

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

Issue No. 272

September 1969

POLPEX 1970 SECOND THEME SELECTED

POLPEX 1970 will have a second theme. Because last year's exhibition had a dual theme which proved to be successful, it was decided to have a dual theme in 1970.

After World War I Poland found itself in a state of war with the Bolsheviks who were occupying the territories formerly occupied by the Germans. The army of General Haller arrived from France to help the Polish situation. The Treaty of Versailles

gave to Poland the province of Poznan and Pomorze with a very small stretch of the Baltic coast.

In 1920, General Jozef Haller led his army to the sea and officially declared Poland's access to the sea.

Polonus will honor the 50th anniversary of this event along with the 50th anniversary of Poland's defeat of the Bolsheviks at the Battle of Warsaw in 1920 known as the "Miracle of the Vistula", CUD NAD WISŁĄ.



Artist Jerzy Kocsek's painting of General Jozef Haller uniting Poland to the sea

The Polish Museum of America in Chicago will be the sight of POLPEX 1970 to be held on February 28 and March 1st. The museum lends itself as the perfect background for this exhibition with its collection of Polish army uniforms, medals, swords, photographs, literature and other memorabilia of that period in Poland's history.

ROMAN DMOWSKI NIGHT AT POLONUS

On Friday September 12th Polonus held a program meeting whose topic was devoted to the Polish statesman Roman Dmowski. The invited guest speaker was Mgr Siemiaszko, a pupil and personal friend of Dmowski. Mgr Siemiaszko spoke of his personal experiences with Dmowski, of his ceaseless work towards a re-born Poland. Dmowski established his political beliefs as a young man and held to them till he died. He realized his dream after World War I, while working closely with Paderewski on the side of the Allies. He represented Poland at the Treaty of Versailles and lived to see a free Polish nation.

Our secretary, Alfred Szebel, sent a notice to the Polish press regarding this program meeting. In this notice he invited outsiders to attend. As a result, some twelve non-philatelists dropped in at the Falcons Hall that evening.

Among these non-philatelists was a visitor from Poland, who, by chance, read the notice in the newspaper. He happened to be the choir director at Dmowski's funeral services. He said a few words about this and told us that Dmowski's funeral attracted more people and interest than that of Marshal Pilsudski whose funeral he also attended.

Another visitor at the meeting that evening was a Mr. Roman Galinski who came all the way from New Britain, Conn. just to attend this meeting. Back in 1935 he was president of the Pol.-Am. Sport Club of N.Y.

and a delegate to the World Convention of Polish Youth at Warsaw. It was here he met Dmowski who devoted three hours of his valuable time to this American and told him his testament for a Polish American. Mr. Galinski translated this treatise into English, had copies printed and distributed them to Polonus members and visitors present that evening.

All in all, those of us who were present at this Polonus meeting left with a better knowledge of a great Polish statesman about whom little is written in history.

WARSAW UPRISING EXHIBIT AT POLISH MUSEUM

The Polish Museum of America at 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, is presently featuring a special exhibition on the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. The museum is open every day but Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

FALCONS STAMP & COIN SHOW IN BUFFALO, N.Y.

An auction, 16-dealer bourse, special exhibits and a U.N. post office are some of the features of the Falcons Stamp and Coin Society's second annual stamp and coin show.

The event will take place October 25 & 26 at the Polish Falcons Hall, 883 Sycamore St., Buffalo, N.Y.

The theme for the show will be Dwight D. Eisenhower. Cachets featuring the President may be ordered for 30c each from Kenneth E. Butts, 85 Oberlein St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14211.

A 50-frame display of philatelic and numismatic material will be offered. Polish Olympic items by Francis L. Martin will be shown in a special exhibit.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Frank J. Samojedny
23 Farmington Ave.
New Britain, Conn. 06053

WHY COLLECT POLAND

By ALEX S. PENN

Reprinted from FILATELISTA of October 1950

A pertinent question perhaps of particular interest to any of our readers who do not!

There are many reasons, quite apart from any personal interest in the country itself. Personal interests naturally draw one nearer, but not necessarily philatelically. For philatelic attraction we need have something startling, to attract the collector away from the normal paths of generalization into the fields of study and research which lie off the beaten track. What are these startling attractions? It is not possible to lay down definite lines. Collectors' ideas differ greatly.

To some it may be beauty of design; to others ground for study and to others perhaps just a good investment for surplus cash! In collecting Poland we have ample scope for all. It will be difficult to find a more beautiful series of designs than those depicted in the 1938 Anniversary issue. It will likewise be difficult to find a greater scope for study and research than among the paper and perforation varieties of the 1920-24 period. The investors too will find opportunity, though now on increasingly rare occasions, for the purchase of rare items particularly of the 1919 Kraków is-



1938 Anniversary of Independence issue referred to by author in article.

THE 15 FENNIGOW OF 1919-1920

By A. J. A. Deal

Reprinted from "The London Philatelist", October 1957

Introduction

The late Lieut-Colonel R. N. W. Larking's⁽¹⁾ magnificent work on the stamps of Poland, deals quite adequately with many aspects of the first post-war issues of that country. However as A. S. Penn⁽²⁾ has pointed out, there are 'a number of questions and problems not dealt with by Colonel Larking, and so far unanswered and unsolved'. To these remarks may now be added 'discoveries', and to indicate that this is so with respect to the 15 fennigow stamp of 1919-20, is the object of these notes.

Historical

This stamp, showing the Polish Eagle on a Baroque shield, originally appeared on January 27, 1919, in the Northern Poland series of the first definitive issue for the Republic of Poland. Initially on sale imperforate in common with the other values, the 15 fennigow is known in many shades, on several papers and with a variety of perforations.

Shades

At first, the stamp was printed in shades of carmine, but later in 1919 it was issued in scarlet, which color was retained for the subsequent printings of February and April 1920.

Papers

1. Thick hard semi-transparent wove.
2. Horizontally ribbed.
3. Vertically ribbed. (Carmine shades only.)
4. Thin, almost transparent wove.
- 5(a). Thick soft opaque, white wove.
(b). Thick soft opaque wove with a greyish tinge.
(c). Thick soft opaque wove with a bluish tinge.

Types 4 and 5(a), (b) and (c) (scarlet shades only).

Perforations

The carmine shades exist imperforate and perforated 11½ on the thick hard semi-transparent wove paper imperforate and perforated 11½ on the horizontally ribbed paper, and perforated 11½ on the vertically ribbed paper.

The scarlet shades are known perforated 11½, 10, 10x11½, and 11½ x 10, on the thick hard semi-transparent wove paper, perforated 11½ on the horizontally ribbed paper, and perforated 11½ and 10, on the thin wove paper. On the thick soft opaque white paper, they exist perforated 11½ and 10, whilst on the greyish paper they are known perforated 11½, 10, 10 x 11½, and 11½ x 10, and on the bluish paper perforated 11½.

Printing

The stamps were printed on flat presses by a typographic process, in sheets of 400, in four panes of 100 stamps, each pane being 10 x 10.

New Information

A careful search of the literature has revealed no previous record of the fact that two dies were used in the production of the printing surface. That this major variety has presumably passed unnoticed for some thirty-eight years is incredible!

The main differences between the two dies can be seen readily in the illustrations and are as follows:—

DIE A

- (1) One short and one longer line of shading to the right of the right 'F'.
- (2) One long line of shading to the right of the left 'F'.
- (3) Two lines of shading of equal length to the left of the left 'F'.



DIE B

- (1) Two lines of shading of equal length to the right of the right 'F'.
- (2) One short line of shading to the right of the left 'F'.
- (3) One short, and one slightly longer line of shading to the left of the left 'F'.



Further study has shown that each pane of 100 stamps does not contain, as one might expect, an equal number of stamps from each of the two dies. The panes are made up of 52 stamps from Die A, and 48 stamps from Die B, arranged as follows:—

A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	<u>A</u>	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	<u>A</u>	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B

Stamp No. 46 and stamp No. 59 being from Die A.

The explanation for the inclusion of the two Die A stamps in places where Die B stamps might be reasonably anticipated is not definitely known but it seems feasible to assume that they were inserted by accident in place of damaged impressions of B type, although from an examination of many panes of this stamp, throughout its years of issue, it appears that if damage did occur, then this must have happened very early in the life of the printing surface, probably even before printing commenced, as the author has yet to find a pane containing 50 stamps from each die.

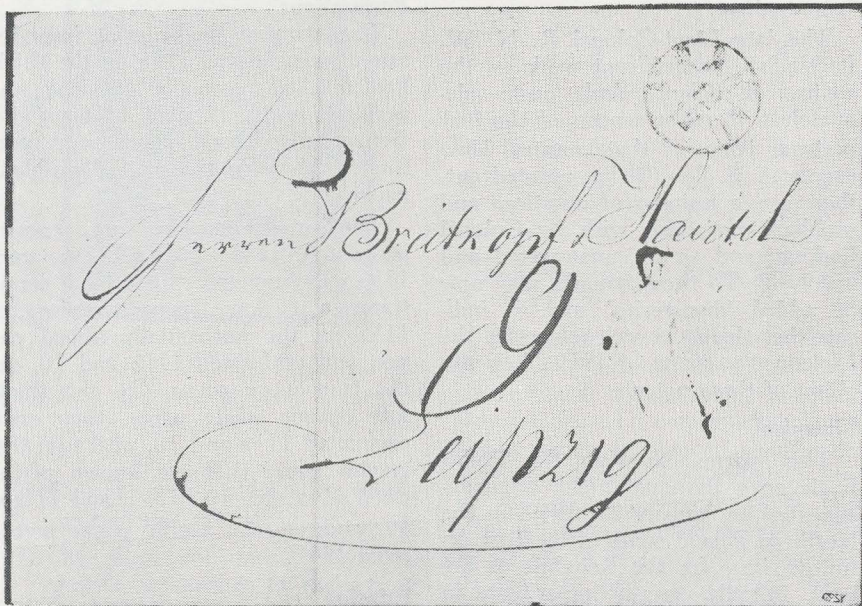
It is also interesting to record that Colonel Larking stated that new printing plates were brought into use for this value (amongst others) in April 1920. This is probably correct, as marginal rules were printed at the sides of these panes as distinct from those issued previously, which had the value of each column of stamps, between vertical colored lines, printed in the top margin only. However, the make-up of the stamps on the panes remained the same, i.e. 52 stamps from Die A and 48 stamps from Die B.

REFERENCES

- (1) 'Poland. The Postal Issues during and after the Great War', *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, Vol. 3, Nos. 1-12; Vol. 4, Nos. 1-7; Vol. 5, Nos. 4-11.
- (2) 'Poland. Papers and Perforations of the 1920-25 Period'. *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, Vol. 20, No. 77.

UNLISTED POSTMARK — FREE CITY OF KRAKÓW 1815 — 1846

By DR. JOZEF KUDEREWICZ



STAMPLESS COVER sent by GIESZKOWSKI on December 12, 1835 to LEIPZIG — bearing the single circle — dated KRAKAU, Prussian Agency Postmark — certified by the German Phil. Soc. Expertizing Committee.

In the New 1969 RUCH Catalog (Ilustrowany Katalog Znaczków Polskich 1969 RUCH) on page 20 in the article of the Free City of Kraków (1815-1846), are listed and illustrated only two types of postmarks of the Prussian Postal Agency in Kraków:

1. Two lines—dated KRAKAU
2. Double circle—dated KRAKAU

I am happy to report a third type — Single circle — dated KRAKAU.

This is a small 19 mm. typical Prussian type used in 1835. It is very rare and is unlisted in most of the Polish and German catalogs.

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sues — which are much sought for on the European and American Markets. But if I may be excused a personal note, my chief reason for collecting Polish stamps lies in the fact that they provide me with endless fascination because of their amazing variety. Improvisation and the necessity of combatting scarcities and shortages is seen on every hand. The “two-cent” stamps of Poland, unlike our sheets of never ending ending similarity, appear in series of shades and impressions quite perplexing to the uninitiated, upon seemingly every kind and quality of paper ever produced, and when it comes to perforations,— well, it seems that the Poles must just have thrown pins at the sheets and trusted to luck! Now some collectors may come along and say, “This is not stamp collecting, it is just accumulating.” But while admitting that collecting in specialized form undoubtedly involves the collecting of stamps in bulk, for the purpose of studying them in quantity, I maintain that this study of one’s stamps is really the very essence of philately, and it is when a country with such a scope for research as Poland is tackled seriously that one begins to realize the interest of the deeper side of our hobby, and to experience the joy of the finding of an “uncatalogued variety” — a joy which I may say has been mine on more than one occasion in the course of my many years of study of the stamps of Poland.

So may I suggest to collectors who may be thinking about starting a new country . . . why not Poland?

Editor's Note —

The author of this article, Alex S. Penn, was a co-editor of *FILATELISTA*, the official organ of the Association of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, and published in Edinburgh in 1949-51. He studied the monumental work of Col. R. N. W. Larking and did much research on the issues of Poland himself.

IN MEMORIAM

ALEX WAROT, #96
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 10, 1969 —

Regular Business Meeting at Falcons Hall — 8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24, 1969 —

Program Meeting. Stefan Kochanski, who attended the First Day of the Apollo Moon Stamp at Washington, D.C., will tell us his experiences at this, the largest first day sale of any U.S. stamp ever. He will also show some of the philatelic items he brought back with him.

The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. at Falcons Hall. A beebea will follow.

DR. RAGAN UPPER SILESIA SILESIA ARTICLE GETS AWARD

Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan, author of the extensive article on Upper Silesia which is appearing in installments in our "Polonus Bulletin", was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal for this work at the recent international exhibition in Sofia, Bulgaria in the philatelic literature class.

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