

## BULLETIN OF THE

# POLONIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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## A CHAT ABOUT POLISH STAMPS

by J. G. Freiburghaus

(Reprinted from WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP of 7/9/55)

Being a collector of stamps of Poland for many years, and much interested in them, I have built up in the course of time, a large collection of them, but besides the more ordinary stamps as issued, my search has been more for varieties in type, perforation, shades and color trials. Such hunting gives the collector a real zest and alleviates his thirst for stamps out of the ordinary run and helps to make such a collection more interesting and variegated, out of the common run.

The stamps of Poland are, as a rule, well printed and their designs are varied, with few exceptions, although in my humble opinion, they lean too much towards hero worship, but this is no doubt due to Poland having in the past and still today, more or less of a running fight for its very existence. Situated as it is, between its ponderous neighbors in the west and in the east of its long lines of frontiers, it is deprived and almost defenseless of natural barriers, such as we here in Switzerland are fortunate to have.

This continual strife for liberty and self-government mirrors itself in the various stamp issues from the very first stamp of 1860 No. 1 until today. Many collectors do not like these stamps of Poland, nevertheless, I hold that they are very interesting and picturesque and worthwhile, in spite of their rather low values in the catalogues. Poland has not many varieties of great value to boast of and so-called rarities are few, but none the less,

some of its stamps are real little gems and numerous are the many varieties in perforation, paper, watermarks, color shades and color trials, which give the collector real pleasure to hunt and to be the proud possessor of.

For the entertainment and benefit of such collectors, I presume to give hereafter an "aperçu" of such out-of-the-way stamps and varieties, which when incorporated in the pages of a collection of Polish stamps, give them a certain cachet out of the common, so here goes.

The first issue, Scott's Nos. 11-14, Warsaw local postage stamps, without the surcharge "Poczta Polska" are real teasers to find in pairs or blocks, perforated or imperforated and even single ones are not easily located. They exist naturally only in mint condition, their postal use as such, having been prohibited by the occupying authorities.

In the following issue, occupation stamps Nos. 15 to 26, the varieties in the surcharge, such as "Pocata," "Poczto" are elusive items and particularly in blocks of four stamps with such varieties they are real gems. Stamp No. 32, Austrian military stamp, with red-brown surcharge, so-called error, is a good variety and not easily found.

The Cracow issue of 1918, Austrian stamps surcharged "Poczta Polska," Scott's Nos. 41-55, form a really happy hunting ground for varieties such as stamp-position 73 of the mint sheet, with double dot in lieu and place of

the rhombus, stamp-position 30 in the sheet, with mutilated letter A in Polska, thinned letter Z in Poczta in positions 4, 5, 14, 15, 24, 25, 34, 35, 44 and 45 of the sheet. Some of these varieties, for instance Scott's No. 40, 10 heller, with double dot, are even rarer than the 10 kronen, as it occurs but once in the sheet, as only 2250 such stamps were surcharged.



Of these issues, such copies with inverted surcharge, are naturally also desirous items, but beware of excellent counterfeits. Of the issues of 1919, Northern and Southern Poland, Marks and Kroners, there are many varieties, both in paper and in color shades, besides rare color trials such as for instance the one Mark, Scott's No. 88 in rose-red, instead of violet. In these issues occur too, many smaller varieties originating from printing defects, also double printings such as Scott's Nos. 89 and 120. Scott's Nos. 84, 97, 98, 15 pfennig, show two distinct types, Plate I having but one short line on right side, below 15, adjoining the letter F, Type 2 shows two such short lines. Lovely shades occur too in Scott's Nos. 86 and 100, ranging from light gray to dark olive green. In the National Assembly issue, Scott's Nos. 133-139, we have some rare imperfs and double prints, Nos. 135 and 137. In the general issue, Scott Nos. 140-148, we have many good shades, particularly in the 6 Marks, also in the 10 Marks, the former showing shades in blood red and the latter ranging from pale orange-brown to blood red and even to dark red. The 20 Mark too has shades from dark green to pale olive-green, all have in common various perforations, some of them scarce ones.

Redrawn stamps Nos. 149/152 show two distinct types, also distinct in color. These two types show plainly in

the 8 Marks, Type I has K and A in Polska separated, whereas in Type II, these two letters are joined at the foot. The Provisional of 1921, Scott's No. 153, has again two types of sur-



charge, also a variety with comma instead of period. This stamp is also found with a large black bar, instead of five single bars, but in the former case it is a proof. This stamp is also found with much displaced surcharge, numeral 3 in the center of the stamp, or even displaced to the left side. Of the constitutional issue, Scott's Nos. 156-162, stamp No. 162, 50 Marks, occurs without dot after 1921.

Of the stamps 10, 15 and 20 Marks of 1921, Scott's Nos. 154-155a, there exist rare printing trials, imperforated and ungummed, horizontally crossed with a red ink bar. Here too the shades range from very dark—nearly black—to much lighter hues. Scott's



indicates two of these shades. The 15 Marks light brown occurs too in a very dark brown shade and the paper of all three values ranges from very thin white paper to rather thick bluish paper. The 10 Marks value, blue, shows further some varieties in design, placed in various positions in the sheet. They can be traced in the lines of the rainbow, joining or missing the hilt of the sword, forming thus larger or smaller white spaces near the hilt. The 10 and 20 Marks have been re-drawn as Type II of smaller size, but same design. A rare variety occurs of the redrawn 20 Marks, Type II, with the rainbow not in lines, but in small dots, also on

the hilt of the sword, in place of lines but we ignore if constant, as so far only one mint copy has been found.

The Polish Eagle issue of 1921-23, Scott's 163-169B, shows the following varieties; No. 163, Type I, buff underground color measures 29 to 23½ mm. Type II but 28 to 22½ mm., both are found in white and bluish paper. As to No. 164, Scott gives it correctly as occurring also horizontally imperforated. There exist also marked shades in this value, from rose-red to blood-red, the 100 Marks too has pronounced shades and I found at least one variety of this stamp or plate flaw: POCZIA, the bar on top of the letter T being missing, but so far only one copy was found. Of the 300 Marks green, rare shades are found, also some very flat designs due to overuse of the plate, the shading in the feathers being missing. The value for 500 Marks, violet, shows very lovely shades from reddish lilac to very dark violet and it exists also in one used imperforated copy, rather rare, further, many varieties in perforation and in paper are found from soft thin to very thick texture.

The 2000 Marks show some marked flaws in the design and its shades range from milk-blue to very dark blue and the paper is hard and thin and again soft and in greyish hue. Color proofs of them exist too, all crossed with vertical or horizontal bars in red ink.

The issue in honor of Kopernikus, astrologer, 1473-1543, two values, 1000 and 5000 Marks, was printed with two different plates, which can easily be traced, Plate I has a colored dot in the breast of the eagle which is missing in Plate II. Of the value for 1000 Marks two flaws have been found, one in which the two last noughts on the right are joined by a small white bar and in the other, the ornamental half circle is broken on the level of the letter A in Poczta. Of the 5000 Marks value proofs in the color of the origi-

nal, with vertical red ink bar exist. The plate flaw "Konapski" in stamp Scott's No. 194, is found in the 30th stamp of the original sheet of 40 stamps, 4 by 10.

The provisionals of April, 1923, Scott's Nos. 195-198, contain numerous varieties besides those as mentioned in Scott. Foremost we have the inverted incomplete surcharges, very faint surcharges, then displaced surcharges, charges, due to underinking, the 0 in 10 missing and so forth. Also various color shades and paper varieties, white thick paper, bluish thick paper and with the buff underground in both types, larger and smaller, as in the originals. All these provisionals were used to cope with the heavily increased postage fee in view of the devaluation of the Mark. I have before me a letter to Switzerland franked with 900,000 Marks in stamps of 10 and 50,000 Marks. The same applies to the provisional stamps of Scott's Nos. 199/200 which again occur with inverted surcharge and in many color shades.

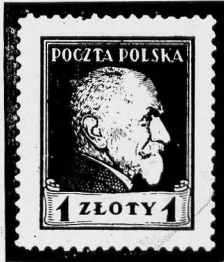
The lithographs of January, 1924, Eagle design, Scott's Nos. 205-214, show various plate flaws. The value for 100,000 Marks occurs in a very dark red-brown shade and the two highest values for 1 and 2 million Marks are rarely found postally used and their prices as mentioned in Scott do in no wise take account of this fact.

Here comes a stop to the denominations in Marks as the gold currency grosz and zloty comes in use.

The first issue, again the Polish Eagle within a wreath of laurel leaves, Scott's Nos. 215-225, in very thin, later on in white thick paper, presents rather well and the colors too are well chosen. The 25gr occurs in light and in very dark brown, the 30gr even is found in a wrong color—violet blue. Of this shade a few sheets were printed and used up at Woclawek, Davidgrodek and surrounding districts, a rather good variety to have and when in mint condition, even better. But the best variety of this issue is the 25gr. in blue-black, which inadvertently turned up in the plate of the 40gr., Scott's No. 224, position of the sheet 35, but only were printed, as it was soon discovered a few sheets with this error of plates and cut out of the plate. I do not think there exist any postally used copies of



this rare variety. Of the 3gr. orange, an imperforated sheet turned up and was detailed at Litzmannstadt, but only copies with sufficient margins can pass as genuine.



We come to No. 226, 1 złoty, red, with the head of President Stanislaus Wojciechowski. This is a remarkable stamp printed on chalky paper and used clean copies without any scratch are rare.

Between 1925 and 1932 a set of new stamps came out with views of monuments and buildings, Scott's Nos. 227-241, of which Plate I was printed with plate and in offset, whereas Type II are printed only in offset. Scott indicates here only the 3, 5, 10 and 15 gr. as redrawn, but actually also the 20, 30 and 40 gr. appeared redrawn, as Type II. Pronounced shades are found in the 2, 5 and 15 gr., the latter occurs in some rather smudgy crude printings, all Type I, Type II being clear and neatly printed. The stamp, No. 243, 40 gr. with head of Chopin, is again printed on a chalky surfaced paper and canceled copies in good preservation are the exception. Stamp No. 242, 20 gr. red-brown, has again some nice shades, and in the fifth edition, printed with plates, it shows some slight modifications in the design. It is also found imperforated. Stamp No. 245 with effigy of Moscicki is also found imperforated, the same applies to No. 249, 20 gr. effigy of Slowacki. The redrawn design of 25 gr., No. 250, again shows some good shades and exists also imperforated.

Now comes the stamps with the well designed head of Marshall Pilsudski, Scott's Nos. 253/54, in recess printing in several editions. I and II on Vienna paper, also III and IV, editions V, VI and VII being printed on native paper in shades ranging from steel-blue to dark blue and to dark and blue-green,



dark green being edition VIII, again on native paper. These various printings can also be distinguished, besides in their shades in the inscriptions in the margins of the sheet, some of these stamps can also be found imperforated.

The following stamp with the head of President Moscicki, 1 złoty, cream or in black, is printed on two distinct papers, recess printing, on vertically laid English paper and on native horizontally laid paper. A rather nice looking well designed stamp.

Stamps Nos. 258-260, Polish Eagle, were faked during their currency in Vienna. They differ in paper and perforation and for this reason stamp No. 260 was recalled and declared obsolete on Dec. 30, 1931. Stamps Nos. 263-266 exist also imperforated and fakes of them, differing in paper and perforation, circulate (No. 265).

Now comes a nice stamp, No. 267, 30gr., well designed and executed, with the head of Kosciuszko, Washington and Pulaski, on thick yellow vertically laid paper, recess printing. A rare color trial of this stamp exists in light blue, which color would have made a better effect still as original. An official post card with, on the reverse side, an enlarged design of this stamp, was issued with repetitive inscriptions at the foot of the enlarged stamp in Polish, French and English languages. It was sold for ½ zloty to the tune of 100,000 copies.

On January 2, 1933, there was issued a stamp for 60gr. in blue, with the City Hall of Thorn (Torun) commemorative of the foundation of this town in 1233, it exists imperforated. The same stamp, Scott's B28, in red-brown, was issued on the 21st of May, 1933 in connection with the philatelic stamp exhibition at Torun. Of stamps, Nos. 282/83, Polish Legion 1914-1924 with head of Pilsudski; No. 283 exists also

imperforated and without gum. Of the stamps with surcharge "Challenge 1934, 30gr. No. C121, an inverted surcharge is known.

The provisionals, Nos. 284-286, 55 gr. and 1 zloty, show for the 1 zloty on Z1, 1.20 two types of surcharge, they are also found with inverted surcharge.

The following provisional stamp No. 285, 25 gr. on 80 gr. red-brown, has two distinct types of surcharge, also two kinds of color for the surcharge, one in black and the other in blue-black, therefore four varieties.

In the set of the mourning stamps for Marshall Pilsudski, No. 287-291, May 16, 1935, the 25gr. appears in two types, the shading lines in both directions for Type I, and only horizontal shading lines for Type II. There are other slight differences in the two types.

The new issue with landscapes of 1935, Nos. 294-304 shows (in size) slightly deviating types for the 25, 45, 50 and 55 gr.—28.3mm. x 21.3mm. against 25.5mm. x 22 mm.

On the third of June, 1936 there was issued a 1 zloty stamp in blue, No. 305, President Moscicki, with margin inscription at foot of stamp: 1923.3VI. 1936. Two varieties of this stamp have been found. The inscription in one of the numerals 9 and 3 in both dates stand in line with the numeral 1 above the inscription and in the other they stand between the numerals 92 and 36. As four plates were used for the printing of this stamp, the question remains open whether the two types occur in one plate only or if they belong to two different plates.

Stamp No. 312, effigy of Marshall Rydz-Smigly, again exist in two types, due probably to re-engraving.

With stamp No. 340 we come to the close of the first period of Polish stamp issues, as World War II set in in September, 1939, with the well known disastrous results for Europe and the world at large.

In 1944, the first Polish stamps again appeared in Poland, very crude lithography, due to the absence of the necessary printing gear, scarcity of paper and all other necessities for the printing trade, as Russia acquired large rotating printing presses which had found their way to Moscow and were

thus lost to Poland.

On the 8th of September, 1944, appeared as stated, the first three Polish stamps, lithography, with the heads of Traugutt, Kosciuszko and Dabrowski, Scott's Nos. 341/43. They were ungummed and only gummed on request as every thing had to be improvised and reinstated. Imperforated proofs of these three stamps exist, some on very thin paper, the 25gr. even on carton paper, rather rare, such proofs. Postally used copies of these stamps are hard to find.

The two next coming stamps, Polish Eagle, 25 and 50 gr., the later the monument of Grunwald, photogravure, appeared on Sept. 14, 1944.

Of the 25 gr., exists a color variety, if one can say so, dull red instead of deep red, which did not see much postal use and in canceled state of the period it is rather scarce. It was, later on, used up as provisional for Z1 1.50, Scott's No. 346.

The stamp with the head of Traugutt, 25gr. red, was issued surcharged with 5 zloty, Scott's No. 362. It is found in three distinct shades, crimson-rose, pale rose and pale brown. It was ungummed and is rather seldom found with genuine postal cancellations.

The ten provisional stamps of February 12, 1945: new value 3 Zl. and town names, Scott's Nos. 347-356, are rather interesting as they can be found with misplaced surcharge, the numeral 3 being at the foot of the stamp also with some inverted surcharges, for instance Kielce. The stamp with the town name, Warszawa occurs in both shades, deep red and dull red, the latter in typography, 344 and 344A and the latter is scarce with this surcharge and quite rare on cover.

The provisional stamp Z1 1.50 on 25gr. dull red, 344A, new number 346, shows two types of surcharge, one with separating dot level with the heads of the numerals 1 and 5 and the second with dot lower down. This is due to use of two different plates of surcharge. Plate I shows dot further down between 1 and 5 and in Plate II this dot is level with these two numerals. Plate II, 10x10 stamps, shows vertical rows 1, 2, 6 and 7 with dot further down and vertical rows 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 show

(Continued on page 8)

# More About The Barleṭta-Trani Stamps

by J. J. Domar

Much too much has been written in regard to the Barleṭta and Trani Issues but it is our opinion that any information regarding any issues pertaining to Poland should be given to our members regardless of personal opinion, so with this in mind we are recording the latest releases.

Upon the tenth anniversary of the battle of Monte-Cassino an overprint "DZIESIEĆIOLECIE — 1944-1954" or "POCZTA LOTNICZA MONTE CASSINO 1944-1954" has been made on ten thousand stamps of the Fieldpost of the 2nd Corps issued in Italy in the years 1944-45.

Through the courtesy of Mr. R. Burkiewicz, I have been shown a cover with one of each stamp, also a set of the mint stamps of which the green one was overprinted in two shades of red ink. Also submitted was a photo of a notary attesting that the photo is a true photographic reproduction of the copy of the Law Journal of the Polish Republic dated the 29th of May, 1954.

The translation is as follows:  
The Law Journal of the Polish Republic  
London, May 29th, 1954

Part One  
The Decrees of the President of the

Republic.

Entry No. 4 of the 27th of May, 1954, about the prolongation of the interval between the cadence of the National Council of the Republic and the cadence of the Council of the Polish Republic. (page 17)

Entry No. 5 of the 21st of May, 1954, in the matter of the alteration of the decree of the President of the Republic of the 30th of June, 1954, about forming a Ministry of Polish Citizens' Affairs in Foreign Lands. (page 18)

## Part Two

### Official Section

The Order of the Minister of Polish Citizens' Affairs in Foreign Lands of the 22nd of May, 1954

About making an overprint on the stamps of the Field Post of the 2nd Corps.

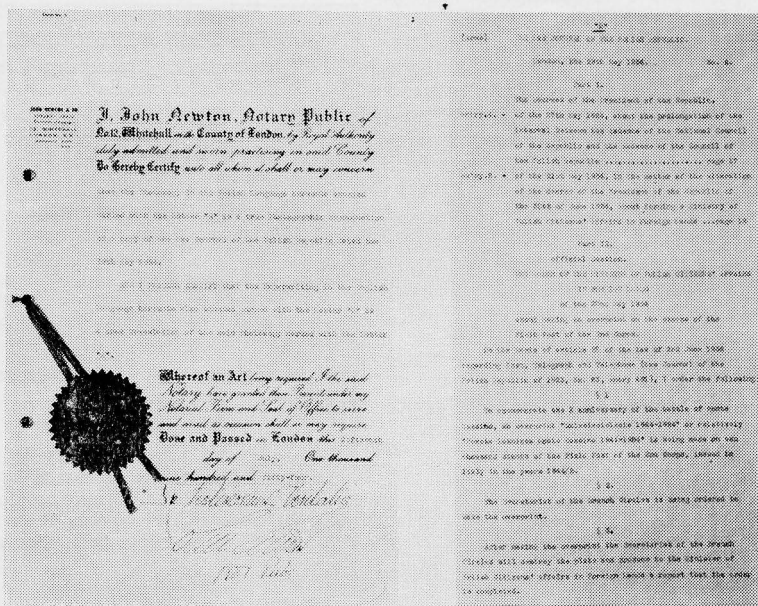
On the basis of article 22 of the law of the third of June, 1924 regarding Post, Telegraph & Telephone (Law Journal of the Polish Republic of 1933, No. 63, entry 481) I order the following

I

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the battle of Monte Cassino, an overprint "Dziesięciolecie 1944-1954" or relatively "Poczta Lotnicza Monte Cassino 1944-1954" is being made on ten



A cover showing the two stamps discussed by the author in this article.



thousand stamps of the Field Post of the 2nd Corps issued in Italy in the years 1944-45.

## II

The Secretariat of the Branch Circles is being ordered to make the overprint.

## III

After making the overprint the Secretariat of the Branch Circles will destroy the plate and produce to the Minister of Polish Citizens' Affairs in Foreign Lands a report that the order is completed.

It is amusing to see what lengths some people will go to authenticate what in my opinion are just plain labels.

All that the notarized certificate says is—"that it is true photo reproduction of the Law Journal and a true translation. It does not say that the Minister of Polish Citizens' Affairs in Foreign Lands has the legal authority to issue postage stamps and just what franking power do they have? Further—is this Committee recognized by the various governments in the world, certainly they are not recognized by the United Nations, and whether we like it or not there is a recognized Polish Government, of which this Committee is not a part.

What about the Spanish and French

Pretenders to the throne—shouldn't they be permitted to issue stamps?

In my opinion this issue has no valid excuse for its release. If it was issued as a charity seal and the proceeds went to some charitable organization it could be justified—but to try to pretend they are legitimate postage stamps is inexcusable particularly when excessive prices are asked.

It is true we all have in our collections material which is questionable but as long as we accept the fact most have little or no resale value it is our own business what we buy or pay—but be certain that it is understood when we buy this questionable material you are not going to get anything for it when your collection is sold.

## CHICAGO STAMP CALENDAR

Nov. 26-27, 1955—Czechoslovak Philat.

Society of America, Stefank Hall

Nov. 11-12-13, 1955—Chicago Philatelic Society

Feb. 24-25-26, 1956—North Shore Phil. Society, Edgewater Beach Hotel

March 9-10-11, 1956—Polonus Philatelic Society, Falcon Hall (tentative)

## APPLICANT PENDING

Chester Bernat

1019 N. Marshfield Ave.

Chicago 22, Ill.

(Continued from page 5)  
it level. There exists therefore thirty horizontal pairs (se tenant) with these two types of surcharge. Postally used pairs are seldom found. Of this provisional, displaced and inverted surcharge exist too. The lithographed stamps Nos. 365-360 occur also imperforated.

The ugly large sized lithographs Nos. 374-388 are rich in various shades, very pronounced, some of these stamps have private perforation, rather good on letters, gone through the mail. The surcharge of Nos. 383-388 shows a small variety, small letter A, last one of Warszawa, which occurs in position 41 of the surcharge plate, 10x5 stamps. The surcharge is again found inverted and displaced, to left or to right of the stamps.

The cultural issue of 1947, Nos. 396-403 show marked shades. The color of the surcharge of No. 404, 6 Zł. Duke Henry IV is also found in strong yellow color instead of in red only.

This brings us to the end of the more modern issues, No. 413 and following as the interest for these issues is rather lacking, with very few exceptions such as for instance No. 477, six year plan, which is again printed with two plates, stamps of Plate II, in mint stamps, being very scarce, having escaped at the time the attention of the collectors and being in use only for a short time. It was then superseded by No. 496, 45-gr., same design and color, which again is found in two types (re-engraved plate.)

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Of the air mail stamps C13-C18, the 20gr. rose-brown, is also found imperforated. The air mail stamp No. C20, 50z on 25gr. is found with nearly white eagle, very conspicuous. The same variety is found in stamps No. 344 and in the provisionals Nos. 345 a, b, c and Nos. 347-356.

I hope that these lines will interest the many collectors of stamps of Poland in the U.S.A. If they can help to break the rather monotonous sequence of the many issues of Poland following in this their prototypes in the east, with the many unnecessary Russian issues, well, then their aim will have found its justification.

### NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Set of 4 stamps commemorating the  
10th Anniversary of the Recovery of  
Western Poland Territories.

Date of issue: Sept. 22, 1955.

Values: 25 gr. bluish-green  
40 gr. red-brown  
60 gr. bluish-violet  
95 gr. sepia

Set of 2 stamps comemorating the  
50th Anniversary of 1905 Revolution

Date of issue: Sept. 30, 1955

Values: 40 gr. dark-brown  
60 gr. red-lilac

—“Prasa i Książka”