

SOSNOWIEC

1916

(One of the main cities of the Upper Silesian coal and industrial basin. 65 km WNW of Cracow and 12km E of Katowice, its Provincial Capital, it had 260,000 inhabitants in 1990).

Before World I Sosnowiec was just inside Russian Poland, almost right on the "Three Emperiums" point with the German and the Austrian-Hungarian Empires. Occupied by the Germans, the use of Municipal stamps (1st Issue) was forbidden by the Germans as soon as they heard of their issue. After that, however, upon the urgent request by the first Mayor appointed by them, and his explanation that this would cause much harm to the municipal treasury, it was exceptionally permitted by them until the end of June, 1916.

19 Feb. 1916: Municipal Delivery-fee Stamps (First Issue), showing the City's Coat of Arms. Printed litho on medium, white paper. Perf. 11½.



OFF 30.1.98 K.107 (Expt. Kosack).

3kop. bright blue

10kop. brown-lilac

GER 30.1.98. K.107. 75. (Expt. Kosack)

These stamps were suppressed by the Germans already on March 14, 1916.

23 May, 1916: Second Issue - Changed colours and overprinted with a wide vertical colour strip.



3kop. rose; green stripe



10kop. blue; rose stripe

all sign

These stamps were taken out of service again on July 8, 1916.

24 July, 1916: New Triangular Design, showing the City's Coat of Arms in a circular white field. Without value indication.



Deep carmine

Also this stamp was taken out of service at an early date: it was suppressed on Aug. 6, 1916. Since then, a cancellation postmark (of 3kop.) was printed on letters to be delivered without stamp.

Issue of 23 May, 1916:

Colour Variations, and Cancellation Types:



3 kops. very  
pale rose  
Postmark -5 4.'16  
by simple date stamp.



10kops pale blue

Issue of 24 July, 1916:

Postmark changed to square box type:



Deep carmine (no value on stamp):

By order of the new German occupiers only cancellation marks with value indication were allowed. The municipal authorities circumvented the ban on value-bearing stamps by having letters for which a 3 kopecks delivery fee had to be paid in advance, by using stamps in the form of so-called triangular "sealing labels", which were then stamped over with a 3.kop. "receipt cancellation".

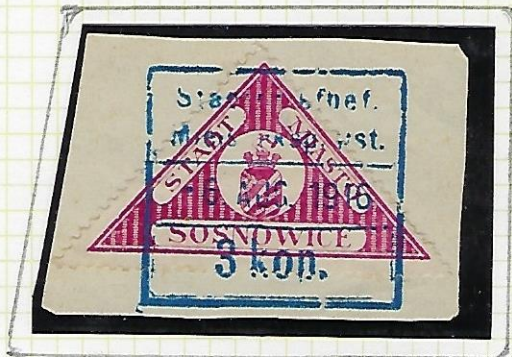
Ink pads with violet, blue, and black ink were used (see next page).

Re. the City's name "Sosnowice" on these stamps ("sealing labels"): The City's proper name was, and is, Sosnowiec, not "Sosnowice". The Germans, however, called it "Sosnowitz". It is said that the spelling "Sosnowice" was chosen to pay lip-service to German sensitivities!

Issue of 24 July, 1916, Contd.: The three cancellation handstamp colours:



Violet postmark:  
Stadtbriefbef.  
Miejs. eksp. list.  
4 AUG. 1916  
3 kop.



Blue postmark:  
Stadtbriefbef.  
Miejs. eksp. list.  
-6 AUG. 1916  
3 kop.



Black postmark:  
Stadtbriefbef.  
Miejs. eksp. list.  
29. JUL 1916  
3 kop.

*Sign*

A very scarce, or rare, tête-bêche pair:



Mint, ~~unhinged~~.  
In this condition not  
listed in Michel. Rare.

ŻARKI.

Small town 25km S.E. of Częstochowa which is its provincial capital. Population still (1994) well under 10,000. Its postal area covered the town of Żarki and the outlying communities of Choroń, Niegowę and Włodowice, and at the time of issuing these stamps Żarki was virtually at the end of Austrian occupation.

10 Oct. 1918: First Issue - Market and Church of Żarki. Printed litho on medium, white paper. No watermark. Perf. 11½ (but imperf. also exist).



3 (hal.):  
greyish blue.  
(Expt. Mikulski +  
another).



5 (hal.):  
red.  
(Expt. Krawczyk, +  
another).



12 (hal.):  
olive.  
(Expt. Krawczyk +  
another).

Quantities: Abt. 10,000 of each value, out of which half have soon been overprinted by surcharges (see Second Issue, following page).

Note: Collecting Żarki stamps is a minefield for philatelists. Dangerous forgeries are extremely common. Possibly 98% of all Żarki stamps available in the trade - even those sold by reputable traders and auctioneers - are forgeries. It is absolutely essential to have these stamps expertised by recognized experts.

The late Prof. Stanisław Mikstein of Cracow was perhaps the earliest of Polish stamps' great experts. Witold Mikulski, of Kielce, was another. Eugeniusz Krawczyk, of Warsaw, is one of the present officially recognized experts of the PZF (Polish Philatelic Union). The stamps on this page have also been declared absolutely genuine by Krzysztof Ceremuga, of Mt. Isa, Qld., Australia.

# CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

**KRZYSZTOF CEREMUGA**

Philatelic Expert

PO Box A2313, Sydney South, NSW 1235, Australia

Certificate No: 5514

Date: 8/9/2007

## **POLAND - WORLD WAR I AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION:**

**ZARKI LOCAL POST:** Fi 4a, 5b & 6a, Mi 4-6 \*

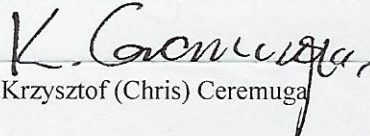
1918 "x halerzy x" boxed h/s overprints on Views, in normal h/s colors - 6h/3h in red, 10h/4h in violet & 24h/12h in red, left halves of the overprints on each stamp.

### **EXPERTIZING RESULT:**

Genuine in all respects. Only total of 5000 sets printed inc varieties.

### **CONDITION:**

Mint with lightly hinged original gum, previously signed by E.Goy & E.Krawczyk.

  
Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga



18 Oct. 1918: Second Issue - Surcharges doubling the values handstamped over two stamps at the time:

6 halerzy 6

It had been discovered that the original values did not cover the operation's costs.

a) Left half Surchage on Right half of stamp.



6 halerzy on 3(h):  
greyish blue  
Surch. red.  
(Expertised: Krawczyk)



10 Halerzy on 5(h):  
red  
Surch. violet.  
(Expertised: Koopman)



24 Halerzy on 12(h):  
olive  
Surch. red.  
(Expertised L.Schmutz and another).

b) Right half of Surchage on Left half of Stamp.



6 Halerzy on 3(h):  
greyish blue  
Surch. red.  
(Expertised: Krawczyk, and another).



10 Halerzy on 5(h):  
red  
Surch. violet.  
(Expertised Krawczyk, and another).



24 Halerzy on 12(h):  
olive  
Surch. red.  
(Expertised Krawczyk, and another).

Quantities: Abt. 5,000 of each value (see also First Issue).

Note: Eugeniusz Krawczyk, of Warsaw, and Lesław Schmutz, of Rzeszów, are Officially recognized expertisers of the PZF (Polish Philatelic Union), and Koopman, of Amsterdam, Netherlands, was the most reputable expertiser of Polish stamps in that part of Western Europe. All these stamps have also been declared absolutely genuine by Krzysztof Ceremuga, of Mt. Isa, Qld., Australia.

ŻARKI, Contd.

18 Oct. 1918: Second Issue - Surcharges doubling the values handstamped over two stamps at the time:

Double overprint 10 hal in red + 6 hal in black.



10 hal(red) + 6 hal(black) on 3 hal.  
very rare, \*, lightly hinged,  
expertised by Mikstein.

This error seems to have occurred when the worker doing the overprinting picked up the correct inkpad (red) but the wrong handstamp (10 hal). Then to try to correct the mistake and cover the 10 hal ovpt. the stamps were ovptd. in black with a 6 hal handstamp.

# CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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## **POLAND - AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION:**

**ŻARKI LOCAL POST:** Fi 4sNp, Mi 4F \*

1918 "10 halerzy 10" in red & "6 halerzy 6" in black,  
left halves of both overprints on View 3h.

## **EXPERTIZING RESULT:**

Genuine in all respects. Very rare.

This variety occurred when some 3h stamps (probably 2 sheets of 50) were overprinted in error "10 halerzy 10" in red, so then to correct the mistake the "6 halerzy 6" handstamp was applied in black over the incorrect overprint.

## **CONDITION:**

Mint with lightly hinged original gum, previously signed by Mikstein.

*K. Ceremuga*  
Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga





24th Oct. 1918: Third Issue - Market and Church of Żarki, printed in the new double values and in new colours. Lithography on medium, white paper. No watermark. Line perf.  $11\frac{1}{2}$  (but imperf. exists).



6 (hal.):  
brownish violet.  
(Cert. E.Götz,  
also attested as  
genuine by Krz.  
Ceremuga).



10 (hal.):  
green.  
(Cert. E.Götz,  
also attested as  
genuine by Krz.  
Ceremuga).



24 (hal.):  
orange.  
(Cert. E.Götz,  
also attested as  
genuine by Krz.  
Ceremuga).

Quantities: abt. 5,000 each value.

Withdrawn 28 October, 1918.

Third Issue: Wrong colour, or a Forger's Proof?

Answer: Forgery.  
See enlargement  
photos for expla-  
nation.



6 (hal.):  
bluish green.  
(not surprisingly,  
uncertified).

ŻARKI (contd.).

554 70

1918: 28th Oct. Issue.



Local Letter to a Mr. Górkę, showing the heavy type of cancel then in use at Żarki P.O. Genuine.

*Sign (inside cover)*

As mentioned before, up to 98% of all Żarki stamps in existence are forgeries. Many of these forgeries are dangerously deceptive. This page, and the following pages show a number of these FORGERIES.

First Issue:

Perf.  
(used)



3 (Hal.):  
greyish blue  
(Campbell)



5 (Hal.):  
red  
(Campbell)



12 (Hal.):  
olive  
(Campbell)

Perf. (mint):



3 (Hal.):  
greyish blue



5 (Hal.):  
red



12 (Hal.):  
olive

Imperforate (mint):



3 (Hal.):  
greyish blue



5 (Hal.):  
red



12 (Hal.):  
olive

18 Oct. 1918: Second Issue - Surcharges handstamped over two stamps at the time, as follows:

Colours: red, violet, or red-violet.

Reason: it was discovered that charges did not cover the cost of the operation.

6 halerzy 6

FORGERIES.

Perf., Used.:



6 Halerzy on 3 H:  
greyish blue  
(surch. purple)



10 Halerzy on 5 H:  
red  
(surch. violet)  
*(Campbell)*



24 Halerzy on 12 H:  
olive  
(surch. red)  
*(Campbell)*

Perf., Mint.:



6 Halerzy on 3 H:  
greyish blue  
(surch. red)



10 Halerzy on 5 H:  
red  
(surch. red)



24 Halerzy on 12 H:  
olive  
(surch. red)

Imperforate, Mint:



6 Halerzy on 3 H:  
greyish blue  
(surch. purple)



10 Halerzy on 5 H:  
red  
(surch. violet)



24 Halerzy on 12 H:  
olive  
(surch. red)

ŻARKI, Contd.

24th Oct. 1918: Third Issue - Market and Church of Żarki, new Values. Printed litho on medium, white paper. No watermark. Perf. Line  $11\frac{1}{2}$  (but imperf. also known). Forgeries more common than the real stamps.

Perf., Used:

FORGERIES.



6 (Hal.):  
brownish violet  
*(Campbell)*



10 (Hal.):  
green  
*(Campbell)*



24 (Hal.):  
orange  
*(Campbell)*

Perf., Mint:



6 (Hal.):  
brownish violet



10 (Hal.):  
green



24 (Hal.):  
orange

Imperforate, Mint:



6 (Hal.):  
brownish violet



10 (Hal.):  
green



24 (Hal.):  
orange

ZAWIERCIE.

10

City of 85,000 (in 1989), 40km N.E. of Katowice.

10 Jan. 1916: Landscape with Rising Sun (10 f) and the Zawiercie School (20 f). Design Juliusz Isaak, printed litho, white medium paper. Perf.11½.

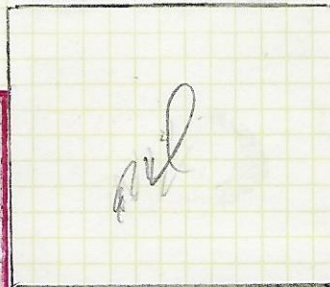
Type I: With red-viol. control imprints "ZAWIERCIE" in intertwined capitals above and below the stamp design, covering the perforations.

Expertised:  
Krzysztof  
Ceremuga.  
as Type I.



Mi. 1 I: 10 f.  
Landscape:  
darkviolet and green.  
\* \*

Note: The "red" variation from the violet control imprint of Type II below is only very slight but still definite.



Mi. 2 I: 20 f.  
Zawiercie School:  
slate-blue and blackish brown.  
\* \*

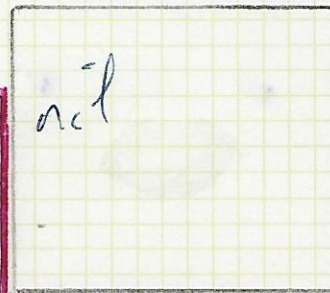
Type II: With violet control imprints "ZAWIERCIE" in intertwined capitals above and below the stamp design, covering the perforations.

Expertised:  
Heinz-Erwin  
Jungjohann.  
as Type I.



Mi. 1 II: 10 f.  
Landscape:  
darkviolet and green.  
\* \*

In Type II (not issued) the lower part of the first "Z" of Zawiercie and the upper part of the "C" are broken.



Mi. 2 II: 20 f.  
Zawiercie School:  
slate-blue and blackish brown.  
\* \*

Type III: Without control imprints. Cannot exist used, see below.



Mi. 1 III: 10 f.  
Landscape:  
dark violet and green.  
\* \* \*



Mi. 2 III: 20 f.  
Zawiercie School:  
slate-blue and blackish brown.  
\* \* \*

These stamps have been valid for postal usage for 4 days only, having been withdrawn at the end of 13 Jan.1916.  
Quantities: 10 f. 10,000; 20 f. 5,000 printed. Of these, 1,377 x 10 f. and 85 x 20 f. were sold. In order to counteract forgeries these stamps were provided with the control imprints at the counter; the remainder were not. The size of the 10 f. stamp is 23 x 27.5mm, but the 20 f. is 28.4 x 23mm.

(X)  
Repla  
by  
II

# CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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Date: 8/9/2007

## **POLAND - GERMAN OCCUPATION:**

**ZAWIERCIE LOCAL POST:** Fi 1Ia, Mi 1I \*\*

1915 Pictorial 10pfg grey-violet & blue-green, with *reddish-violet* "ZAWIERCIE" control overprints at top & bottom, without any breaks in the letters, from initial portion of printing,

## **EXPERTIZING RESULT:**

Genuine in all respects. Only 1377 recorded as issued.

## **CONDITION:**

Mint with never hinged & very fresh original gum.

*K. Ceremuga*  
Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga



# CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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**PO Box A2313, Sydney South, NSW 1235, Australia**

Certificate No: 5511

Date: 8/9/2007

## **POLAND - GERMAN OCCUPATION:**

**ZAWIERCIE LOCAL POST:** Fi 1Ia, Mi 1I \*

1915 Pictorial 10pfg grey-violet & blue-green, with *reddish-violet* "ZAWIERCIE" control overprints at top & bottom, without any breaks in the letters, from initial portion of printing,

## **EXPERTIZING RESULT:**

Genuine in all respects. Only 1377 recorded as issued.

## **CONDITION:**

Mint with hinged original gum, previously signed Jungjohann BPP.

*K. Ceremuga*  
Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga





# CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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Certificate No: 5510

Date: 8/9/2007

## **POLAND - GERMAN OCCUPATION:**

**ZAWIERCIE LOCAL POST:** Fi 1-2III, Mi 1-2III \*\*

1915 Pictorial 10pfg & 20pfg without control overprints,  
from unissued portion of printing.

## **EXPERTIZING RESULT:**

Genuine in all respects.

## **CONDITION:**

Mint with never hinged & very fresh original gum.

*K. Ceremuga*  
Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga



ZAWIERCIE

(Contd).

Type III: Without control imprints: Variations.



10 f. Landscape:  
dark violet and green.

The bends in the river, esp. above the first "IE" of "ZAWIERCIE" and the brook's banks show remarkable differences. Also the two little "crosses" on the horizon to the right of the two trees on the right extremity of the green central oval in the stamp.

*Show numerous variations.*



20 f. Zawiercie School:  
slate-blue and blackish brown.

The blackish-brown central oval shifter a full mm to top-left.

Word "SZKOŁA" (just above the "R" of "ZAWIERCIE") is heavily printed.

Large white diamond-shaped opening between centre windows of school's windows in the two top stories.

In both stamps these differences (as well as others) can be attributed to the process of producing the lithographic plates rather than forgery. And, above all, to the coarse quality of the litho plate material.

# *CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY*

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Certificate No: 5509

Date: 8/9/2007

## **POLAND - GERMAN OCCUPATION:**

**ZAWIERCIE LOCAL POST:** Fi 1-2III, Mi 1-2III \*\*

1915 Pictorial 10pfg & 20pfg without control overprints,  
from unissued portion of printing.

## ***EXPERTIZING RESULT:***

Genuine in all respects.

## ***CONDITION:***

Mint with never hinged & very fresh original gum.

*K. Ceremuga*  
Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga

