I suggest you buy the APS judging manual (and read it), go to shows, see the exhibits, then go to the judge's critique sessions and learn. Finally, find experienced exhibitors to help you.

I also urge you to pull out that fascinating collection you have under the bed, dust it off, organize it if it needs organizing, and then share it with others by exhibiting. I know I want to see what you have to show and I know others do too. You will not only benefit others, but you will have an even greater appreciation of your own material. So, please, delight others and delight yourself. Exhibit! 

2004 NATIONAL EXHIBITION/MEETING

Mark your calendars!

The Polonus Philatelic Society will hold it's Second National Exhibition Meeting in conjunction with ARIPEX 2004 from **February 20 to 22** in Phoenix (Mesa), Arizona. A detailed article on this event will appear in the next Bulletin. If you need more information now regarding exhibiting, or hotel accommodations, you can email Hank Bieniecki at:

biistamp@charter.net

or call me at:

(618) 659-1325.

1918-1919 SECOND PROVISIONAL ISSUES Part 2

By: Conrad Straub, Ph. D.

(Part 1, "Polonus Bulletin" No. 510, Pages 3-12)

(Note from Editor) Following is part 2 of a continuing series by Dr. Straub titled "Poland Second Provisional Issue 1918-1919." Part 1 appeared in Bulletin 510. Part 3 will appear in the next Bulletin. Future parts of this article will appear in the S.G. section for the 1918-1919 Provisional Issues.

3.0. The Overprints on "Germania" Stamps

The basic German stamps were overprinted "Russisch/Polen" and "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" for use in the German-occupied former Russian territories of Poland.

3.1. The "Russisch/Polen" Overprints

The first occupation issue for use in the former Russian territories was overprinted "Russisch/Polen." This issue, released on 12 May 1915, consisted of the 3, 5, 10, 20, and 40 pf denominations. Although this issue was not included in the "official" overprinting of the Second Provisional Issue of Poland, it is included since copies with the overprint "Poczta Polska" exist and will be described later.

The "Russisch/Polen" overprint, on flat press printed sheets, measures 16 x 10 mm and is printed in two lines in Gothic by typography in a shiny, blueish black ink. When the basic "Germania" stamps were overprinted "Russisch/Polen," a new booking or order number was assigned and will be found at various locations along the bottom selvage. It consisted of an "H", four numbers, a centrally placed dot, and two numbers representing the year of printing, and was printed in blueish black ink, the same as that used in the overprint. Polskie Znaki Pocztove (1) lists these stamps as being comb perforated 14 x 141/4.

Table 3.1 lists the stamps in this issue along with their basic HANs and other information. {where possible, missing information



is indicated by question marks as needed}.

Basic HAN pane positions overprinted "Russisch/Polen" are noted following Table 3.1. {There are a number of question marks indicating missing information, and where several pane positions are shown, as in Table 3.2}.

Table 3.1. "Germania" Stamps Overprinted "Russisch/Polen"

Denomination	Color	Basic HAN	Overprint HAN	Position	Distance bottom of "olen" to top HAN, mm(a)
3 pf	Brown	H2564.14(b)	H1360.15	91/92	11.45
			H1360.15	99/100	14.1
			H1360.15(c)	?	13.55
5 pf	Green	4H4559.14(d)	7H1361.15(e)	?	13.5
10 pf	Carmine	H4664.14	H1362.15	?	?
	Carmine	H448.15	H1362.15	?	?
	Rose				
20	Ultramarine	H4791.14	H1363.15	?	?
40	Lake and black	H557.14	7H1364.15(f)	98/99	14

(a) Added by Straub; (b) listed as H2564.15 in (l); (c) Straub (3); (d) listed as H4559.14 (1), number in my collection; (e) listed as H1361.15 (1), number indicated in my collection; (f) listed as H1364.15 (1), and as 7H1364.15 (2), number in my collection.

Table 3.2. Pane Layout for "Russisch/Polen" Overprinted Sheet

Denomination	Basic HAN	Pane Positions	Type of Pane Layout
3 pf	H2564.14	2R, 5R *	I
5	4H4559.14	5L	III, IV, or V
10	H4664.14		?
10	H448.15		?
20	H4791.14	6R	III, IV, or V
40	H577.14		?

* R- right pane; L- left pane.

3.1.1. Proofs - "Russisch/Polen" Overprint

In recent years proofs of this issue were offered in two auctions; (4,5) the first described by Mikulski (4) consisted of five proofs overprinted "Polen," and the second (5) consisted of six stamps (denominations 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, and 60 pf overprinted "Polen").

3.2. The "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" Overprint

The second issue for use in occupied Poland was overprinted "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau", and included the 2 ½, 3, 5, 7 ½, 10, 15 yellow brown, 15 violet black, 20 ultramarine, 20 Prussian blue, 20 sapphire, 20 light blue, 20 violet blue, 30, 40, and 60 pf denominations. Basic "Germania" flat and rotary press stamps from 1915 to 1918 were overprinted "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau," in two lines, measuring 16.5 x 9.5 mm, by typography in Gothic in various shades (tones) and gloss. The stamps were overprinted at the State Printing Works in Berlin. (6,7) They were issued at various times during the period 1915 to 1918. Different dates of issue are reported.(1,2,8-10). They were comb perforated 14 x 14 ½ .(1) Booking or order numbers, on either flat or rotary press printings, are found in various locations along the bottom selvage. They consist of an "H", four numbers (booking or order numbers), a centrally-located dot, and two numbers denoting the year of printing. The locations of these numbers are philatelically important as they permit identification of plates used for the overprint, and provide a reliable source for differentiating the shade (tone) and gloss of the ink used in the overprint. Table 3.3 lists the basic HAN and HAN found on the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" overprinted occupation issues along with other characterizing data.

According to Mikstein (6), the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" overprints in all probability, were printed on individual sheets of 100 stamps with a single printing form or with two printing forms, for example, H3123.15.1 98/99, 100 and 2H3123.15 91, 92/93.

Tislowitz (7) and others (11) suggest that the overprint exists in two types: 1) the letters are slender, with sharp outline, and 2) the letters are ragged, uneven, with some of the serifs missing from the printed letters. Type 2 resulted from wear of the soft printing materials used. I do not consider these differences of major significance.

1918-1919 PROVISIONAL S. G.

Table 3.3. Basic "Germania" Used to Overprint "Gen.-Gouv./
Warschau" Occupation Stamps (1, 8, 11, 12, 14)

Denom. pf	Print	Basic HAN	"GGW" HAN	HAN Position	Tone	Gloss	Distance, Bottom "Warschau" and Top of "H", mm*
2½	F	H2169.16	H2719.16	92/93	db	ss	11.75
			H3904.16	92/93	db	ss	?
			H2417.17.1	98	db	ss	?
			H3117.17	97/98	db	ss	14.5
			H3929.17	93/94	db	ss	10.7
			H5442.17	98	rb	m	10
			H5442.17	99/100	rb	m	8.6
			H4314.18	99/100	db	m	8.5
			H4489.18	98/99	db	m	14.4
3	R	1915(IIb)	H3123.15I	93/94	bb	vs	9.6
		(II?)	H3123.15II	93/94	db	vs.	?
	F	H2343.18	H2886.18	98/99	db	ss	11.75
			H3695.18	98/99	rb	m	13.75
			H3875.18	99/100	rb	m	8.8
5	F	H2614.15	2H3123.15	91,92/93	db	vs	13.0
			H3123.15.1	98/99,100	db	vs	13.7
	R	1917(I)	H5443.17	97/98	rb	m	9.8
			H5443.17	99/100	rb	m	8.6
		1918(IIa)	H4413.18	98/99	rb	s	14.25
7½	F	H2361.16	H2720.16	93/94	db	vs	10.6
		H3403.16	H3903.16	93/94	db	ss	9.75
		H2722.17	H3116.17	97/98	db	ss	12.25
			H3622.17	92/93	db	ss	10.8
		H3802.17	H4544.17	97/98	db	ss	12.25
	R	1917(I)	H5444.17	98	rb	s	11.1
			H5444.17	99/100	rb	s	10.75
	F	H1799.18(a)	H2722.18	98	db	ss	11.25
			H3091.18	99/100	db	ss	9.25
10	F	H2707.15(b)	2H3123.15	91,92/93	bb	vs	13
			H3123.15.1	98/99,100	bb	vs	14
		H2700.17	H4310.17	91/92	bb	ss	12.5
			H4310.17	93/94	bb	ss	10.25
		H4396.17	H5445.17	98	db	m	10.75
			H5445.17	99/100	db	m	9.5
		H3538.18	H4490.18	98/99	db	m	?

Table 3.3. (continued)

Table 3.3. Basic "Germania" Used to Overprint "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" Occupation Stamps (1, 8, 11, 12, 14), Continued

Denom. pf	Print	Basic HAN	"GGW" HAN	HAN Position	Tone	Gloss	Distance, Bottom "Warschau" and Top of "H", mm*
15 yb	F	H1155.16	H2721.16	93/94	db	ss	10.35
15 V	F	H2701.17	H3501.17	91/92	db	ss	10.5
			H3501.17	93/94	db	ss	10.65
		H3621.17	H4311.17	91/92	rb	ss	12.5
			H4822.17	97/98	rb	ss	?
			H4822.17	99/100	rb	ss	12.6
		H1798.18(c)	H2723.18	98/99	db	ss	9.25
			H3092.18	98/99	rb	ss	12.5
		1918(IIa)	H4491.18	?	rb	ss	?
20 U	R	1915 (I)	H3123.15	93/94	db	vs	9.75
	R	1915(I) (d)	H3123.15	93/94	rb	vs	9.75
20 PB	F	H3593.17	H3930.17	91/92	db	ss	?
			H3930.17	93/94	db	ss	10.75
20 S	R	1917 (IIb)	H4312.17	91/92	rb	ss	12
			H4312.17	93/94	rb	ss	?
20 LB	F	H4513.17	H4821.17	97/98	rb	ss	12
			H4821.17	99/100	rb	ss	12.8
20 VB	F	H1807.18	H3093.18	98/99	rb	ss	12.5
	R	1918 (I)	H4492.18	?	rb	m	?
30	R	1915 (III)	H3123.15	93/94	bb	vs	9.5
		1917 (IIc)	H1762.17	92/93	db	ss	11.1
			H1762.17.1	98, 100	db	ss	9.6
			H2293.17.1	98, 100	db	ss	9.75
40	R	1915 (III)	H3123.15	93/94	bb	vs	?
		1916 (IIc)	H5886.16	93/94	db	ss	?
		1917 (III)	H2294.17.1(e)	98	db	ss	9.4
		1917 (IIc)	H2447.17	99/100	bb	ss	9.1
			H3931.17	91/92	rb	ss	11
			H5018.17	98	db	m	?
			H5018.17	99/100	db	m	10
		1918 (IIc)	H2923.18	99/100	db	ss	?
			H3364.18	99/100	db	ss	9.8
			H4414.18	98/99	db	ss	13.75
60	R	1915 (I)	H3123.15	93/94	bb	vs	9.8
	F	H4150.16	H1761.17.1	98, 100	db	ss	14.35
			H2295.17.1	98, 100	db	ss	14.25
	R	1917 (I)	H5903.17(f)	98	rb	m	9.45
			H5903.17 (f)	99/100	rb	m	9.1
		1918 (I)	H2724.18	98, 99	db	ss	9.6

*Added by Wlodarski & Straub; a-shown as H2799.18 in ref. 11; b-shown as H2705.15 in ref. 8; c-shown as H1798.17 in ref. 8; d- reported by Straub (1987); e-shown as H2754.17.1 in ref. 11; f-shown as H3903.17 and R(I) 1918 in ref. 11; bb-blueish black; db-

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deep black; rb-reddish black' vs.-very shiny, ss-half shiny; s-sooty; m-matt.

The number of plates used to overprint each denomination is listed in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4. Number of Plates Used for the "GGW" Overprints

	2 ½ 3		5 7 ½		10		15		20		30		40		60		Total
	8	4	5	8	5	1	yb	y	UPB	S	LB	VB	2	4	9	5	
No. of Plates	8	4	5	8	5	1	6	1	1	1	1	2	4	9	5		61
Second Plate	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1		13
Total	9	5	6	9	7	1	8	1	2	2	2	2	4	10	6		74

As a result of a recent report, Table 3.4 should be modified to indicate the identification of another plate because a different ink was used in overprinting the 20 pf ultramarine value.

Table 3.3 also shows the tone and gloss of the inks used in overprinting the "Gen.-Gouv./ Warschau" stamps, as reported by German authors, (8, 10, 13) Wlodarski, (14,15) and others. (9) Two values were printed in analine ink: the 3 pf (HAN H3695.18) overprint which shows up green on the back of the stamp when moistened, and the 40 pf (HAN H5018.17) overprint, which shows up red on the back when moistened. Wlodarski (15) raised the possibility of the 20 pf violet blue also being overprinted in analine ink. These differences in ink, along with the distances given from the bottom of the overprint to the top of the "H" in the HAN, assist advanced collectors in cataloging the various printings. The measurements from the bottom of the overprint to the top of the "H" in the HAN were compiled by Wlodarski and Straub from material in their collections. Knowledge of these differences can be helpful in determining the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" HAN when it is removed with a portion of the bottom selvage.

3.2.1. Layout of the "Germania" Sheets Overprinted "Gen.-Gouv./ Warschau"

Pane positions for the various "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" flat press printed sheets are basically unreported and should be included in a study of these stamps. Top or bottom panes for the rotary press printed stamps should also be reported. Here "T" would represent the top pane and "B" the bottom pane as indicated by the

“gruppenpaarnummern” along the left margin of the pane.

3.3. Proofs - “Gen.-Gouv./Warschau”

Mikulski (4) showed examples of the “Gen.-Gouv./Warschau” proofs to be sold at the Feldman SA auction (October 1995). Included were four lots each consisting of eight values of the occupation series overprinted “Gen.-Gouv./Warschau” (denominations: 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 50, and 60 pf) in four different types of overprint. The overprint was produced in black shiny ink on “Germania” peace-time stamps.

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization which was incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. Its objective is to promote Polish philately via the dissemination of Polish philatelic information in English. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

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POLISH AERO-PHILATELY STUDY GROUP FORMATION

*By: Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski
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It gives me great pleasure to co-chair with Dr. Jerzy Walocha of Krakow the Aero-Philately SG. Back in 1972, the famed philatelist, Mr. Tadeusz Gryzewski concluded in one of his articles: "Polish aero-philately awaits its comprehensive study". How little changed in 30 years ... But, let me start on a personal note. In 1986, while at sabbatical in Oxford, I bought my first Polish airmail cover in Mr. Bokiewicz's London store. It was 1925 first flight from Warszawa to Poznan. It was not inexpensive one, but compared with the current prices I am certainly pleased that I purchased that letter from a dealer, who without a doubt is one of the true gentlemen in Polish Philately. The Poznan cover, as many others from that period, was prepared by Mr. Tadeusz Gryzewski. Indeed, I had a pleasure to interact with him at many occasions in the late 60ies, back in Warszawa, near the Methodist English School, which I attended. Mr. Gryzewski rented a part of an electric appliance shop, and from behind a solid oak table he was selling colorful stamps from all over the world. No doubt, these were of my prime interest as a teenager. If I knew then what Gryzewski brothers did for Polish aero-philately! However, most probably I wouldn't purchase from him any first or special flight covers, not only because of the financial reasons. Indeed, as this collecting area became very popular in post-World War I Europe, the vast majority of most valuable airmail material left Poland prior to 1939. Thank God. But, this may also be the reason why aero-philately was barely mentioned in numerous editions of Polish "Ruch" stamp catalogue. In fact, *Polonus Bulletin* was one of the few venues where important contributions on various aspects of Polish aerial communication were published by such famed collectors and experts as Mazepa, Kronenberg, Bura, and of course Gryzewski. The inclusion of Airmail Section in the 1999 edition of "Fischer" catalogue was a true milestone. I am very pleased indeed that Editor-In-Chief of this superb publication, a great collector and author, Dr. Jerzy Walocha, will share his expertise as the Co-Chair of Aero-Philately SG. It is my hope that a new "breed" of airpost enthusiasts and experts back in

AERO-PHILATELY

Poland, such as Zbigniew Korszen, Jacek Kosmala or Andrzej Klosinski, will also contribute to both popularization and an in-depth study of this fascinating area of modern philately.

What is aero-philately? It encompasses a wide spectrum of historically-documented airpost services. This includes forerunners, such as mail sent by air from Przemyśl fortress besieged by Russians in 1914-1915, or during the 7-month existence of the first regular airmail service in the world between Vienna, Krakow and Lwow in 1918. The massive expansion of aerial communication in the 20ies and 30ies throughout Europe resulted in a number of inaugural flights between various cities, as well as special flights, such as those during the annual Eastern Fairs in Lwow. Most of the first flights carried aerograms, often with special postal commemorative cachets and franking. No surprise, special stamped letters flew with Orlinski to Tokyo in 1926, Idzikowski and Kubala who crashed on their way to New York in 1928, or Makowski during his experimental flight from South America to Poland in 1938. These are true gems of Polish philately. The "directional" and semi-official L.O.P.P labels issued by The Air Defense League to support the development of Polish air force, were often attached and postmarked on flown cards and letters. These attractive and now quite scarce items, recognized by "Sanabria" but still omitted by "Fischer", wait to be properly catalogued, as they do represent an integral and colorful part of Polish aero-philately. The other areas of aero-philately interest to collect and study include balloon post, glider flights, and of course Zeppelin flights, for those who can afford them.

What are Aero-Philately S.G. objectives? First, to disseminate in English the background, history, and obvious achievements of the Polish Airpost. Second, we need to identify and then interact, preferably via the Bulletin and Polonus webpage (www.Polonus.org), with those members who collect and are eager to study Polish aero-philately. This may result not only in mutually beneficial "dealing-and-wheeling", but also in unearthing unknown or forgotten airmail flights, routes, cachets, franking, errors, etc. As already mentioned, L.O.P.P/directional labels, after 75 years, still await their comprehensive study. Thus, I urge those of you who are interested in this area to complete and return the application form included in this Bulletin, and to join this newly formed Polonus Aero-Philately S.G.



INDEX TO POW STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

By: Chris Kulpinski

Following is an index of articles that were originally printed in the "POW Study Group Newsletter". Note there is no #36 issue, but there is a #37a. As editor at the time, I inadvertently omitted #36.

In addition to writing new articles, the Polonus POW & DP Camps S.G. will also reprint "POW Study Group Newsletter" articles that may be of interest to the membership. You may contact me at chris@kulpinski.net or Hank Bieniecki at biistamp@charter.net to indicate your interest in various articles. Depending on the level of interest, we will either reprint the article in the Bulletin, or make a copy available by email. For ease of access this index will be eventually be placed in the Members Area on the Polonus website at www.polonus.org.

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GEMS Of Philately

GERMANIA ULTRAMARINE SCOTT 21 a

By: Zbigniew Korszen and Hank Bieniecki



One of the scarcest Polish stamps is the 1918, 20 pf ultramarine provisional issue (Scott 21a, Fischer 12a). It is without question one of the most commonly misidentified stamps offered in auctions and



for direct sale by dealers. The inclusion of auction realizations for incorrect varieties of this stamp, result in it also being one of the most under priced Polish stamps listed in Scott.

According to the Polish philatelic literature only six sheets of the 20 pf. ultramarine were overprinted by Poland in 1918. A total of 600 stamps is only

slightly larger than the 10 Kronen Krakow (Scott #55, Fischer #49), which had a printing of 440 stamps. As collectors were not initially aware of all the varieties of #21, one can hypothesize that fewer 21a exist today than the 10 K Krakow, which was known and very popular in 1918.

The problem does not arise from the existence of a large number of forgeries of 21a. Instead it is the existence of six different distinct basic genuine Germania color varieties that were first overprinted "Gen. Gov. Warschau" for use in Poland during the German occupation; and then subsequently overprinted "Pocztą



Polska for use by a newly formed Poland in 1918. The Scott Catalogs gave rise to part of this problem. Scott lists the basic common issue 21 as Light Blue and the 21a as Ultramarine (Ultramarine exists in two shades). Unfortunately Scott fails to list that the following blue color varieties of the 20 pf Germania stamp were also overprinted both by Germany and Poland: Blue, Violet Blue, Sapphire.

When dealers and collectors compare these relatively common varieties (blue, violet blue and sapphire) with the light blue stamps they conclude it must be the very scarce ultramarine. In reality the genuine 21a is so scarce that a multiple of it as illustrated in this article is truly a Gem of Polish philately. 

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