



POLONUS

2006 and Beyond

by Dr. James Mazepa

When I was asked to join the Polonus Board of Directors last year in St. Louis, I accepted the challenge knowing that Polonus now had a committed and dynamic group of individuals who were focused on the future of the Society and on promoting Polish philately. I have not been disappointed.

Having been the Chairman of the Board of other organizations, I view my task as helping set a direction for the future and delegating to the President and other Board members the tasks to move us forward. The response from the Board members has been truly inspiring. I would like to share with the membership where I see the Society going and what we have accomplished between our annual meeting in St. Louis in 2005 and the meeting in Cleveland in 2006, and then beyond.

A first and most important task was to update and rewrite the Bylaws of the Society. In St. Louis we formed a committee with myself as Chair, Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, Sam Ginsburg, Roman Sobus, Hank Bieniecki and Roy Koczarski. We went through several drafts and we met at CHICAGOPEX in November where the committee approved a final draft. This draft was circulated among the entire Board and approved at the Board Meeting in Cleveland. There it was proposed to the membership at the Annual Meeting and passed. A copy of the revised Bylaws is available by email from the Secretary.

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by Conrad Straub, PhD

My thought is that this need not be the final version of the Bylaws, but we needed a revision to have a starting point to move forward. Practically speaking, an immediate task was that Polonus needed a restructuring of the governing body of the Society, the Board of Directors.

The new Bylaws call for a Board of seven members elected for a three year term, and two ex-officio members, the immediate past president and the editor of the Bulletin. In order to implement the new structure, the Board voted to maintain the current Board until a proper election process could be put in place. This did require several changes. The newly formed Board now consists of Chris Klupinski, reappointed by the Board as President; Robert Ogrodnik, appointed by the Board as Vice President; Roman Sobus, reappointed as Secretary; Jerry Zedlitz, appointed as Treasurer; Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, reappointed as Director; Dr. James Mazepa, reappointed as Director and Chairman of the Board; and Dr. Paul Phillips, appointed by the Board as Director. These officers of the Society will serve a three year term until the next general election can be implemented. Mr. Chester Schafer, the past president, and Mr. Hank Bieniecki, editor of the Bulletin, will serve as ex-officio Directors.

While Polonus is a non-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of Illinois, we need to move on becoming a 501c3 educational organization within the IRS statutes. This will give us additional tax benefits and allow tax-deductible gifts from individuals. Mr. Zedlitz will work with Mr. Bieniecki to put the prior years' financial records into the IRS required format necessary to accomplish this. I have arranged with an attorney, Mr. Thomas Mazza in New York, who has volunteered to assist us in this project.

In this electronic age, our web site will be the focus of getting the outside philatelic world to know Polonus. Mr. Bieniecki will continue to function as the Webmaster to redesign, promote, and maintain the web site. In addition he will form a website committee and delegate certain administrative functions to other members of our So-

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ciety. The web site and Bulletin are and will be in constant need of new, refreshing, and stimulating articles and news about Polish philately. With this in mind, I have asked Dr. Kupiec-Weglinski and Dr. Phillips to provide a steady stream of information to the Web master, as well as the Editor of the Bulletin.

The Bulletin is the glue that keeps the Society together. Mr. Bieniecki has made outstanding progress as Editor of the Bulletin, and now that he is relieved of his duties of treasurer and financial record custodian, he has more freedom to devote to this extremely important function of the Society.

The Board recognizes the need for a Polonus Expert Committee and will continue to develop this function. Mr. Bieniecki continues to develop this facility in conjunction with the Mr. Zbigniew Korszen of Warsaw, who is an expert of the Polish Philatelists Union. Members who require expertizing service should email Hank at biistamp@charter.net. An article which outlines this service will be published in the next Bulletin.

I have arranged, and the Board has approved, our future Annual Meeting sites, all in conjunction with National Stamp Exhibitions. In 2007 we will meet in Chicago (CHICAGOPEX) in November; 2008 in Denver in May (ROMPEX); in 2009 in Sarasota, Florida, (Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition) in February; 2010 San Francisco (WESTPEX) in May, 2011 in Philadelphia (Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition) in September, and in 2012 in Toronto (STAMPEX) in October. This moves our Annual Meetings around the country and along with this our hope that more members can attend at least some of our meetings.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Mr. Jan Niebrzydowski, Mr. Roy Koczarski, and Mr. Sam Ginsburg for their service to the Board. We will continue to count on them for their insights and wisdom as we move forward. I also would like to welcome Dr. Paul Philips and Mr. Robert Ogrodnik to the Board. Dr. Philips is an outstanding philatelist and one of two APS accredited judges for Poland. He is or has been

the editor of several philatelic publications, and is experienced in managing philatelic organizations. His home is Cincinnati where he is a Professor at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Ogradnik is the Honorary Polish Consul for St. Louis. He travels frequently to Poland and holds membership in several important Polish organizations.

Our new Board welcomes the comments of members upon whom we rely for ideas, direction, and, of course, articles for the Bulletin and web site. We want to encourage our members to develop exhibits to present at the National Exhibitions and attend our Annual Meetings. I personally am always energized by having social contact with philatelists who share similar interests, and I believe I am speaking for all who attended the gathering in Cleveland when I say that we all came away with renewed spirit and renewed friendships that will carry us through the philatelic year until our next meeting.

MEMBER TO MEMBER

I am seeking members of Polonus who would like to earn credit toward future stamp purchases by writing descriptions for Pre-War, WW I and WW II covers/cards of Poland. These items will ultimately be listed in my Specialized Price Lists or on eBay. I will supply you with high quality scans and a Word document to be completed for each item. Members who are interest in participating should email Hank Bieniecki at biistamp@charter.net.

After an absence of several years, Bieniecki Int'l, Inc. is once again offering genuine quality material of Poland on eBay under the User ID: hankbii. Additional material will be listed under the User ID: hankbii2. ***Effective 1 July 2006 all P/H charges will be waived for Polonus members who win my eBay lots.*** To qualify just provide your Polonus member number when writing us regarding a lot you have won.

WOLDENBERG WIDOW FORGERIES

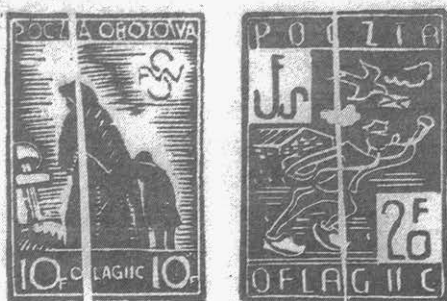
by Roman Sobus

Having collected Prisoner of War Camp (POW) stamps for many years, I frequently receive correspondence from advanced, intermediate and beginning collectors regarding the emissions of four camps. Forgeries are the primary concern of those interested in beginning a POW collection. My collection includes stamps and covers of Gross Born, Murnau and Neubrandenburg, however my primary collecting interest is Woldenberg, which was the first camp to institute internal mail service.

This first article will be limited to the forgeries of the Woldenberg Widow and Postman issued in 1942. Genuine stamps and impressions from the defaced original dies are illustrated in **Figures 1a** and **1b**.



Figure 1a: Genuine Widow and Postman Stamps



1b: Impressions from defaced dies.

The first printing of these stamps was very popular and a majority of the stamps were purchased by the internees for use on internal Easter greetings over the weekend of April 5-6, 1942. A small quantity of the first printing was not used on mail and apparently found its way into the hands of internees who were also stamp collectors. A very small number were traded to the camp guards who sent them home to family and friends in Germany where they were eventually sold to dealers and a few lucky collectors. Word of the Internal Camp Post and the stamps it produced spread quickly, producing interest and demand which could not be supplied with genuine issues.

Within a few months, the first forgeries appeared on the market. They were crude and lacked the fine details of the genuine issues but they were nonetheless purchased by unsuspecting collectors. An example of this forgery from approximately 1945 is illustrated in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2: Forgery c.1945

Catalogs providing detailed listing the camp issues were not produced and available to the general philatelic community until after the end of the war. One of the first, *Katalog Znaczkow Poczty Obozowej w Dobiegniewie*, Pionier, Krakow, 1945, incorporated information from the a camp catalog maintained by a group of internees named the "Philatelic Circle". It included detailed illustrations and provided the philatelic world with its first look at the issues of the POW camps.

New forgeries were produced in the 1950's utilizing standard photographic processes to create plates, and were printed in the conven-

POW STUDY GROUP

tional way. The source materials for a majority of these forgeries were retouched images of imprints produced from the original dies which had been defaced in the camps to safeguard them from unauthorized use. Upon close examination it is normally possible to see vestiges of the invalidation cuts made in the original dies.

In the late 1980's some very dangerous forgeries appeared on the philatelic market. Sold at bourses in Poland and abroad, detection and subsequent investigation led to the arrest of the creator of these items. In his possession, were 23 dies used for printing the stamps, representing all four camps. The plates were made using a linocut process and their high quality attests to the forger's competence as a professional engraver. In addition to the forged stamps and plates, the forger also created forgeries of several noted expert's imprinting stamps. Included were M. Ways, J. Ryblewski, and Krawczyk. The imprint created by these forged expert marking differ from those of the genuine imprints. Finally this forger created his own double circle canceller with the fixed date 11.7.42 for Woldenberg, Oflag IIC. Examples of these forgeries are shown in **Figure 3**.



Figure 3: Forgeries c. 1986 (linocut)

The paper used for these forgeries was procured from newspapers and unprinted pages of books from the correct time period making detection more difficult. These forgeries are still in circulation and have turned up on internet auctions as late as December of 2005!

Modern technology has certainly made the task of producing forgeries easier for a person intent on defrauding collectors. Scanners and printers continue to evolve and are capable of producing very high quality reproductions. In 2005, a large POW collection, which

included many rare and possibly unique items, was offered via internet auction. After brisk bidding, several of my fellow collectors had acquired what appeared to be very scarce items to add to their collections. I had the opportunity to examine one of these lots for a fellow society member and determined that six of seven items in the lot were forgeries produced with the aid of a laser printer. While the process was able to reproduce a high degree of detail (**Figure 4**), it also introduced a flaw into the finished product by changing the measurements.



4: Modern forgeries – laser printer

With the help of an opinion issued by the Polonus Expertizing Committee, the buyer was able to return the lot and receive a refund. The lot was relisted with a disclaimer from the seller indicating that some of the stamps may be forged, and was sold again, for a fraction of the original price. The seller was a respectable dealer in the UK, and honored the request for a refund based on the information provided.

At the end of the day the most important single piece of advice I give to collectors contacting me is "Know Your Seller".

Bibliography

Katalog Znaczkow Poczty Obozowej w Dobiegniewie
Pionier, Krakow, 1945

Katalog Specjalizowany Znakow Pocztowych Ziem Polskich
Tom 2
Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza
Warszawa, 1984

Uwaga falszerstwa!
Zbigniew Stasilowicz
Filatelista Nr.4, 1988

**OVERVIEW OF 1918 SECOND
PROVISIONAL ISSUE
(Scott 15-26) OF POLAND**

by Hank Bieniecki

The 1918 "Poczta Polska" Overprints on the WW I German Occupation stamps of Poland represent one of the most fascinating and potentially complex areas of Polish Philately. Most articles published in the last decade focus on rather complex technical aspects of this issue. For that reason many Poland collectors are intimidated by this issue, when in fact it offers the perfect opportunity to expand collecting interest beyond just acquiring another set of stamps by Scott number to fill the pages in an album. The intent of this article is to provide an overview of the 1918 second Provisional issue and the history surrounding its creation.

Let's start with an oversimplified definition. A "provisional issue" is a stamp or set of stamps that a government uses to fill the gap between the formation of a new governmental entity and the time required by that government to actually produce its own postage stamps. After the end of WW I, on 11 November 1918, Poland was re-established as a sovereign nation after having been petitioned in various forms between Germany, Russia and Austria starting in 1772. No valid stamps of Poland existed, as the stamps of the three occupying nations had been required for use in each of their respective areas of occupation. When Poland regained its sovereignty, it gathered up the stamps of two of the three former occupying nations and then overprinted them for use within the new Republic. In the area occupied by Austria three sets of provisional issues were created by overprinting Austrian stamps. These issues are Scott 27-19 (first Lublin Issue), Scott 30-40 (second Lublin issue) and Scott 41-60 (Krakow issues). In the region of Warsaw, the first Polish provisional issue was produced by overprinting the Warsaw City Locals (Fischer III-VI), now designated Scott 11-14. The quantity of stamps and the rates provided were insufficient to meet demand. A huge stock of German occupation issues were

available and the Polish government choose to use that resource to create the Second Provisional issue of Poland, now designated Scott 15-26. This issue is the primary focus of this article. Scott 72-76 and Scott 77-78 were produced during 1919.

The preceding background should strip away the first layer of potential confusion surrounding the 1918-1919 provisional issues of Poland. It was simply cheaper and faster for the new Polish Post to overprint existing stamps, rather than design, print and perforate entirely new stamps. In 1918 the struggling government of Poland had to create the required infrastructure necessary for a country to function as quickly as possible. The balance of this article will focus on the 1918 Second Provisional Issue, designated as Scott 15-26 and Fischer 6-16.

Mother Stamp: In 1900 Germany began to produce a long-running series of definitive stamps bearing the likeness of "Germania", a symbol equivalent in Germany to our Statue of Liberty. A series of these Germania stamps were issued during the period from 1900 to 1918. The colors and values changed, but the basic design was retained and used throughout Germany and the areas it governed. For ease of discussion these basic Germania issues are often referred to as the "Mother Stamp". **Figure 1** illustrates a single value of this Germania mother stamp bearing a 1908 circular date stamps from the city of Posen (now Poznan).

Occupation Issue: On 1 August 1915, Warsaw was captured by German forces. Germany's plan for the occupation and administration of Northern Poland included overprinting a series of Germania mother stamps with **Gen-Gouv. Warschau** to create Scott N6 (Scott N1-5 the first occupation issue produced by Germany for use in Poland will not be addressed in this article) - N16. **Figure 2** illustrates N6. These occupation issues were overprinted at various times from 1915 through 1918. These overprints were applied to both pre-war and war-time issues of Germania mother stamps. These mother stamps varied as to the type of printing (flat press and rotary press), shade of ink, and gum type. In addition, the printers in Germany used at least eight distinct types/shades of ink during the overprinting process. Thus the supply of German occupation stamps gathered by the Polish Post in preparation for the production of the

second provisional contained a complex variety of mother stamps overprinted with a variety of inks. The Polish Post had no interest and probably no awareness of the philatelic potpourri of occupation stamps they were planning to overprint. This stew of various mother stamps and occupation overprints is what created one level of complexity associated with the Second Provisional issue. **But don't stop reading.** The beginning and intermediate collector can ignore the underlying complexity of mother stamps and overprint inks and begin by focusing solely on the Polish Provisional overprints and their varieties.

Second Provisional Issue of Poland: The Second Provisional Issue of Poland has the distinction of being the only stamp issued for domestic use by one nation, overprinted for use as an occupation issue, and finally overprinted a second time by the formerly occupied country for use as a provisional issue. That distinction alone makes the Second Provisional issue worthy of study. Next, the occupation issue was overprinted typographically in two different printings by Poland which resulted in the creation of two distinct types of the Second Provisional issues. Why twice and why two different settings of the overprint? Again it was a matter of expediency and a lack of overnight delivery in post-war Poland. The first step was to gather all of the stamps available in and around Warsaw, create and obtain approval for the provisional overprint, and typographically overprint the accumulated stock of sheets of 100 stamps with Poczta Polska while obliterating the Gen. Gouv. Warshau occupation overprint and Deutsches Reich on the mother stamp. According to Dr. Conrad Straub, approximately 6 million stamps were overprinted in the first printing, now designated as Form I. Scott 15 was not produced during the first printing. The 3f rate was for newspapers and was not considered a priority. Later approximately 1.6 million stamps were overprinted in a second printing now designated as Form II, and this printing included 96,000 of the 3f stamps. Today the 3f is the key value to this set. These two printings may be easily distinguished by the difference in the distance between the 2nd and 3rd bars of the overprint. So why two different overprints, and why two different overprint heights in Form II? In Poland after WW I, print shops had limited supplies of type. After the printing job was finished on the first 6 million stamps, the print shop disassembled the type matrix and used that type for other

jobs. When the second supply of occupation stamps was finally accumulated from more distant post offices and delivered to the printers, it was necessary for the printer to recreate the approved overprinting form. However, the dimensions of the second overprint matrix were not identical to the first printing. Instead of 3.25 mm between the second and third bars in the second matrix the spacing between the 2nd and 3rd bars was 4.0 mm, with the exception of the top row of 10 stamps where that spacing was 3.5 mm. An example Scott 15, Form II, bearing the Poczta Polska overprint is illustrated Figure 3.

This overview will not address nor illustrate the printing errors in the first printing (Form I) and the second printing (Form II). This information is detailed in Fischer Vol. I. There are two distinct types of errors. First there are "typesetting" errors which are generally consistent throughout the entire printing and arose from the wrong letter or an inverted letter being set in the printing matrix of 100 separate overprints. Second are the "transitional errors" that arose from wear or damage to the type during the printing process. Transitional errors are scarcer than the typesetting errors. Both the typesetting and transitional errors in Form I differ from Form II. Given the significantly lower printing quantities of Form II, its typesetting and transitional errors are much scarcer than Form I errors.

Readers who do not have a 2006 Fischer Vol. I catalog and wish to review the type setting and consistent transitional errors may either purchase a Catalog (they are available on ebay or directly from me) or simply request a color PDF of pages 50 and 51 by emailing me at biistamp@charter.net. There will be no charge for color PDF copies sent via email.

Step One in Collecting the Second Provisional Issue

For collectors who wish to expand their collecting horizons the Second 1918 Provisional issues of Poland represent a philatelic gold mine. You may begin by focusing on the the errors and varieties of the Poczta Polska overprints which are documented in the catalogs and easy to understand. When you go to the next stamp show you can check the stock of bourse dealers for errors and varieties. After you are comfortable with that layer you can take step two and start looking for the different occupation overprint inks on different colors of

ABCs

the mother stamp. An excellent example is the 20f blue (Scott 21). Scott lists blue (21) and ultramarine (21a). It is estimated that only 500 copies of 21a were produced making it rarer than Scott #55 which now retails for \$6000+ for a VF, unused example. In reality there are at six different shades of blue listed in Fischer for Scott 21 including light blue, violet blue, blue, sapphire, ultramarine and grey ultramarine in ascending order of scarcity. **Note:** *If you are offered a Scott 21a ultramarine first remember it only exists in Form II. 99 percent of all Scott 21a's offered by dealers are either blue or sapphire. If you have the opportunity to acquire a purported Scott 21a that is not certified be certain it comes with a money-back guarantee.*

Armed with the basic information in this article and two pages from Vol. I of the Fischer catalog a beginning or intermediate collector of Poland is properly prepared to take that first step from collecting into philately. The more common errors are inexpensive and available for \$20 or less.



Figure 1:
Mother Stamp



Figure 2:
Second Occupation
Issue



Figure 3:
Second Provisional
Issue

Buying Recommendation: I would like to close by advising that Scott 15-26 currently lists MNH in Fischer for 480 PLN (\$160). A hinged set lists for 160 PLN (\$55). Scott lists the hinged set for \$25 and does not indicate a price for MNH. A significant amount of Pre-War II classic MNH material is going back to Poland. Their economy is booming and interest in philately remains very strong. If you do not have a VF, MNH set of Scott 15-26 in your collection really should consider making acquiring this set a priority.

Editor's Note: *This article and similar future articles are intended to serve as introductory overviews for our many newer members who have not acquired or read the numerous articles published in earlier Bulletins. As such no footnotes or references are included.*

2006 POLAND NEW ISSUES

by Hank Bieniecki & Dan Lubelski



Olympics - Turin 2006

The winter Olympics were held on February 10-26th in Turin, Italy. This issue commemorates the Polish athletes who participated in these games. The picturesque panorama of the Alps and a view of Turin constitute the background for the 2.40 PLN issue.

Date of Issue	Feb 7, 2006
Sheet Format	10 stamps + labels
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Brodowski

At the Turin Olympic Games, Poland sent representatives in the biathlon, bobsledding, figure and dance skating, Alpine and downhill skiing, sledging, skeleton, short-track skating, ski-jumping and snowboarding.



Date of Issue	Feb 10, 2006
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

I Love You

NEW ISSUES

St. Valentine's Day is a relatively new holiday in Poland. It has only been celebrated for about 15 years. Despite this fact, each year it is becoming more popular.

This 1.30 PLN issue has a red apple with a cut out heart and an "I Love You" inscription in the shape of a Cupid's arrow. This Valentine stamp is issued in two formats: as a separate stamp and as a personalized stamp with an empty field for placing a photo of a love one, a family photo, or your own image.



Date of Issue	Feb 15, 2006
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jedrysik

250th Anniversary of the Birth of Mozart

This year commemorates the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This 2.40 PLN stamp depicts the image of the composer, based on a portrait by Barbara Krafft.

Mozart was born on January 27, 1756 in Salzburg. His father, Leopold, was a well-known musician and the first teacher of his gifted child. At the age of five, Mozart first performed for an audience and also wrote his first compositions. Beginning in 1762, the Mozart family traveled around Europe giving concerts at courts. During those travels Wolfgang studied with Johann Christian, the son of J. S. Bach. In his family town, Salzburg, Mozart was employed as the Concert Master at the court of the prince archbishop. In 1782 he married and settled in Vienna. Six years later he received the title of the Emperor's composer. Mozart died at a young age on December 5, 1791, but not before creating a vast musical legacy.



Date of Issue	Feb 17, 2006
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jerzy Pietras

25th Anniversary - NZS

This 1.30 PLN new issue commemorates the Independent Students' Association (NZS). The NZS was formed shortly after the initial success of the Solidarity movement. It was formed by university students to fight media censorship and governmental interference in social and political activities, including the freedom of speech.

The communist regime, by teaching its own brand of economics and Marxist philosophy and by requiring students to study Russian and participate in military training, tried to use the educational system to shape the country. On February 17, 1981, the government agreed to allow the formation of NZS. The government outlawed the NZS in December of 1981 and it was illegal until 1989 when the communist government was overthrown.



Date of Issue	Feb 20, 2006
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

100th Anniversary – Polish Touring Club

In 1906, Aleksander Janowski, Karol Hofman, Kazimierz Kulwiec, Kazimierz Czerwinski and Zygmunt Gloger founded the Polish Touring Club (PTK). Its objective was to promote patriotism in young people, preserve Polish history and historical monuments and encourage traditions by exposing its members to the beauty of

NEW ISSUES

Poland. A portrait of Zygmunt Gloger appears on this 1.30 PLN stamp. The building in the background is the former Museum of Industry and Agriculture in Warsaw.

In the inter-war period PTK developed its activity all over Poland. Numerous branches were formed; hostels and museums were opened, excursions were organized, guides and information leaflets were issued, postcards were printed, all to keep Polish Heritage alive. In December 1950, at a special convention, the Polish Touring Society, and a related organization – the Polish Tatra Society - were dissolved. They were merged into the Polish Tourist and Touring Society (PTTK) which now promotes the development of tourism in Poland.



Endangered Polish Flora

Every day species of flora and fauna become extinct and are lost forever. Extinction is part of a natural process. However, the

activities of humanity have significantly increased the extinction rate during the last 50 years..

Date of Issue	March 14, 2006
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Alojzy Balcerzak, Radosław Balcerzak

The International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUCN) has published a red book of endangered species since 1966. The Polish red book flora includes over 1200 of species. These two stamps were issued as part of a program to remind us of the need to care for all aspects of nature to maintain its richness and diversity. They illustrate endangered flora species of the southern region of Poland.

The 1.30 PLN stamp depicts the Sudety lousewort (*Pedicularis sudetica*), a post-glacial relic found exclusively in the Karkonosze Mountains. Depicted on the 2.40 PLN stamp is the water caltrop (*Trapa natans*). It is a water plant with edible fruits in the form of nuts with four thorns. Additionally, the FDC envelope presents a primrose (*Primula farinosa*) - the plant of the marshy meadows at the foot of the Tatra Mountains.



Contemporary Polish Sculpture

This set of two 1.30 PLN stamps publicize con-

temporary Polish sculpture by depicting sculptures of Igor Mitoraj: "Dream II" and "Lips of Eros". Mitoraj sculpts mainly in marble or bronze and his works are characterized by perfect workmanship and pre-cision. The subject of his sculptures tend to be small parts of the human body.

Date of Issue	March 27, 2006
Sheet Format	20 stamps, 2 x 2 Sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jerzy Pietras

NEW ISSUES

Easter

Easter, one of the oldest Christian holidays, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This set of two stamps depicts the two Palm Sunday and Easter Monday (in Poland called smigus-dyngus). The 1.30 PLN stamp depicts Palm Sunday by showing a procession with "palms", made mainly from

willow twigs. In some regions of Poland, such as Kurpie, the palms are subtly weaved into works of art from extremely colorful ribbon and paper flowers. The 2.40 PLN stamp depicts the Easter Monday tradition in Poland of pouring water on people.



Date of Issue	April 3, 2006
Sheet Format	100 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz



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.

Members receive the Polonus Philatelic Bulletin quarterly, have full access to www.polonus.org and participate in the events and activities of the society. Annual dues are payable in US funds before the end of March of each calendar year. Membership categories are as follows:

Regular Member: \$25.00 payable in US funds

Retired Member: (retirees with restricted incomes) \$15.00

Junior Members: (under age 16) \$10.00

Charge Card Payments: Members that pay their annual dues using a charge card will be assessed an additional \$4 banking fee.

New members will receive all the Bulletins for the year in which they join. All memberships are based on the calendar year.

(1) Dues, (2) Article for publication, (3) Changes of address, (4) Inquiries regarding and Applications for memberships, (5) General matters or complaints pertaining to the Society should all be sent to:

Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062

1918-1919 SECOND PROVISIONAL ISSUES -- PART III

by Conrad Straub, PhD

Editor's Note: The following article is part 3 of a continuing series by Dr. Straub titled "Poland Second Provisional Issue 1918-1919. Part 1 was published in Bulletin 510 and Part 2 was published in Bulletin 513. Additional sections of this article will be published in Bulletins 524 and 525. Any member wishing copies of Part I and Part II may email me at biistamp@charter.net and I will send them to you in PDF format. If you do not have email or wish hard copies write me at P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062 with your request.

4.0. "Poczta Polska" Overprints

The "Poczta Polska" overprints were applied to the "Russisch/Polen" and to the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" issues, described earlier, after the Armistice following World War I. Along with some changes in denomination, the overprint was applied to stamps having values of 2½, 3, 5, 10, 15 yb, 15 v, 20 ultramarine, 20 Prussian blue, 20 sapphire, 20 light blue, 20 violet blue, 30, 40, and 60 pf.

4.1. Administrative Details

During the period from November 11, 1918 to November 18, 1918, only the German occupation stamps overprinted "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" continued to have validity and were circulated in the previously occupied German territory of Russian Poland. On November 17, 1918, the First Provisional Issue, consisting of the four unissued local City of Warsaw "Monument" stamps were overprinted with new values and "Poczta Polska". At that time, these and the newly overprinted existing "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" postal cards were the only issues available for use in the previously occupied territories until the release of the Second Provisional Issue in December 1918 - January 1919.

Since the special order concerning the issuance of the "Poczta Polska" overprints on the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" overprinted stamps has not been preserved, who ordered the overprinting and release of this issue cannot be established with any degree of cer-

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tainty. This fact is of little importance, when one considers that from the date of gaining independence and naming a Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs (as it was then called) on November 18, 1918, to the ordering of the overprints was only a matter of 14 to 20 days. There were no regulations in existence for the issuance of stamps, and there was no official publication of government regulations - later issued as the "Dziennik Ustaw". (1, 2)

Since this issue circulated throughout the formerly occupied German territory, the territory to which the Ministry was limited at that time, the issue must be considered as official. (1, 2)

An indirect, but convincing, proof of the validity of this issue was the advertisement which appeared in the Warsaw daily papers on December 7, 1918, worded: "The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs notifies herewith that from 16.12.1918, no stamps or postcards without a 'Poczta Polska' overprint will be accepted. After 15.12.1918, new postage stamps will be on sale at all post offices and shops licensed for the sale of stamps." (1, 2)

Although sold only in the former German-occupied area, letters and packages franked with these stamps and addressed to other parts of Poland and elsewhere were delivered without any postage due being charged.

This issue first appeared at the post office in Warsaw on December 13, 1918, in denominations of 5/3, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, and 60 pf. On December 15, 1918, the 5 and 25/7½ pf values appeared, and on December 21, 1918, the 5/2½ pf denomination was released. The 5/2½ pf value was in use several days earlier in provincial post offices. These stamps comprised the first printing; the second printing did not appear in post offices until January 15, 1919. When released, the second printing included all denominations listed above plus the 3 pf (without surcharge), which was sold only to editors of journals and newspapers on January 18, 1919, for printed matter.

4.2. The Overprint

The "Poczta Polska" overprint was applied by the Kopytowski print-

ing firm in Warsaw, and was made up of the same printing type forms used in overprinting the First Provisional Issue of November 17, 1918. (3), Only the font of the numerals differed in the surcharges of the 2½, 3, and 7½ values. Incidentally, the type used in overprinting the First Provisional Issue was identical to that used in overprinting the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" postal cards "15 FEN. 15/Poczta Polska".

The overprint of the first and second printings of the Second Provisional Issue was overprinted in black ink in various tones and gloss. These overprints may be divided into three classes: 1) the numeral 5, Poczta Polska, and four horizontal lines obliterating "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" and "DEUTSCHES REICH" (Mikstein forms IA, IIB, and IID); 2) the numeral 25, Poczta Polska, and the four horizontal lines (Mikstein forms IC and IIE), and 3) Poczta Polska and four horizontal lines (Mikstein forms IB, IIA, and IIc).

The ink used in overprinting "Poczta Polska" was not applied evenly, and the various letters do not show uniform coverage of ink. Besides, some of the overprints are very heavy, whereas others are very light, and, in some instances, barely visible.

4.3. General Characteristics of the Overprint

Basic measurements, exclusive of the numerals used to surcharge the 2½, 3, and 7½ pf denominations, are "Poczta" and "Polska" each 7 mm in length, with a 1½ mm space between the words, the upper-case letters are 3 mm high, and the lower-case letters 2½ mm high with the "t" being 2¾ mm high. The third and fourth lines are 18 mm in length, and are set one mm apart. (3) The distance from the bottom of "Poczta Polska" to the first line varies in the two proofs, and in the first and second printings (Forms I and II), respectively, as indicated on the following page.

Horizontal lines one and two cover the entire sheet of stamps, whereas lines three and four are discontinuous, each 18 mm in length covering a portion of a single stamp. In columns 1 and 10, the four lines start along the same vertical on the left side and end along a vertical on the right side of the sheet. As will be shown later, lines one and two in the proofs and first and second printings consist of a

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series of segments across the sheet leaving slight openings or "breaks" where each of these butts against each other. In addition to other characteristics, these "breaks" help to identify individual plate positions, providing these "breaks" do not fall on the existing "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" overprint, on the perforations, or are not covered by the cancellation in the case of canceled stamps. These breaks are best seen when the "Poczta Polska" overprint is shifted upward or downward on the stamp.

	<u>Proof A</u>	<u>Proof B</u>	<u>Form I</u>	<u>Form II</u>
a. Distance bottom of "Poczta Polska" and top of first line, mm	1.5*	2.3-3.0*	2.5-3.0	2.0-2.5
b. Distance bottom of first line and top of second line, mm	3.9-4.1*	4.0-4.1*	4.0	4.0
c. Distance bottom of second line and top of third line, mm	2.5-3.3*	3.25-3.4*	3.25 rarely to 3.5	3.5 first row 4.0 rows 2-10
d. Distance bottom of third line and top of fourth line, mm			1.0	1.0

* *Distance based on measurements of two copies of Proof A and 10 copies of Proof B*

4.4. Number of Stamps Overprinted

In the absence of official data, it is difficult to establish the number of stamps overprinted. However, according to unofficial information, which appears in old Polish philatelic publications, the printings (in total numbers of stamps) were as follows: (1, 3)

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Number Printed</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Number printed</u>
3 pf	96,000	20 pf	595,000
5	425,000	25/7 ½	1,288,000
5/2 ½	705,000	30	769,000
5/3	417,000	(Other	
10	500,000	sources)	866,000
15	900,000	40	400,000
		60	425,000

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Wlodarski (4) estimated the probable number of these stamps in the hands of dealers and collectors. His data are listed in Table 4.1 for the more common varieties and show the approximate percentage of stamps overprinted in the first and second printings. In this table, the first column lists the denomination of the stamp, the second column the number of equivalent sheets, i.e., 100 stamps per sheet in the hands of dealers and collectors, and columns three and four the percentage of stamps in the first and second printings, respectively.

Table 4.1. Distribution of Stamps in the First and Second Printing
Second Provisional Issue (4)

Denomination pf	No. of Equivalent Sheets	1st Printing %	2nd Printing %
5	1800-2000	85	15
5/2 ½	2700-3000	75	25
5/3	1800-2000	95	5
10	2000-2200	70	30
15	3500-4000	75	25
20 Light blue	1500	35	65
20 Violet blue	1500	70	30
25/7 ½	7000-8000	95	5
30	3500-4000	65	35
40	1800-2000	75	25
60	1800-2000	75	25

It will be noted that not all issues are listed in Table 4.1, which includes only the more common stamps. An estimate of the less frequently encountered issues was also reported (4) and is found in Table 4.2.

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Table 4.2. Estimate of the Number of Sheets for the Less Frequently Seen Issue of the First and Second Printings - Second Provisional Issue (4)

Denom. pf	GGW HAN Overprint	Position	1st Printing		2nd Printing		Remarks
			%	# Shts	%	# Shts	
5	2H3123.15	91,92/93			100	10	V. shiny
	H3123.15.1	98/99,100a					
5/3	H3123.15	93/94	90	198	10	22	V. shiny
	H3695.18	98/99	85	425	15	75	Analine
10	H3123.15.1	98/99					
	2H3123.15	92/93			100	30	Shiny
	H4310.17	91/92					
	H4310.17	93/94					
20U	H3123.15	93/94			100	6	V. shiny
20 PB	H3930.17	93/94	70	70	30	30	
20 S	H4312.17	91/92	30	30	70	70	
30	H3123.15	93/94	50	5	50	5	
40	H2447.17	99/100			100	16	Blu/blk
	H5018.17	99/100			100	4	Analine
60	H3123.15	93/94			100	20	Shiny
	H1761.17.1	98,100	70	91	30	39	Flat press
	H2295.17.1	98,100					

a I have a 5 pf HAN H3123.15.1 98/99,100 which was reported for the first time in 1985 (5).

In this table, the first column indicates the denomination, the second column the "Gen.-Gouv./Warschau" overprint HAN, the third column the position of the HAN, the fourth and fifth columns the per cent and the number of sheets comprising the first printing, the sixth and seventh columns the per cent and number of sheets comprising the second printing, and the eighth column remarks,

Stachowicz (6) listed the above data under the respective Polish catalog numbers (7) and commented on the need for including some of the above in the cataloging scheme.

4.5. References

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5. Straub, C. P. Poland 2 nd Provisional Issue 1918-1919, Part II. Bulletin Polonus Philatelic Society (Chicago), Issue 408, pp.5-12 (1985).
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Polonus Exhibitors at Garfield Perry 2006: From left to right in front of the award winning 1918 First Provisional Warsaw exhibit of Chester Schafer are: Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, Chris Kulpinski, Chester Schafer, Dr. James Mazepa and Roy Koczański.

STUDY GROUPS?

by Hank Bieniecki

What happened to the Polonus Study Group (**SG**) programs? In Bulletin 509 in 2002 I announced the formation of the following two SGs:

1918-1919 Provisional Issues: Dr. Conrad Straub, Chairman

POW & D.P. Camp SG: Roman Sobus and Chris Kulpinski, Co-Chairmen

Many of you completed forms and submitted them requesting to participate in one or more SGs. One SG was split into two separate groups. Aero-Philately and 1914-1918 Locals were announced. What happened to these SGs? Due to various poor organizational issues, they were allowed to simply fade into oblivion. As Editor, I still publish articles under SG headers. Two such articles appear in this Bulletin; however we have zero functioning SGs.

This article should serve as step one in the resurrection of the Polonus SGs. Below I have listed all five proposed SGs and have provided the name and email of their chairs. I ask that each of you skip the red tape and simply email the chair(s) of each group in which you wish to participate. Also copy Bob Ogrodnik at krpsl@earthlink.net. Bob will be responsible for ensuring that communications for all SGs are established and functioning.

1918-1919 Provisional Issues: Conrad Straub and Hank Bieniecki, biistamp@charter.net

P.O.W. Camps: Roman Sobus, RSobus9013@cs.com

D.P. Camps: Chris Kulpinski, chris@kulpinski.net

Aero-Philately: Dr. Jerzy Kupiec and Dr. Jerzy Walocha, JKupiec@mednet.ucla.net

1914-1918 Locals: Jerry Zedlitz, gzedlitz@caltel.com

I look forward to a rapid resurrection of the Polonus SG programs and the eventual submission of interesting articles for publication in the Bulletin.