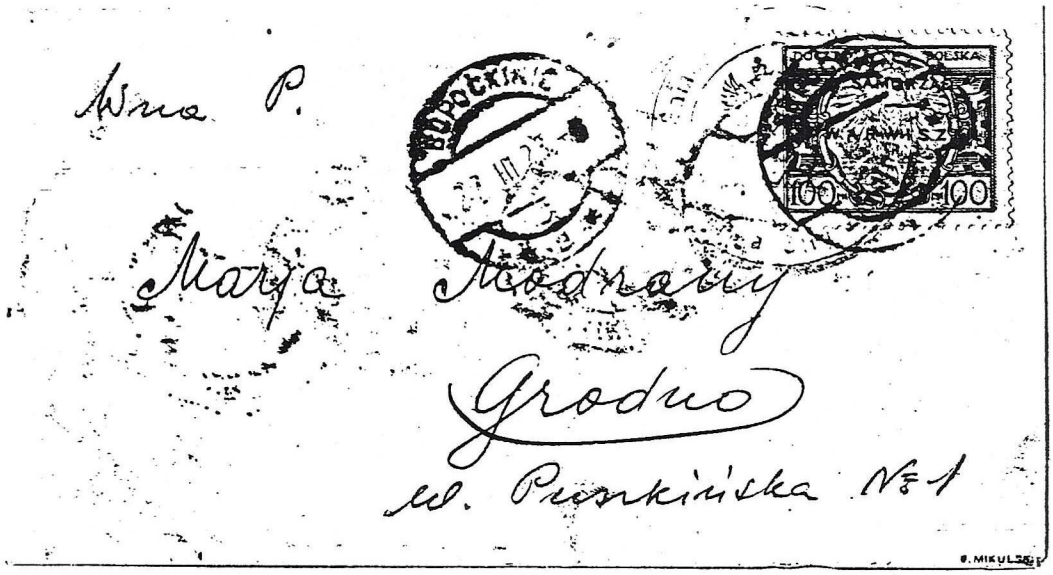
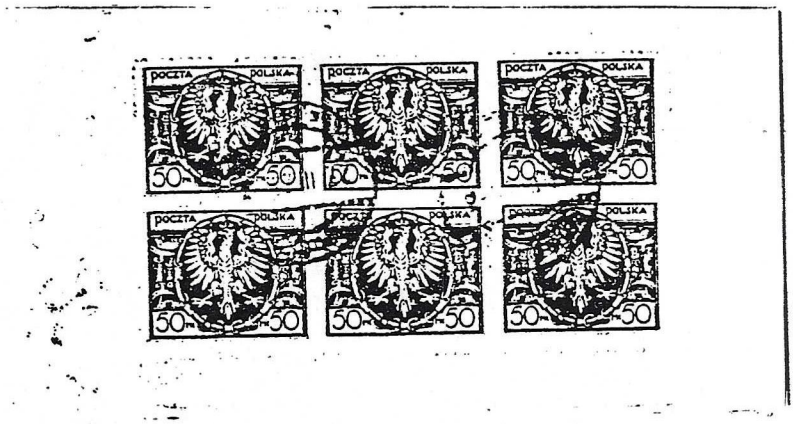
NEUTRAL WARWISZKI

Polish Administration

Samorzad Warwiszki
27 March 1923





The Neutral Zone of Warwiszki was a junior version of Central Lithuania. Located to the southeast of Suwalki on the border between Poland and Lithuania, the ownership of this small village was in dispute. Assigned by the League of Nations to Lithuania in March 1923, the Polish inhabitants revolted and seized control. There was no post office in Warwiszki at that time, but 200 sets of three Polish stamps were overprinted "Neutral Warwiszki" to pay the fee for delivery of mail to the nearest Polish post office at Sopockinie. Regular Polish postage was required to forward letters from that point to its destination.

Genuine covers have the local stamp cancelled with a violet handstamp and the Polish stamps with the Sopockinie postmark. **They are extremely elusive, with only two covers being recorded.**

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
American Relief Organizations

Wilno
18 August 1921
December 1921

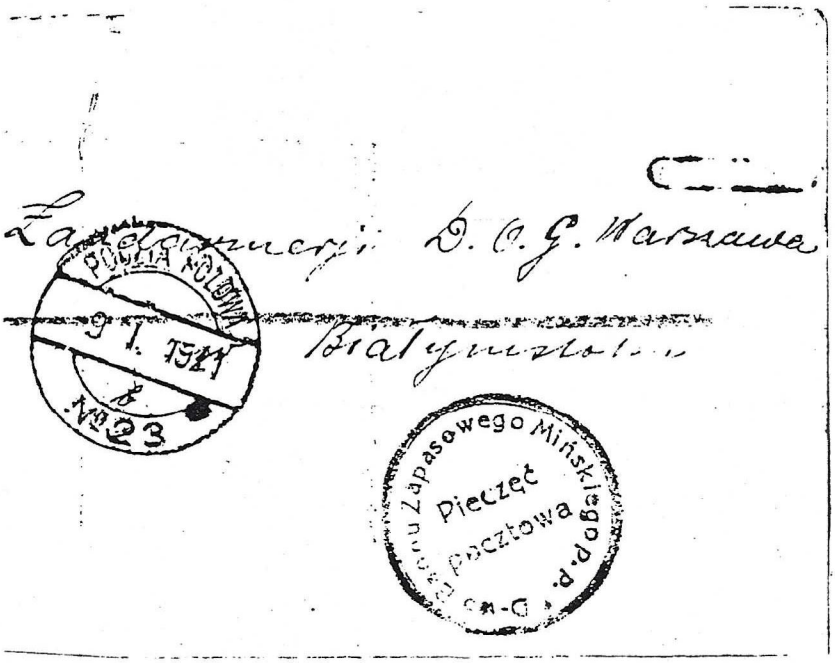


American relief groups, including the Joint Distribution Committee and American Relief Administration, distributed food and other supplies to the population of the area. Covers sent by members of these organizations from Wilno are very unusual. Examples shown are franked on reverse with Central Lithuanian stamps.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Military Mail

Poczta Polowa No. 23
9 January 1921

Frontowa Poczta Polowa No. 23
20 January 1921





Military mail from the period of the second Polish administration was sent through FPO 23 which was located at Wilno. Two different types of postmark have been noted. Lower example shows use of special imprinted fieldpost card with unit cachet and registration marking.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Second Polish Administration

Troki
10 February 1922

Landwarow
3 March 1922

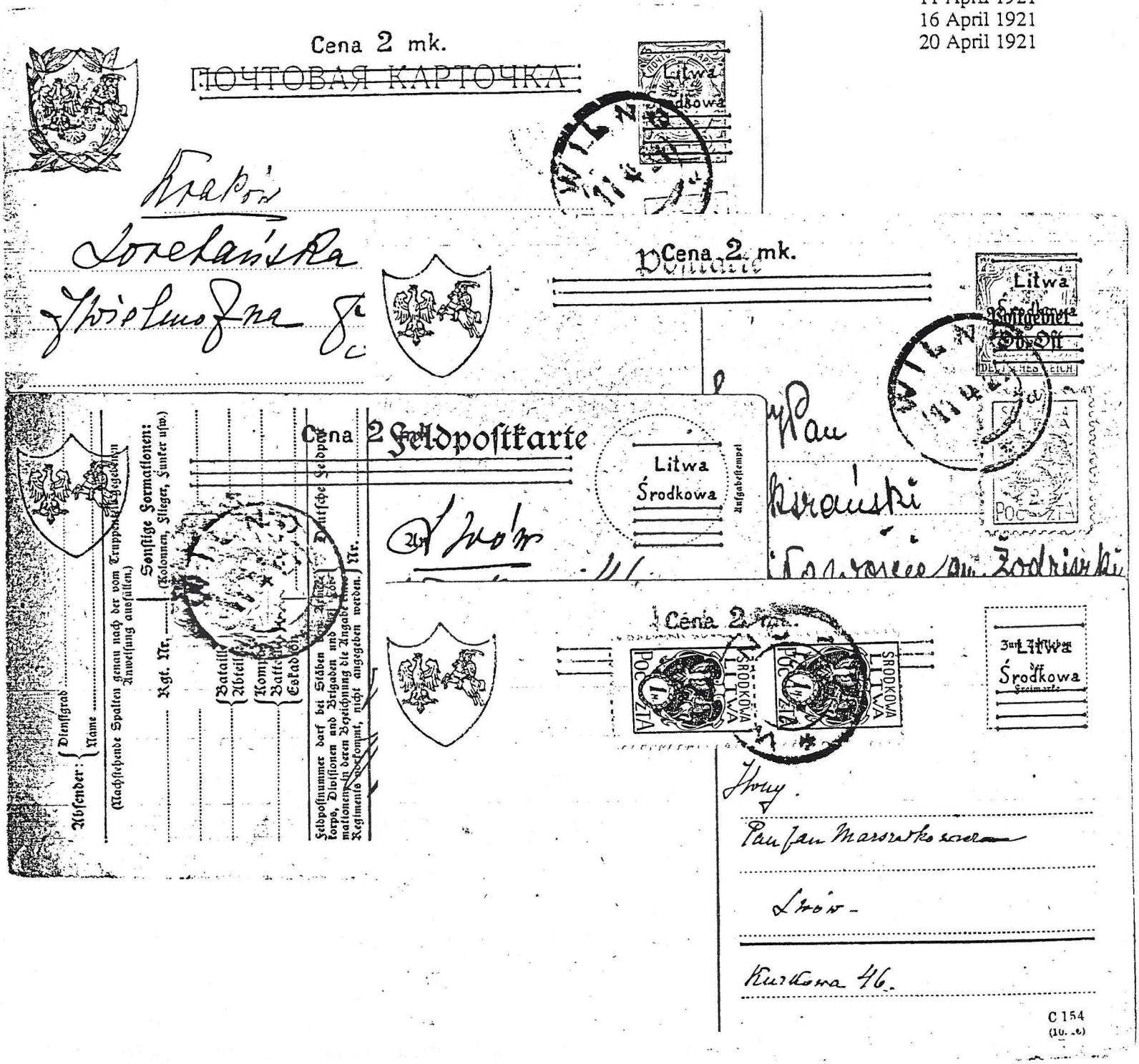
Swieciany
25 April 1922



Mail from any post offices other than Wilno ranges from very scarce to extremely rare. Examples from three such offices are shown above. The third cover was actually used 9 days after Central Lithuania was annexed to Poland.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Postal Stationery

Wilno
11 April 1921
11 April 1921
16 April 1921
20 April 1921

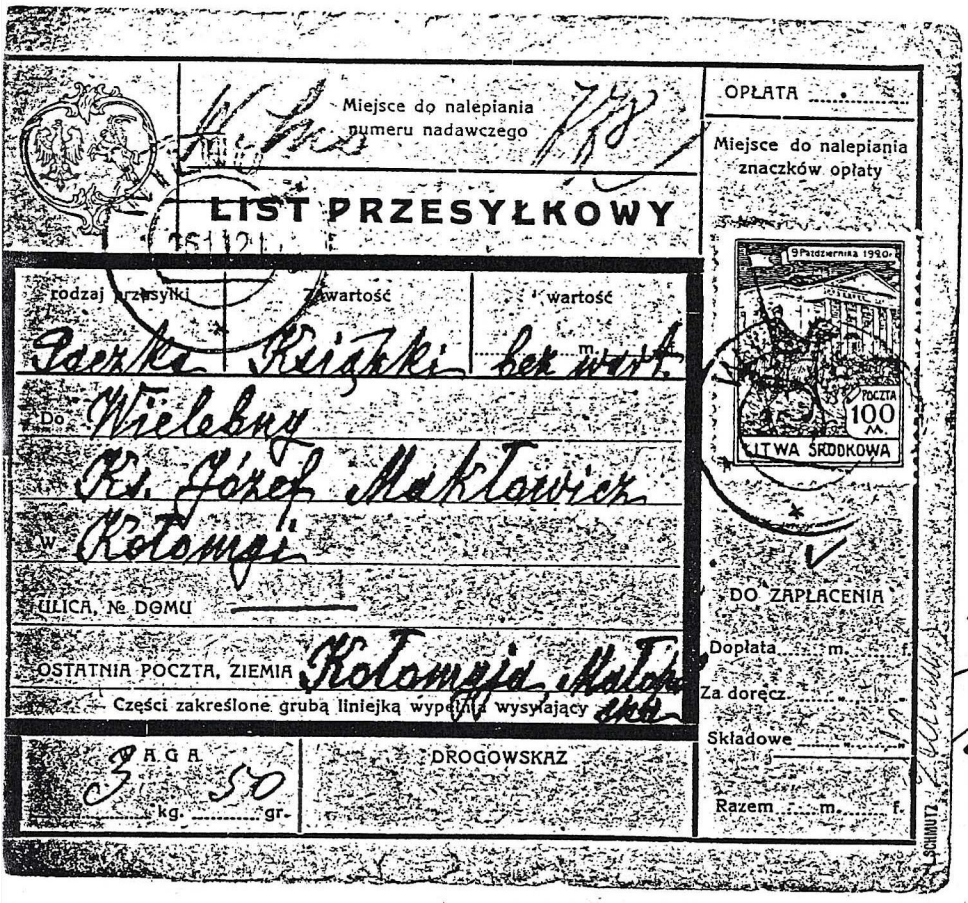


During the second Polish administration, postal cards were prepared for Central Lithuania. In each case, they were overprinted "Litwa Srodkowa" at the upper right, with coat of arms at the upper left and new value of 2 marka across the top.

Four different cards are listed, reflecting the different underlying cards that were overprinted: Russian postal card, German Occupation card, fieldpost card and a blank card. **All varieties are extremely scarce used.**

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Second Polish Administration

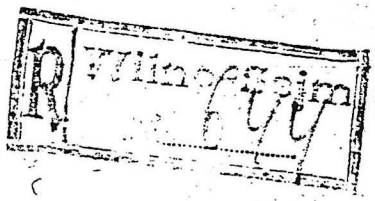
Wilno
16 November 1921
22 February 1922





Paris

Paris.



France

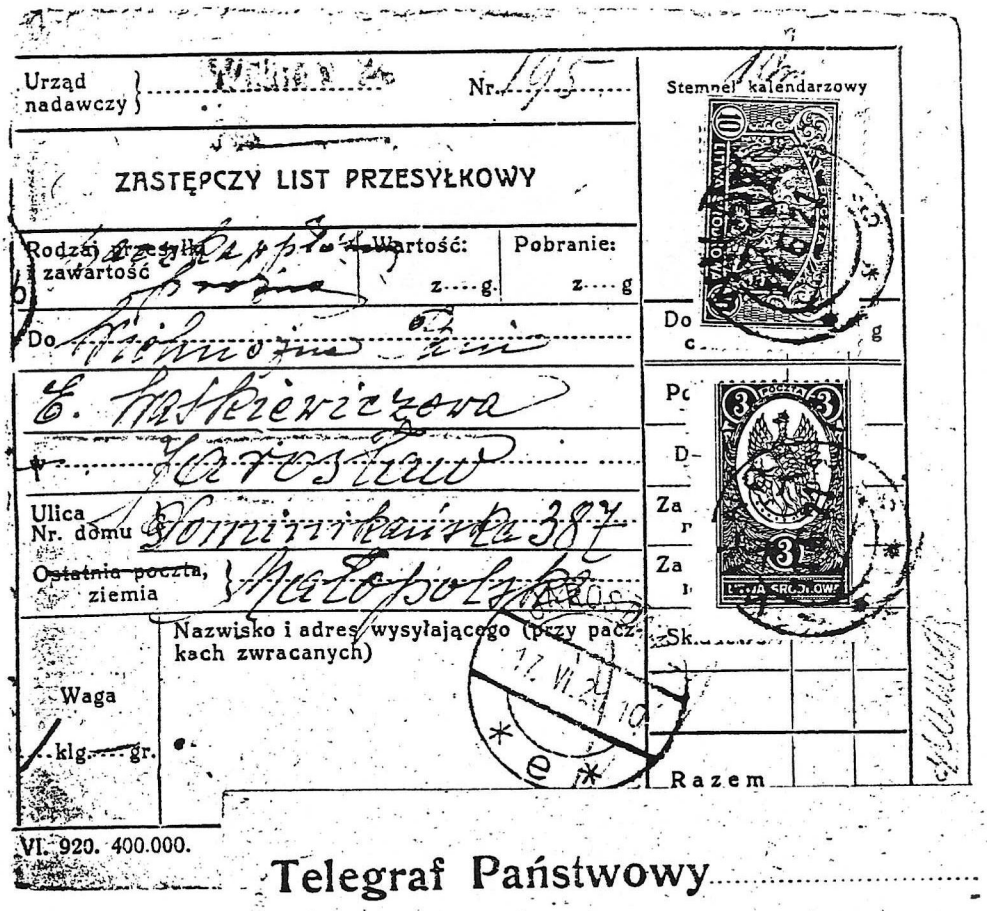
In November 1921, a set of two values was issued to commemorate the first anniversary of the second Polish administration. One of these stamps is shown used on a specially printed Central Lithuanian parcel address form **(one of only two examples recorded).** The final issue of Central Lithuanian stamps honored the opening of the parliament (Sejm) and was placed on sale in February 1922. Cover shows mailing from the special post office in the parliament building as indicated by the boxed registry marking "Wilno-Sejm."

Central Lithuania was annexed to the Polish republic on 16 April 1922.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Second Polish Administration

Wilno
11 June 1921

Telegraf/Wilno


Urząd nadawczy } Wilno 2 Nr. 195

ZASTĘPCZY LIST PRZESYŁKOWY

Rodzaj przesyłki i zawartość: paczka zapłacona / Wartość: z....g. Pobranie: z....g

Do Wielmożna Pani E. Waśkiewiczowa w Jarosław

Ulica Nr. domu Dominikańska 387

Ostatnia poczta, ziemia Małopolska

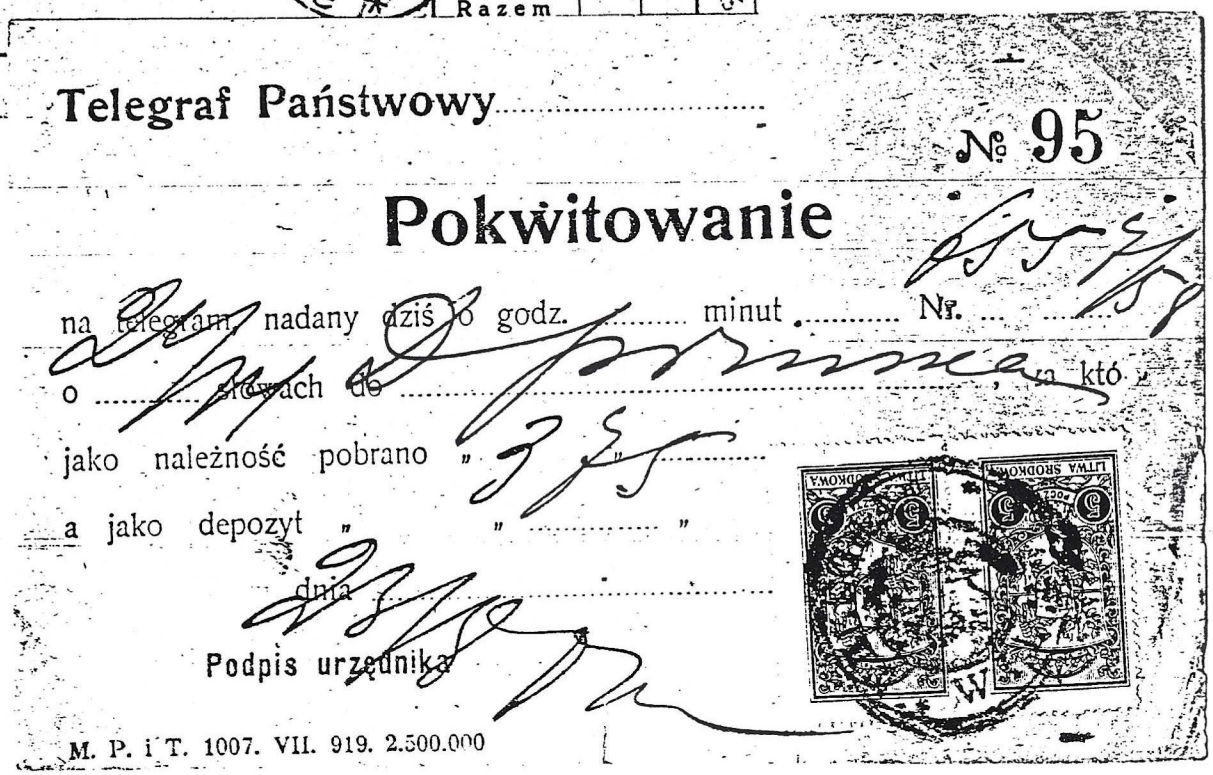
Nazwisko i adres wysyłającego (przy paczkach zwracanych)

Waga 1 klg. ... gr.

Stempel kalendarzowy

Razem

VI. 920. 400.000.


Telegraf Państwowy

№ 95

Pokwitowanie

na telegram nadany dziś o godz. ..... minut ..... Nr. 1557/58

o ..... słowach do ..... Poznania, na któ

jako należność pobrano „ 375 „

a jako depozyt „ „ „

dnia 23/8

Podpis urzędnika

M. P. i T. 1007. VII. 919. 2.500.000

To more broadly publicize the Polish administration of Central Lithuania, a further pictorial set was issued in April 1921. Commercial usage of these stamps is scarce, especially on official post office documents such as the parcel address card and telegraph form shown above.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Second Polish Administration

Wilno
28 November 1920
6 February 1921



Because of the need for additional postage supplies, Lithuanian stamps found in the post offices were overprinted with the name of the territory as well as the dual coat of arms and issued on 23 November 1920. Almost immediately thereafter, a pictorial set showing various themes, including a picture of General Zeligowski on the 10 mark high value, was was prepared and placed on sale in December.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Second Polish Administration

Postal Bureau/Oszmiana
December 1920

Wilno
12 March 1921



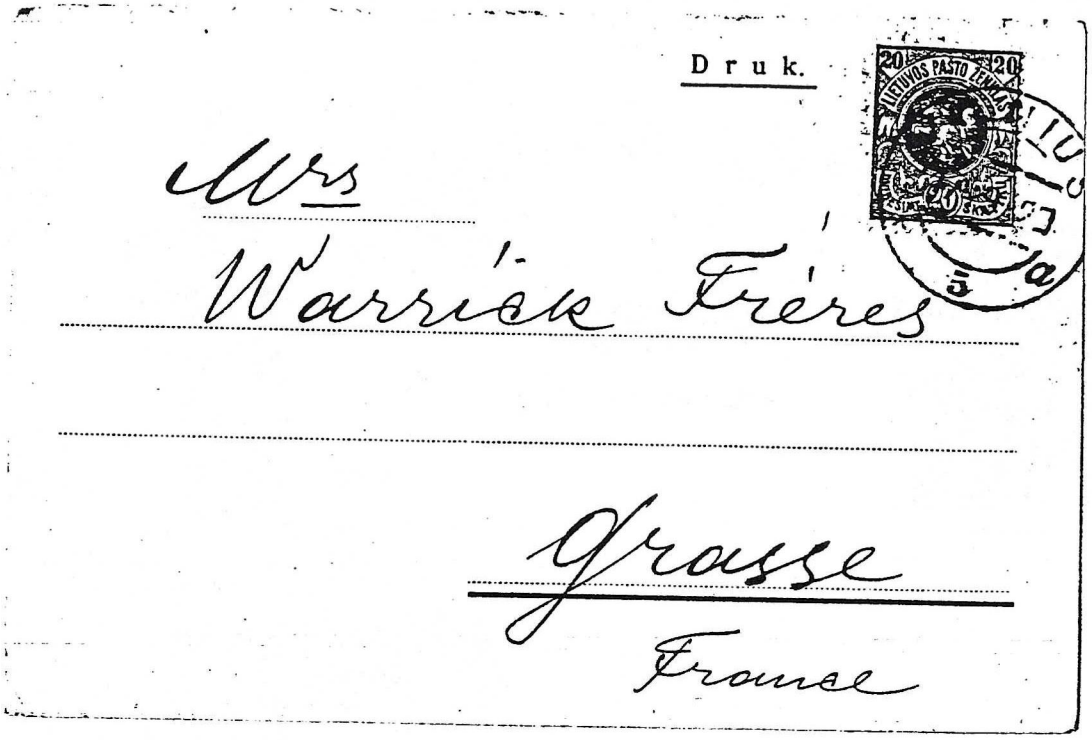
Wilna. Tempel-Denkmal des 300jährigen Hauses Romano

Almost immediately after the occupation, General Zeligowski established an interim government for Central Lithuania on 12 October 1920. Eight days later an initial set of 3 postage stamps was issued, bearing the coats of arms of both Lithuania and Poland. A second printing of the same design and denominations but in different colors was issued in March 1921.

Provisional postmark on the cover above is very unusual. Backstamped for receipt in Warsaw in January 1921.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
Second Lithuanian Administration

Vilnius
17 September 1920

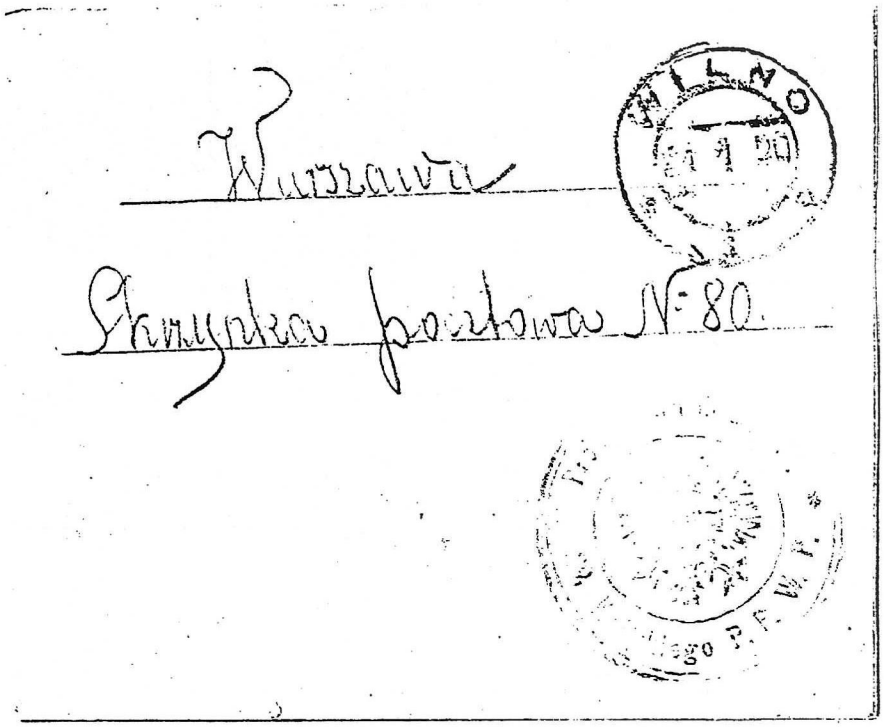


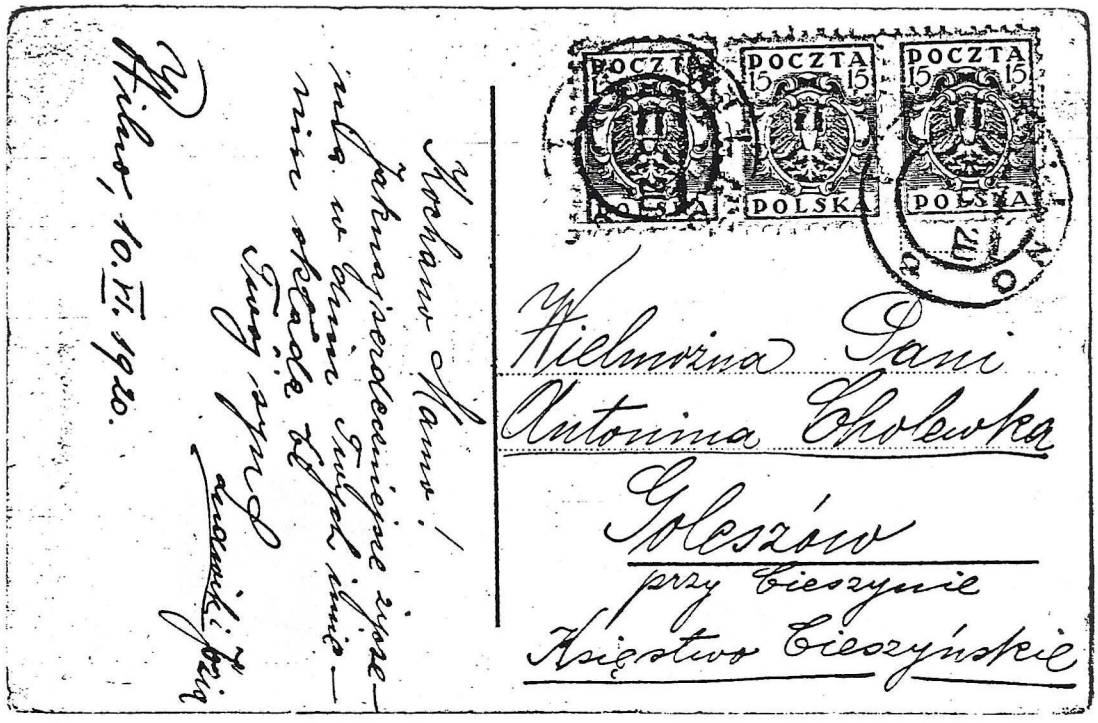
With the ebb and flow of the Russo-Polish War, the Red Army again occupied Vilnius on 14 July 1920. However, pursuant to a peace treaty between Lithuania and Russia, the Lithuanian army entered the city on 26 August. However, the second Lithuanian administration was extremely short-lived as a Polish army under General Zeligowski seized all of Central Lithuania on 9 October 1920.

Examples of mail from this period are extremely elusive. Above commercial printed matter post card to France is an exceptional usage.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
First Polish Administration

Wilno
21 January 1920
11 June 1920

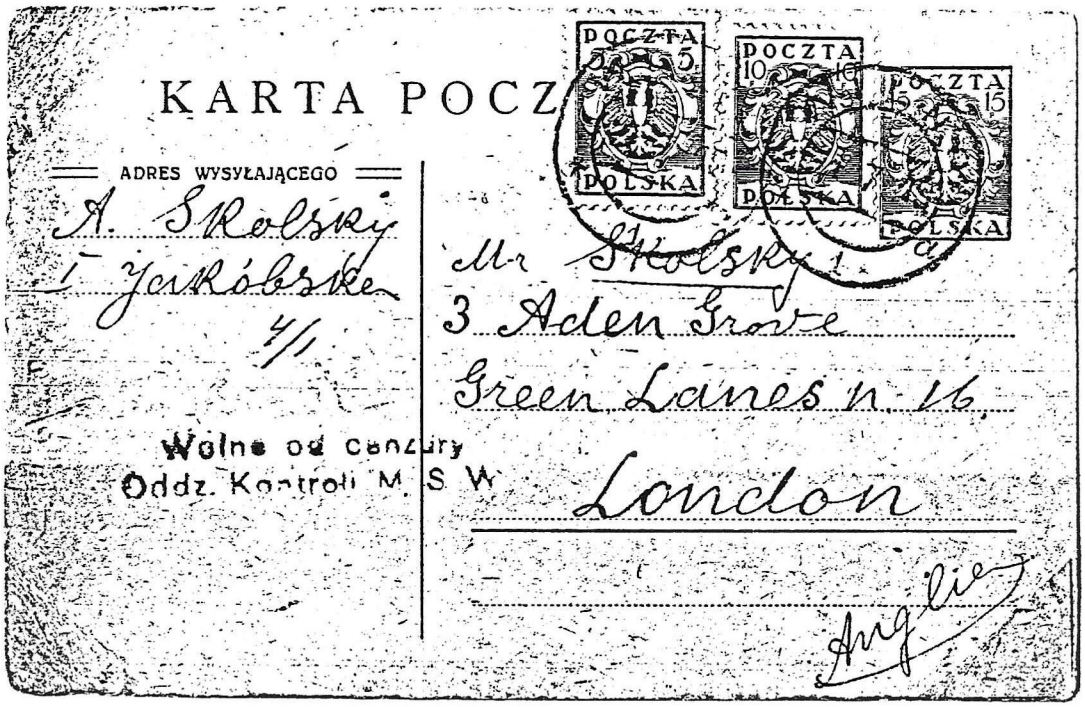


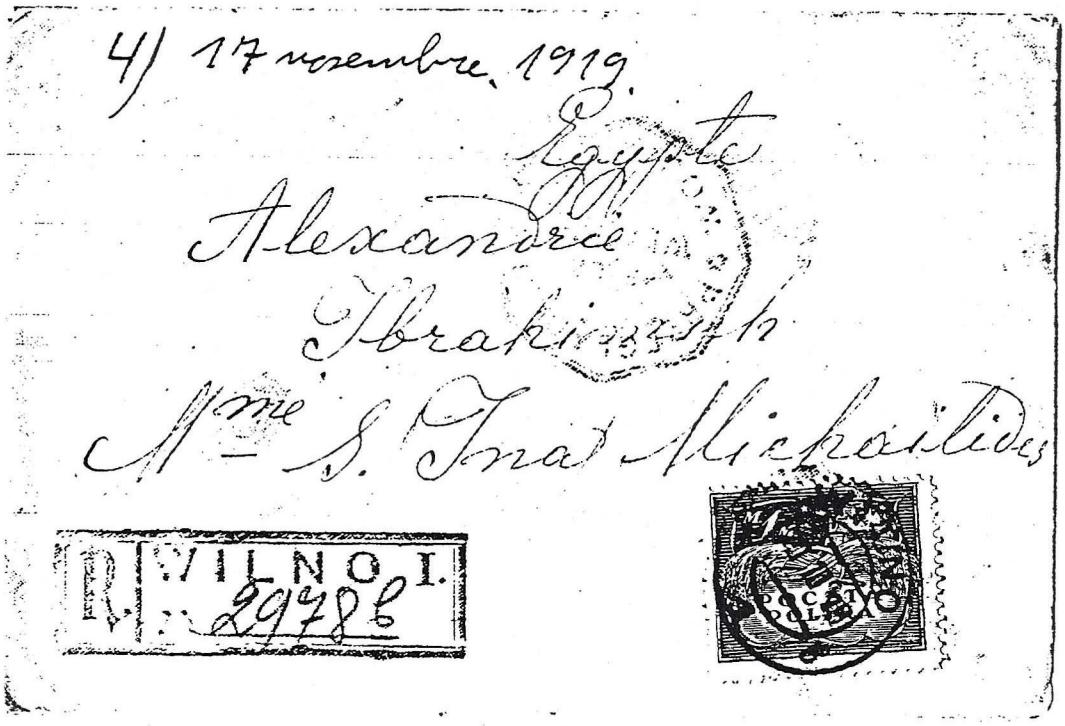


Examples of military and civil mail used domestically during the first Polish Administration. Soldier's letter originated from FPO 35 but was postmarked at the Wilno civil post office. Postcard used to the Teschen District of Eastern Silesia, an area whose ownership was in dispute with Czechoslovakia.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
First Polish Administration

Wilno
21 July 1919
20 October 1919



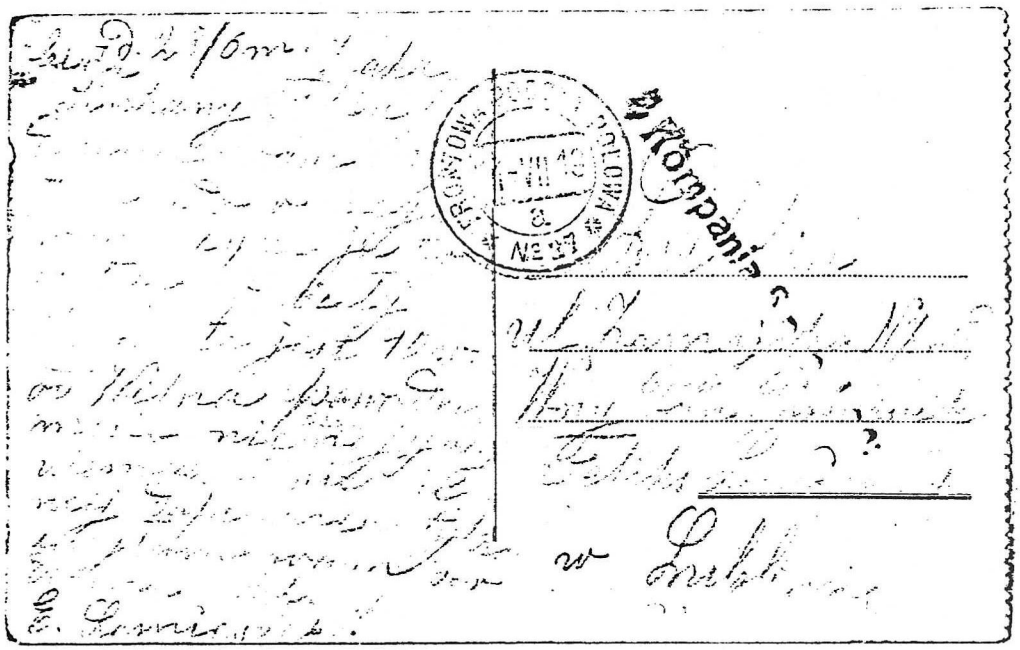


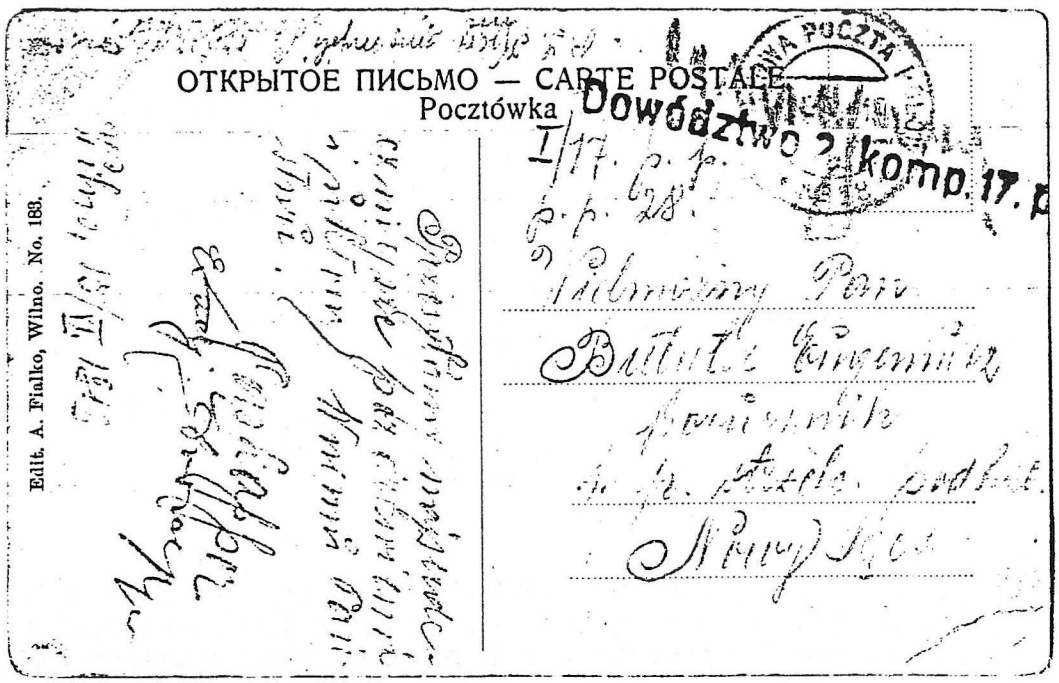
Civil mail during the first Polish administration was franked with ordinary Polish stamps and subject to censorship as shown above. Postal card (uprated for international destination) was sent to London. Registered cover with unusual destination in Egypt, has Alexandria receiving mark of 17 November 1919 on reverse.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA
First Polish Administration

Frontowa Poczta Polowa No. 27
1 July 1919

Frontowa Poczta Polowa No. 28
16 October 1919



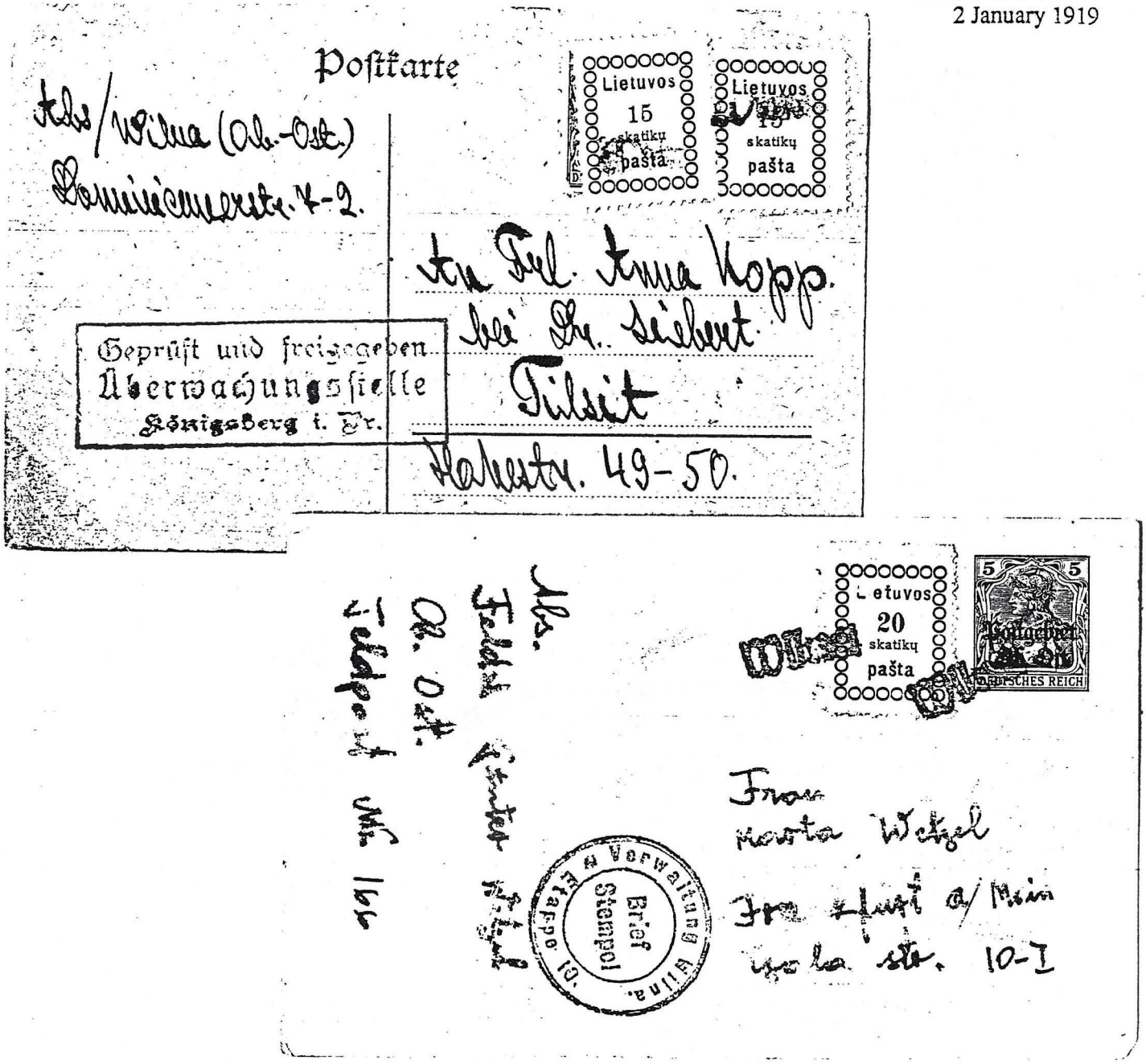


Picture post cards of Vilnius (Wilno in Polish) sent by Polish soldiers through the fieldpost stations set up in Central Lithuania after the withdrawal of Russian forces from Vilnius on 20 April 1919. Straight-line unit markings provided authority for mail to be sent free of postage by the troops.

CENTRAL LITHUANIA

First Lithuanian Administration

Wilna
28 December 1918
2 January 1919



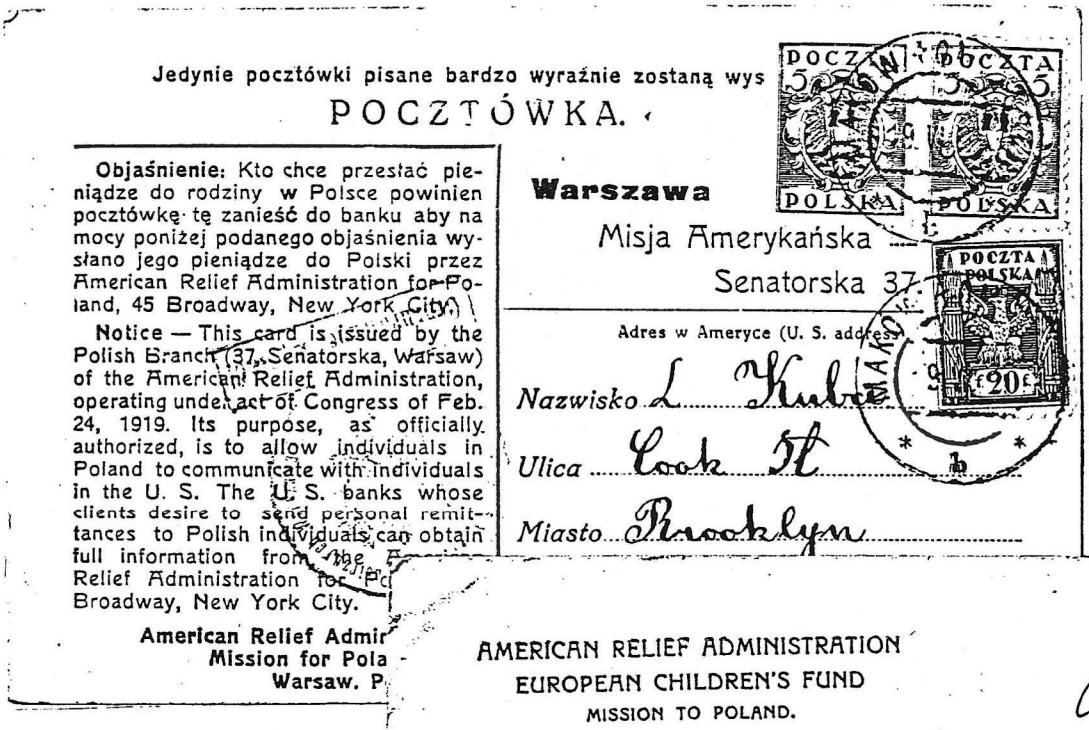
This territory was the subject of a long dispute between Poland and Lithuania. At the time of the Armistice, German forces occupied Vilnius (Wilna in German), but they turned the area over to the Lithuanian authorities, who regarded the city as their capital. In fact, the first stamp issue of independent Lithuania (consisting of 5,000 sets of two stamps) was printed in Vilnius and issued on 27 December 1918. However, the Red Army captured the city eight days later, thus ending the first Lithuanian administration. The Russians held the city until 20 April 1919, when they were driven out by the Polish Army under Jozef Pilsudski.

Upper postcard from a German civilian to his sister in East Prussia; censored in Königsberg. (Mikulski certificate describes the card as a "major Lithuanian rarity.") Lower card from German soldier to his wife.

POLAND
American Relief Administration

Makow
19 June 1920

Warszawa
7 December 1920


Jedynie pocztówki pisane bardzo wyraźnie zostaną wys
POCZTÓWKA.
Objaśnienie: Kto chce przesłać pieniądze do rodziny w Polsce powinien pocztówkę tę zanieść do banku aby na mocy poniżej podanego objaśnienia wysłano jego pieniądze do Polski przez American Relief Administration for Poland, 45 Broadway, New York City.)
Notice — This card is issued by the Polish Branch (37, Senatorska, Warsaw) of the American Relief Administration, operating under act of Congress of Feb. 24, 1919. Its purpose, as officially authorized, is to allow individuals in Poland to communicate with individuals in the U. S. The U. S. banks whose clients desire to send personal remittances to Polish individuals can obtain full information from the
Relief Administration for Po
Broadway, New York City.
American Relief Admi
Mission for Pola
Warsaw. P
Warszawa
Misja Amerykańska
Senatorska 37.
Adres w Ameryce (U. S. addre
Nazwisko L Kubec
Ulica Cook St
Miasto Brooklyn
POCZTA POLSKA
MAR 20


AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION
EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S FUND
MISSION TO POLAND.
AMERYKAŃSKI WYDZIAŁ RATUNKOWY
FUNDACJA DLA DZIECI EUROPY
MISJA DLA POLSKI.
9-11
450
Judge Ben B. Lindsey,
Polsko-Amerykański Komitet Pomocy
WARSZAWA
NEWYORK N.Y.
10 CENTS
Denver, Colo.
U. S. A.

Economic conditions in Poland were extremely depressed for a considerable time following the end of the war. In order to alleviate severe shortages of food and fuel, a large American relief operation was organized.

Above are shown a cover from the American Relief Administration and a special card sent to a relative in the U.S. requesting funds to obtain supplies at a relief warehouse.

POLAND
French Military Mission

Tresor et Postes 311
30 January 1922

Warszawa
14 August 1923



The French Aviation Mission remained in Poland after the end of the border hostilities. Lower cover was mailed by a French officer in Warsaw after the closing of the fieldpost office, thus utilizing the Polish postal system.