

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Edited by
Lester Jankowski
10 South LaSalle Street
Chicago 3, Illinois

The Katowice Philatelic Exhibition Issue



By Spying Eye



ORIGINAL

Here is another case of taking a two cents catalog value stamp and by adding a simple surcharge transform the said two cents catalog value stamp into an item selling at \$3.50 a copy. Even if the issue was large enough to satisfy the demand, it is still a very profitable move to overprint some used stamps of which there is a plentiful supply.

So, take your bargain and draw a vertical line through the three rows of the surcharge, using the numeral



FORGERY

"1" of "1934" as a key. If this line will cut through the letter "s" of "Wyst." at right and the letter "t" of "Katowice" at left your copy is genuine. Another vertical line through the letter "i" of "Filat." should cut through the number "4" of "1934" and the letter "i" of "Katowice." The dots after Wyst. and Filat. are round and so are the dots over the letters "i". The length of the word "Katowice" is $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

(Continued on next page)

If a vertical line drawn through the "1" of "1934" touches the right side of the letter "y" of "Wyst." and will pass between the letters "a" and "t" of "Katowice"; your copy bears a phony surcharge. As all the forged surcharged stamps seen by us were on used copies and some were very heavily cancelled, we shall give you an additional test for the letter "t" of "Filat." A vertical line drawn through the letter "i" will cut through the "4" of "1934" and touch the left

The dots after the words "Wyst." and side of the letter "c" of "Katowice." "Filat." are square and so are the dots over the letters "i". The length of the word "Katowice" is 15½ mm.

The genuine surcharge is red on the 20 G. and black on the 30 G. stamp. The forged surcharges are in deep red and grayish black inks. There are other minor differences, as the shape and the font of type, which can be clearly seen by studying the illustrations.

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Lester Jankowski (right) as he received the Jaworski trophy from the donor for his prize-winning exhibition of stamps highlighting the career of General Pilsudski at POLPEX 1947. (Cut courtesy of Philately)

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| No. | Name |
| 327 | Pirog, J. M., 73 Center St., Chicoppe, Mass., (P., U.S. & Can.) |
| 328 | Novak Jr., A. A., 50 Pine St., Bangor, Maine. (P., U.S. & Neth.) |
| 329 | Kowalewski, S., 2315 W. Dickens, Chicago 47, Ill. (U.S. & Gen.) |
| 330 | Smith, H. M., West Ridge Lower Wokingham Road, Crowtherne, Berkshire, England. (P. & G.B.) |
| 331 | Kropinski, Walter, 6643 Woodland Ave., Phila. 42, Penn. (U.S. & Bel.) |

LOOK WHO'S HERE?

A baby boy, Chester John, was born to Anne and Chester J. Mikucki their first on April 9th. Our heartiest congratulations to both of them. Chester will pull thru.

In Memoriam

The Society and its members wish to extend to Myron Steczynski, his family, and Mrs. Steczynski's family our sincere sympathy upon the loss of Mrs. Steczynski's father, Mr. Bernard Sosnowski who passed away March 25, 1947.

KRAKOW OVERPRINTS OF JANUARY 1945 THAT DID NOT COME IN CIRCULATION

Stanislaw Mikstein

After Krakow liberation from German authorities on January 19th, 1945, immediate steps were taken to organize and put in motion the Postal Service. In the stock of Postage Stamps left by the Germans an auditing commission found on January 25th, 1945, 529,550 stamps with Hitler heads, in values from 2 gr. to 1.60 zl.

Faced with an immediate need and the impossibility of securing a supply of Polish Stamps, it was decided to overprint the remainder of the occupation stamps for immediate use and until the time the Polish Stamps, issued in Lublin could arrive.

To overprint, sell and put into circulation these stamps the Regional Directoriat of Post Offices and Telegraphs in Krakow was authorized by the following order:

"THE POLISH REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF POST OFFICES
AND TELEGRAPHS,
NR 28/45.

Krakow, January 29, 1945.

I authorize the District Directoriat of P.O. and T. in Krakow to overprint 18 values of stamps, series Hitler, in the total number of 529,550 pcs., and to release these stamps for public sale.

Delegat Plenipotentiary of the
Ministry,

/—/ K. Trzaska—Sokolowski."

According to the established tariffs on the already liberated territories from the Germans, all the stamps, left by them in the amount mentioned above were to be surcharged with new values of 50 gr., 1.00 zl and 2.00 zl. First surcharge was on 13 values, 194,850 copies, to a new value of 50 gr., as the most needed stamp in circulation. This was done in the Union Printery on Ulica Mikołajska, and up to the 5th of February 1945, 9 values numbering 130,800 copies were overprinted and surcharged.

To overprint these stamps in a new value of 50 gr. one form, composed of type and embracing 50 overprints for one sheet was used. The form had to be set in type, because of the lack of gas, no linotype or stereotype cuts could be made. The overprint, composed in five verses: POCZTA / POLSKA / 50 gr. / two dashes invalidating the former value / and two longer dashes, canceling the inscrip-

tion: "DEUTSCHES REICH" / GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT".

In the first composition of this form the last dash at the bottom was very thin, and on the 49-th stamp, after the new value there was a comma instead of a period. In the last composition, those two last dashes were replaced with heavier ones and also the comma was removed and replaced by a period. In addition, two heavy lines were placed at the top, to cancel the German inscription on the margin: "GENERALGOUVERNEMENT / DEUTSCHE POST OSTEN.", and the eagles and swastikas at each end. All the sheets received successive numbers of overprint with a 'built-in' numeral, at the upper right corner on each sheet.

The dimensions of the final overprints were:

Height of the whole overprint was 22,5 mm; the height and length of the words "POCZTA and POLSKA" was 17,7 X 3,3 m/m. The length of the dashes, cancelling former values: 6 m/m; the length of the lower dashes 20 m/m; the distances between the words "POCZTA" and "POLSKA" and "POLSKA" and the "50 gr" were 2 m/m; between the dashes of both pairs—of 1. m/m.

With this form were overprinted, up to February 5th, 1945 from the total of 194,850 pcs., only 130,800 pcs. of stamps, in values of: 6, 12, 16, 20, 24, 32, 40, 48, and 50 gr.—in new value of 50 gr.

The overprinted stamps of 60, 80, 1.00 and 1.20 values—the last two values, 1.00 and 1.20 in both kinds of perforations e.m. lineal and frame—should be considered as proofs.

The overprinted stamps were to be put on sale already on February 5th, 1945 at the Post Offices windows, but at the last moment came a telegraphic order from the Ministry of P. and T. with instruction to refrain from selling those Stamps and from further overprinting, and requiring that all remaining occupation stamps, not overprinted as well as those overprinted, be delivered to the Main Warehouse.

As a result of this order the overprinted 50 gr. stamps did not come in circulation and sale, and also any further overprinting was discontinued.

THE FOLLOWING COMPUTATION TABLE SHOWS:

1. The nominal value of stamps left by the occupant.
2. The number of stamps designated for overprinting in new values of 50 gr., 1.00 zl. and 2.00 zl.
3. The total number of individual stamps in new values.
4. The total number of stamps already overprinted in new value of 50 gr.
5. The number of stamps designated for proofs and waste.

Scott's No.	Nominal Value:	Remainder, Left In Stock By the Occup:	Over-Printed In				For Proofs and Waste:
			New Values To Be Overprinted 50 gr.	1.00 zl.	New Value of 50 Groszy: 2 zl.		
N76	2 gr.	3.300	.....	2.300	.....	.....	.....
N77	6 gr.	50.000	16.000	17.000	17.000	16.000	.....
N78	8 gr.	2.500	.....	2.500	.....	.....	.....
N79	10 gr.	3.000	.....	3.000	.....	.....	.....
N80	12 gr.	50.000	16.000	17.000	17.000	16.000	.....
N81	16 gr.	22.000	11.000	11.000	.....	11.000	.....
N82	20 gr.	27.600	13.800	13.000	.....	13.800	.....
N83	24 gr.	59.000	19.500	10.500	20.000	19.500	.....
N84	30 gr.	10.700	.....	10.700	.....	.....	.....
N85	32 gr.	21.000	10.500	10.500	.....	10.500	.....
N86	40 gr.	39.000	19.500	19.500	.....	19.500	.....
N87	48 gr.	23.050	11.500	11.500	.....	10.500	50
N88	50 gr.	34.600	17.250	17.250	.....	14.000	100
N89	60 gr.	52.300	17.000	17.000	18.300	.....	.....
N90	80 gr.	42.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	.....	.....
N94	1.00 zl.	42.050	14.000	14.000	14.000	.....	50
N95	1.20 zl.	29.600	14.800	14.800	.....	.....	.....
N96	1.60 zl.	17.850	.....	17.850	.....	.....	.....
18. Val.		529.550	194.850	234.200	100.200	130.800	200

As this computation table shows, only the new value overprints of 1.00 zl. embraced all the stamps left by the occupant. For the new value of 2.00 zl. only 6 kinds of stamps were to be overprinted, totaling 100,300 stamps; and for the new value of 50 gr.—194,850 stamps were to be overprinted. Out of that number were overprinted up to February 5th, 1945, only 130,800 stamps.

On February 26th, 1945, all overprinted stamps of 50 gr. totaling 130,800 pcs. were deposited in the Dis-

trict Warehouse of Postal Materials in Krakow. From where, on the 28th of April, 1945 they were shipped to the Main Postal Warehouse in Warsaw.

In spite of the fact that these stamps so far have not been found on the market or among collectors. I feel it proper to pass this information, accessible to me, as one phase—connected with Polish Philately, in this crucial days for our Nation as well as for our Republic.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Information Bulletin of the Polskie Towarzystwo Filatelistyczne w Krakowie, dated December 1, 1946, and was translated by Walter Szymlek.

MEMBERS—PLEASE READ THIS

It is always a difficult job getting all of you to mail in your dues. The Treasurer is a very busy man, and it does take time to send a notice. So—please, look at your membership card and if it isn't dated 1948 then please mail in \$1.50—no change in dues—to Dr. S. M. Mioduzewski, 1176 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.—At Once. Thank you.

NEW ISSUES

JACK DOMAR

These are a part of seven-stamp series portraying writers, actors, poets, painters, etc.



A 1 zloty blue stamp (left) 35 mm X 35 mm Perf. 11 and Imperf. portraying the profiles of three Polish artists, John Matejko (1838-93) director of the Polish Academy of Art at Cracow, Jacek Malczewski (1855-1929) and Joseph Chelmonski (1850-1914.) (Right) A semi-postal 5 + 15 zł., 35 mm X 22½ mm. Perf. 11, dull green bearing the portrait of Emil Zegadłowicz (1888-1941) in a small medallion, a small gateway and wooded hills.



A 2 zloty dark sepia, (left) 25 mm X 36, Perf. 11, Brother Albert (1846-1916) holding a small child. (Center) A 3 zloty green, 25 mm X 36 Perf. and Imperf. bearing the profile of Fr. Chopin (1810-1849). (Right) A 10 zloty gray 25 mm X 36 Perf. 11 and Imperf. bearing the profile of Madame Marie Skoldowska (1867-1934).

The February 4 issue of the commemorative marking the second anniversary of freedom with portraits of President Bierut, Marshall Zymierski and Prem'er Osobka Morawski, was surcharged in red. 7 zł. / SEJM / USTAWODAWCZY / 19.1. 1947. Although issued February 4, the date on the stamp marks the voting day, with the surtax going to the national educational fund. Of the issue 80,000 were printed for postage and 22,000 went to the "museum" and the Universal Postal Union.

The "Prince Henry" stamp also has been surcharged *5 zł.*.

TID-BITS FROM POLONUS

Here we go again with news about the little things in Polonus:—

* * * *

Congratulations to Lester Jankowski for his First Award, at Litpex which was held April 12 and 13 at 2453 W. 47th St., Chicago, Ill. This was the First Exhibition given by the Lithuania Philatelic Society, for which they are to be congratulated.

* * * *

The First Day Covers of Polpex 1947 which were sent overseas are being received with enthusiasm according to letters being received by our Secretary.

* * * *

The Secretary is receiving many letters from philatelists in Poland who desire to exchange correspondence, stamps and ideas in regard to philately. Any member of Polonus who wishes to correspond, write to Secretary C. J. Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill. The Secretary will furnish the names and addresses of some Polish collector. The correspondence will be in the Polish language.

The Polonus Philatelic Society has not obtained references of any of the collectors and will assume no responsibilities. We assume each member will be cautious in any of his transactions.

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THE STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED DEPARTMENT

We again are making an appeal for Stamps, Albums, and Philatelic supplies for our wounded still in hospitals. They have given so much, can you give a little.

* * * *

All donations can be brought down to a meeting or mailed to the Chairman of the Stamps for the Wounded Committee, Mr. J. Jaworski, 1282 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

* * * *

The speaker for our May 9 meeting will be Col. O. H. Schrader U.S.A. retired of the North Shore Philatelic Society, who will talk on Paper with Relation to Philately.

* * * *

I have just recieved my copy of the Bulletin for December last (steamer mails are still exceedingly slow) and was much interested in Bert Powell's suggestion as to Polish Philatelic Literature in English. I am one of the many collectors of Polish stamps that unfortunately have no knowledge of the Polish language. I would very much like to see translations published of the Ikaros handbook and hope that some of your members will undertake to assist in bringing this idea into effect.

There is a vast amount of writing to be done to coordinate all the data that is known about Polish philately and there still remains a great deal to be written. For instance, descriptions of the forgeries of the Polish Liquidation Commission Emergency Postal Issue, about which Mr. Doman-ski wrote an article in No. 26 for Nov. 1944, would be very welcome I feel sure.

With my kindest regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Derek Palmer

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TITLE PAGE FOR POLAND

One of the attractions at the last POLPEX was an advance proof sheet of the beautiful title page for Poland created by Arthur Szyk, outstanding Polish illustrator. Words fail to describe the glorious beauty in the symbolism of numerous crests and motives, as well as in the portraits of Copernicus, Chopin, Kosciuszko and Pulaski. The sheets have sufficient white border to trim down to your own size of album, or else are suitable for framing. In any event this masterpiece makes a gorgeous page for Pol-

onus members.

The Poland sheet is published by K. Bileski of Winnipeg and is available at \$2.10 each prepaid. Charter subscribers to pages for 11 different countries may procure additional Poland sheets at \$1.10 plus charges. Myron E. Steczynski, 4154 N. Leclair Avenue, Chicago 41 will extend the charter subscriber prices to members of Polonus on the Poland sheet. Please remit to him at the rate of \$1.10 per sheet, adding 15 cents to each order for insurance and postage.