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FORGERIES OF THE POLISH LOCALS

by Dr. Arthur Schroeder

Translated from the German by John Gapinski

WARSAW

(Michel No. 1; Zumstein No. 1)

Among the numerous overprints and half-stamp forgeries of the Warsaw Locals, so far only one complete forgery is known, and it is that of the stamp Michel No. 1. It is, if the original litho stone has not been used, a masterwork of the forging technique and makes an excellent impression, especially since the size and perforations are the same as the original.

The color fortunately was a failure, although it is impossible for me to tell with certainty if the sample in my possession should be taken as typical. Since the purpose of this forgery was to imitate the rare No. 1 (Proof Edition), the color of which was known to be dark olive green on yellow, the light blue on yellow of the forgery is therefore an impossible color.

The paper has a slight brownish tint, and has a diagonally laid structure, in which the laid lines cut each other at an angle of 60 degrees, a kind of paper which I have found not used on any of the Warsaw Locals. The gum is dull and the same as on the original.

One has to look very close for convincing differences in the drawings. My early attention was called to the best recognition marks of the forgeries by a Mr. Estka of Lippstadt, who very kindly not only offered the here

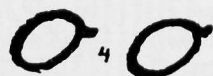
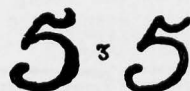


genuine



Fig. 1 forgery

described forgeries, but what is more important, let us have at our disposition, the necessary comparison pieces from his unusual collection. The best sign of detection is to the left of the picture under the dragon tail, where the flooring is slightly ascending, thus changing the angle of the square into an obtuse one instead of a right angle. (Fig. 1). Also on the forgeries, the left fork of the letter "y" in "Groszy" makes the tail a perfect arc, while on the genuine stamps it forms a slight knob at the point of contact (Fig. 2). Besides this I found that the "5" in the date 1915 and the "o" in "Groszy" are different. The genuine "5" has a roll-



ing curve while the fake has a more flat curve (Fig. 3). The "o" in the genuine stamp is the word "Groszy" has the bow (connecting line) a little lower than the genuine (Figure 4). There are also a few minor differences present, but is hard to tell if these may not be characteristics due to the lithograph printing.



The two forgeries of the Eagle issue of Przedborz are better known than the before mentioned locals. Before we go into these we shall take a look at the genuine stamps. These appear very clean on white but slightly mottled paper. The gum is dull and somewhat yellow. The red 2 groszy stamp comes in two distinct numeral types (Fig. 5), that is the small "2" is only changed in the left lower field. Both types are recognized by a small dot of the stamp color located about the middle of the left wing of the eagle, close to the outer line. The first forgery betrays itself easily by the clumsy dotting of the background. The drawings of the wings are coarser. The wing is pulled stronger to the right, the dot in the middle of the wing is missing. The letters, especially to the right and left at the edge, are altogether heavier. The different forms of the "GR" in "Groszy" are shown in Fig. 6.

The second forgery has a finer dotting of the background. The paper has a slight yellowish tint. The border (margin) of the stamp is much too wide (on the genuine the distance



Genuine 1st Forgery 2nd Forgery
Fig. 6

between is 4 mm, on the forgeries the stamp already has a 4 mm wide border). The color is a distinct red, but without the bluish tint present in the original. The drawing is in many ways different (see Fig. 6, the illustration of the wings, on which the color dot is also missing, and also of the letters "GR" of "Groszy"). In the figures of "GR" it is always the ones of the bottoms of the stamps that are considered, of the forgeries as well as of the genuines. There is always a difference in the letters of the upper line and the lower one even in the genuine stamps, and the letter "R" has always a bigger head in the lower line than in the upper.

Both forgeries are the same size and color as the originals.

PRZEDBORZ—Picture Stamps

Michel Nos. 8, 9, 15, 16 and 17.
Zumstein Nos. 8, 9, 15, 16 and 17)

Unfortunately, there were no forgeries of the complete set available to me, only the values of 4 and 6 Groszy, with the rays, and those of 5, 10 and 15 H. without the rays.

The forgery of the 4 Gr. red is a very bad one, even if the paper and the measurements correspond. The rays, which on the genuine stamp radiate from an arc around the year date 1918, are entirely misdrawn; the perpendicular ray which should go through the letter "M" in "Miejska" is already under the first numeral



4 Gr. Genuine



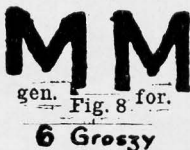
4 Gr. Forgery

Fig. 7

"1" of "1918". The writing "Rada Miejska" is much lower depressed and has different letters (Fig. 7).

The drawing of the building is very bad and incorrect; the background disappeared completely. The two enclosing white lines of the edge go through the shield with the number 4, on the genuine stamps only the outer line goes through. The perforation is 12, the genuine stamps have a perforation of 10. The gum is yellowish with impurities, and looks as if applied by hand.

The 6 Gr. violet has already missed the coloring, it is more reddish, and more lilac than violet. The paper is better and thicker than that of the genuine stamps and has a light ivory tint. The perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 10, the gum is white and coarse, not like on the originals. The two white dots in the circle part of the year number are located between the point and the number, on the genuine stamps they are farther out. Among many other peculiar differences of the letters in the script, the style of the letter "M" in "Miejska" is very conspicuous, the down lines of the "M" are of equal length, while on the genuine stamp the outer line is considerably shorter than the inner (Fig. 8). The most distinguishing mark of



gen. Fig. 8 for.

6 Groszy

this forgery, is the word "Groszy" which is 12 mm. about 1 mm. too short and the distance from the left edge is 2 mm instead of 1 mm.

The drawing of the 4 Halerzy red

is comparatively good, outstanding differences of the picture are hard to distinguish due to the not very clear printing inherent in the lithograph process. Clearly distinct though is the solid curve under the year number which in the genuine is dotted, and also the distance of the last letter "A" from "Miejska" at the right of the edge, which in the genuine is 1 mm. and on the fakes $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. The solid curve and different perforation are also found on the two following forgeries.



gen. Fig 9 for.

5 Hal.

The 10 Halerzy green is even in the color different, it is emerald green instead of gray green. The lettering "Rada Miejska" is pushed too high toward the upper edge (Fig. 10); the genuine has the "D" of "Rada" distant from the chimney of the building about 1 mm.

With 15 Halerzy the color has also been matched so well, it is light turkish blue instead of dark blue. The inscription "Rada Miejska" is crooked; it does not follow the outline of the upper drawing instead it has on the left a larger and on the right a smaller distance from the upper finishing line; especially noticeable is the lower located "R" (Fig. 11). The drawing is very crude, details are hardly distinguishable and above all the fine dotting on the street are missing.



10 Hal genuine



10 Hal Forgery

Fig. 10



gen. Fig. 11 for.

15 Hal

ZARKI

(Michel 1-3, 7-9; Zumstein 1-3, 7-9)

The neatly executed local stamps of Zarki in circulation are mostly forgeries although it is very hard to convince the proud collector that these neat pictures should be fakes, but whoever saw the genuine ones (which regardless of the low prices are at present hardly obtainable) know that they are comparatively better executed. It is not so very easy to determine noticeable differences between the genuine and the fakes. The drawing of the fake is slightly larger, and one has to look very sharply to discover any marks of recognition. In the drawing the following is noticeable:



gen. 12 for.

1. The tower of the church on the fakes is engraved all over with horizontal and perpendicular lines, on the genuine horizontal lines are only on the right half.

2. The cemetery wall to the right is made up on the fakes of two solidly drawn parallel lines, while on the genuine it is composed of shading lines.

3. The little tower of the church, to the right of the roof of the church, is on the fakes a little wider than on the genuine stamps. (Genuine—exact-



ly 1 mm., fake—a little more).

4. The door of the church on the fake stamps is semicircular, on the genuine a flattened one.

5. The tower and the front part of the building has two at the level of the lower edge of the church roof on the fakes, while on the genuine three, distinctively light protruding cornices.

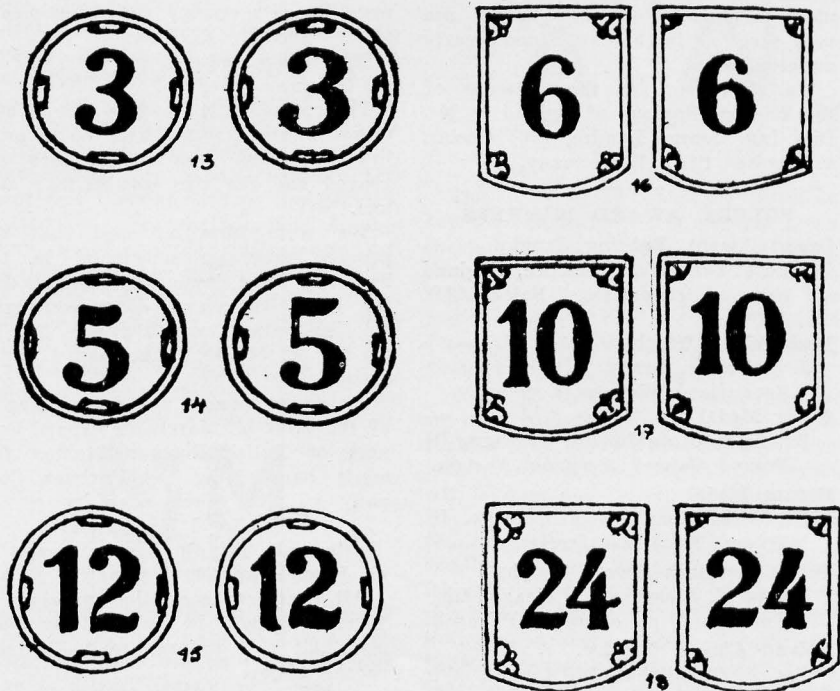
6. The group composed of three persons slightly to the right of the middle of the front place, appears different on the genuine than on the fake stamps. On the genuine the left figure is a 2 mm. tall walking person, on the fakes it is almost a 1 mm. dwarflike spot; the middle person stands on the genuine distinctly in the back; also it's a little taller. On the fake it seems to be on an equal level with the figure to the right (Fig. 12).

The simplest and the surest signs of recognition between the genuine and fake stamps, are the numbers in the shields showing the value, which are shown here in comparison (Fig. 13-18).

The "3" on the fakes is clearer and

heavier; the 5 has a very conspicuous long neck (sometimes also on the genuine), the flag is horizontally straight, instead of wavy, the number "5" is mostly not well centered but shifted to the right. On the genuine stamps only one slight shift to the left was found. The number 12 is substantially larger than on the fakes.

Also the numbers in the rectangular value shields differ greatly. The shields themselves are equal in size but decoration in the corners are very clear, more on the genuine than on the fakes, on which it is hard to recognize the form. The number "6" on the fakes is smaller than on the genuine; the value shield is slightly distorted (it is also on the genuine but not as noticeable). The number "10" is also smaller and has an unusually large blank space underneath it in the shield. The number "24" on the other hand is slightly taller and also noticeable by the horizontal cross line of the "4", which on the fakes seems to represent a continuation of the flag of "2" while on the genuine stamps the cross line is considerably



higher; the left point of the "4" above the flag of the "2", not next to it.

The colors of the forgeries are mostly well matched, especially so with "5" and "24". The genuine "3" is ultramarine blue, the fake on the other hand is light blue (Prussian blue). The genuine "12" is dark olive, the fake is yellow olive.

The fake "6" is pale violet, the genuine on the other hand is a very lively violet. The genuine "10" is a more intense green than the fakes. The perforations and size of the pictures are the same with the fakes and genuine. The paper of the genuine stamps is of a good quality, smooth and white; of the fake it is also of a good quality but more translucent and of a glassy appearance.

Of the three stamps with the overprint (Michel 4-6) it can only be said, that these overprint on genuine original are genuine; so far fake overprints on genuine original stamps were not found. But there are a great number of fake overprint on fake original stamps (and naturally complete forgeries) but the genuine are very rare and in the catalogues greatly undervalued.

An expertiser for these stamps of the Eastern Regions of Poland is Mr. Dipl.-Ing. George Landre, (20) Goslar, v. Garssen Str. 17, Germany.

POLPEX AWARD WINNERS

Grand Award, Larking Trophy

John C. Crimlisk, Yorkshire, England
German Occupation of Poland 1780-1914.

Best Poland Trophy

J. J. Domar, Berwyn, Ill.
Specialized Warsaw Locals.

Silver Medal

Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Chicago, Ill.
Poland Cancellations on Austria.

Bronze Medal

Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Chicago, Ill.
Poland Stampless Covers.

Polish Research Award Trophy

Myron E. Steczynski, Chicago, Ill.
Poland's 50 gr. engraved Pilsudski.

Poland Abroad Trophy

Leo J. Topolinski, Milwaukee, Wis.
Polish Prisoner of War stamps.

Poland Associated Country Trophy

Chester A. Schafer
Specialized Central Lithuania.

Bronze Medal

Dr. Matthew E. Uznanski
Specialized Allenstein.

Best Other Than Poland Trophy

Stephen G. Rich, Verona, N. J.
U.S. Bank Note issues 1870-1879.

Gold Medal

M. A. Bojanowicz, London, England
Specialized Bosnia.

Gold Medal

Chester J. Mikucki, Chicago, Ill.
Specialized Montenegro.

Silver Medal

Stan. G. Radgowski, Scranton, Pa.
Specialized Tibet.

SPA Research Award

Dr. R. R. Voorhees, Cleveland, Ohio
"The Laws of Japanese Art illustrated with Japanese Stamps"

Central Federation Historical Award

Stanley Kucharz, Chicago, Ill.
Poland Ten Liberated Cities Issue.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

On January 26th a set of two stamps were issued picturing the development of the Electric Railway.

The values were 60 gr. blue and 80 gr. brown.

Perforated 12¾ x 12½, on white unwatermarked paper with white gum.

The process was steel plate engraved and the size was 31.25 x 25.5 mm.

We were also informed that the postage dues we mentioned in the February 1954 issue were issued during 1953. No release dates were given. The values were 5 groszy, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 50, 60, 90 gr. and 1 and 2 zloty.

An announcement was issued that as of the first of March all export business of Polish Postage Stamps formerly handled by the Varimex Company will be taken over by

PRASA I KSIĄŻKA

Centrala Handlu Zagranicznego
ul. Koszykowa 31, Warszawa, Poland

All contracts concluded previous to March 1st, will be fulfilled by Varimex. All new orders are to be sent to the above.

—Varimex

AN ITEM OF INTEREST

Every stamp collector, no matter if he's young or old, hopes to come across a stamp which we call a "rarity". After seventeen years of collecting, looking through mixtures, and checking hundreds of stamps, this collector has come upon an item which has turned out to be very interesting. It is a vertical pair, imperforate between of the Poland C21 Airmail. It is in very fine condition, is perforated 11, has no watermark, and the postmark reads 12-12-49. The stamp itself was in a mixture of about 900 Poland given to me by a friend, whose mother receives mail from that country. My friend, in trying to help me, had peeled the stamps from the envelopes and had stuffed them into a paper bag. Looking through the stamps of which half were thin or torn, I came upon the C21 pair. As if fate was with me, it was the only stamp that had some of the envelope attached to it. Looking through Scott's catalogue I found nothing listed on such a pair, and immediately I wrote to Scott asking for information. In answering that they had no such information, they suggested I write to Adam Kloskowski of the Polonus Philatelic Society, and Varimex, in Warsaw, Poland. Both parties had no data, and it was then I began to feel the excitement that I had at last made a "find." After a year and a half of checking and re-checking, I feel that I may have something of a "rarity." If it proves otherwise, well, who cares, that's the pleasure and enjoyment we derive from stamp collecting.

If anybody has any information concerning this pair, I'd be more than glad to hear from them. Mail all correspondence to:

Carl L. Madura
22 No. Ermine St.
Dunkirk, New York

POLPEX 1954

March 5, 6 and 7 came and passed. By many these dates are forgotten—but not by those who attended the largest showing of Polish stamps in the United States at the Falcons Hall in Chicago.

Following is a letter we received from a Polpex visitor:

Dear Mr. President, Officers and Members:

It gives me great pleasure to write a few lines to express my feelings of the "Polpex" show of 1954, which I had the pleasure of attending. The cordial hospitality extended by all the above mentioned to me as well as others (which I was able to witness) was most gratifying and is to be highly commended.

The "Beeba" which I had enjoyed in the past were good, but the one at this show is something I shall long remember as the cuisine would satiate the palate of any gourmet down to the olive pit.

To choose any one individual for his contribution in making my three days so enjoyable, would be in my opinion an injustice; thereby, in recalling this phrase, which sums up my appreciation — WELL DONE! — CARRY ON!

Sincerely,

Leo Haska Hanryszkiw

* * *

We received other letters too. The President of the American Philatelic Society Burleigh E. Jacobs, was very grateful for being our guest and for the courtesies extended him; Roman Burkiewicz, a dealer from Granite

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**Barney J. Fialkowski
2952 No. Avers Ave.
Chicago 18, Illinois**

City, Ill., recently from England, who attended many European exhibits, was so impressed with our Polpex that he said he never received as cordial a reception as he did here.

George Ritter of Tampa, Florida, wrote: "The kindness and courtesy and good fellowship of the membership made me feel at home and the cold weather did not in the least distract from the hospitality shown me."

The Saturday night attendance was the greatest in the history of the Society. Thanks to the wonderful publicity to our show given by Leszek Chobot of "Dziennik Chicagoski" — the new immigrants attended in the largest number ever.

Chairman Banasiak asked us to express his sincerest thanks to the various committees who contributed immensely to make this show a success—to the Seal Director Adam Kloskowski; Bourse—Roman Reinowski; Program—Sigmund Bor and Joseph Banasiak; Patrons — Chester Mikucki; Arts—Myron Steczynski; Finance — J. P. Rux; Publicity—John Bobo, Barney Fialkowski and Dr. S. M. Mioduszewski; and to Honorary Chairman — George Ritter.

Many thanks to the Beeba Committee—Joseph Banasiak and Sigmund Bor; to Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz who was responsible for most of the food; to the ladies that helped — Mrs. Violet Banasiak, Mrs. Lorraine Banasiak, Mrs. Kozakiewicz, Mrs. Germann, Mrs. Steczynski, Mrs. Reinowski, Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Krawiec, the cook.

Thanks for the help rendered the Exhibition Committee in setting up and taking down the show — to Walter Szymlek, John Skotnicki, Roman Reinowski, Sigmund Bor, Joseph Banasiak, Stanley Kucharz John Bobo, Leo Topolinski, Jack Domar, Dr. Kozakiewicz, Lester Jankowski, Myron Steczynski, Adam Kloskowski, Jack Domar and Roman Nowakowski, and again to Dr. Kozakiewicz for footing the bill for food and refreshment.

Among the guests who came from afar were George Ritter from Tampa, Florida. Charles E. Daniels from Toronto, Canada, and Roman Nowakowski from London, Ontario. In the crowd we noticed the President of the S.P.A.

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Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Ben Reeves, the S.P.A. Secretary Al Diamond, and Stamps for the Wounded Mr. Kenworthy.

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