

POLAND: LUBLIN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

PROVISIONAL POSTAL CARDS

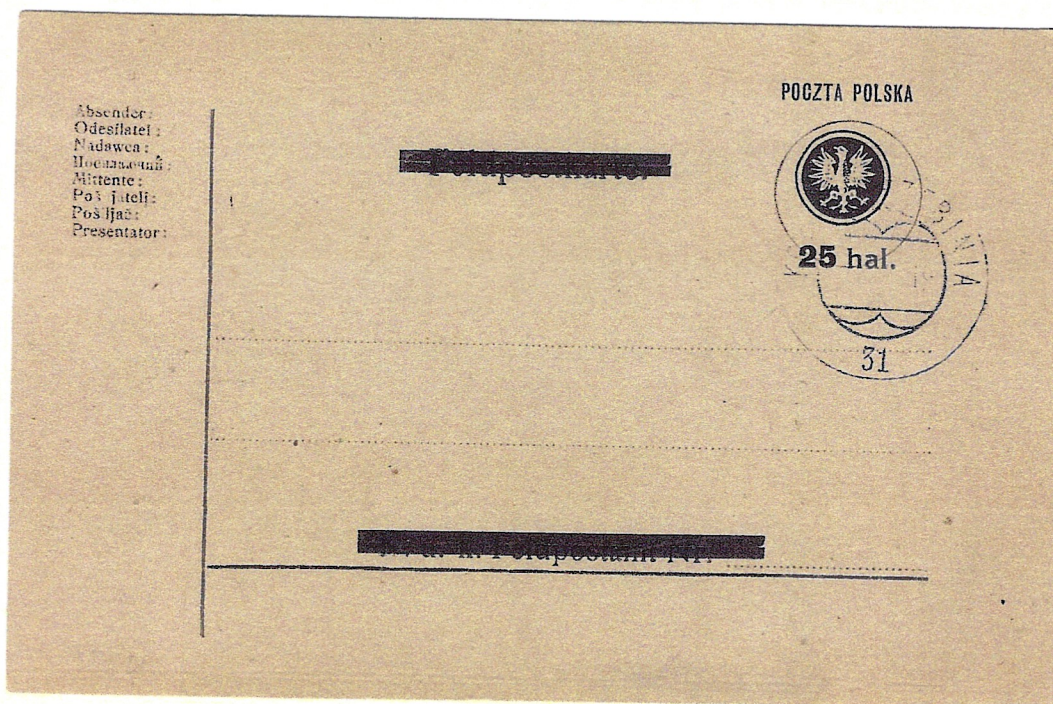
DECEMBER 1918 - 1919

BACKGROUND

When Poland gained independence on November 11, 1918, the country was divided into six postal administrations. Warsaw and Lublin were by far the largest and they continued to use the postal rates and currencies of the former occupiers: fenig and marks in Warsaw; halerzy and kronen in Lublin. These currencies were not on par, 1 mark = 1.75 kronen. This created unequal postal rates. In an attempt to correct this discrepancy, a temporary increase of postal rates was introduced in Lublin on December 16th, e.g., the 10 haller rate for a postal card was increased to 25 halles.

To meet the new rates, Austrian stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps as early as December 19th. The overprinting of Austrian field postal cards to meet the 25 halles rate was delayed until December 23rd. The temporary rate increase ended January 7, 1919, at which time a 15 halles provisional postal card was issued. More significant items have a **red** text.

Progressive Proof of the Overprint on Austrian Field Postal Card



This progressive-proof of the Lublin postal card was discovered 15 years after the cards were issued. The eagle-in-circle of the indicium is a slightly reduced example of that used on the overprint of the first Lublin provisional stamps (Sc. 27-29, F.17-19) which suggests the postal cards were made at the same print shop. The Austrian "Feldpostkart" and "K.U.K. Feldpostamt Nr." were obliterated with two black bars. In the next step, frame lines were added to the indicium.

Two Recorded Examples