

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

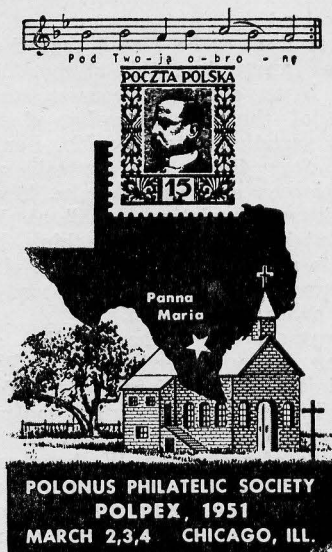
Issue No. 93

Feb.-March 1951

POLPEX 1951

The largest exhibition of Polish Postage Stamps in the United States will be held March 2, 3, and 4, 1951, when Polonus Philatelic Society will hold its Polpex at the Polish Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. As has been the custom, a colorful souvenir sheet was issued. The sheet shows the State of Texas with a star on the spot of Panna Maria, the first settlement of Poles in the United States. The Poland stamp of Henryk Sienkiewicz will be illustrated as this great writer visited this settlement just before the Gold Rush which disbanded it. The sheet is printed in olive and brick-red colors.

To acquire a pair of different souvenir sheets with a description folder covering the story and history of the information depicted on the souvenir sheets, send twenty-five (\$.25) cents to Polpex Director, Adam Kloskowski, 2528 North Drake Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.



NEW OFFICERS FOR 1951

Election held January 24 at the Polonus Philatelic Society resulted in favor of the following officers: President, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz; Vice-President, John Waksmański; Secretary, Barney Fialkowski; Treasurer, Stanley Madro; Librarian, Barney Sobczak; Board of Directors, Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz, Ben Reeves.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

Unofficial results of the Membership drive contest which closed January 31st, 1951, are as follows: 1st Barney Fialkowski (4 members), 2nd Chester Schafer (3 members), 3rd Adam Kloskowski (2 members), 4th Stanley Kucharz (2 members). The prizes have not been awarded as yet, this information will come later.

A new membership drive contest was decided by the members and this contest began as of February 1st. It will continue to August 1st, 1951.

Plate Flaws of Poland No. 1

By Stephen G. Rich

The variations of Poland No. 1 have been treated by various writers, some in Polish, some in French, some in German, and some in English. Mr. Henry Fenigstein's article (POLONUS BULLETIN, Jan. 1951) does a job long needed, in bringing together into one place a record of the plate flaws plus one other variety. The student of these stamps may be disconcerted, and even led astray, by the terminology used in Mr. Fenigstein's article. Hence it is necessary to publish some further explanation of what is involved.

First it must be stated that there are no "errors" in this stamp. This term is an entirely incorrect statement of the situation. Six of the eight varieties listed by Mr. Fenigstein, from Polanski, Gryzweski and Laszkiewicz are plate breaks. There wasn't any "printing form" as Mr. Fenigstein would have us think, but a plate made up of 100 separate electros, fastened together to a base in four panes of 25 each.

Domanski and I have called attention, without knowing of Mr. Fenigstein's eighth variety, to the fact that five of the varieties are conspicuously and obviously damage to the left side of the stamp. We have suggested (Stamp Specialist, Blue Book, 1941, p. 148) that quite possibly these five all belong together and represent damage to one edge of the plate. The new "eighth variety" fits with these and in fact looks like a further stage of either No. 2 or No. 4 of the Fenigstein list (No. 2 and No. 4 of our list, Figs. 10 and 12 of our illustrations).

Two others of the known varieties, one of which is not mentioned by Mr. Fenigstein, are clearly and obviously scratches or gouging of the plate by something sharp dragged across it. One is Mr. Fenigstein's No. 1 and our No. 1 and Fig. 9. The other is our No. 7 and Fig. 15, a gouge diagonally through top of stamp and out near center of right side of stamp. Since Domanski and I wrote, comparison of the copies which I own has convinced



me that these two varieties very likely occurred together on the plate—the one with bottom gouge above that with top gouge.

The variety with an additional blue border around the central oval, which is Mr. Rachmanov's recent brilliant contribution to our knowledge of Poland No. 1, is not in the same class as those thus far mentioned. It is clearly not a damage to the plate, but an actual difference in the electro. Mr. Fenigstein's explanation by "failure of the action of the acid in preparation of the die" simply does not agree with what we know of the making of Poland No. 1. The master die was engraved, not etched. The actual clichés were made by electrotyping. Since the variety occurs four times (or thereabouts) to each sheet of 100, it is clear that molds were made and electros taken on them, presumably four times, before this line was removed from the master die . . . the blue plate die, of course.

The speculation is interesting, but
(continued on page 93-3)

No.	12 X 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 13 14 14	12 1/2 X 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 13 14 14	13 X 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 13 14 14	13 1/2 X 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 13 14 14	14 X 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 13 14 14	14 1/2 X 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 13 14 14
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NOTE.—The numbers in first column correspond to descriptions of the stamps at beginning of the table.

(To be continued.)

Reprinted from GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY — Oct. 1929 to Aug. 1932
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(continued from previous issue)

The 20 mks. is a new die, smaller than the one of the first issue, measuring $25\frac{1}{2} \times 21$ mm. The vertical and horizontal spacing between the stamps measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The perforation of these stamps is $12\frac{1}{2}$ throughout.

Plate varieties are to be found in the 10 mks. only, and these are A1, B, and C. It will be noticed that variety "C" is only found on this last issue of the 10 mks.

In September 1922 the 20 mks. was issued for a third time on thick wove paper, in the small die, and in various shades of red.

There are innumerable perforation varieties (see check-list), but no other varieties.

In December 1922 the 25 mks. was issued for a third time on thick wove paper. It was printed from a new plate, which differed from the first two issues of this value in that the background exactly fits the design and the prints are brighter and clearer.

The standard shade is purple on buff.

For perforation varieties see check-list. There is only one plate variety, namely, a small coloured dot after "POLSKA."

In January 1923 the 100 mks. was again issued, but on thick wove paper. At the same time a new value appeared, namely, 200 mks., in the same design. This latter stamp was issued simultaneously on thick wove, and a smaller quantity on thin wove paper.

The colouring of the 200 mks. is black, with a pink centre and burelage. For perforation varieties of both values see check-list.

The following varieties are known:
100 mks. "POCZIA" for "POCZTA."

Dot between "L" and "S" of "POLSKA."

The above occur on early printings only.

Small dot over "O" of "POLSKA," No. 32, on all printings. Double perforations between the stamps and on the margins.

200 mks. Dot between "C" and "Z" and a vertical stroke under "A" of "POCZTA," No. 31, early printings on thick wove only. Double perforations.

Vertical perforations out of the alignment.

Owing to the further depreciation of

the value of the German mark, stamps of higher value had to be prepared and issued in quick succession. Therefore between February and April 1923 we see the issue of five new values of the large Eagle type, namely, 300, 400, 500, 1000, and 2000 mks.

A portion of the printing of the 300, 500 and 2000 mks., and the entire printing of the 400 mks. were done by rotary machine on pelure paper, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ only. There are no plate varieties, the only peculiarity being that the vertical spacing down the centre of each sheet is usually 1 mm. narrower than the vertical spacings on the remainder of the sheet, the Post Office Control numbers on the top margins beginning and ending on each half-sheet.

The remainder of the printing of the 300, 500, and 2000 mks., and the entire printing of the 1000 mks. was done on wove paper varying in thickness, but it can generally be taken to be on thin wove.

The standard shades are: 300 mks. green (pelure) and yellow-green, 400 mks. chocolate, 500 mks. claret, 1000 mks. orange, and 2000 mks. ultramarine (pelure) and violet-blue.

The varieties of perforation are not so numerous as in the preceding lower values (see check-list).

The varieties of the values on thin wove are as follows:

300 mks. Large white spot in front of beak of eagle.

Broken frame in right upper corner and defective "KA," No. 55.

Worn plate.

1000 mks. Large white spot against left claw of eagle.

Worn plate.

2000 mks. Double perforation.

Postal obliterations are found in red, blue, carmine, and violet, the normal being in black.

I have marked only those perforations which I have found; others undoubtedly exist. I have also come across the following varieties which are not on the check list, namely:

2 mks., dark green, on vertically laid paper, perf. 9×11 .

I found two copies, and I have been shown a third copy. All three are postmarked "BRODY" and dated January 1927.

20 mks., red, on thin wove, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 9$.

25 mks., on thin wove, perf. 13x9.
25 mks., on thick bluish wove, perf.
13x9.

I suppose I have examined some 100,000 of these stamps from different sources, but I have only found one copy of each of the last three varieties. The postmark is illegible on each stamp.

The 10½ gauge is supposed to have first been brought into use in December 1922; but I have found one mint copy of the 5 mks. on vertically laid of January, 1921, and several mint and used copies of the 25 mks. of June 1921 and February 1922.

The 10½ and 12½ gauges being somewhat defective, one comes across stamps on these sheets perforated:

10 and 10 compound with 10½, 11, 12,
12½, 13, 13½.

10½ compound with 12, 12½, 13, 13½

12 and 12 compound with 11, 11½,
12½, 13, 13½.

12½ compound with 11, 11½, 13,
13½.

In no case are sheets of the thin and thick wove papers found perforated 10, 10½, 12, 12½, simple of compound, throughout.

XI. 1922-23.

THE ISSUE FOR UPPER SILESIA



After the Plebiscite of 1920, when,

Check List of Perforations found on the special issue for Polish Upper Silesia, 1922-23.

Values.	No.	Perf.	10x	10½x
		9 10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½
5 fen.	1	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
10 "	2	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
20 "	3	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
40 "	4	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
50 "	5	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
75 "	6	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
1 mk.	7	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
1.25 "	8	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
2 "	9	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
3 "	10	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
4 "	11	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
6 "	12	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
80 "	13	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
100 "	14	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
200 "	15	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
300 "	16	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •

No.	11x	11½x	12x	12½x
	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½
1	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
2	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
3	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
4	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
5	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
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7	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
8	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
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11	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
12	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
13	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
14	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
15	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
16	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •

No.	13x	13½x	14x	14½x
	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½	10 10½ 11 11½ 12 12½ 13 13½ 14 14½
1	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
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by a majority of votes, the Eastern portion of what was formerly known as German Upper Silesia was allotted to Poland, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs at Warsaw decided to prepare a set of stamps for use in their newly acquired territory.

There appears to have been an agreement between the German and Polish authorities that any stamps issued for use in Polish Upper Silesia should be, provisionally, in German currency. However, this agreement was not carried out, for the stamps appeared in Polish currency.

On June 19th, 1922, the following values appeared:

5 fen., blue, 10 fen., mauve, 20 fen., red, 40 fen., purple-brown, 50 fen., red-orange, and 75 fen., blue-green.

From a month later, these were followed by the mark values, as follows:

1 mk., slate, 1.25 mks., deep green, 2 mks., carmine, 3 mks., emerald, 4 mks., deep ultramarine, 5 mks., yellow-brown, 6 mks., red-orange, 10 mks., pale chocolate, 20 mks., deep purple, and 50 mks., olive.

In March 1923, further high values were added to the series, namely:

80 mks., red, 100 mks., bright violet, and 200 mks., dull orange.

On April 15th, 1923, the 300 mks. pale blue was issued, but this denomination was not an absolute necessity.

The entire issue was current until May 1st, 1923, after which the ordinary stamps for Poland were used.

Only one new design was adopted for these stamps. The fen. values are a re-issue of the designs adopted for the fen. values of the first definitive issue of 1919. The mark values are oblong stamps, showing a Silesian miner in the centre, the value in circles in each upper corner, with "MARKA" (or "MARKT") between. In a small rectangle on the left is the Polish Eagle, on the right, the Silesian Eagle. At the bottom of the stamp is "POCZTA POLSKA."

Proof designs for this issue were submitted by various Polish artists, the most notable being a small rectangular stamp showing the Polish Eagle in the centre, "POCZTA" in the top label and "POLSKA" in the lower label, with the value in circles in each corner of the stamp.

The paper on which these stamps were printed varies in thickness. The fen. values are normally on thin wove; but the 10 and 40 fen. may be found

on almost a thick wove.

Of the mark values, all, except the 5, 10, 20, and 50 mks., are on thin wove; some copies may be found on a horizontally ribbed paper. The 6 mks. on thin wove is exceptionally scarce.

In a later printing of the mark values, the 1, 3, 4, and 6 mks., together with the 5, 10, 20, and 50 mks., appeared on pelure paper printed by rotary machine, but the 4 mks. on pelure paper is rarely met with.

There are innumerable sub-shades of the standard shades given above, especially in all the fen. values and in the 20 mks.

The perforations of the stamps on the wove paper vary from 10½ to 14½, simple and compound. These are set out in a table later on. The values on pelure paper are perforated 12½ only.

The following are the constant plate and other varieties to be found in this issue:—

- 5 fen. Broken second "F," No. 33, as in the first definitive issue of 1919. A few later printings, were, however, made in which this flaw has been corrected. The correction is not distinguishable.
- 20 fen. Imperforate side margin.
- 40 fen. Bottom frame line and bottom of "0" of "40" broken by an oblique white stroke.
- Imperforate.
- Imperforate top margin.
- Imperforate between horizontally
- 50 fen. Small coloured dot over "A" of "POLSKA," No. 8.
- Double vertical perforations.
- 75 fen. (a) Small coloured dot over "K" of "POLSKA," No. 30. Bottom serif of "L" of "POLSKA" elongated, No. 64
- (b) Small coloured dot after "A" of "POCZTA," No. 31. No. 64 as above.
- (c) Only No. 64 as above.
- (a) and (b) and (c) are separate printings.
- Double horizontal perforations.
- Imperforate between horizontally.
- 1 mk. Double horizontal perforations, on thin wove only.
- 4 mks. Double horizontal perforations.

(to be continued)

not conclusive, whether this may have been done on purpose. Remembering that the methods of production of the plate were mainly imitated by Poland from those then in use in France, we may recall that the French stamps of this period were in several cases made from plates which were not numbered, but identified by certain varieties in each. Thus, on one common value, first plate has all stamps normal; second plate one stamp tete beche, and third plate two stamps tete beche.

The suggestion is here made that perhaps one cliché with the blue line around the oval was put into each of the four panes of 25 of Poland, No. 1, purposely. It is most unfortunate that we still lack a plating of this stamp. The fact that probably there were four clichés in the 100 with the blue oval, suggests that one may have been put into each pane in the sheet—presumably in a particular position, not the same, in each pane.

But this remains pure "brain trick" not yet substantiated by any factual evidence.

For the information of those who may be puzzled by mention of one more variation than Mr. Fenigstein mentioned, let it be mentioned that the variety which Domanski and I numbered 7 (our Fig. 15) was published for the first time in our *Blue Book* article of 1941. It seems strange that more recent writers have chosen to overlook, or have failed to see, this report.

Let it be emphasized, in conclusion, that the use of the term "error" for any of these varieties is incorrect.

TID BITS

A stamp from the collection of Bela Lugosi was sent to our experts committee from a New York firm recently.

* * *

Acknowledgements are due our experts committee of John Gapinski, Frank Wolosewick and Myron Steczynski who do a lot of work and receive little for it.

* * *

Did you know that a bill in Congress was introduced by Congress-

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man Gorski of Buffalo to issue a stamp commemorating the first Polish settlement in Panna Maria, Tex.?

* * *

Victor Hermanowski, former editor of *Ikaros* and *Polski Znaki Pocztowe* was a visitor at the Feb. 9th Polonus meeting. He is now a resident in Chicago and will become a Polonus member.

* * *

Staff Sergeant Larry Zieler USAF visited at the last meeting also.

* * *

Chester A. Schafer became a radio announcer on a "Lucky Polka Hour" program in Chicago.

* * *

A large number of 40 members attended the last meeting and many of them participated in the discussions. The new officers were sworn in by Lester Jankowski.

* * *

The newly formed Polish Philatelic Union in Poland is sponsoring a lottery with Government Lottery Monopoly permission, with various philatelic prizes. The price per chance in this lottery is 5 zlotys or one American dollar.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Max Marcinkiewicz
844 E. 22nd St.
New York 66, N. Y.
John J. Piechowski
6 Sylvan St.
Norwich, Conn.
Victor Diachenko
1455 W. Augusta Blvd.
Chicago 22, Ill.
Joseph A. Buczynski
6200 Fletcher St.
Chicago 344, Ill.

NEW MEMBERS

Jens Olesen
685 Wrightwood Ave.
Chicago, Ill.
Joseph Czarnik
Mansilla 324, Ituzaingo, G.C.O.
Buenos Aires, Argentina
John C. Kalisiak
6634 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, Ill.
Robert Renkosik
2438 W. Cortland St.
Chicago 47, Ill.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

Not much official information is available regarding "New Issues," but this much is known, that the 5, 10, 30, 40 and 75 zloty values of the President Bierut series were re-issued with the value in "Groszy."

The lack of available mint 15 zloty, blue, President Bierut stamps are due to this reason. According to reliable information received from Poland, these were delivered to the Postal authorities after the new monetary base was established, consequently, all legitimately used copies have the "Groszy" overprint. If the facts are true, and I have no reason to doubt them then, then legally they were **NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT THE OVERPRINT.** Then why the high prices for this item mint?

In regard to the "Groszy" overprints again. At the expense of becoming monotonous, I would like to let you read a portion of a letter received last week from one of our members, who has a source in Poland for obtaining the "Groszy" overprints from official, business and regular correspondence. The list he furnished to me of what he has, indicating the stamp, type of over-print, etc., is by far the most impressive sent to me. However, let me tell you what he says about them:

"Since acquiring these (mint copies in U.S.) I have decided to buy no more from dealers, regardless of how reputable, for apparently all of the overprints now on sale in the U. S. were made for export only." My representative in Warsaw is completely reliable, he goes to all sorts of pains to make sure that he gets at least two copies of everything that comes out including oftentimes, charity stamps, labels, etc., but to date, he has told me that overprints are absolutely unavailable to take out of the postoffice. **THE OVERPRINTS ARE APPLIED IN THE POSTOFFICE BY HAND AFTER THE STAMPS ARE AFFIXED TO THE LETTERS ONLY.**

He also says that the dealers and

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Jack Domar

Chester Mikucki

the Post Office Philatelic Club members are regarding these as not a collectible item especially since every postoffice in Poland applies a different type of overprint. I myself have come to regard them as a form of cancellation, much as you do (me) especially since receiving a few copies on genuine pieces of cover (not philatelic) showing the overprint to be applied after the stamps are on the letter, as evidenced by the fact that many of the overprints are "tied to cover," so to speak, running off the edge of the stamp onto the envelope, also, occasionally in a strip, one or two stamps will be without the overprint."

Now applying just a little bit of horse sense, with every postoffice issuing its own stamp for overprinting what is to prevent YOU from making your own? Right now who would know the difference.

It is not my intention to tell any of you what to collect or what not to but, it is my duty to give you all of the information as I get it for YOU to make your own choice.

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