

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Latest Pope visit to Poland Issues



Pope John Paul II just completed his longest trip to Poland June 5 to June 17. It was the seventh visit to Poland during which he visited 21 cities: Gdańsk, Pelplin, Elbląg, Licheń, Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Wigry, Ełk, Siedlce, Drohiczyń, Warszawa, Sandomierz, Zamość, Radzymin, Łowicz, Sosnowiec, Kraków, Gliwice, Stary Sącz, Wadowice and Częstochowa.

To commemorate the papal visit, the Polish Post came up with the largest philatelic program by issuing

a set of four stamps, stamp booklets, postal card and many cancellations.

The 60gr, 70gr, 1zł and 1.40zł stamps were issued in sheets of 20. In a very limited printing, sheets containing four strips of five stamps in different denominations were also issued. The 60gr and 70gr were issued in booklets each containing ten stamps. Four different FDC's were issued with one stamp each. The postal card had an imprinted stamp of 60gr.

About 100 different postal can-

cancellations — commemorative postmarks — were used in many cities.

At this time it is impossible to give the numbers of post cards issued by regional and local post offices. In some 25 cities special postal registration labels were used. Several postal postage meter stamps were used. There were special posts like: fishing boat mail, plane mail, stage-

coach mail, car mail, rail mail and underground mail in coal mines. Each special post used labels and non postal cancellations.

It will take some time to complete all above mentioned material. I will have detailed information on all above philatelic material in upcoming issues of the *Polonus Bulletin*.

—Arkadiusz Walinski

POLISH PHILATELISTS UNION HONORS POLONUS OFFICERS ON THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLONUS SOCIETY

Right after the opening of the National Philatelic Exhibition in Warsaw on June 4, 1999, Mr. Ludwik K. Malendowicz, President of the Polish Philatelists Union, assisted by Mr. Zbigniew Korszen, President of the Polonia Club, presented *Polonus* Vicepresident Arkadiusz Walinski with gold honorary pins and certificates for *Polonus* Board of Directors: Roman Strzelecki, president; Arkadiusz Walinski, vicepres.; Chester Schaffer, sec'y; Stanley Dobrzycki, Fred Szebel, Stefan Czarniecki, board



members. Mr. Malendowicz in his short remarks praised *Polonus* for 60 years of promoting Polish Philately in the United States.

POLPEX 2000 DATES SET FOR MARCH 17-18-19

Przybyło's White Eagle in Niles, has been booked for March 17-18-19, the coming dates of POLPEX 2000.



Marshal Józef Piłsudski depicted on the high 3 zloty value of the 1939 Independence Anniversary Issue.

Our theme will be the 80th anniversary of the defeat of the Bolshevik armies in 1920 at the Battle of the Vistula. Józef Piłsudski led the Polish Legion and is credited with the victory over the larger Soviet armies. This was the only time that the Soviets were ever beaten by any other forces. Consequently, during the years of the Polish Peoples Republic, 1945 to 1991, never has Piłsudski appeared on postage stamps. Neither was his name mentioned in history books.

Polonus will make these facts aware at POLPEX 2000, our first exhibition in the New Millennium!

Reunited After 80 Years

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

The photograph shows two postage due stamps of Poland, Krakow issue, Scott no. J-10 a. Fifteen such stamps were overprinted in black with the typographic overprint form I which contained 10 x 10 overprints. The positions of the overprints on J-10 a in the form I are: 1—10 and 16—20.

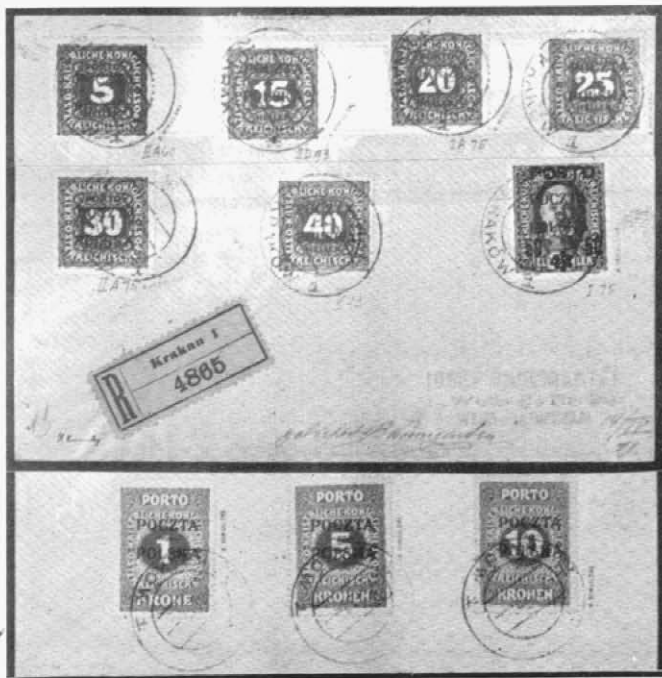
The stamp on the left side is position 7, the stamp on the right is position 8. Thus these two stamps were initially joined and are shown here together as they were originally made.

From the stamp on the left side one can see that these stamps were made during the late phase of the overprinting because the bottom part of the first "P" is damaged.

The stamp on the right is on a piece of a letter which was sent



from Przemyśl to Joseph Baumgarten, a stamp dealer in Vienna, Austria. In 1919 Baumgarten had an agent in Poland who supplied him with Polish stamps. He mailed them in letters which were often franked with Krakow issue stamps. Photographs show two such covers. This is the only used Scott J-10 a because all other are accounted for as being unused.



Creased Stamps of First Austrian Issue On Covers Used In Polish Lands

BY JANUSZ ADAMCZYK

The first five Austrian stamps brought into circulation on June 1, 1850, were printed on handmade paper, defined in German as "Handpapier". This paper was in use till the end of 1854, when the stamps were printed on machine made paper, which does not necessarily mean that the priorly printed stamps were not used in some of the post offices.

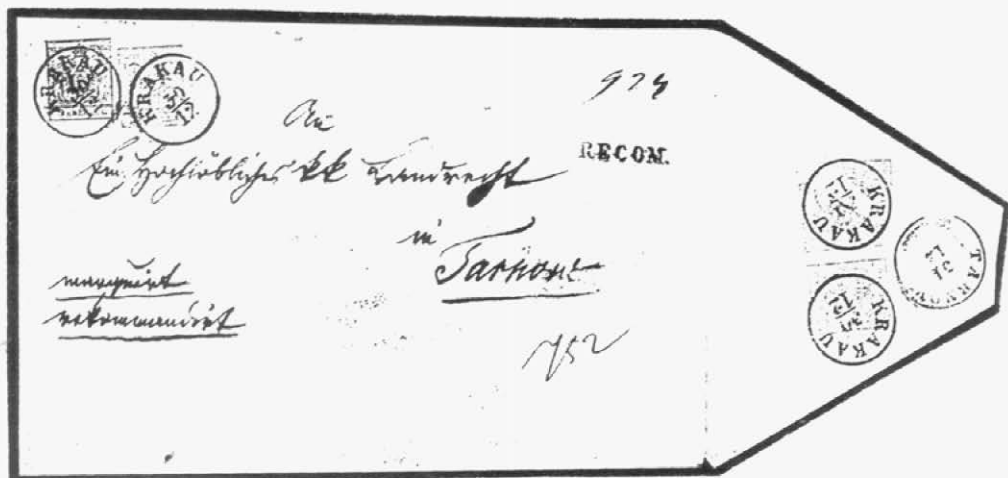
Handmade paper, taking into consideration the technology of the times, had many defects, including the thickness which fluctuated between 0.05 to 0.14 mm. It should be noted that the stamps which were printed on the thinnest or the thickest paper are much more expensive than ones printed on normal paper, whose thickness varies between 0.08 and 0.11 mm.

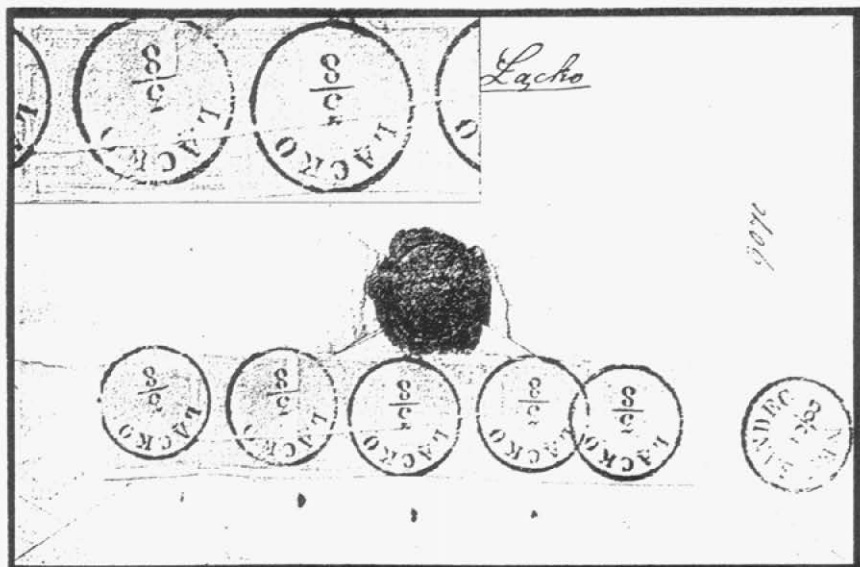
Besides the defects in the unstabilized thickness of the paper, other disadvantages of the paper were its creases, which during the printing caused considerable de-

formities in the stamps. After printing sheets of stamps and removing the creases, it appeared that the stamps were separated by an unprinted portion on the paper, (hidden in the crease while being printed). The creases on the stamps, — after straightening of the paper and the use of them in circulation (fig. 1, 2 and 3) should be taken as circumstantial peculiarities.

What could justify that such very deformed stamps found their way into usage? The effect was the lack of experience (they were of course the first Austrian stamps), inadequate paper, oversight of the printing controllers. When the stamps reached post offices, the postal clerk didn't want to complicate matters, and let them be used, affixing them to letters and parcels. That's how one of the most interesting, intriguing and valuable philatelic objects came into being.

Having this opportunity I would





like to add that to this rarity belong stamps of the denominations of 2, 3 and 6 kreuze which were printed in small quantities on handmade paper, after applying glue, there appeared horizontal stripes of 0.3 mm. thickness, changing the paper to a ribbed pattern, known in

the German language as "Geripp-tes Papier." Also stamps of the denominations 3 and 9 kreuze printed on streaked paper (on the width of 2 cm. there are 16 horizontal lines), defined in the German language catalogs as "Gestreiftes Papier," these stamps are very rare.



The 1st and 2nd 1919 Poznań Issues

By ZBIGNIEW MIKULSKI

The World Philatelic Exhibition "POLSKA 93" will be the second International to be held in Poznań. The first was in 1973 under an entirely different political climate.

Before becoming known as a venue for philatelic exhibitions, Poznań was the city where two provisional sets of stamps were released in 1919 — the so-called 1st and 2nd Poznań issues. It has been 36 years since I last discussed these issues in the Polish Philatelic Paper "Filatelista" (1957, no. 4) and cited all the available data known to date. More information has since become available and I will discuss these very interesting stamps in more detail in this article.

Poznań in 1918 was established on areas formerly annexed by Prussia. During the early stage of WWI the German Army established military postal service for the area under its control and provided service to the civilian population as well. When Poland became independent, it took over the existing postal facilities inheriting a large supply of German stamps.

Initially there were enormous problems getting the necessary supplies of postage stamps from Warsaw. In order to provide a more efficient service, the Postal Headquarters in Poznań decided to use the existing stocks of German stamps on hand (Fig. 1).

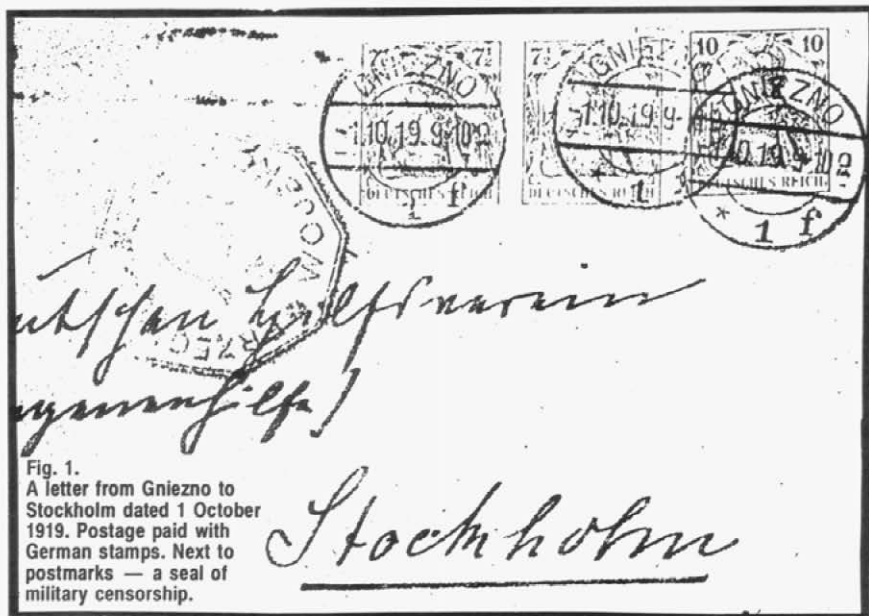


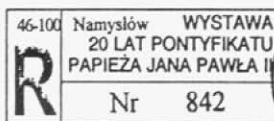
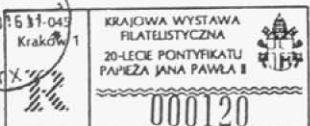
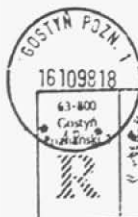
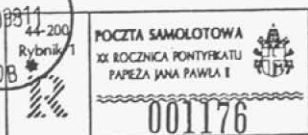
Fig. 1.
A letter from Gniezno to Stockholm dated 1 October 1919. Postage paid with German stamps. Next to postmarks — a seal of military censorship.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 497-11)

SPECIAL REGISTRATION LABELS COMMEMORATING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PONTIFICATE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

By ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI

(Continued from previous issue)



Płock - November 16, 1998.

Commemorative postmark. Coat of arms of Bishop Karol Wojtyła and Pope John Paul II, also cathedral Basilica in Płock
20 LAT PONTYFIKATU JANA PAWŁA II / 40 LAT SAKRY BISKUPIEJ /
16.11.1998 PŁOCK 1 / (20 years of John Paul II pontificate and 40th anniversary of consecration as bishop.





GUINEA:

20th Anniversary of the Pontificate of John Paul II and ITALIA '98 World Philatelic Exhibition.

First Day of Issue: — 1998.

Sheetlet of nine 125 GNF stamps.
Each stamp depicts John Paul II in various countries during his world travels.

Size of sheetlet: 5½" x 7-11/16".



Sheetlet of nine 350 GNF stamps.
Each stamp depicts John Paul II in various countries during his world travels.

Size of sheetlet: 5½" x 7-11/16".



SOUVENIR SHEET.

One 2500 GNF stamp showing John Paul II with Princess Diana.

On souvenir sheet: The Galleria Mall in Milan.

Size: 4-9/16 x 5-5/8"



GUINEA:

20th Anniversary of the Pontificate of John Paul II

First Day of Issue: — 1998.

3000 GNF gold foil stamp.

John Paul II, his coat of arms and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Sheetlet of four 3000 GNF gold foil stamps. Inscription on red borders: top: His Holiness Pope John Paul II, bottom: 20th anniversary of the pontificate. Size: 6" x 5¼".



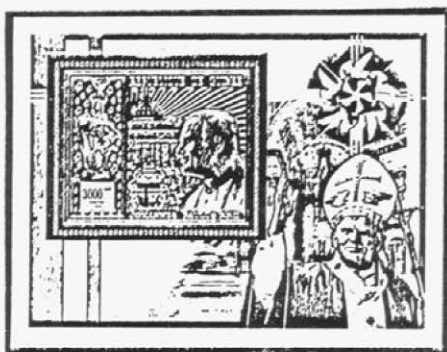
SOUVENIR SHEET:

One 3000 GNF gold foil stamp.

Same as described above.

On souvenir sheet: John Paul II in background Main altar in St. Peter's Basilica.

Size: 5½" x 3-15/16".



(TO BE CONTINUED)



Fig. 2.
First overprinted stamps, the
so-called 2nd issue.

The postal rates on the territory subordinated to the Poznań Postal Headquarters were different than in other districts. They were as follows:

	effective from May 2, 1919	October 1, 1919
	in pfennig	
Letters up to 20g	15	20
Letters up to 250g	25	30
Postcards	10	15
Registered letters	20	30

As can be seen from the above table, 5 and 10 pfennig stamps were in much demand, as with them any combination of postage could be paid.

In July, 1919, the Postal Headquarters in Poznań decided to overprint part of their supply of German stamps, in particular the 2 and 7.5 pfennig stamps which were very rarely used. The new overprinted values were 5 and 10 pfennig. It sufficed to print figure "5" over 2 pf. stamps and figure "10" over the 7.5 pf. stamps.

For unknown reasons stamps overprinted in July were not introduced into circulation and were stored in the Headquarters. It is possible that the Postal Authorities in Poznań concluded that it would be desirable to "polonize" the German stamps and, in addition to a new face value, an inscription "POCZTA POLSKA" (Polish Post), which would clearly designate them as Polish stamps. It was decided to immediately release a new 5-stamp set featuring the allegorical Germany, overprinted with new values and the inscription "Poczta Polska."

The 2, 7.5 and 20 pfennig stamps were overprinted as 5 pfennig stamps, the 25 and 40 pfennig ones as 10 pfennig stamps (fig. 3). In early August, 1919, a set of five face values was introduced into circulation. In the middle of September, the issue was almost used up so it was decided that previously stored stamps with overprinted values of 5 and 10 pfennig should be introduced into postal circulation.



Fig. 3. A set of five values of the 1st Poznań Issue.

The five-stamp set introduced prior to the introduction of stamps with overprinted "5" and "10" pfennig values is called the First Poznań Issue, despite the fact that they were made after the overprinting. Two stamps with overprinted "5" and "10" pfennig values have been catalogued as the Second Poznań Issue. In Poland, the Second issue is called the "Gniezno Issue" because there is a lot of correspondence from Gniezno featuring these stamps.

1st POZNAN ISSUE

1. German stamps used for overprinting

face value	color	print type	gum	printing office mark
2 pf	grey-olive	flat	white	H 4673.15
7.5 pf	orange	flat	white	H 3167.18
20 pf	violet, blue	rotational	yellowish	—
25 pf	orange, black on yellow paper	rotational	yellowish	—
40 pf	carmine/black	rotational	yellowish	—

Before overprinting, in order for the stamp to be better centered in the printing machine, the bottom edge of the sheet was removed in the case of the first three values and the top edge in the case of the 25 and 40 pfennig.

2. Overprinting plates

Two overprinting plates were made — one for the 5 pfennig and another for the 10 pfennig. Both plates were made of 50 zinc, paired prints which were manually mounted on a wooden base, thus forming an overprinting plate of 100 positions. Because of the manual mounting of 50 paired prints into one plate, spaces between the prints are not equal. During the printing almost all the overprinting was deformed, which today permits the "plating" of these stamps in the sheet.

Because the numerous errors made during the printing process, it is possible to determine the order in which individual values were overprinted.

3. The order of overprinting

5 pfennig overprints.

Initially some 2 pfennig stamps were overprinted. The color of the first overprints was blue-black; the weight of the printing press was low and therefore the overprinted letters are very flat, without edge lines in individual letters.

The 20 pfennig stamps were overprinted next — their color is also

black-blue, overprints were made using a greater weight of the printing press — there are clear edges round individual letters. The rest of the 2 pfennig stamps were overprinted third. The overprinting is darker with less blue color, deeper imprints and clear edges round the letters.

Finally, the 7.5 pfennig stamps were overprinted. The color is black and letters have clear edges. The second overprinting of the 2 pfennig stamps can be explained by philatelic demand for this issue. The stamps were very popular but only in complete sets. Because the 5/2 pfennig stamps were scarce relative to the other values additional quantities of this value were overprinted. This hypothesis is confirmed by the fact that Philip Kossack from Berlin, (the greatest wholesaler in Germany before the Second World War) owned a large quantity of these 2 pf. stamps, from the second overprinting.

10 pfennig overprints:

The stamps were overprinted with black ink, identical to the 7.5 pfennig stamps and there are clear edges around the letters. First the 25 pfennig stamps were overprinted and then the 40 pfennig.

Number of each value:

5 pf on 2 pf	84,000	overprinting in two lots
5 pf on 7.5 pf	400,000	
5 pf on 20 pf	500,000	
10 pf on 25 pf	150,000	
10 pf on 40 pf	370,000	

4. Errors in the overprint setting

As mentioned above, there are many errors, small and large, on all the overprinted stamps, which help determine their position in the sheet.

It is beyond the scope of this article to mention all the errors. Besides, I would be repeating what has already been written about this by other authors.

I would like to discuss however three interesting varieties:

- A. displaced 7.5 pfennig overprint on a 5 pfennig stamp
- B. double overprinting on the same stamp
- C. 10 pfennig overprint on a 30 pfennig German stamp.

4 A.—4 B. Displaced and double overprints on a 5 pfennig stamp overprinted with 7.5 value.

A few sheets of 7.5 pfennig stamps had wider than normal left margins, which was due to careless cutting of printing sheets into retail sheets.

No note was taken of the wider margins during the overprinting. The sheets were mounted in the machine resulting in overprints being shifted to the left (fig. 4).



Fig. 4.
Considerable displacement of overprinting: the word "Polska" and a line, position 81; figures "5" & "5" and the word "Poczta", position 91.

Because of this displacement, the 10th vertical row of stamps in the sheet was either not overprinted at all or only partially overprinted. Because the printing office had to return the same number of overprinted stamps as it was originally given, the sheets with large displacement had to be overprinted again, i.e. a corrective overprinting of the complete sheet was made. For this reason each stamp features overprints from two different positions in the sheet. The most interesting are pairs from the 9th and 10th rows: in the 9th row, stamps feature double overprinting, the 10th row features only one overprinting, the result of the second, corrective overprinting. Double overprints are rare and probably only three sheets were "corrected" in this way (fig. 5 and 6).



Fig. 5.
Displaced overprints:
positions 71 – 72, 81 – 82,
91 – 92. Corrected overprints
on stamps, positions 71, 81,
91.



Fig. 6.
Double overprint on the
second sheet. Displaced
overprint — position 67,
corrected overprint —
position 68.

4 C. Proof: the overprint 10 pfennig on 30 pfennig stamps

This proof has been described by M. Perzyński (Filatelista 1962 No. 17). So far only three specimens of this attempt are known — from a strip of stamps in positions 91-93. Stamps in positions 91 and 92 feature cancellation marks (lines). The stamp in position 93 is shown in Fig. 7.



Fig. 7.
An attempt to overprint
10 pfennig on a 30 pfennig
stamp. Position 93.

2nd POZNAN ISSUE (called the Gniezno Issue)

This consists of only two stamps: 2 and 7.5 pfennig overprints on German stamps featuring Germany, as in the first issue: 2 pfennig, printing from plates, HAN No. H 4617.15; 7.5 pfennig, printing from plates, HAN No. H 3167.18. 2 pfennig stamps were overprinted with a brown-reddish typographic figure "5"; 7.5 pfennig stamps were overprinted with the figure "10" in green ink (a wide range of green shades to black-green by flat print).

This issue was described philatelically in 1937/1938 by two great Polish experts: St. Mikstein and W. Rachmanow. Both experts were shown the stamp sheets for the first time ever.

1. Construction of overprinting forms

5 pfennig overprints:

The overprinting form of figure "5" was made by the L. Kapeli printing office in Poznań and consisted of eight types of figure "5". Eight fonts featuring figure "5" were mounted into a horizontal strip and this form was used to overprint all the sheets — first in positions 1-8, then all the sheets in positions 11-18; and then in the same way positions 21-28, 31-38, 41-48, 51-58, 61-68, 71-78, 81-88, and 91-98. When the overprinting was completed, there were still two vertical rows without overprints: the 9th and 10th.

The 8-stamp strip was redesigned as a block of 8 stamps which was used twice, first to overprint all the sheets in positions 9-10, 19-20, 29-30, 39-40 and then all the sheets in positions 49-50, 59-60, 69-70 and 79-80.

In order to overprint the remaining four positions in the sheet — 89-90 and 99-100, the form was redesigned as a block of four stamps; only the bottom half of old form (block of eight stamps) was used. In this very complicated way, consisting of 13 operations, a 100-stamp sheet was finally overprinted (fig. 8).

Forma obejmowała 8 znaczków w jednym rzędzie

Fig. 8.
Diagram of the
5 pfennig sheet
to be overprinted
on 2 pfennig
value in 13
operations.

Operacja	I	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	XI operacja
	II	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	
	III	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	
	IV	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	
	V	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	
	VI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	XII operacja
	VII	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	
	VIII	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	
	IX	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	XIII operacja
	X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	

Forma obejmowała 8 znaczków (4x2)

Forma obejmowała 8 znaczków (4x2)

Forma obejmowała 4 znaczki (2x2)

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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NEW POLONUS OFFICERS AND BOARD INSTALLED



At the June meeting the following who were elected at the previous meeting were officially sworn in: (left to right) Franciszek Skrypko, director; Fred Szebel, treasurer; Edward Blicharski, director; Stan. Dobrzycki,

director; Arkadiusz Walinski, vice-president; Chester Schafer, president and acting secretary; Stefan Czarniecki, director. Not present on the photo: Roman Strzelecki (ex-officio), director.

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Annual dues, which include a subscription to the Bulletin, are \$16.00 (U.S. currency only) and should be sent to the Polonus Treasurer, Mr. Fred Szebel, 1615 East Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Membership dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 41452, Chicago, IL 60641. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints or other matters should be directed to the President.