

**BULLETIN OF THE**

# **POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue 227

December 1964



## IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Editor:

Relative to your inquiry in Issue 226 of the "Polonus Bulletin" regarding the issue of "Poczta Polska fenygów": would state that the surcharging was done by private sources and are not recognized as official by the Polish Provisional government. They are pure fakes, issued for speculative reasons. In as much as I specialize in the stamps of Poland, I have acquired the complete set of this unofficial, private overprints. The surcharging was done on the four different of local issue II of Warsaw—each issue and value bears 5 - 10 - 15 - 20 - 25 fenygów. The complete set comprises 20 regular and also were double printed and inverted; altogether I have 36 varieties in my collection of bogus stamps of Poland.

When Mr. Miroslaw Bojanowicz of England paid me a visit to see my collection which is housed in 74 volumes, he was amazed to see these bogus stamps. He claims that he collects them also.

Hoping that I helped you, I remain

Yours truly,

Vincent Domanski Jr.  
Philadelphia, Penna.

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2508 S. Ninth Street  
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Edward Sponder (478), 7430 Ocean Terrace, Miami Beach 41, Florida

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### NEW ISSUES

We may be slow . . .  
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to our regular clients. Please ask if  
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### NEW MEMBER

Karl H. Nelson  
1676 Buchanan Drive  
Pomona, Calif.

### APPLICANT PENDING

Zbigniew Gruszecki  
238 S. Maple Ave.  
Montebello, Calif.

### APOLOGY

I have done a terrible injustice to member Leonard Jedrzejczak, No. 575. I reported him as having failed to pay his dues for 1964 and his name was dropped from the membership list.

It was brought to my attention that I made a mistake (lousy bookkeeping).

I hereby report that member Leonard Jedrzejczak's dues for 1964 are paid and were paid, and that the removal of his name from the membership list was my error and I apologize.

Lester Jankowski,  
Treasurer

# POLISH OCCUPATION OF THE UKRAINE 1919

by C. W. Roberts

Reprinted from "The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately"

In August 1919, Polish forces entered the Ukraine and occupied the town of Kowel. Ukrainian stamps found in the Post Office were overprinted (Figs. 1 and 2) and placed on sale on August 20. They were withdrawn on August 24.

**Poczta Polska**

**30 fen.**

FIG. 1

**Poczta Polska**

**50 fen.**

FIG. 2.

The IKAROS Polish Catalogue 1935 gives a list of numbers overprinted and sold. Col. Larking in the series of specialized articles on Poland published in Stanley Gibbons Monthly in 1932 gives a list and date of issue — August 20, 1919. The issue is also listed in the official Polish Stamp Agency Catalogue. Dr. Seichter in his 1961 Ukraine Price List gives a list of the values (omitting the 50 fen./20 kop. perf.) under the heading "Kowel 1920 Philatelic Issue." Apart from this all is surmise. No general Catalogue Editor will have anything to do with this issue, and it is clear that most consider it in a similar manner to Dr. Seichter — or worse. Surely, it is an issue that no responsible collector of Ukraine — or Poland for that matter — would really wish to collect except perhaps if he could pick them up as curiosities for a few pence. I could be wrong, but on the facts as known to me, I disagree, and if you can pick up genuine copies of these stamps for a few pence, or even a few shillings, I think you could do worse.

What do I know? During the period of August 20 thru 24, 1919 this issue (or some values of it) were freely on sale at the Kowel Post Office, as British Officers on duty in Poland, visited the town during this period and purchased the stamps at the Post Office in the normal manner. I have this on the authority of a friend of mine who did so and who subsequently gave me three stamps he bought there: 30 fen./

30 Shag., 50 fen./50 Shag. and 50 fen./1 Rub. Imperf. Kiev Type 2. These were the only values available at the Post Office at the time of his visit. He does not remember the exact date except that it was in the latter part of August. However, I do not think the date of issue is in doubt. He did not send, or attempt to send, any letter franked with these stamps as he thought the Postal Service might not be very reliable, and unfortunately he was not interested in covers. Eventually he decided to concentrate on the stamps of the British Empire and hearing that I was interested in the Ukraine he gave them to me.

In view of the short period that the stamps were in circulation the Postal Service can hardly have had time to be properly organized, but covers are known though these are very rare. One in my collection, which I think is clearly philatelic, is backstamped "Lublin 27.8.19" and has the date "24.8.1919" in pencil on the front. It was franked with the 30fen./30 Shag., 50 fen./50 shag., 50 fen./20 grivni and 50 fen./1 Rub., Kiev Type 2, Imperf., and has a Rubber Registration marking with No. 223 in pencil, also the Censor mark "Cenzura wojskowa w KOWLU Cenzor I." I understand there is a similar cover in the Munich Museum.

I have another cover in my collection (Fig. 4) which is a local letter franked with 30 fen./30 Shag. and 50 fen./50 Shag. There is no backstamp or Censor mark. It is dated, in pencil, on the face "23/8/19" and it does not appear to be philatelic.

I know of no covers than these three, though I find it hard to believe that they do not exist. I have several copies on pieces which have clearly come off envelopes, one piece even has the Censor's stamp on it. It should be remembered that the importance of covers was little appreciated at that time and they were apt to be considered rather a nuisance.

*Cenzura Wojskowa  
w KOWLU  
CENZOR I*



KOWEL KOWEL KOWEL



*24/8 1914*

*Przyjamy?*

*Niebrzozna*

*Antonina Gennisiwa*

*DN 4/13  
KOWEL*



KOWEL

FIG. 3 ↑

FIG 4 ←

*Wuy  
Inliusz Kwiackyski*

*Kowel  
Rynek 16.*

All the used stamps I have seen were cancelled with a rubber handstamp in violet or blue "KOWEL" in a straight line (Fig. 5) presumably as a normal type of obliterator was not available. The Registration label was also a rubber handstamp applied in violet, with the number filled in in blue pencil.

The overprints were applied with single rubber handstamps in violet or red (30 fen. only), where possible horizontally, but on the smaller 15 and 20

kop. stamps vertically. I cannot say whether the normal overprint reads up or down as I have not seen sufficient copies to justify me in expressing an opinion, but my guess is that it was a matter of indifference. From blocks in my possession it is, however, quite clear that single handstamps were used, and that a quite separate one was made for the 30 fen. overprint.

According to IKAROS Polish Catalogue 1935 the numbers overprinted

# KOWEL

FIG. 5

and sold to the public were:

|                        | Overprinted | Sold  |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 30 fen./30 shag.       | 4,900       | 800   |
| 50 fen./50 shag.       | 8,680       | 1,090 |
| 50 fen./20 griv.       | 220         | 110   |
| 50 fen./15 kop. perf.  | 650         | 325   |
| 50 fen./20 kop. perf.  | 20          | 10    |
| 50 fen./1 rub. imperf. | 500         | 250   |

The 50 fen./15 kop. is found on both perf. and imperf. stamps, so possibly the figure given for the 15 kop. perf. also include imperf.

I understand the remainders were sent to the Warsaw Museum.

I have recently acquired an additional value, 50 fen. on 20/14 kop. Kiev 2. The overprint is clearly double and therefore although apparently genuine it is not possible to check it accurately. However, in its favor is the fact that to the best of knowledge this little known overprint has not yet been forged.

The following is a check list compiled from my own collection, but to the best of my knowledge it is complete.

These are facts; what follows is mainly surmise.

What is the true explanation of this issue! I doubt if we shall ever know now but the most plausible explanation seems to me that the local Commander of the Polish forces that occupied Kowel had the stamps in the Post Office overprinted to show that the area was under Polish jurisdiction and was using Polish currency. When it came to the knowledge of the Polish Authorities they immediately ordered the withdrawal of the overprinted stamps probably because at that time they did not wish to risk offending the Ukrainians and also because it was unauthorized. If this is correct one can see that at the time neither the Poles nor the Ukrainians had any desire to acknowledge the issue, which has remained unknown to this day. I had been collecting Ukraine for 25 years before I even heard of it.

The next question is how rare are these stamps! Clearly from the numbers reported sold to the public they cannot be very plentiful. I myself have seen or heard of less than 100 all told, used or unused, of the total stated to have been sold of 2,585. The only source of supply seems to be when important specialized collections of Poland come on the market and are

(Continued on next page)

(H) = horizontal overprint

(D) = overprint reading downwards

(U) = overprint reading upwards

## Overprinted in Red

1. 30 fen./30 shag. pale blue (H)
2. 30 fen./30 shag. deep blue (?Prussian blue) (H)

## Overprinted in Violet

3. 50 fen./50 shag. red (H)
4. 50 fen./20 griv. orange brown on green (H)
5. 50 fen./15 kop. perf. blue and purple on Kiev Type 2 five stamp (D)
6. 50 fen./15 kop. perf. blue and purple on Kiev Type 2 five stamp (U)
7. 50 fen./15 kop. imperf. blue and purple on Kiev Type 2 five stamp (D)
8. 50 fen./15 kop. imperf. blue and purple on Kiev Type 2 five stamp (U)
9. 50 fen./20 kop. perf. red and blue on Kiev Type 2 (U)
10. 50 fen./20 kop./14 kop. perf. red and blue on Kiev Type 2 double Polish Overprint (U)
11. 50 fen./1 rub. imperf. orange and brown on pale brown, on Kiev Type 2d (H)

broken up, but I think the bulk must have been destroyed. My experience is clearly limited, but the order of rarity is not what one would expect, so perhaps it would be simpler to give the percentages of what I have seen rather than deal with each separately.

| No. on check list   | Percentage seen | Percentage sold |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 & 2 (about equal) | 17              | 31              |
| 3                   | 16              | 42              |
| 4                   | 8               | 4               |
| 5 & 6               | 11              | 12              |
| 7 & 8               | 10              | 12              |
| 9                   | 1               | 1/2             |
| 10                  | 1               | !               |
| 11                  | 36              | 10              |

(Only about one-fifth of Nos. 5 thru 8 of those I know of are used.)

The most striking thing about this list is the comparatively large number seen of the last on the list — the overprint on 1 rub. imperf. One possible explanation of this is the number of spaces in the sheet of 1 rub. filled with "V's". For some reason it is usual to find that these spaces were overprinted as well as the stamps proper and collectors would be inclined to keep these in blocks or strips.

One final point; even in the short time the 50 fen. handstamp was in use it seems to have started to show signs of wear. Examination shows that although the most usual damage is to the top of the "o" in Pocztka, there are also sometimes others — a distinct break in the "t" of Pocztka, in part of "P" in Polska and a small break in the "o" of 50 at about 2 o'clock (Fig. 6). I have not so far seen any signs of damage to the 30 fen. overprint, but this is frequently not too easy to see owing to its color.

Pocztka Polska  
50 fen Pocztka Polska  
50 fen

FIG. 6.

I have told you what I know and what I think. It is up to you to decide whether you would include this issue when obtainable, in a collection of Ukraine or Poland or not. I think so and I also think it is worthy of inclusion in a general catalogue because the stamps were freely available at the Post Office, even if only for a short time, and they did Postal service. Many issues of these difficult times have achieved catalogue rank with far less justification.

#### IN OUR MAIL BOX

Polonus Philatelic Society

Mr. Stefan Kochanski, President

Dear Mr. Kochanski and Members:

First I wish to thank you, Mr. Kochanski for your fine idea, the "Stamps For The Wounded Nite" combined with the Polonus Christmas Beebe. Next, thanks to all the members who were so kind and generous with their stamp donations to help me make this a real Christmas for the Veterans at Hines and Vaughn Hospitals.

I received some very fine stamps from you to present to the boys which I did on December 23rd and was happy to give the finest and biggest packet of stamps to each of the boys — around 350 different stamps, plus some plate blocks and hinges.

Thanks to Mr. L. Jankowski for the fine Scott's Catalogues, and to John Bobo for the stack of current philatelic God Bless You All!

Bless You All!

Most sincerely,

John Bor,

Midwest Reg. Director  
Stamps for the Wounded

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(Cartoon cut reprinted thru courtesy of the POLISH AMERICAN Weekly, Chicago, Ill.)

## UNITED STATES ISSUES ABSTRACT DESIGN STAMP

Postmaster General John A. Gronowski announced the release of the nation's first abstract design stamp. It is a five-center with a splash of colors, reds, blacks and blues. To the Postal chief "it pulsates like jazz music" but to many a traditionalist it might not be worth a lick.

The Postal chief also announced the first day of issue of the Sokols-Physical Fitness commemorative to be on February 15, 1965 at Washington D.C.

## NEW ISSUES by J. J. Domar

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the hitleric invasion of Poland and to honor the five-year struggle of

the Polish nation to regain its freedom, five stamps were issued in November:

40 gr.—the cross Virtuti Militari, awarded to the Post Office employees in Gdańsk for their heroic defense on September 1, 1939.

40 gr.—the monument which will be erected on the Westerplatte (Gdańsk) to honor its defenders.

60 gr.—the monument to be in Bydgoszcz to honor the martyrdom and struggle of its population.

60 gr.—forging of the river Odra by the Polish soldiers marching toward victory over the hitleric power in 1945.

60 gr.—the Battle of Studzianki, August, 1944.

Outward vertical columns in sheets

are labels bearing the inscription: "The Struggle and Martyrdom of the Polish Nation 1939-1945."

Designed by Stefan Malecki. Printed by steel engraving, on ordinary paper in sheets of 50 or 56 stamps and 14 or 20 labels. Total quantity — four million copies of each.

Two 40 gr. and one 60 gr. stamps are 25.5 x 42.5 mm. in size and the two remaining 60 gr. values are 42.5 x 25.5 mm. — Ruch

### POLPEX 1965

Polpex Chairman Roman Strzelecki appeals to members for articles to appear in the philatelic press in connection with our coming 1965 Exhibition March 5th, 6th and 7th. You may write on the theme of the show "Kopernik and the Space Age" or on any other subject relating to Polish philately. The articles will appear in national stamp publications and our Polpex program catalogue.

Correspondence relating to POLPEX 1965 should be sent to Roman Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago 60622.

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STEFAN KOCHANSKI, President  
4030 W. Carroll Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60624  
LESTER JANKOWSKI, Treasurer  
10 S. LaSalle St. Chicago, Ill. 60603  
CHESTER A. SCHAFER, Sec'y. & Editor  
864 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60622  
WALTER SZYMLEK, Publications Chairman  
2341 W. Moffat St. Chicago, Ill. 60647

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 8th, 1965:

Nomination of Officers for 1965.  
Regular Business Meeting.

Friday, January 22nd, 1965:

Election of Officers. Past Presidents Nite. Beeba to follow.

Friday, February 12th, 1965:

Installation Nite.

Friday, February 26th 1965:

Last Meeting before Polpex.

March 5, 6, and 7, 1965:

POLPEX 1965.

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