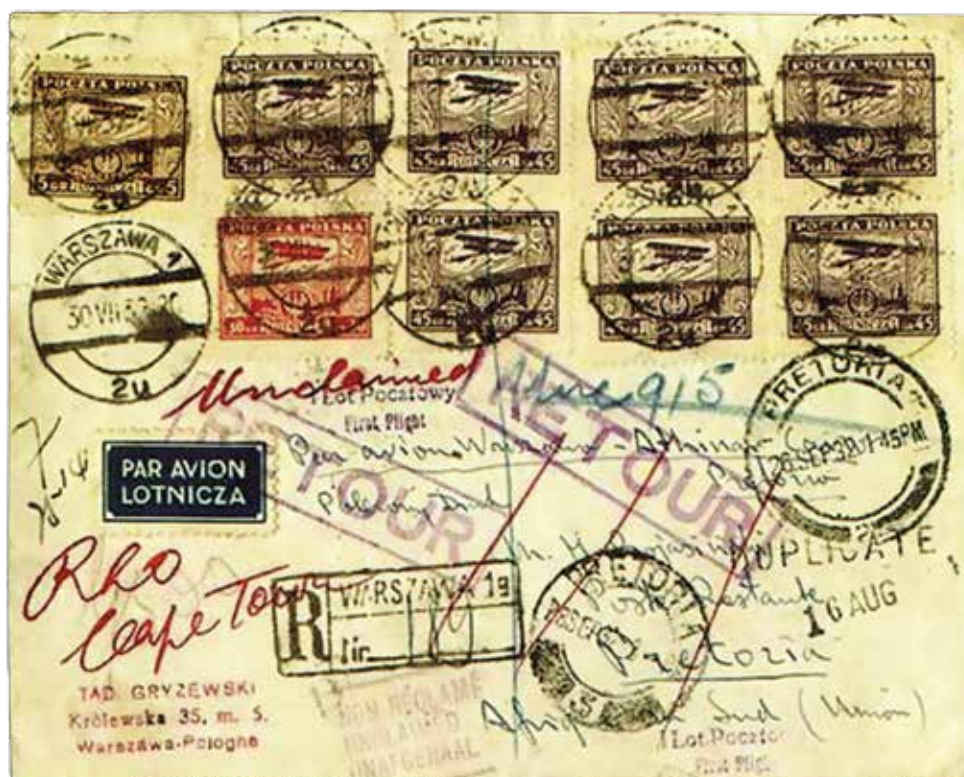




BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



One of a very few philatelically recorded first flight covers posted on July 30, 1932 in Warsaw, and carried to South Africa. See page 19 for details

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The Polonus Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the state of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by the authors of articles appearing in the *Polonius Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40; Electronic Bulletin (via website) Worldwide - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: **\$10**. Annual dues are payable in U.S. funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan-Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510

Articles for publication to be sent to the editor.

Membership queries to be sent to the membership chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to the president.

Message from the President

Ed Andrews
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Support Polonus via Smile.Amazon.com

Polonus has registered with the Amazon Smile Foundation as a charity. Anyone choosing Polonus Philatelic Society (note abbreviated name) as their charity on the Smile.Amazon site will have 0.5 percent of their purchase price automatically donated to Polonus. This is at no cost to you, the purchaser; rather the donation comes from the Amazon Smile Foundation. The same benefits apply if you are an Amazon Prime member. The Smile.Amazon site is the same as buying on the familiar Amazon site. Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com>.

Please consider purchasing all your Amazon items from the Smile.Amazon website, choosing Polonus Philatelic Society as your charity. Your future visits to Smile.Amazon will then automatically credit Polonus with a donation. If you, family or friends shop on Amazon please consider Polonus as it will be a great source of new revenue for the Society.

Approval for WESTPEX 2023

I am pleased to announce the WESTPEX board approved Polonus as a sponsored society at its April 2023 show. Exact dates will be provided in the future. A list of upcoming Polonus meetings can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Gearing up for Filatelic Fiesta 2018, Polonus' Western Regional Exhibition

As mentioned in my previous message we are organizing an informal Polonus get-together at the 2018 Filatelic Fiesta stamp show in San Jose, California, held October 20-21. This is a considerable World Series of Philately show and we hope you plan to attend. At present we have five committed Polish exhibits but are looking for more. If you cannot attend the show but are willing to send your exhibit, please consider doing so. Details and exhibit prospectus can be found on the Filatelic Fiesta website, www.filatelicfiesta.com/. There will be a judge with Poland area experience, Dr. Paul Phillips, a former Polonus board member is on the jury. We will not have a formal booth or hospitality room but will have a one frame society exhibit. There will be a one-hour Polonus-sponsored

seminar on Saturday at 10 a.m. The seminar will introduce Polish philately, followed by an informal meet and greet of Polonus members. The show is both an opportunity to showcase Polonus as well as celebrate the 100th anniversary of Polish independence. Please consider attending and/or participating.

100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence

As a member of Polonus you can take part in publicizing this anniversary by exhibiting Polish material at World Series of Philately and regional shows. Your efforts will not only promote Polish philately in general, but will acknowledge the significance of this important anniversary. My multi-frame display exhibit on Józef Piłsudski was shown at the combined National Topical Stamp Show/American Philatelic Society StampShow in August, and will be featured at the Filatelic Fiesta show in October.

As part of this effort our affiliate in Poland, the Polish Philatelists Union (PZF), is soliciting via its Internet Philatelist Club (i-KF), images of Polish rarities. You can find this PZF effort in the news section of the website or under the banner "The Gallery of Polish Philatelic Jewels". Participation details are found on the Polonus website or can be provided by our PZF liaison, Mirosław Miętus via mmietus@gmail.com. Please consider sending images of Polish rarities.

Want to Enjoy Polonus More?

It's easy ... get involved. The experience of involvement, minor or large, brings you closer to the organization and those dedicated to running it, which benefits all. We still have a number of volunteer positions open where even minimal assistance can help improve our operations and services. Contact me for more information.

Please continue to let us know how we are doing. We are only as good as our ability to service the needs of our membership. We need to hear from you if we are not providing an activity, service or resource that would help you and other members. Contact me using the email address on page 2.

Many thanks for your continued support and interest in Polonus and Polish philately.

POLPEX Store Offerings

Polonus Website and Store Offerings

Visit the website for a complete offering of POLPEX Store inventory including POLPEX souvenir sheets and show cards. In addition, visit the store annex eBay site under the seller name polonusstoreannex-0. This site offers a mix of POLPEX material as well as donated material for sale. There are philatelic items of every description offered on the eBay site with up to 50 new lots each month. Most eBay lots are fixed price and offer free shipping. If you have excess philatelic material to donate for sale please contact Ed Andrews.

Literature

The Julian Auleytner book, *Postal Communications in Haller's Blue Army 1917-1920*, remains available at \$39.95 with free shipping. Only four copies left!

The Polonus Bulletin Index by Marion Dudek also is available at \$13.99 with free shipping. This covers all issues from 1940-1983 and is a good cross check reference for material.

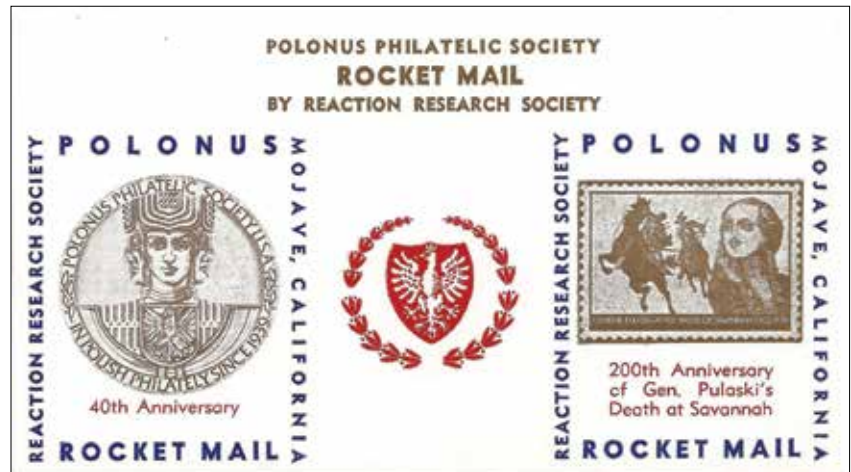
September Bulletin Special

We have a limited supply of special covers from the recent Kościuszko anniversary event at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. They are available for \$10.00 with free shipping.

Our special this month is a seldom seen Rocket Mail POLPEX souvenir sheet from the 1979 show. These are available for \$9.00 with free shipping.

Lastly, we offer a set of three covers from the 1983 show featuring the winged hussar as a cache or cancel. Find a sample image at the right. These are available in limited quantities for \$6.50 a set with free shipping.

To place an order for any of the above offerings send a check or money order with a description of the item(s)



to: Polonus, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia CA 94510. Or, use PayPal, sending a remittance to the address info@polonus.org. Be sure in all cases to indicate what the payment is for and make sure you have listed your return mailing address.

Free shipping is only offered for domestic mailing

Any address outside the United States should contact Ed Andrews at afacinc@yahoo.com or 919-932-0942 for an estimate of international shipping costs. For inquiries about other store material contact Ed Andrews.

Could Be Turned Off; However, Never Silenced

Elektrit Radio Engineering Company in Wilno 1925-1939

Raimundas Marius Lapas

The purpose of this article is to briefly unravel the story of the Wilno based Elektrit Radio Engineering Co. (Towarzystwo Radiotechniczne Elektrit). Manufacturing radios during the period of 1925 through 1939, Elektrit was the largest industry in pre-war Wilno with annual sales exceeding \$1 million dollars. By 1939 some 1,100 workers were employed. Annual production was well over 50,000 radios. It was the sole exporter of radios produced in pre-war Poland.

A leader in the industry

Elektrit was founded in 1925 by local Jewish entrepreneurs Samuel and Hirsh Chwoles and Nachman Levin. Its beginning was simply a small storefront selling radio supplies with a repair shop in the yard. Their address was Wileńska 24. By 1927 Elektrit introduced its own produced radio receivers to the local market. Initially they were simple detectors without speakers. It was perfect timing as that year the Wilno radio station started its broadcasts. These detectors became an overnight success. Production increased at a rapid pace. Elektrit began to manufacture radio receivers as well as parts, mechanical reels, transformers, capacitors, and speakers, the latter of which, were used by the local radio station. In this way, the company played a very vital role in the Wilno district.

Hats off to Minerva

In 1934 Elektrit purchased patent rights from the Viennese company Minerva, while Austrian engineers traveled to Wilno to teach the locals. This instruction occurred at the newly built plant at ul. Generała Szeptyckiego (currently Ševčenkos gatvė) 16a. The plant rapidly grew and by 1936 the company built three additional spacious buildings, increasing the production area to 10,300 square meters. It operated its own power plant, a large mechanical workshop and various laboratories and warehouses. Elektrit employed conveyors using five or six production lines, working seasonally from September to March (Figure 1).

Soon Elektrit became the leader in radio production in Poland. In 1936 some 54,000 radios were manufactured with a retail value of 6.4 million złoty (\$1.2 million US dollars). About 1,100 workers were employed, including numerous skilled engineers and technicians. Thanks to these professionals, Elektrit products were globally recognized for their outstanding quality. Eighty percent of parts used for their radios were manufactured



Figure 1, Factory employees and personnel in front of the main building. 1938 photograph.

in house. Radio tubes were purchased from Phillips, resistors from Horkiewicz, capacitors from several different companies, while speaker membranes were imported from England. The Wilno plant also manufactured microphones as well as sound systems for movie houses (Figure 2).

Elektrit sponsored several employee sports teams: soccer, boxing, swimming and canoeing. The company printed an array of publications: calendars, brochures and posters, notably the Art Déco gem designed by artist Henryk Tomaszewski promoting the "Eroica" model (Figures 3). Even a communist-oriented circle found refuge in the plant. In 1935, they staged a major strike resulting in victory. Workers were awarded their demands but the organizers

were soon fired. Later an employee union was established that harmoniously worked with their superiors.



Figure 2, The Allegro model was the most highly regarded radio in 1938.

Echoed far and wide

Elektrit radios were widely sold on the continent and beyond, spanning the Scandinavian coun-

tries of Finland, Norway and Sweden, nearby Estonia (but not Latvia, home of the famous locally produced VEF radios) and

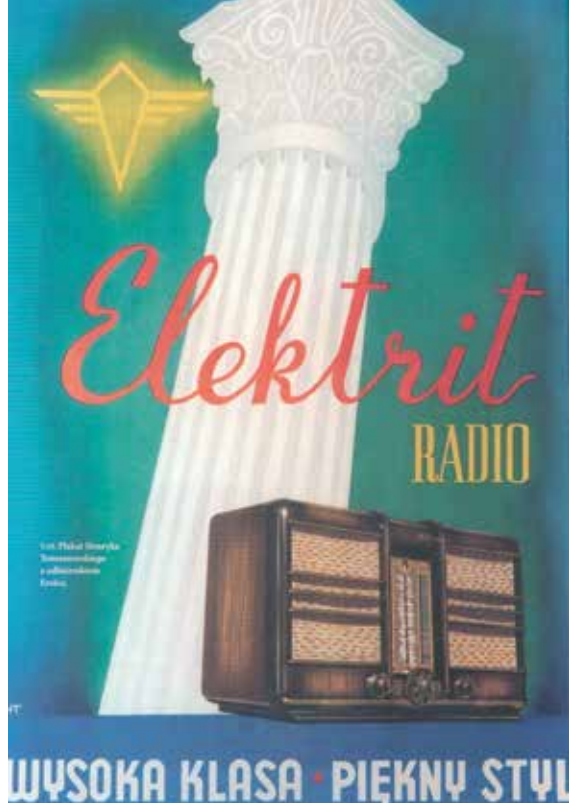


Figure 3, The appealing Elektrit posters were created by leading graphic designers. This 1938 poster is an example promoting the Eroica model (1).

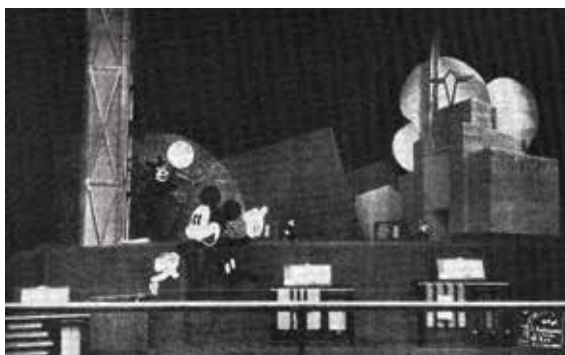


Figure 4, American icons such as Disney characters promoted Elektrit radios in store windows, even in remote Wilno (1).

further to: England, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Romania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, extending to Greece, Turkey, Malta and Palestine. Clever marketing tactics promoting Elektrit products were evident even locally in Wilno.

The legendary Walt Disney hero Mickey Mouse advertised the Elektrit line as seen in an existing store front photograph taken in Wilno in 1939 (Figure 4).

Lithuania, for obvious political and geographic conflicts, did not sell Elektrit radios. The 1940 edition of Lithuania's telephone directory included a section listing for the returned city of Vilnius. There we find an entry for "Elektritas: electro technical supplies as well as radio and bicycle shop. Žukauskas, Vl. and Miškevičius, L. Trakų g-vė 18," with phone number 3199. Perhaps this store was selling Elektrit remainders with a Lithuanian version of the factory's old name?

We should note that there was a second radio manufacturer in pre-war Wilno. The Esbrok Radio (formally named Zakłady Przemysłowo-Handlowe Esbrok Radio Co., A. Etingin i S-ka) plant was first located in heart of the city at ul. Mickiewicza (later known as Gedimino prospektas) 23 and then relocated to ul. Rydza-Śmigłego (Švitrigaila) 15. One can speculate that it was an off-shoot of the Dutch based Phillips dynasty. The Esbrok plant was short-lived and could not compete with Elektrit which monopolized the market. For example, in 1937 Esbrok produced a mere 1,010 units in comparison to Elektrit's 26,677 radios.

Obviously the eve of WWII did not "help" either company in Wilno.

Elektrit's demise

As was the case every year, the 1939-1940 season offered a new line of radios. The cabinets retained their characteristic design which set Elektrit apart from other radios manufactured in Poland: different wood surfaces, knobs and dial screens. This last season introduced six new models. Production began in August 1939, but due to the beginning of World War II manufacturing of new models soon halted. This was a major blow for Polish economy. Having occupied the city, the USSR forces returned the city to Lithuania. It once again became Vilnius. Alas, major pilferage occurred in the city. Everything useful for Soviet industry was shipped to the USSR. Elektrit's production line, its equipment, and even a number of employees were hauled off to Minsk, where hastily in a local sawmill, the Molotov radio plant (радио фабрика им МОЛОТОВА) was created. The vacant buildings in Vilnius were soon occupied by a fur manufacturer which employed Jews from the local ghetto. After the war it became a concealed USSR Ministry of Aviation radio technology plant, and later a similar secretive operation that produced measuring instruments. With the demise of the USSR this plant was restructured as a limited company, Rimeda, which quickly went bankrupt.

What postal history uncovers

In the early years of operation Elektrit probably used regular Polish postage stamps on company mail. The only such item I am aware of is illustrated in Henryk Berezowski's book, *Towarzystwo Radiotechniczne ELEKTRIT Wilno 1925-1939*. On page 41 Berezowski depicts a commercial advertising window front (alas not knowing to whom the warranty was sent) cover franked with a 15 gr Polish postage stamp with a Wilno December 5, 1930, postmark (Figure 5).

By the 1930s, meter mail became popular among major, as well as small companies throughout the continent. Poland, and even Wilno, were of no exception. Elektrit used two different meters. The first was a D 26 subscript three-line slogan "RADIOAPARATY ELEKTRIT ZAWSZE PRZODUJĄCY!"



Figure 5, Initially, postage stamps were used on Elektrit's mail (1).



Figure 6, This brittle window cover has seen better days and is the only known example of this meter.

(translation: "ELEKTRIT Radios - always at the front!"), dated February 11, 1937. Unfortunately, this cover is not complete and is brittle with the top right-hand corner missing, which sadly denies us the denomination of the postal rate charged (Figure 6).

In time, the franking machine at Elektrit wore out and a new design was used: a two line ELEKTRIT RADIO WYSOKA KLASA PIĘKNY STYL (translation: "Elektrit Radio. High class. Beautiful style"). This particular cover was franked with 80 gr and sent from Wilno on April 24, 1939, with an A 4 serial marking. This cover was sent by registered mail as an order letter (list zleceńiowy) to the post office in Pabianice (back-stamped Pabianice May 25, 1939, on the reverse) (Figure 7). This same postmark is listed in the Vytautas Fugalevičius's cancellation catalogue, *Pašto antspaudai* (Kiel, 1990) on page 333, dated February 28, 1939, with the subscript D 94. Was the cancellation altered months later, or a new machine employed in its place? We'll probably never know the answer to the inconsistency of this cancellation. Almost all Polish meters listed and reproduced from other sources without denominations cannot be considered authoritative, but were likely altered when reproduced as hand drawings.

Another item of interest is a 1937 slogan cancel, "Wystawa Radio dla miasta i wsi 15-30-IX-37" (translation: "Exhibition 15-30-IX-7 Radio for the city and all"), sporting two broadcasting towers (Figure 8). Posted from Wilno on September 27, 1937, the cancel reminds us what an important role radio played in the city and surroundings as a vital source of information and entertainment.



Figure 7, This registered cover features a new Elektrit cancellation, of which only a few examples are known.



Figure 8, 1937 Wilno slogan cancel, Radio dla miasta i wsi.

Elektrit radios and their memorabilia are highly desired by collectors. Anyone interested in pursuing this or any Wilno/Vilnius related postal history topic can email me at studijar@msn.com.

Unless otherwise indicated, all philatelic items are from this author's personal collection.

References

1. Berezowski, Henryk. *Towarzystwo Radiotechniczne ELEKTRIT Wilno 1925-1939*. Warszawa, nakładem autora, 2011.
2. Fugalevičius, Vytautas. *Pašto antspaudai*. Kiel, autoriaus leidinys, 1990.
3. *Lietuvos telefono abonentų sąrašas 1940*. Kaunas, Pašto valdybos leidinys, 1940.

The Poland Flag Stamp of the United States Overrun Country Series

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

Part 4 (2 of 2): First Day of Issue Cachets – Commercial Cachet Makers

In part 4 (1 of 2) I limited my discussion to the Polonus first day cachets and hand painted envelopes. As I previously mentioned (part 4, 1 of 2), the hand-painted envelopes hold a special prominence for first day cachet collectors. It has been estimated only 11 percent of World War II first day covers are hand-painted. In this instalment I discuss other first day cachets made by commercial cover makers. Recall that a “first day cachet” is a design or inscription that directly relates to the stamp. There are many Poland first day cancelled covers with patriotic or other cachets. These will be discussed in part 5.

While there is no definitive number, I estimate 50 varying FDC cachets for the Poland stamp, and more than 200 patriotic design covers. Most of these covers can be had for \$2 to \$10. I have spent many pleasant afternoons at stamp shows searching through dealer’s stock. Blocks are more valuable than single stamps, and Poland name blocks on a first day cover are the most sought after.

***Commercial cachets are often
categorized by their type of printing:***

Thermographic Cachets

The thermograph process is where the cover is dusted with a fine powder and heat applied to give the cover a fine, raised impression.

Ludwig Staehle

Cachet maker Ludwig Staehle served in the German army in World War I, and then immigrated to the United States in 1927. Staehle was a teacher and interior designer and used his artistic talent in the cachet field for both first day and patriotic designs. Staehle’s thermographic designs were used by cover makers Cachet Craft and Smartcraft. His Cachet Craft design is in Figure 1, where the sender attempted to



Figure 1, Cachet Craft/Staehle



Figure 2, Smartcraft/Staehle



Figure 3, Crosby Map and Flag

send the cover to Warsaw, but it was stopped by the censor's office in New York (censor tape at the left). A note was enclosed stating the cover was returned because the Germans would not accept a cover considered to be propaganda. Figure 2 is Staehle's design used by Smartcraft.

Walter Crosby

Walter Crosby was a prolific cachet designer who used the thermographic process. Figure 3 is Crosby's design which shows a map of Poland and a Polish flag. He also made covers



Figure 4, Crosby with photo insert



Figure 5, Nix Thermograph



Figure 6, Fleetwood/Knapp

(Figure 4) with informative text in blue or black, and added various small photos like that of President Władysław Raczkiewicz.

Louis Nix

Louis Nix of St. Louis used the thermographic process to print text in two colors, black and blue (Figure 5).

Letterpress and Lithographic Cachets

Dorothy Knapp

I discussed Dorothy Knapp in the previous article. Knapp made



Figure 7, PentArts Paderewski

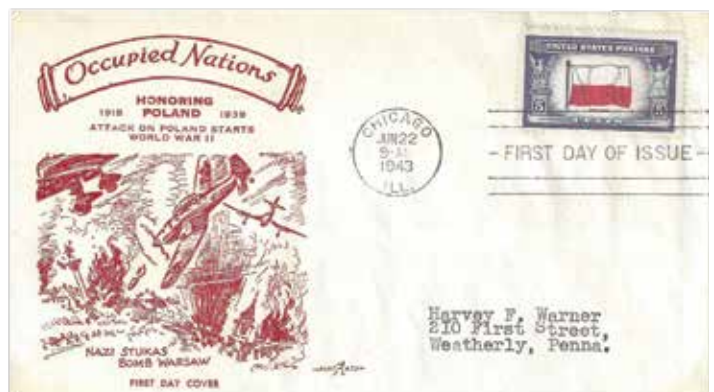


Figure 8, PentArts Bombing of Warsaw



Figure 9, Hobo Arts "First to Fight"

only one design for a commercial company, Fleetwood. Her name can be seen next to the sword in Figure 6.

Mr. F. Miller

A very attractive series of cachets was created by Mr. F. Miller of PentArts (Collector's Surplus of Kansas City). Figures 7 and 8 show his Paderewski cachet and "Nazi Stukas Bomb Warsaw".

Hobo Arts

Hobo Arts (publisher Jancowski) tattered flag and "First to Fight" cachet served both as a first day cover cachet and later as a patriotic cover cachet. See Figure 9.

D. Lowrey

One of the more intricate cachets was made by D. Lowrey for Aristocrates Covers. This cachet in Figure 10 includes the Polish eagle, flag and a medallion with Piłsudski, as well as soldiers and sailors.

Clarence Reid

Not all first day postmarks were on covers. Clarence Reid made an Overrun Countries series on favor cards (Figure 11). These cards are difficult to find.

Multipurpose Cachets

A multipurpose cachet is one cachet that could be used for several stamps, in this instance, other Overrun Country flags besides Poland.

Multipurpose cachets served all the Overrun Countries series. Figure 12 is the colorful Staehle design "They Shall be Free Again", and Figure 13, "Betsy Ross Making First U.S. Flag," produced by Ludwig/Brenn Publishers of Detroit. The covers shown are a small introduction to collecting the first day covers of the Poland stamp. One can easily find many of these cachets in dealer's stock or on eBay.

In Part 5, I explore the multitude of patriotic cachets.



Figure 10, Aristocrates/Lowrey "Warsaw" in ruins



Figure 11, Reid Favor Card



Figure 12, Multipurpose Staehle cachet



Figure 13, Multipurpose Ludwig/Brenn cachet

References

1. Mellone's *Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers*. Vol. 1, 2nd Edition. 1940-1947.

Scarce 1936 Port Gdańsk Overprint Stamps In Souvenir Folder

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

While browsing a Port Gdańsk stamp auction, I found a scarce souvenir folder with the three Port Gdańsk overprint stamps of 1935-1936, (Scott 1K28-1K30).

I thought *Bulletin* readers would find this item of special interest in the area of the “Port Gdańsk” overprint stamps, particularly as a scarce souvenir issue in memory of Marshal Józef Piłsudski (1867-1935).

Piłsudski was a distinguished individual in the history of Poland. He was a military leader, serving as commander of the Polish Legions during World War I, first Polish Chief

of State (1918-1922), first Field Marshal of Polish Military, and a Minister of Military Affairs. Piłsudski is viewed as the founding father of the Second Polish Republic (1918).

The souvenir folder cover dedicated to Piłsudski is shown in Figure 1. The cover features both Polish and German printing, even though it went through the Polish post office in Gdańsk. The title that is printed in Polish reads as follows: “Komplet znaczków pocztowych w upominku” (translation: “Complete set of postage stamps as a souvenir”). The middle of the cover in German reads: “Serie polnischer Briefmarken als Andenken” (translation: “Series of stamps as a souvenir or as a remembrance”). The bottom of the cover describes the issuer and in Polish reads, “Polski urząd pocztowo-telekom. Gdańsk 1” (translation: “Polish Post and Telecom Office in Gdańsk number 1”).

Andenken” (translation: “Series of stamps as a souvenir or as a remembrance”). The bottom of the cover describes the issuer and in Polish reads, “Polski urząd pocztowo-telekom. Gdańsk 1” (translation: “Polish Post and Telecom Office in Gdańsk number 1”).

This one-page souvenir folder features three fancy postal cancellations all dated, 24-XII-36-9 Gdańsk 1 (Figure 2). Cancellations feature the saying “WITAJ GWIAZDKO ZŁOTA” (translation: “Hail Gold Star” with a fancy sailboat for the Christmas holiday. The 5 gr stamps (Scott 1K28) show Pieskowa Skała, “The Dog Cliff”, the location of a famous centuries old military fortress. The 15 gr (Scott 1K29) is titled Gdynia M/S Piłsudski and shows a ship named in Piłsudski’s honor. Lastly, 25 gr (Scott 1K30) is titled “Belweder,” (The Belweder Palace) a famous historical palace, the last residence of Marshal Józef Piłsudski.



Figure 1



Figure 2

General Duty Revenue Fee Stamps of Poland, 1920-1924

The Nine Issues and Examples of Use (Part 2 of 2)

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

Purpose

I have long been a student of fiscal philately and am always fascinated with the use of revenue stamps. These are often colorful and beautifully engraved stamps which lend themselves to several areas of collecting. Documents bearing revenue stamps also provide a window to the history and economics of a given period. The real challenge is finding revenues on documents and ascertaining the appropriateness of their denomination value against the then current revenue service rates. In many countries rate information is sparse to non-existent.

The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the General Duty Revenue stamps of Poland that were in use during the hyperinflation period of the early 1920's. Selected uses, both legal and illegal, will be shown and discussed.

1922 Issue – Higher Inflation Denominations

By 1922 hyperinflation was taking hold and stamps with even higher denominations were necessary. These were of similar design to the 1921 issue and had four denominations, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000 and 5,000 MkP (Barefoot 38-41). The lower tablet of each design was imprinted with the denomination as an added security measure, and the stamps were printed on watermarked paper with diamonds and lines. The stamps were variously perforated 10½ to 14½.

The invoice fragment in Figure 17 details lumber sales as unfinished timber and finished board planks for construction of the government's tobacco factory in Monastyriska (Ternopil Oblast south of Lwów in Western Ukraine). It relates to lumber deliveries in April and November 1923. The block of 20 and strip of 5 stamps of the 5,000 MkP denomination pay 130,000 MkP on 25 million MkP sales (0.5 percent sales tax rate). One stamp has been removed from the lower left.

1923 Issue – Even Higher Inflation Denominations

In 1923 eight denominations were issued: 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, and 50,000 MkP (Barefoot 42-49). The 1,000 through

5,000 MkP designs were the same as the 1922 issue, while the higher denominations were new designs. The lower tablet still had the printed denominations but for additional security, paper with a wavy line watermark was used. Figure 18 shows a left sheet block of 30 stamps of the 30,000 MkP denomination (Barefoot 48).

A scarcer variety of the 30,000 MkP stamp has a yellow security under-print (Barefoot 48a) as shown in Figure 19.

1923 Even Higher Value Issue

By the fall of 1923 hyperinflation was nearing its peak and it was again necessary to issue stamps with even higher



Figure 17

denominations. This issue had seven denominations (Barefoot 50-56). The 1,000 and 2,000 MkP denominations were of similar design to the early 1923 issue except the tablet lacked the printed denomination. The 20,000, 100,000, 500,000 and 1 million MkP values were of new designs (Barefoot 52-56). See examples in Figure 20.

1924 New Currency Issue

By January 1924 the hyperinflation period had almost reached its peak. The Polish government under Prime Minister Władysław Grabski formed the Bank of Poland and on April



Figure 18



Figure 19

Figure 20

24 introduced a new Polish currency, the złoty, based on the gold standard. One złoty was 100 groszy and equivalent to 1,800,000 old MkP. This change eventually led to an easing of inflation and temporarily stabilized the economy.

The new currency issue of General Duty revenues was released in May 1924. They were similar in design and color to the original 1920 issue but were denominated in the new groszy and złoty currency. They did not have the security under-print like the 1920 issue. There were 11 denominations, 10 to 50 groszy (Barefoot 60-63) and 1 to 50 złoty (Barefoot 64-70). The stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and were perforated 11½. One additional design difference was the purposeful italicizing of both letter "A's" of OPLATA and the "OWA" of STEMPIOWA. This was assumedly done to avoid confusion with the 1920 fen and MkP issue. Figure 21 shows a comparison of these two issues.

Final 1924 Issue

The first new currency issue is quite scarce as it lasted only a few weeks being quickly replaced with new designs in 14 denominations. These were stylistically more aligned to the 1923 stamps with the open tablet at the bottom. The denominations were 5 to 50 groszy (Barefoot 71-76) and 1 to 50 złoty (Barefoot 77-84). The groszy denominations have no watermark, while the złoty denominations have a wavy line watermark, as well as a pale color under-print. The stamps were perforated 10 to 11½. Figure 22 shows examples of the issue.

As an example of use, Figure 23 shows an unusual mixed usage with postal franking (the subject of an earlier article (8)). The formular card is dated October 15, 1926 and reports oil production from various wells, and the required payment associated with the volume. The card was mailed from Tustanowice (Lviv Oblast, Western Ukraine) to the regional court in Drohobych (also Lviv Oblast). The Monuments issue stamp (Scott 238; Fischer 209) pays the 10 groszy post card rate per September 1, 1926 (5). The 10 groszy revenue stamp (Barefoot 72) pays the court recording fee.

The 1924 designs were used until 1927 when a shorter rectangular design was introduced. Various redesigns of the new shorter rectangle shape were issued from 1927 through 1959. My study of the General Duty revenues focused only on the taller vertical designs of 1920-1924.



Figure 21

Acknowledgement

I thank Andrew Katz of the Polonus Translation Services Committee for his invaluable translations of Russian and Polish documents. My ability to define appropriate revenue rates for the period could not have been accomplished without accurate translations of many legal, business and financial documents.

Parts of this article were in the June *Bulletin*.

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Figure 22



Figure 23

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Gems of Polish Philately

First Lublin Issue: A 1919 Money Letter

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

The provisional period of the Polish post in 1918 and 1919 is a fascinating and challenging area to collect. Some of the greatest Polish rarities are found during this time. I have written on several occasions about the second Lublin issue, but not about the first Lublin issue until now.

The Austrian army was driven out of Galicia in early November 1918. Lublin is the major city of this area where a provisional government was formed on November 7, 1918. With departure of the Austrian administrators of the post offices, the

post office functions were left to the Polish employees. These offices continued to use remaining on hand Austrian field post stamps and those of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the latter of which were brought to Galicia by the Austrian army to supplement mentioned Austrian field post stamps.

On December 5, 1918, three stamps of the Austrian Karl-fonds field post issue were overprinted into Polish stamps. This took place in the printing shop of a Mr. Jarzynski. These stamps are called the first Lublin provisional issue. The values

of 10, 20, and 45 haller correspond to the rates for a post card, a letter less than 20 grams, and a registered letter (20 haller plus 25 haller). On December 16, 1918, postal rates were increased. Beginning December 19, to meet increased rates, the 10 stamps of the second Lublin issue began to appear at irregular intervals through January 9, 1919. The first Lublin issue continued to be used until supplies were exhausted.

Philatelic covers with the three stamps are easy to find, however, genuine commercial letters are among the most difficult of all letters during the provisional period. Many of these have additional stamps of Bosnia-Herzegovina to make up the correct rates. I would estimate only 25-30 non-philatelic letters are known with the first Lublin issue. Only one parcel post card and only two money letters are known. Both money letters were sent from the small town of Szczekocin in January 1919.

Shown here is one of the money letters which is correctly franked 1 krone 75 hallers. One krone was the flat rate for a money letter and 75 hallers was the fee to send 100 kronen. All money letters had to have the weight indicated, here, 11 grams. Money letters had to be sealed with wax on the back flap. This is one of the most outstanding letters of the first Lublin issue.



Marcelina Sembrich-Kochańska

1858-1935

Jan Niebrzydowski

Few people today know of the exceptionally talented 19th and 20th century Polish opera singer and philanthropist, Marcelina Sembrich-Kochańska. Marcelina was born in 1858 in Wiśniowczyk, a small Polish town in Podolie (Podole), which at that time was under Austrian occupation. As a child, Marcelina sang in the local parish church where her father was the resident organist. Her talent was widely recognized and thanks to sponsorship of a wealthy local family, Marcelina studied at the Academy of Music in Lwów, and then in Venice and Milan. Making her singing debut in Athens, she toured Europe performing in major opera houses: Dresden, Milan, Rome, London, Geneva, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Warsaw.

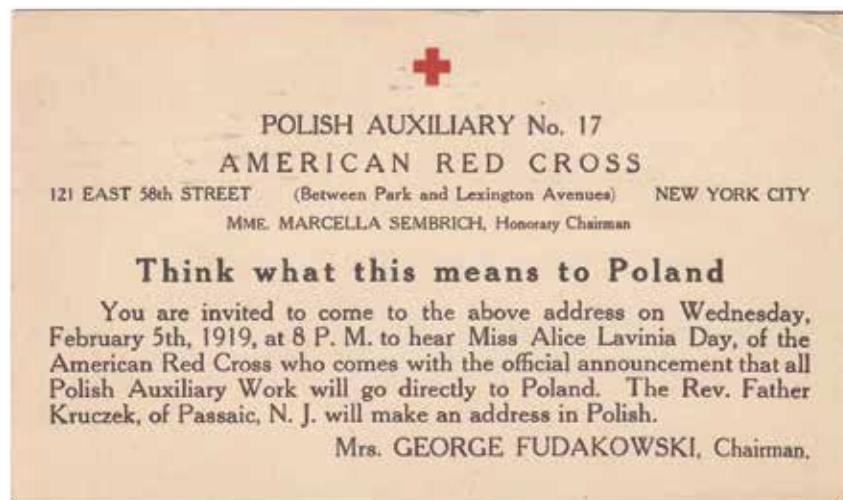
Marcelina sang for kings and queens, including the King of Spain, the Russian Tsar and the British royal family in London, where she was particularly admired. She received many gifts as tokens of appreciation: golden tiaras, necklaces and diamond studded bracelets. In the 1909 opera season, Marcelina earned \$85,000, no mean sum at the time, donating significant sums of money to charitable causes in the United States. She was also generous to charities in Poland, where occupation by three foreign powers: Russia, Prussia / Germany and Austria had caused widespread suffering and deprivation.

During World War I, Marcelina was President of the Polish-American Relief Committee in New York, honorary president of the Polish section of the American Red Cross, and supported other charitable organizations. In New York she worked closely with the world-famous pianist Ignacy Paderewski and his wife, Helena. For the Polish cause she won the support of millionaire philanthropists Andrew Carnegie and John P. Morgan.

Marcelina spent most of her life residing in her beautiful home on the shore of Lake George in Bolton Landing, New York. Today her residence holds the Sembrich Opera Museum and is the seat of the Sembrich Foundation. In the

summer months, a program of concerts, lectures and competitive events are presented at the museum. The Sembrich Opera Museum is well worth a visit. Find additional details on the museum website, www.thesembrich.org.

I regret to say that I do not have any memorabilia related to Marcelina Sembrich-Kochańska, although I have a keen interest in her story and have searched widely. In my collection I have only one postcard addressed to Father Leon Bójnowski which gives notice of a meeting on May 5, 1919 of the Polish section of the American Red Cross. As mentioned above, Sembrich-Kochańska was its honorary president.



Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929 – 1939)

Part 15 (1 of 2): LOT Polish Airlines: Joint Flights with Foreign Carriers to Africa

Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński

15.1. West Africa

On April 13, 1929, a directive issued by the Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraphs (Nr. 2800/VI) authorized new airmail service from Poland to Morocco and Senegal. Mail had to be collected by Thursday night at Warsaw 19 (Okęcie airport) P.O. for weekly (Sunday) flight by Air France (AF) from Paris to North-Western Africa.

Figure 1 illustrates a commercial letter addressed to Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Dated April 14, 1938 in Warsaw, it arrived in Dakar four days later (April 18). It was flown by AF to Paris and then via Marseille and Casablanca to Dakar. Of the total 1.95 zł, the surface foreign letter rate (up to 20 grams) required 0.55 zł, and the remaining 1.40 zł paid for airmail service to Senegal (2nd weight step at 0.70 zł per 5-gram letter, effective July 29, 1937-May 24, 1938). Figure 2 shows a letter addressed to Monrovia, Liberia. Posted in Radom on July 4, 1938, it was transported by surface mail to Warsaw and by AF via Paris and Dakar, arriving in Monrovia July 14, 1938. A lapsed time of 11 days means the piece traveled from Dakar to Monrovia by sea, not by air. The franking of 1.25 zł is correct for international letter rate (0.55 zł per 20 grams) plus 0.70 zł airmail surcharge to Liberia (per 5 grams; effective May 25, 1938).

15.2. East and Central Africa

On February 28, 1931, British Imperial Airways (IA) introduced first African weekly service (Saturday) from England



Figure 1

to Central Africa. It terminated at Mwanza on Lake Victoria in Tanganyika, and took eight days to cover the flying distance of 5,124 miles.

Figure 3 shows a registered non-philatelic cover sent October 15, 1934 from Krasiczyn, a town in south east Poland. It is addressed to Rutshuru, Belgian Congo, the destination normally serviced by IA. Despite sender's endorsement: "Via Cairo, Khartum, Kampala, Mbarara, Kabale, Kigali / Imperial Airways," the cover most likely traveled to Congo by ship, arriving in Leopoldville November 7, 1934, a lapsed time of more than 3 weeks. It was

then sent by Sabena to Stanleyville (November 11), by rail to Juba, Sudan (November 16), and probably by IA towards Kampala, Uganda (November 20). It arrived at Rutshuru, Congo, on November 23. Indeed, IA Flight No. AN194 (Atalanta) left Juba on November 21 to reach Nairobi on November 22; Kampala is located between both cities. Such a contrived and inefficient route may have resulted from weather conditions that prevented mail transport from Stanleyville to Rutshuru. The transit time via Europe and Africa was 39 days. . . a truly mammoth journey. The postage of 4.45 zł is consistent with the foreign surface letter rate of 0.55 zł (per 20 grams) plus 0.45 zł (registration fee) and 3.20 zł (air surcharge to Belgian Congo for the fourth weight step, 0.80 zł per 5 grams). The sender overpaid



Figure 2

this item by 25 gr, not realizing the international letter rate and registration fees decreased two weeks earlier (60 gr each until October 1, 1934).

On February, 23, 1930, the Belgian national carrier Sabena (Société Anonyme Belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation Aérienne) and the French CTA (Compagnie Transafricaine d'Aviation) signed an agreement to provide airmail service between Brussels and Belgian Congo. The Paris – Lyon – Marseille leg was serviced by Air Union, the Marseille – Algiers by Aeropostale, and CTA flew over the African continent. Sabena covered the Congo section, Boma – Léopoldville – Élisabethville, a 2,288 km stretch over dense jungle. Sabena's first long-haul direct flight to Congo, February, 23, 1935 by a Fokker F7b aircraft, took five and a half days. The next year, Sabena purchased the pride of European airlines, an Italian Savoia-Marchetti S.M. 73 tri-engine airliner. At a speed of 200 mph, this airliner reduced total journey time from Brussels to Congo to four days.

The card in Figure 4 is the acceptance of Polish mail to Élisabethville by Sabena's first direct flight to Belgian Congo on November 15, 1935. As directed in the typed endorsement, the sender wished the letter be flown from Warsaw via Poznań, and Berlin to Brussels and then from Brussels by Belgian carrier to Congo. Sent from Warsaw on November 13, 1935, the card was flown by LOT to Berlin and then by DLH (Deutsche Lufthansa) to Brussels. A bilingual rectangular cachet in green color ink commemorating the first direct service by Sabena to Élisabethville was applied. The distance of 9,333 km was covered in five days. The cover was arrival postmarked in Élisabethville (November 21, 1935) and the transit time from Poland was 8 days. The franking of 1.80 zł is correct for a 20-gram letter, consistent with 55 gr foreign surface letter rate, 45 gr registration fee, and 80 gr air surcharge to Belgian Congo (per 5 grams; effective May 15, 1935-July 28, 1937).

The first Poland acceptance for Stanleyville, Belgian Congo, carried from Brussels by Sabena on October 24, 1936, can be seen in Figure 5. As directed in the endorsement, it was flown on October 21, 1936 by LOT from Warsaw to Berlin (Flight No. 13). The card then went on by DLH night flight to Brussels (Flight No. 221) to connect with the Sabena accelerated service to Belgian Congo. The distance of 7,813 km was covered in five days. The card arrived in Stanleyville on October 28, 1936. The transit time from Poland was seven days. The postage of 85 gr is for foreign printed-matter rate of 5 gr (per 50 grams), plus air surcharge to Belgian Congo of 80 gr (per 5 grams; effective May 15, 1935-July 28, 1937).



Figure 3-A



Figure 3-B



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6-A



Figure 6-B

A non-philatelic cover addressed to the Benedictine Mission in Jadotville, the Katanga province of Belgian Congo, came from Kościan, a town in western Poland, December 16, 1938 (Figures 6-A and 6-B). It was carried surface to Poznań from where it was flown by LOT/DLH to Berlin and then by Sabena/DLH to Brussels. The airmail service from Brussels to Belgian Congo ran in cooperation between Sabena and Regie Air Afrique (Royal African Air). There were two flights per week to Belgian Congo of which one was by Air Afrique and one by Sabena. On November 4, 1938, Air Afrique started a biweekly service (Alger – Brazzaville) while Sabena commenced their biweekly service on November 6, 1938. November 20, 1938 marked Sabena's 100th flight from Brussels to Leopoldville. Based on this schedule and noting the arrival at Élisabethville of December 27, 1938, this cover must have been dispatched from Brussels by Air Afrique around December 23 (Bloch 120 aircraft). From Élisabethville it was carried by surface mail to Jadotville (December 28, 1938 arrival marking). The cover bears stamps to the value of 1.75 zł, as against the charge of 55 gr a foreign letter rate (per 20 grams) plus 1.20 zł airmail surcharge to Belgian Congo (2nd weight step at 60 gr per 5 grams; effective May 25, 1938).

15.3. South Africa

On August 1, 1932, the Ministry of Post and Telegraphs authorized new airmail service from Poland to South Africa. Mail was flown by LOT from Warsaw via Salonika to Athens to connect with the British IA African route.

Figure 7 illustrates one of a very few philatelically recorded first flown covers posted on July 30, 1932 in Warsaw, and carried to South Africa on August 3, 1932 (Flight No. AS75). It bears a two-line bilingual private cachet "I LOT POCZTOWY – FIRST FLIGHT," transit postmark from Athens (August 3) and Pretoria receiving postmark (DUPLICATE – 16 AUG"). The trip from Warsaw was recorded at 15 days. Unclaimed, it was returned from Pretoria (September 28) via Cape Town (October 3) and Poznań to Warsaw (October 26). The postage of 3 zł 50 gr is the foreign printed matter surface rate of 10 gr (per 50 grams) plus 60 gr registration fee and 2 zł 80 gr (per 10 grams for air service to South Africa; effective August 1, 1932).

Figures 8-A and 8-B are of a registered commercial linen pouch containing trade fabric samples, dispatched from Warsaw on May 18, 1937 and addressed to Johannesburg. After foreign currency inspection (magenta marking), the item was flown by LOT to Athens (foreign currency control handstamp and May 20, 1937 transit cancellation) and onward by Imperial Airways to Johannesburg

(receiving endorsement is missing). The IA Flight No. AS450 left Southampton May 22 and arrived in Johannesburg May 29, 1937. This was the 1,000th Empire service and the 450th African service. This was also the first southbound African service by both Cygnus (Southampton – Alexandria) and Courtier (Alexandria – Nairobi) aircrafts. The final leg to Johannesburg was completed by Andromeda. The franking of 3.85 zł for this overweight item was computed as 20 gr (per 100 grams) foreign trade fabric surface rate and 45 gr registration, to which had to be added the air surcharge of 3.20 zł to South Africa (4th weight increment; 0.80 zł per 5 grams; effective January 1, 1936-July 28, 1937).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jacek Kosmala (Warsaw, Poland) and Zygmunt Kopel (London, United Kingdom) for sharing philatelic items from their collections (Figure 1,2,3,7 and Figure 6, respectively).



Figure 7



Figure 8-A



Figure 8-B



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Another Case of Mixed Postal and Fiscal Use

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

I previously reported use of a mixed fiscal and postage on a post card (1), and have recently come across another example (Figure 1). This is a postcard from the Mukden Oil Co. relating to royalty payments on gross production of oil in the month of June, 1926. The card was completed at the company offices in Tustanowice (Lviv Oblast, Western Ukraine).

The printed form (Figure 2) details the production of oil and the payments due from each of two Mukden drilling

locations (Mukden I and Mukden II). Payments were based on percentage of formula production representing extracted oil and gross oil transferred (in 10,000 kg quantities) to the Polish Oil Union.

This card was prepared and addressed to the regional court (Sąd Powiatowy), division (Oddział XVI in Drohobych (also Lviv Oblast, Western Ukraine). In preparing the card for mailing, the oil company clerk affixed both a 10 gr stamp (Scott 240; Fischer 209 Type II) and a 10 gr general duty revenue stamp of the 1924 issue (Barefoot #72). The monuments issue stamp paid the 10 gr postcard rate per September 1, 1926. The revenue was affixed to pay the court recording fee of 10 gr. The card was mailed from Tustanowice (CDS) on October 15, 1926, and received at the court on October 18.

The receiving court clerk hand stamped the court division number in a bold, violet Roman font (PXVI). At that time the clerk also made a pen notation of the file number assigned to the document. This manuscript number is written across the monuments issue stamp



Figure 1

Spółka naftowa „MUKDEN”
Ska z ogr. odp.
LWÓW, pl. Bernardyński 11.

**Dopłata do należitości bruttoj
za miesiąc czerwiec 1926.**

Kopalnia	Ropa odtło- czona kg.	Przebieg do P. Z. N. ropa brutto kg.	Cena za 10,000 kg. zł	Kwota zł	Koszta zł	Podatek rentowy 20% zł	1% dla Kuratora zł	3 ⁰⁰ / ₁₀₀ dla P. K. O. zł	Do wypłaty zł	Na 1% przypada zł	Na udział WP. %	Przypada zł
Mukden I.	4.4378	12.870	1.663	2.140.28	171.22	393.81	19.69	6.42	1.549.14	53.41	0.758	11.85
Mukden II.	3.1848	12.421	1.663	2.065.61	165.25	380.07	19.—	6.20	1.495.09	38.33	~11.5	10.66
Razem . . .												25.51

Należitość przekazujemy przez P. K. O.
dla podatków: Stefan
i Awantaryi Półkowi
Tustanowice

Wypłacono zł	Pozostaje dopłata zł
6.80	18.65

Razem . . .

Z poważaniem
Ska. naft. „MUKDEN” Ska z o. o.
we LWOWIE.

Figure 2



Figure 3

and just touches the adjacent revenue stamp. The entire grouping of stamps and cancels was then hand stamped with the black rectangular court receiver (Figure 3). The order of placement of these various cancels and markings could only be determined using a Leuchtturm (Lighthouse brand) high magnification digital microscope.

The card indicates a total payment of 25.51 zł was due, of which 6.86 zł was paid and 18.65 zł remained due. The money was deposited in the P.K.O. (*Powszechna Kasa Oszczędności Bank Polski*) branch in Tustanowice.

What is extraordinary about this card and its use is that the postal clerk canceled both the postage and fiscal stamps where the fiscal had no franking value.

Another “court” card for comparison

Another card, also sent to a district court in 1926, does not carry a fiscal stamp as no recording fee was due (Figure 4).

This card was mailed September 4, 1926, by a lawyer in the Podgórze District of Kraków to the district court in Tarnów, specifically to court division Oddział II. On receipt, the court clerk stamped the card with a bold, red Roman “Og II” division designation, as well as an assigned file number in script “45/25” that just touches the edge of the stamp. The official black rectangular court receiver was then applied to the card face, providing the receipt date of September 5, 1926.

The card contents reveal why no fiscal was required as a recording fee. In this case, the card was sent to inquire if an



Figure 4

actuary deposit (the sum of 500 zł) that was awarded has been realized, based on a case (file no. F740/25) settled on November 16, 1925. Because it is an inquiry, it carried no court processing fee.

I have researched on the internet, without success, Polish court divisions, to understand the various division (Oddział) designations. If anyone has information on these abbreviated designations I would appreciate seeing them, as well as any other mixed fiscal / postage uses, in a letter to the editor.

The expert translations of Andrew Katz (Polonus Translations Services) are gratefully acknowledged.

Reference

1. Andrews, E. J. *Fiscal and Postage Mixed Use on a 1925 Registered Post Card*. *Polonus Bulletin*. June, No. 567. p 16; 2017.

New Issues

Frank Karwoski

The World Games Wrocław 2017

This 5 zł stamp recognizes The World Games Wrocław, officially called the X World Games. This major international multi-sport event is meant for sports activities not contested in the Olympic Games.

Last year's competitions occurred at venues in and near Wrocław on July 20-30. Poland hosted the games for the first time in its history.

More than 3,200 athletes from 102 nations participated in 200-plus competitive events. Football, lacrosse and muay thai debuted at these games.

Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee, opened the games. The Polish National Mint produced the gold, silver and bronze medals awarded to athletes. Russia, Germany, Italy and France earned most of the medals.



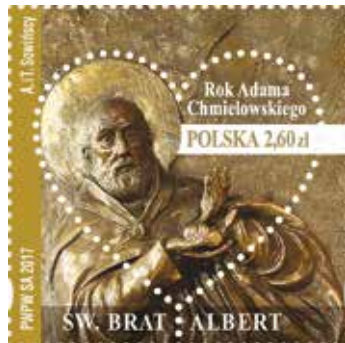
Date of Issue	June 9, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of four
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

The Year of Adam Chmielowski

This 2.60 zł stamp was issued by the Polish Post to honor St. Adam Chmielowski (1845-1916). The stamp has two sets of perforations, and is, therefore, both rectangular and/or heart-shaped.

Adam Hilary Bernard Chmielowski was a noted artist and religious leader. Born to a wealthy family in the village of Igołomia, outside Kraków, he participated in the Polish nationalist uprising of 1863 (losing a leg), and later took up painting. His strong political convictions inspired an interest in the human condition. He felt compelled to help those in need, serving in the homeless shelters of Kraków.

He joined the Third Order of St. Francis and, after wearing the Franciscan habit, began to call himself Albert, the name



now most commonly attributed to him. In 1888 he founded the Servants of the Poor and in 1893, together with Blessed Maria Jabłońska, founded a parallel women's congregation known as the Albertine Sisters. In 1949 Pope John Paul II, then a priest, inspired by the life of Chmielowski, wrote a play about him titled *Our God's Brother*, later made into a film. In 1966 Pope Paul VI titled him as Venerable, and in 1983 Pope John Paul II beatified him; in 1989 he was canonized in Rome.

The stamp portrays him in a sculptured relief as he offers bread. Based on the text on the stamp, the relief is from the Church of Saint Brother Albert in Gdańsk. Chmielowski's most famous painting, titled "Ecce Homo," is now housed at a shrine dedicated to him in Kraków.

Date of Issue	June 17, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset & screen printing
Designer	Andrzej & Teresa Sowinscy

Fighting Solidarity

The Polish anti-communist underground organization Fighting Solidarity (*Solidarność Walcząca*) is recognized on this 2.60 zł stamp. Founded in 1982 by Kornel Morawiecki in Wrocław, the organization was one of the most radical splinter groups of Solidarity, in response to the delegitimation of Solidarity itself, severe government repression of the opposition and the imposition of martial law in 1981. The organization was most famous for its information warfare, especially underground newspapers (*bibuła*). Despite its reputation for militancy, it did not support violence or terrorism.

The symbol of the organization combined the Solidarity logo with an anchor (*kotwica*), and the crowned Polish eagle, although the latter is not shown on the stamp. In 1945 the new communist regime removed the crown from the eagle's head on the Polish coat of arms; many of the opposition saw the crown as a symbol of an independent, non-communist Poland. (The crown is now on the eagle's head on Poland's coat of arms.) In 1990, the members of Fighting Solidarity founded the Freedom political party (*Partia Wolności*).



Date of Issue	June 20, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of nine
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Crown of Polish Mountains

In 1997, the geographer, traveler, and writer Marek Więckowski, along with Dr. Wojciech Lewandowski, promulgated 28 peaks, each representing one of the mountain ranges of Poland, described as the Crown of Polish Mountains. The listing was presented in the magazine Know Your Country and has now been recognized by the Polish Post on this 6 zł stamp. The list of 28 mountain peaks constitutes those most prominent, having a marked hiking trail for climbers. The Club of the Conquerors of the Crown of Polish Mountains was inaugurated at the same time as the listing. The highest peak in the Crown is the border summit Mt. Rysy in the Tatra Range, at 2,499 meters elevation. All 28 peaks are listed in the left selvage of the numbered souvenir sheet.



Date of Issue	June 30, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in numbered SS
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Janów Podlaski Stud

Nine stamps denominated at 2.60 zł were issued to recognize the Janów Podlaski Stud (farm), established in 1817. It is Poland's oldest state-owned and operated horse farm.

The Janów Podlaski Stud Farm is located in the village of Wygoda (Convenience) on lush meadows along the Bug River, near the border with Belarus in far eastern Poland. Wygoda is in the Janów-Podlaski administrative district within Biała Podlaska County, Lublin Voivodeship. It is famed for its breeding

of purebred Arabians. In 1817, after the Congress of Vienna, it was established by the Administrative Council of the Kingdom of Poland and approved by Tsar Alexander I.

It has had a troubled history, like Poland itself. During World War I, the farm's horses were evacuated into Russia, never to return. However, after Poland's independence in 1918, the Ministry of Agriculture began collecting horses in Janów; the stables were restored and purebred Arabians and Anglo-Arabian Half Bloods were reared. They provided the base for the breeding of cavalry and other military horses.

During World War II, more than 80 percent of the horses perished and several forced relocations occurred. In 1950, Janów began operating once again. Today, once each summer the farm hosts the famous Arabian Horse Days event. The stamps show some of the most notable horses from the farm: Etruria, Pogrom, Pinga, Ecaho, Pianissima, Bandola, Algeria, Pilarka, and Bandos. The stamps and three official first day covers are of special interest to topical / thematic collectors.



Date of Issue	July 31, 2017
Sheet Format	Nine different stamps in a pane of nine
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Rally of Great Sailing Ships - Szczecin 2017

This 6 zł stamp recognizes the international tall ship rally that concluded in Szczecin on August 8. More than 70 vessels from 18 countries participated in the race that began in Halmstad, Sweden, on June 30. The ships sailed through the Finnish ports of Turku and Kotka, Klaipeda, Lithuania, ending in Szczecin after sailing more than 1,200 nautical miles. The event ended with a parade of sailing ships between the island of Międzyzdroje (*German: Misdroy*) and the island port of Świnoujście (*German: Swinemünde*). The winner of the Torbay Cup was Karol Zdanowski.

Associated events in Szczecin included a concert featuring the singer Andrea Bocelli and the Pyromagic Fireworks Festival.

The stamp depicts the STS *Kapitan Borchardt*, a three-stroke fork rigged Polish schooner built in 1918 in the Netherlands

as a freight carrier. It is 45 meters long, seven meters wide and has a sail area of 600 cubic meters.



Date of Issue	August 5, 2017
Sheet Format	Singld in numbered SS
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Jaroslav Ochendzan

Eurovolley Poland 2017

These four 2.60 zł stamps recognize the 2017 Men's European Volleyball Championship, the 30th such event organized by the European Volleyball Association (CEV). Sixteen teams participated in competitions from August 24-September 3, 2017, at five different venues in Poland: Warsaw, Gdańsk / Sopot, Szczecin, Katowice and Kraków. Russia defeated Germany in the final to capture a record 14th tournament title; Maxim Mikhaylov from Russia was selected the most valuable player.

The four stamps depict volleyball action and have two sets of perforations, allowing collectors to separate them as either square or circular.



Date of Issue	August 10, 2017
Sheet Format	Four different stamps in a pane of eight
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Jaroslav Ochendzan

50th Anniversary of Coronation of Image of Our Lady of Lichen

This 2.60 zł stamp commemorates the 1967 crowning of Our Lady of Lichen religious icon which reportedly dates back to the late 18th century. According to legend, the Virgin Mary, holding a white eagle, appeared to Tomasz Kłossowski, a wounded soldier in 1813, who was fighting under Napoleon near Leipzig. He was reportedly tasked by the Virgin to find an image of her. After recovering from his injuries and returning home for the search, in 1836 he found the icon in Lgota, a village in southern Poland, north of Katowice. He hung the icon in Grąbliń Forest (Puszcza Grąbińska), and in 1850 a shepherd, Mikołaj Sikatka, discovered the image. The discovery was widely reported.



Shortly thereafter, a cholera epidemic broke out and many people flocked to the painting of the Virgin Mary for help. In 1852 the icon was moved to the parish church in Lichen in the administrative district of Gmina Ślesin, Konin County, Greater Poland Voivodeship, in west-central Poland.

Many miracles have been attributed to the icon. In 1949 the parish of Lichen was entrusted to the Marion Fathers who began restoration of the sanctuary that had been damaged during World War II. In 1965 Pope Paul VI issued an edict announcing confirmation of the gracious image of Our Lady of Lichen as miraculous and ordered its crowning, which was accomplished in 1967 by Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, at a ceremony attended by more than 150,000 people. Between 1994 and 2004 the church in Lichen was expanded dramatically to become the Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows, Queen of Poland, now Poland's largest church and seventh largest in the world.

In 2006 the painting was installed at the basilica's main altar. The painting shows the Virgin Mary dressed in a dark red gown and golden cloak, with a sad face and halfclosed eyelids. The official first day cover shows a photograph of the ceremonial crowning.

Date of Issue	August 12, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

300th Anniversary of Coronation of Our Lady of Częstochowa

This 2.60 zł stamp recognizes the first canonical coronation of Poland's most famous religious icon, the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, by Pope Clement XI in 1717. Art historians believe the original painting was a Byzantine icon from the 6th or 9th century, brought to the Jasna Gora Monastery in the 14th century by Prince Władysław Opolczyk, Duke of Opole, and adviser to Louis of Anjou, King of Poland and Hungary.

The icon was badly damaged by Hussite raiders in 1430 and consequently had to be painted over; the two slashes on Mary's cheek vividly demonstrate the extent of damage. The venerated icon is said to have miraculously saved the monastery from a Swedish invasion in 1655. In 1909 the crowns on the icon were stolen, requiring Pope Pius X to issue a second canonical coronation, replacing the crowns in 1910. Pope John Paul II issued a third coronation as a native of Poland in 2005.



Recently, a fourth canonical crowning took place with two new jeweled gold crowns created by an Italian artist and goldsmith. The crowns were blessed by Pope Francis. The creator of the new diadems, Michele Affidato, was chosen by the Pauline Fathers in charge of the Jasna Góra sanctuary. On August 28, 2017, more than 100,000 people attended a Mass in Częstochowa in honor of the crowning, which took place on September 8, 2017. Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, apostolic nuncio, offered the Mass of Thanksgiving and the homily was given by Archbishop Wojciech Polak of Gniezno. High-ranking politicians were present at the Mass, including Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Beata Szydło. The crowning was the culmination of Poland's Jubilee Year celebrations established by the Polish government for 2016-September-2017. (Note: The first crowning of the painting as Queen and Protector of Poland was accomplished by King John II Casimir in 1652.)

Date of Issue
Sheet Format
Printing Method
Designer

August 26, 2017
Single in sheet of 12
Photogravure
Marzanna Dabrowska



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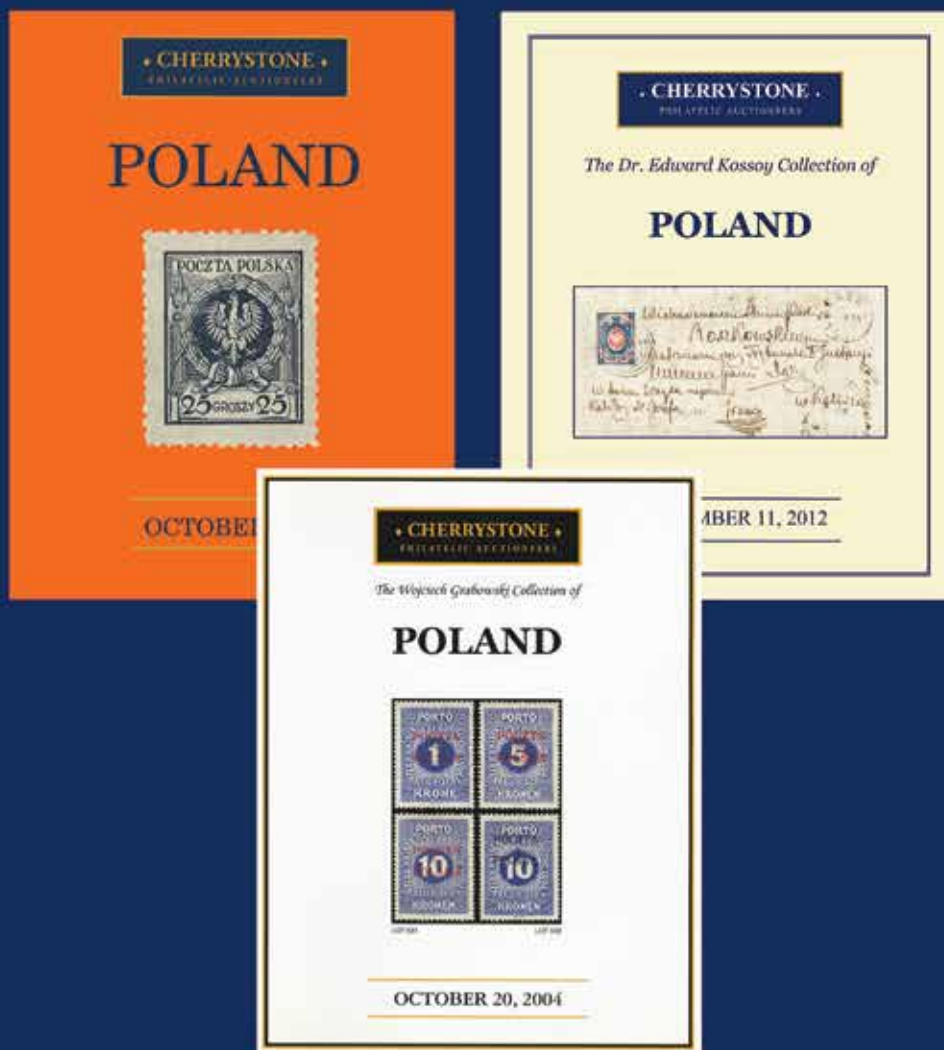
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