


The First Postage Due Issue of the Second Polish Republic

PURPOSE & SCOPE: A traditional one frame exhibit illustrating the issue and use of the first postage due stamps of the Second Polish Republic.

TREATMENT: Although the Republic existed beginning with the end of World War I, the border disputes and use of multiple currencies within the newly reformed Poland did not end. This is especially seen in the need to create **two** sets of Postage Due stamps; one for use in territory formerly occupied by Austria-Hungary, and the second for use in territory formerly occupied by Prussia.

The exhibit begins with provisional postage due use, then examines use of the two sets of postage due stamps from the first series, next are combination covers of the two postage due issues. The exhibit concludes with combination covers bearing both the first and second series of postage dues. This organization allows the border and currency challenges to be better illustrated.

New information or original research is illustrated with the following symbol. 

Key items are highlighted by a double line red border.

Supplemental information is shown in gray boxes *italicized* text.

BACKGROUND/IMPORTANCE: Examining the use of the two distinct sets of postage due stamps helps to understand the challenges still faced in Poland during this tumultuous time. And these events led, in large part, to the hyperinflation which was experienced in Poland beginning in 1923.

EXHIBIT PLAN:

1. Provisional - forerunners
2. Orange - used in former Prussia
3. Blue - used in former Austria-Hungary
4. Combo covers with both issues
5. Epilogue – combo covers with both first & second postage due issues

Provisional - Forerunner

Prior to the issuance of the first postage due stamps on September 9, 1919, provisional stamps were created by overprinting existing stock.



June 10, 1919 – Wadowice > Kraków

Letter sent unpaid with the recipient responsible for twice the deficiency. Postage for 20g letter was 25f. Red “50” is postage due at destination, paid by Kraków provisional postage due.