

Synopsis of Exhibit	<h1>The First Postage Due Issue of the Second Polish Republic</h1>
SNSE 2025 Sarasota FL January 17-19, 2025	

Scope: *The Second Polish Republic was established at the end of World War I. This single frame exhibit illustrates some of the confusion which still existed in Poland during this tumultuous time by examining the first postage due issue.*

	<p><u>Historical Background</u> After enduring 100 years of partition, the challenge's in Poland should have ended with the conclusion of the first World War and the establishment of the Second Polish Republic. Unfortunately that was not the case as border disputes immediately began, and although a republic was formed, there were still multiple currencies in use in Poland.</p>	<p>It is important to remember that these stamps were identical in appearance with the only distinction being the color. In addition, although there was a currency in use within each of these regions, the currency did not appear on the stamps, only the values.</p>	<p><u>Rarity & Condition</u> The relatively short window of use for the first postage due issue explains why these covers are typically a challenge to locate. In addition this was a period of extreme destabilization in Poland also driving scarcity.</p>
<h2>Exhibit Plan</h2>	<p><u>Purpose and Scope</u> This exhibit examines the first postage due issue of the Second Polish Republic which were issued on September 9, 1919. Prior to these postage dues being issued provisional or overprints were used. The continued uncertainty (chaos) in Poland during this period is reflected in the need to issue identical series of Postage Due stamps for use in different regions within the newly formed Republic. Because different currencies were still being used in Poland it was necessary to create a series of stamps representing both.</p>	<p><u>Treatment</u> The exhibit begins with covers illustrating the provisional use of postage dues in Poland prior to the first issue. Next are shown covers bearing either the orange or blue issues with indications of the region of Poland these were intended to be used in.</p>	<p><u>References</u> Klimley, Ronald. "Złoty Centennial" <i>The American Philatelist</i>. (2024) Zbierski, Marek. "Polish Postal Rates 1918 -1939" (2003) Fischer, Andrzej & Walocha, Jerzy / ed. "Fischer Catalog Volume I" (2018) Laszkiewicz, Antoniego & Mikulskiego, I Zbigniewa / ed. "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" TOM III. Biuro Wydawniczo Propagandowe Panastwowe Przedsiębiorstwo Filatelistyczne. (1962)</p>
<h2>Selected Highlights</h2>	<p>In the case of postage due stamps this was accomplished by issuing two series with identical designs but in two different colors. In the areas formerly occupied by Austria-Hungary the postage due stamps were issued in blue. Although the postage due stamps are not denominated, the currency in this part of Poland was the Heller.</p> <p>The postage due stamps issued for areas formerly occupied by Prussia were orange. The currency used in this part of Poland was the Fennig.</p>	<p>Beginning in May 1920 a unified Polish currency was created and at that time four new (higher) values were printed. This is important because the higher values were necessary because inflation was already beginning to take hold in Poland. This new printing was completed in blue.</p> <p>The exhibit concludes (epilogue) with covers bearing a combination of both the first and second series of postage due stamps.</p> <p>The second series of postage due stamps were issued on April 15, 1921.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional postage Due • Soldiers mail • Combination cover from Poznan • Combination post card from Leszno • Multiple combo covers with first and second issue postage dues illustrating high values • Austrian postage due provisional use 			

Significant recent additions to this exhibit include the provisional use from Kraków and the soldier's mail cover.