



Polish Handstamps (1858-1874)

by V. Rachmanov

In Polonus Bulletin #64 I read with deep interest the article of Mr. Rich in which he describes the disappearance of the Polish postal markers after 1865 and their gradual displacement by markers in the Russian language, supplementing it with a brief history on Poland's postal markers from the time of the introduction of the Russian 10 Kop. postage stamp in Poland—that is from January 1858 to 1874 when finally all Polish postal markers and killers were withdrawn from use and were replaced with date markers in the Russian language.

Right here I must emphasize the fact, that in Poland there were no regulations establishing a uniform type of postal marker with the names of the post offices, as was the case in many other countries, among them Prussia, where every post office since 1815 had a uniform type of handstamp in two lines. In 1858 when the Russian 10 Kop. postage stamp was introduced (also for use in Polish territories) the post offices were using all sorts of postal markers in Polish, Polish-Russian and also in Russian only, (Maryampol, Szczecbrzeszyn, Warszawa) and of every possible type: round—with and without date—in one and in two lines—ovals and rectangular. The uniform numerical killers composed of four concentric circles around the numerals or letter for the cancellation of postage stamps were not introduced until March 15, 1858, however, the local townmarks as every post office and agency had, remained unchanged.

From that period we encounter three very interesting postal markers that characterize Polish-Russian relations of that time, namely: 1. The post of-



fice in Belzyce, as the only one that was in possession of a Polish-Russian two-line marker in which the Polish inscription appeared above and the Russian below—in contrast to all other markers of that type in which the Russian inscription was above. 2. The post office Slomniki, opened in 1854 had a similar marker from which the Russian inscription was later cut out and only the Polish inscription remained. 3. The post office of Plock had a Russian-Polish date marker, in which the Russian inscription appeared above—proceeded still more practically by simply turning the inside date around, so that the Polish inscription was on top.

From 1859 for all newly opened post

offices and postal agencies, there were issued in addition to the regular numerical killers, bilingual local town markers in rectangular frames. For the newly opened post offices of Sanniki, Zaklikow, Wola Wieszowa, Golina, and Nowa Praga there were issued only during the Insurrection of 1863-64 the same kind of markers with the names of those post offices in Polish only. After the Insurrection was suppressed, newly opened post offices and postal agencies were given bilingual markers as before. All post offices and postal agencies opened after 1859 were to have uniform rectangular markers with inscriptions in one or two languages with the exception of the postal agency in Soczewka, described by Mr. Rich in Fig. 1 of his article. This marker was of private origin, being issued by the large paper mill located there. The last agency to receive the numerical killer 345 and a local marker was Skaryszew, district Radom, which opened on Aug. 1, 1866.

The Russification of postal markers in Poland according to Mr. Rich's article began in 1865, progressed very slowly because for the whole period from 1866 to 1870 we have noted but 10 Russian postal markers from letters of those years, namely: Belchatow, Myszkow, Dzialoszycze, Pniewo, Suchedniow, Zamosc, Zarki, Zolkiewka and Warsaw. Warsaw had a Russian marker through the whole period of existence of the Polish postage stamp and used it for marking letters addressed into Russia.

All other post offices and postal agencies, however, retained their Polish or Polish-Russian postal markers until 1870 when the Russian government took charge of the Polish postal system. But, even then we often find Russian postage stamps cancelled with the Polish numerals, as for example, Lublin until 1873, or with the town markers in Polish, as: Kolo, Kutno, Lomza, Szydlowice, Warta.

In his article Mr. Rich expresses his doubts as to the existence of the lettered killer "BW" used at the Warsaw RR Station, in 1874, with the letters removed. However, I had several letters mailed from that office during 1871-1874. In 1871, 1872, and 1873 the killer still had the initials, but on the reverse side of the letter was already a two line Russian handstamp: "ПОТ-СХОТ ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ/ВАРШАВА," whereas, on two letters from 1874, the killer did not have the two letters even

though the impressions are very clear and distinct.

To supplement Mr. Rich's article, I am listing all the known lettered or dotted killers used for cancellation of postage stamps on letters mailed from RR. Stations and RR. Mail Cars (Mail Ambulances).

1. "DW" (Dworzec Warszawa) used on RR. Station in Warsaw before opening of line to Bydgoszcz.
2. "DP" (Dworzec Praga) used on Warsaw-Petersburg line at Praga Station.
3. "BW" (Dworzec Bydgosko-Wiedenski) used at Warsaw RR. Station after the opening of the Bydgoszcz line.
4. "DT" (Droga Terespolska) used in mail cars of trains running from Warsaw to Terespol; in two types with larger and smaller letters from 1866.
5. Killers composed of six concentric circles and three types of larger or smaller dot in the center for mail cars No. 1 to 4 on the Warsaw-Vienna line.
6. "DB" (Droga Bydgoska) in three types for mail cars No. 5 to 8 on Warsaw-Bydgoszcz line.
7. "D. B. 1" and "D. B. 2" used in mail compartments of trains running from Warsaw to the German border.

The double circle marking "W. D. Z. Lodz" described by Mr. Rich under Fig. 14 is found on letters from the period 1867 to 1869 and was used most probably in mail compartments on trains running the so-called Factory Extension RR. between Koluszki and Lodz. The letters W. D. Z. undoubtedly stands for "Wiedenska Droga Zelazna," meaning the Vienna Railroad, because the Lodz extension belonged to that line, and constituted the property of the Stock Corporation "Vienna RR." the majority of the shares being in the hands of the Counselor of Commerce, Mr. Epstein and Baron Kronenberg. In 1870, this marker was replaced with a Russian date marker with the inscription "Lodz-Z.D."

In concluding this article, I want to mention an interesting variety of the numeral killer #179 (Piotrkow) which after some years of service lost one of the circles and can be found on Poland #1 with three concentric circles only having very distinct and heavy impressions. There is no doubt, that this killer, in the course of its service

lost one of the circles and was used in this condition until its withdrawal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chicago Philatelic Society is to hold its annual Stamp Show at the Sherman Hotel, Oct. 22, 23, and 24 in the Louis XVI Room.

Franklin R. Bruns of the New York SUN is to be the guest speaker at the Banquet on Oct. 23. Gold Life honorary membership cards are to be presented to Stanley B. Ashbrook and Polonus member Elmer Stuart who was the president of C. P. S. in 1935 and 1936, and has served as vice-president for nine years in succession.

The Hawthorne Stamp Club of the Western Electric Co., Chicago, wishes to announce the Tri-Club Show to be held on Thursday evening Oct. 14, at the Albright Gymnasium, 50th Ave. & Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill.

The annual "Fall Classic" exhibition, bourse and "Gedunk" party of the Roosevelt Philatelic Society of Chicago will be held in the Grand Crossing Field House, 76 Street and Ingle-side Ave., Saturday and Sunday Oct. 30 and 31.

NEW MEMBERS

- Robert A. Wilson #369
USPOD OMGUS
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APO 742, c/o P. M. N. Y.
Poland, U. S., Brit. Col., Cent.
Eur., Germ., Aust. & Luxem.
John Waksmaniski #370
3724 Fullerton
Chicago 47, Ill.
Complete Sets, Precancels
Miroslaw Bojanowicz #371
40 West Hill, Wembley Park
London, Middx., England
Poland, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Italy and States.
R. Estwa, Dipl. Volkswirt #372
21b Lippstadt/Westf.
Postfach Nr. 161—British Zone
Germany
E. P. P.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Roman Burkiewicz
18, Rydal Gardens, 5th Kenton
Wembley, Middx., England
Joseph Vincent Wisniewski
4014 Oak Avenue
Brookfield, Illinois.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- A. P. Lazarski #262
37/9 R. Savigny
Morsang, S/O. France

W. S. Kolankowski, #229
20151 Stotter
Detroit 34, Mich.

WHEN POLONUS MEETS

President Mikucki opened the Sept. 10th meeting with 33 members present. Mr. Domar read the applications of Miroslaw Bojanowicz of England, Richard Estka of Germany and John Waksmaniski of Chicago, whose names appeared in the Polonus Bulletin and who were individually voted upon and admitted as members. Polpex Chairman Dr. Uznanski presented the complexities of the time and place of our next exhibition, and it was decided 18 to 1 to select either the Falcon Hall or Pilsen Hall for next February. Mr. Domar reported on new issues and Mr. Steczynski gave a detailed report on the recent visit to our last meeting of Mr. Derek Palmer of Chile, noting his philatelic interests and observations.

We are very happy to report that our President, Chester Mikucki has been released from the hospital and has attended the last three meetings of the Society.

At the Aug. 27, 1948, meeting of the Society, our Legal Advisor, Chester Makowski acted as the installing officer in administering the oath of office to Chester. After the installation, Myron Steczynski on behalf of the Society presented to Chester a Gavel with an engraved silver band on which was inscribed "Chester Mikucki/Founder/Polonus Philatelic Society." This is a signal honor since upon no one else can it be bestowed. For to Chester and to him alone must be given the credit for the idea of organizing our Society.

After a hearty round of cheers, Chester was duly installed.

* * *

Member Jos. Bieniecki, 2509 E. 23rd St., Granite City, Ill. has a small supply of "Filatelista Polski" which he will mail free of charge to anyone sending a stamped self-addressed envelope—so first come, first served.

MEMBERS MART

POLAND, mint, used and on cover, new issues, FDC, Germany, Austria, etc. Everything on APPROVAL to members of POLONUS. Condition and prices guaranteed to satisfy. WANTED, offers from members in Poland. Joseph Bieniecki, 2509 East 23rd Street, Granite City, Ill., U. S. A.

BROTHER ALBERT
(Adam Chmielowski)

by Rev. Father Martin, OFM.

Translated by Walter Szymlek
From "DZIENNIK CHICAGOSKI"
of July 20, 1948



Editor's Note: Brother Albert is shown on the lowest value of the Cultural Set and on a recent semi-postal stamp of Poland. Biographical notes on all the other persons in this series are quite accessible to collectors, but information on Brother Albert is scarce indeed. Therefore, we are adding this excellent work of Rev. Father Martin to our philatelic references.

* * *

Adam Chmielowski, who later became Brother Albert, was born of a renowned family on August 20, 1846, in Igolomia, Miechowo County. His father, escutcheon Jastrzebiec (Hawkweed), was Adalbert Chmielowski and his mother, a very pious woman, was Josephine, nee Borzyslawski. Little Adam became an orphan by the untimely death of both parents and was entrusted to the care of his father's sister. He graduated from a Warsaw grammar school, attended a Military High School in Petersburg for one year and completed his high school and college education at Warsaw. To study agriculture and the science of forestry, Adam enrolled at Pulawy. During this time the Insurrection of 1863 broke out and the academic youth of Pulawy flocked to Leo Frankowski in nearby Kazimierz to join his forces.

After the Frankowski detachments were destroyed, Adam was captured

by the Austrians and transported to the famous citadel of Olominiec. From here he managed to escape and fled to Krakow. Again he joined the armed forces, serving in the Cavalry of Zygmunt Chmielenski as liaison adjutant. During this military service he was seriously wounded and captured by the Russians. His leg was amputated because it was badly shattered by a grenade.

With the help of his family and relatives Adam was cured. As soon as his leg was partly healed he secretly escaped to Paris and later moved to Gondawa completing his study in engineering. Then he went to Munich and pursued the study of painting where he became a celebrated artist. He was opposed to the cultivation of art for purely mercenary purposes and for seeking fame and applause. According to Chmielowski, the objective in art was to elevate the soul to God. The chronological list of his interesting paintings numbers seventy-seven. Among his masterpieces are: Italian Siesta, The Vision of St. Margaret, Ecce Homo and The Monk at a Cemetery. His colleagues were such as Max Gierymski, J. Chelmonski, Kurela, S. Witkiewicz, L. Wyczolkowski and Maszynski.

When Adam returned from Munich he was confronted with new trials. His long and intense struggle in choosing his vocation finally resulted in entering the Jesuit novitiate where he remained for just a short time. After leaving this Order his spiritual difficulties were renewed. Still undecided in his attempts, he went to his brother Stanislaus who was a farmer in Podolia.

It was at this time that the secular clergy were zealously inaugurating the Third Order of St. Francis in the various parishes to strengthen the Church in her combat against the Oriental Schism.

This rendered an opportunity for Adam Chmielowski to participate in the Catholic Action. He most ardently assisted the clergy in establishing the Third Order by traveling in a two-wheeled carriage making personal visits to parishes. However, he was unable to continue this work for a long time. The provincial government fearing its results, commanded him to leave the country and go abroad.

Now exiled from Podolia he went to Krakow where he became acquainted with the City Asylum for destitute

men. Conditions at this institution were lamentable. One big room accommodated two hundred men. The circumstances at the asylum for women were still more deplorable.

The sight of such misery determined his vocation. He chose to dedicate his life to the poor by following the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Before long his art studio became a shelter for the poor and the funds obtained from his paintings were used for its sustenance.

As soon as he was convinced that by this mode of life he could not accomplish much, he secured ecclesiastical permission to wear a coarse habit of the Third Order of St. Francis. He then pleaded with the city officials for the control of the asylums. This was granted and Adam immediately began to restore much needed order in these institutions. Although he was physically disabled he hobbled along the streets of Krakow collecting alms for the maintenance of the asylums.

His life induced many men and women to follow his example and to live according to the rule of the Third Order of St. Francis.

The Albertine Order was founded on August 25, 1888. It was on this day that Adam Chmielowski pronounced his religious vows into the hands of His Eminence, Cardinal Dunajewski, as Brother Albert. On January 15, 1891 the religious congregation of the Albertine Sisters was founded with Sister Theresa as the first Sister Superior.

His sanctimonious life of poverty, humility and self-denial was crowned on Christmas Day, 1916, when Brother Albert was called to enjoy heavenly bliss with God.

It would help the POLPEX COMMITTEE considerably to know how many members are going to enter exhibits in our 10th Anniversary POLPEX.

This information will help to determine the location and the number of frames that will be needed.

Those of you who do intend to show please drop a card at once stating what you intend to exhibit, how many album pages and the size of your page. Mail to J. J. Domar, 3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

The awards we are told will be the finest ever given for a POLPEX.

DEREK PALMER

On the evening of Thursday, Aug. 26, Derek Palmer a member of Polonus residing in Santiago de Chile telephoned Myron Steczynski at his home and had quite a chat. We knew Derek was coming to Chicago for a visit expressly to look at some of the collections in Chicago and incidentally do some business if it did not interfere with stamps.

So — the first evening Myron invited Derek to look over a part of the Larking Collection (you need two weeks to see it all) and I understand that they were at it until the wee hours of the morning.

Friday evening, Frank Wolosowick and John Gapinski took charge of Derek and at Johns Drug Store reviewed the methods they use to expertise the "KRAKOWS." The discussion was so interesting it was only with constant pleading that we were able to make the Polonus meeting which was being held that evening. Before the meeting Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz had an album of early Stampless Covers which were inspected by those present. After the meeting Derek with a few of the members visited Doc. Kozys' at his home to look at his Poland #1's which he has in such profusion both on and off cover that I wonder sometimes how I managed to be permitted to have two copies. The party broke up only because I had to catch a bus home and Kozy promised to drive me to the Bus station. Anyway it was only a temporary recess to the following evening when most of the same group were invited to Myrons again for another go at the Larking collection and this time they were at it until three o'clock in the morning. (So I'm told).

Sunday the Steczynskis' drove Derek around to points of interest in Chicago and on Monday Derek had a brief visit with Lester Jankowski and so ended a visit by a swell guy.

We probably will never again see each other but I am sure that because of this visit and even though Chile is 5000 miles away the distance will seem much closer to all of us who were fortunate in meeting him.

J. J. D.

Acknowledgement is made to Doc. Uznanski for his donation of the book "Paper Chase" by Alvin F. Harlow for our library.

PROPOSED ISSUES OF GENERAL GOUV.

by V. Rachmanov



The 6 gr. stamp shows the drilling towers in the oil fields of Boryslaw or Drohobycz; the 24 gr. a Hutcul couple of southern Poland in their native costumes; and the 40 gr. a typical wooden Ruthenian Orthodox Church in southeastern Poland.

The three designs shown and described above, were prepared and printed by the Germans in August, 1944, at the works in Vienna for use in occupied Poland but after being printed the stamps were not distributed for two reasons:

1. The era was too critical politically for Germany and for Hitler to

change the current Hitler stamps for others, and

2. The German Armies were already pushed out of so large a portion of Poland by the Red Armies that there was hardly time or opportunity to supply the post offices with the contemplated issue.

These above notations are a distinct adjunct to the postal history of this period and are given here for the record.

S. P. A. CONVENTION NEWS

The members and officers of the POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY wish to extend our most heartiest congratulations to Polonus member, Stephen G. Rich upon being presented the Hans Lagerloef Award for outstanding philatelic achievement. Steve is the second Polonus member so honored, Vinc. Domanski Jr. being the other.

Our congratulations too to Polonus member Ben Reeves for being elected as a member of the Board of Directors and to Steve Rich for being appointed for one year on the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of I. Reiner.

To Polonus member Vinc. Domanski Jr. retiring president of the S. P. A.—Vinc we think that you have done a very fine job as the President the past four years and we are certain that your absence in the Official family of the S. P. A. will be greatly missed.

To Hil. F. Best and the new corps of officers, our best wishes.

To Ray Bartz, Walter Kolankowski, Dr. L. V. Koran and other Pulaski members, thanks for the swell party.

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NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar



On August 9, the Main Post Office in Warsaw put on sale a commemorative issue consisting of one stamp in honor of the International Congress of Working Youth then currently meeting in Warsaw.

It is of 15 zloty denomination, printed in a sapphire blue and of 30mm x 36mm in size and perforated 11.

R. A. Wilson



On September 2, a semipostal stamp was released for the purpose of raising funds to rebuild the City of Warsaw.

It is of 15 zloty denomination plus

a 5 zloty overcharge. It is printed in green and is 29mm x 22mm in size.

Shown on the stamp is a part of the city. On the upper part of the stamp is the word "POLSKA" directly beneath is are the words "ODBU-DOWA WARSZAWY" (Rebuilding of Warsaw) and across the bottom, 15 zl + 5 zl. TRASA. W-Z 15 + 15 zl. It appears that it may be the first of a series, we have no definite information but this is my impression.

Additional information received from member R. A. Wilson after the Bulletin was sent to the printer is as follows: The design of the Warsaw stamp shows a view of Plac Zamkowy as it will appear when completely reconstructed, with a new east-west highway cutting thru the spot where the Royal Castle and the Sigismund Statue used to stand. The Sigismund Statue is to be re-erected, although there are no plans at present for the Royal Castle, which was completely destroyed.

* * *

Roman Reinowski reports that he has sheet #48545 of the Famous Poles souvenir sheet.

* * *

In addition to the folder issued in connection with the "Tour de Pologne Issue," a very attractive First Day Cover (official) was also issued. It is similar in design to the cover on the folder. It is reported that only 5000 covers were so issued. Now if those who are in charge of issuing First Day Covers would do so on envelopes not larger than 6 3/4" across so that they would fit horizontally on an album page everyone would be happy.

* * *

A 15 zloty brown stamp was issued early in Sept. (our copy is cancelled Sept. 10), in connection with a philatelic exhibition being held in Torun and also to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Torun Philatelic Society.

It is 31 1/2mm x 21mm in size. In the upper left corner are the words in three lines, ZIAZD FILAT./TORUN/1948. In the right upper corner is the word POLSKA in outline and in the lower left is shown the value 15 zl.

The picture shown on the stamp is an old city gate in Torun before which is shown a coach and horses and in the background and to the right an old castle.

M. E. Steczynski
J. Bienecki

During the International Railway Congress in Krakow in October, there will be issued a 6 zl. stamp designed by Wilczyk and depicting a speeding train with a large clock as background. Contemplated issue 4,000,000.

M. E. Steczynski

POLPEX SEALS and POLONUS BULLETINS

Do you need Polpex Seals?

If so we still have some on hand, in addition the 1944 - 1945 and 1947 BEEBA sheets are also available. POLPEX opening day covers are available in limited amounts only.

POLPEX 1947 and 1948 envelopes with the imprints of the 1947 and 1948 seals can be used for correspondence. They are standard 6% size envelopes and can be purchased 2 for 5 cents.

Back numbers of the BULLETIN can also be had. For prices refer to BULLETIN #43.

Please remit postage. If you send a self-addressed envelope do not send smaller than standard 6% size.

Additional information can be had on request from: Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

There will be more news regarding Polpex items.

Seal Director,
Adam Kloskowski

PROPOSED CATALOG CHANGES

The Polonus Philatelic Society reviewed the listing of Poland in Scott's Catalog and made the following suggestions to the publishers:

Germany

N101 to N107 inclusive

These 7 stamps are improperly listed under Polish Occupation of Germany because no military action was involved, and the stamps were issued for the province of Poznan, in Western Poland. The first 5 were issued in August and the 2nd two in October of 1919. This section should be deleted from Germany and included under Poland as follows:

For Western Poland

- 139A 5/2
- 139B 5/7 1/2
 - a. Double Surcharge
- 139C 5/20
- 139D 10/25
- 139E 10/40
- 139F Large 5
 - a. Invert
- 139G Large 10

An invert is shown under 139F, but

not under 139G. The invert referred to is very rare, in fact only 5 copies are known, so we suggest that the price be omitted. There is no invert for 139G, although very many counterfeits of 139F and 139G, together with their inverts do exist. We suggest the warning "Collectors are warned against counterfeits of numbers 139F and 139G."

Poland

Add.

- 11a Inverted surcharge
- 19b Inverted overprint
- 43a Inverted overprint
- 46b Double overprint
- 47a Inverted overprint
- 48a Inverted overprint
- 49b Double overprint
- 284a Inverted surcharge
- 285a Inverted surcharge
- 357a Imperforate
- 357b Red, imperforate
- 358a Imperforate
- 359a Imperforate
- 360a Imperforate
- 361a Imperforate
- 361b Red, imperforate
- C12a Inverted overprint
- 1K24 Overprinted in blue
- Horizontally laid paper

Delete

- 20b Double overprint
- 21c Double overprint
- 26b Double overprint
- 44a Inverted overprint
- 50a Double overprint
- 50b Inverted overprint
- 298a Booklet pane of 4
- 308a Booklet pane of 4
- 309a Booklet pane of four
- 310a Booklet pane of 4
- 312a Booklet pane of 4
- 317a Booklet pane of 4
- 392a Perf. 10½ (Perf. is private)
- 395a Should be 395 Imperf. (Perf. is private)

Items 298a to 317a do exist, but in the preparation of the booklets the two left-hand columns of stamps were separated from the sheets with the left-hand margin used as a binding edge. These stamps cannot be distinguished from those issued in sheets because anyone can prepare them by hand. It is very necessary to have the complete booklet with its slip sheets and cover.

Jack Domar was the guest speaker at the Hawthorne Stamp Club meeting of September 9. His subject was "Suggestions on how to prepare collections for exhibits."