

POLAND

First Official Stamp Issue 1920



This 16p Exhibit commences with the different Proofs and has comprehensive coverage of the 11 values showing normal perforation and varieties including double perforated, imperforate and partially imperforate examples. Both rare colours and the constant flaw are included. Mint blocks and singles are used with just one used single [partial imperf] included. A number of examples on envelopes are shown to demonstrate usage and the Official letter postal rates.

Issued February 1, 1920 authorised by Circular 2831/101/XV of January 28, 1920, the Official stamps were withdrawn from circulation on June 10, 1921 by order of Circular 17961/2323/XII. They were designed by Professor Bartomiejczyk and a **single proof sheet** of three similar designs in 3 colours was prepared. [Sheet 2].

The 11 issued values from 3 [fen] to 600 [fen] were in shades of scarlet on medium to thick wove paper with the majority of sheets having thin white gum while some had brownish gum. Most of the values are known imperforate these may represent plate proofs. Only **two other distinctive colours** are recorded, both shown, the 25 value in purple [Sheet 8] and the 150 value in carmine [sheet 12]. Only **one constant flaw** is recorded – stamp 89 of the 200f value [sheet 14]

The normal perforation was line 11.5 either clean cut or rough with large or small holes. Perforations 10 and compound are recorded. A personal census of over 10,000 examples indicates that the normal P.11.5 constituted between 98.9 % and 99.6% for the various values with only 0.4% - 1.1% being P10 or compound.

Special internal postal rates for Official letters and Printed matter were introduced from April 15, 1920. The dies and printing plates were lost during the battle of Warsaw in August 1920 during the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921. New dies were made for the second Official stamp issue in November 1920.

References:

- * Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 1932 Page 182 "Poland: The postal Issues during and after the Great War" by Lieut-Col R N W Larking.
- * Polskie Znaki Pocztowe 1960 Pages 653-655

Three different but similar Proof designs were prepared by Professor E Bartłomiejczyk. These were 25mm x 16.5mm and were prepared in three colours **blue, red and deep blue**.

- I Tablet solid colour without stars
- II Tablet solid colour with stars added
- III Tablet in shaded colour with stars.

These were printed in a single sheet 135mm x 205mm containing 4 rows of 9 impressions. Each Type was in 4 rows of 3 with each vertical set being a different colour. Each block was separated from the next Type block

Only 4 of each Proof exist.

Type 2 was selected for the stamp issue 3 to 50 and Type 1 for 100 – 600 values. The issued colour was Scarlet

- I Tablet solid colour without stars



- II Tablet solid colour with stars added



- III Tablet in shaded colour with stars.

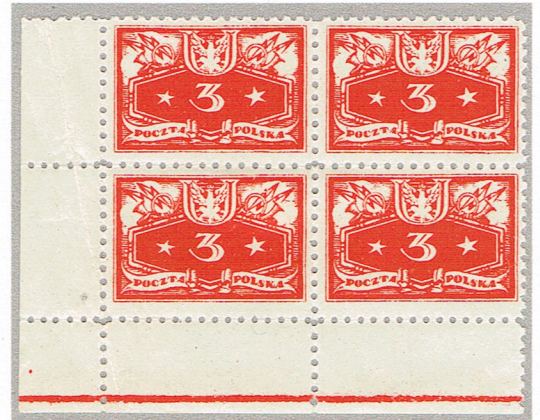


3 [fen] Value

Known only with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes
1,795,400 Printed



Clean Cut perforations
Large Holes



Small Holes



Rough Cut Perforations
Large Holes



Small Holes



Horizontal
Imperforate
Between
Clean Cut Perfs



Rough Perfs



Horizontal
Imperforate
Clean Cut



Imperforate Right
Clean cut Perfs



Horizontal
Imperforate
Rough Perfs



5 x 3 fen [P 11.5]
 + 10 fen [P 11.5]
 Official stamps.

Cancelled at
 Township Office
 Bialobrzegi to
 Radon.

Cancellation
 26.IV.18 [error
 for 1920]

5 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
 Small number of sheets perforated 10 – rough.
 9,048,300 Printed



Shades of Scarlet; light, bright and dull



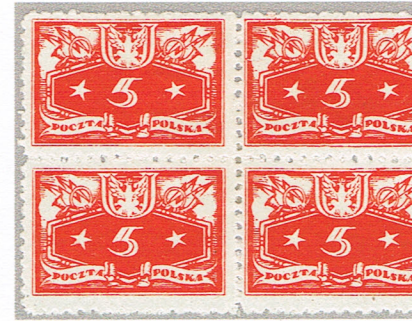
Perforation 10



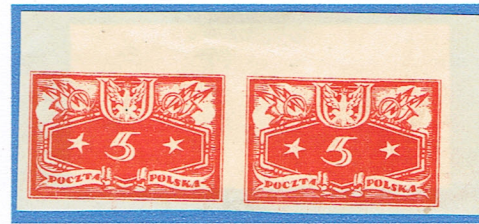
Perf 11.5 Clean Cut Large Holes



Perf 11.5 Rough Large Holes



Perf 11.5 Rough Small Holes



Imperforate



Double Perforations
Horizontal P 11.5



Pre-Printing paper
Crease



10 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
Small number of sheets perforated 10. Compound perforations 10 x 11.5 and 11.5 x 10 are known
6,730,000 Printed



Perf 11.5 Clean Cut
Large Holes



Double Perforations
Horizontal 11.5



Perf 11.5 Clean Cut
Small Holes



Rough Cut Perforations

Large Holes



Small Holes



Perforation 10



Compound perforation 10 x 11.5

Compound perforation 11.5 x 10



Imperforate



Perf 11,5

P10



Horizontal Imperforate

Part Offset on gum. P 11.5



Full Offset on Gum P 11.5

Pre-Printing Paper Crease. Perf 10



15 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
Small number of sheets perforated 10 & Compound perforations 11.5 x 10 are known
4,775,200 Printed



Clean Cut Perforations

Large Holes



Small Holes



Rough Cut Perforations

Large Holes



Small Holes



Perforation 10



Compound Perforation 11.5 x 10



Horizontal Imperforate P 11.5
Clean cut



Flaw "White dot top of '1'"



25 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
 Small number of sheets perforated 10 & Compound perforations 11.5 x 10
 23,433,500 Printed



Shades

Pink [rare]

Scarlet [usual]



Perf 11.5 Clean Cut Large Holes



Perf 11.5 Rough Large Holes



Perf 11.5 Rough Small Holes



Imperforate

Horizontal Imperforate



Pre-Printing Paper Fold
and misplaced perforations



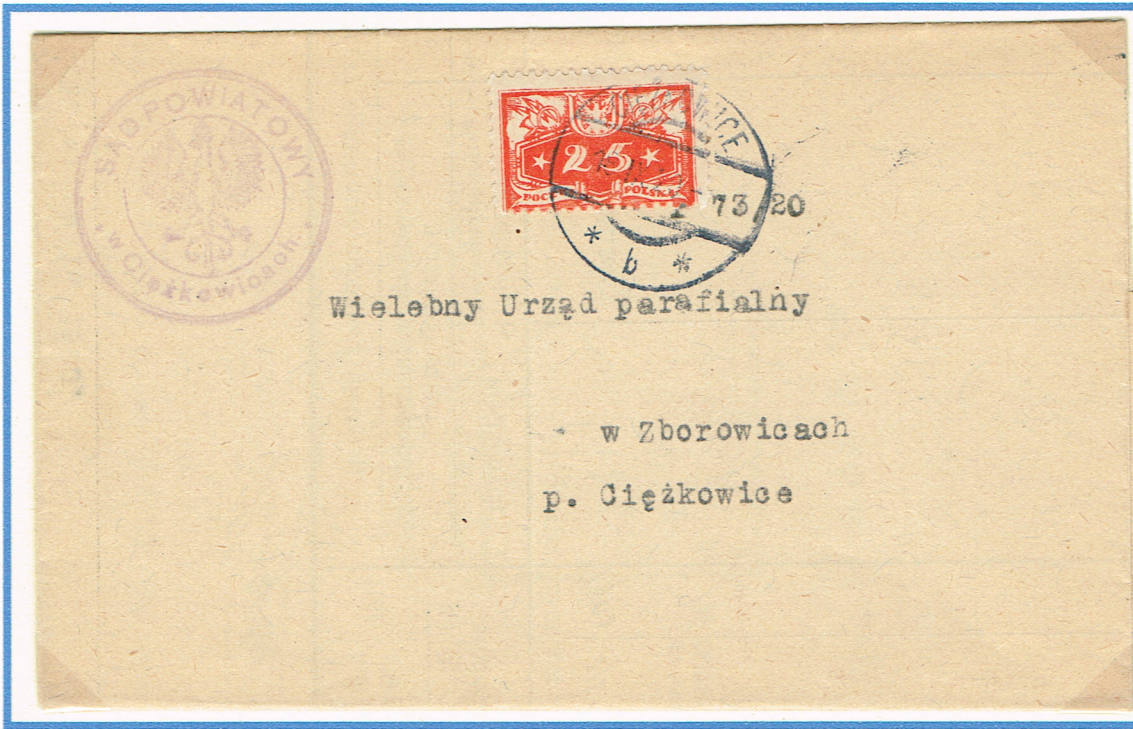
Compound Perf 11.5 x 10



Perforation 10



Perforation 10 with damaged pi



25 [f] Perf 10 on
Official Letter
registering a new
Parishioner

18.IV 20 Cieczkowice

Official Letter rate
15/4/1920 –
15/8/20



25 [f] x 3 [P 11.5] on Registered Official Letter 9.9.20 Swiecie [Schwet] to Krakow 11.IX.20
Official Letter Rate 15/8/1920 - 15/12/1920 0.25Mk; Registration 0.50Mk. Total 0.75Mk = 75f

50 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
Small number of sheets perforated 10 & Compound perforations 11.5 x 10
8,549,000 Printed



Clean Cut Perforations

Large Holes



Small Holes



Rough Cut Perforations

Large Holes

Small Holes



Imperforate



Perforation 10



Compound
11.5 x 10





Internal Letter Mysłec 8 IV 20 to Warsaw 10.IV 20 with Valuable Contents 300Mk

Franking Official 50f [P 11.5] x 3 [one on back] + Postage Due 20 + 5 – 175 f = 1.75Mk

Postage rates 1/10/1919-15/4/1920: Letter 30; Registration 30; Value 40; Notification 10; Delivery 10. = 1.20Mk

100 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.

Small number of sheets perforated 10 or Compound perforations 11.5 x 10. Perf 10 x 11.5 are recorded

3,510,300 Printed



Imperforate



Horizontal Imperforate P 11.5
Clean cut



Vertical Imperforate at right





Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - large holes



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - small holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - large holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - small holes



Perf 10 x 11.5



Perforation 10

150 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.

Small number of sheets perforated 10 or Compound perforations 11.5 x 10.

1,502,200 Printed



Carmine



Scarlet



Misplaced Perfs



Perforation 10



Perforation 11.5 x 10



Clean Cut
Perforations

Large Holes

Small Holes





Rough Cut
Perforations

Large Holes

Small Holes



30 IX 20 Official Letter Bielitz [Austrian Cancellor] to Warsaw

Franking: 150 [Perf 10] + 50 [P 11.5] + 200 [P 11.5] + 300 [P 11.5] = 700f – 7 Mk

Postage Rate for Official letter 15/8/1920 – 15/12/1920 was 0.25Mk = 25f

No evidence of additional services or charges but Commercial Mail!

200 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
Small number of sheets perforated 10 or Compound perforations 11.5 x 10.
1,502,200 Printed



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - large holes



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - small holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - large holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - small holes



← Stamp 89

Constant Flaw stamp 89 on
"ZTA" of POCZTA



Perf 11.5 x 10



Perforation 10



Perforation 10



Horizontal
Double
perforation
11.5



Double Perforations P 11.5 and
Imperforate Horizontally
Misplaced Perforations 11.5
and Imperforate Vertically

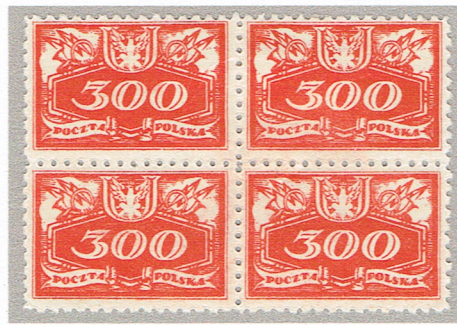


300 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.
Small number of sheets perforated 10
3,014,000 Printed



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - large holes



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - small holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - large holes

Imperforate



Imperf
Horizontal
P 11.5



Perforation 10



600 [fen] Value

Majority with the Normal 11.5 perforation – clean cut or rough with large or small holes.

Small number of sheets perforated 10 or Compound perforations 11.5 x 10.

1,005,900 Printed



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - large holes



Perf. 11.5 Clean cut - small holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - small holes



Perf. 11.5 Rough cut - large holes



Vertical Double Perforations and Imperforate P11.5



Perforation 10



Compound Perforation 11.5 x 10



Compound perforation 11.5 x 10

