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Premium stamps

The system and the premium campaign

The following text extracted from “Die Landwirtschaft im Generalgouvernement“ (Farming in the General Government) by Heinz von Streng, describes the genesis and the implementation of the premium stamps in the GG.

Before assessing the agricultural products, the GG government fixed delivery contingents by product and for each district in order be divided among its counties. The county governors divided these contingents among the cities who in turn divided them among their villages. The farmers delivered the fixed contingent of products to the local cooperative, who in turn transferred them to the central farming department.

For understandable reasons, the farmers tried to elude assessment in order to sell their goods to higher prices on the black-market.

Although severe punishments were applied, it was soon realised that the obligatory delivery system would not work under given circumstances. It was then decided to introduce a system of premiums intended to make the voluntary delivery of goods more attractive.

During 1940 premiums in form of sugar were distributed during the campaign for the assessment of eggs. The experience gathered with the eggs were the base for introducing premiums during the 1940 assessment of grain, during which not only sugar, but also other coveted articles of daily use, were distributed as premium goods. This system was soon extended to other farming products. In the beginning, the delivering producer received a certain quantity of a premium product in exchange for a fixed volume of his goods. Depending on the farming possibilities this mostly led to a massive production of one sort of goods, and resulted in a permanent offer of the same. The result was that counties had an overflow of certain goods, and other counties a lack. The consequence was a totally uncontrolled exchange of premium goods between different farming areas.

In order to circumvent the flaws of the system, a system of premium points was introduced in 1943 („Die Prämienaktion 1943/44 im Generalgouvernement“, Erlass der Regierung des Generalgouvernements, Hauptabteilung Ernährung und Landwirtschaft vom 20.6.1943). (Premium action 1943/44 in the General Government, Edict of the GG Government, Head Department for Alimentation and Farming, dated 20.06.1943).

Each deliverer of goods was allocated a part of all available premium goods, calculated on the percentage supplied in comparison with the market capacity.

Vegetable and animal products were calculated on basis of the premium units in relation to the weight, to determine of the total premium. For potatoes and seeds however the market price was the only relevant reference. For milk, the volume and the fat-rate were relevant. The all-over reference product was the most used one: rye.

One kilo rye equalled one premium-unit. This unit was the assessment basis for converting vegetable and animal products, as follows:

- 1. according to the production efforts necessary in order to breed the goods, and*
- 2. depending on the relevance of the produced goods for the nutrition industry.*

This system not only increased the assessment, but also made it possible to orientate the production in the desired direction.

For each 100 premium units producers received 10 premium points for premium goods. One premium point had certain equivalence in quantity or in funds, to the premium goods.

Premium points could not be used for all goods, they were given in blocks. A block of 10 points would be detailed as follows:

<i>Premium points</i>	<i>Goods</i>	<i>Value or quantity of goods</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Spinning goods</i>	<i>2 Textile points</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Brandy</i>	<i>½ Litre</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Cigarettes</i>	<i>30 Pieces</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Iron and iron-ware</i>	<i>¼ Kg</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Leather and leather-ware</i>	<i>1 Zloty</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Washing goods</i>	<i>1 Zloty</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Household goods</i>	<i>0,50 Zloty</i>

The premium points were only valid in the district they were issued in.

District and county overprints on premium stamps

As seen, premium stamps were only valid in the district they were printed and distributed. For identification, a group of two ciphers separated by a slash, were printed on the stamps. The first cipher being the identification of the district, the second one standing for the county where they were issued. The numbers pertaining to the counties of the Warsaw District are recorded. The other numbers can be deduced by the name cancels on the premium stamps and form the data listed on rationing cards of the year 1943/44 (The districts noted on the rationing cards were numbered in the same manner).

So the counties were listed alphabetically and the district capital was the last of the list. There is however one uncertainty concerning the districts of Kalusz and Sambor in Galicia, which were dissolved at the beginning of the premium campaign. But since premium stamps with the overprint 5/13 exist, we can deduce that during the 1943/44 campaign, the list of the old dissolved districts was kept by.

Overview of the identification numbers:

District Krakau:

1/1 County Debica
1/2 County Jaroslau
1/3 County Jaslo
1/4 County Krakau Land
1/5 County Krosno
1/6 County Miechow
1/7 County Neumarkt
1/8 County Neu Sandez
1/9 County Przemyśl
1/10 County Reichshof
1/11 County Sanok
1/12 County Tarnow
1/13 County Krakau Stadt

District Lublin:

2/1 County Biala Podlaska
2/2 County Bilgoraj
2/3 County Cholm
2/4 County Hrubieszow
2/5 County Krasnik
2/6 County Krasnystaw
2/7 County Lublin Land
2/8 County Pulawy
2/9 County Radzyn
2/10 County Zamosc
2/11 County Lublin Stadt

District Galicia:

5/1 County Brzezany
5/2 County Czortkow
5/3 County Drohobycz
5/4 County Kalusz
5/5 County Kamionka-Strumilowa
5/6 County Kolomea
5/7 County Lemberg Land
5/8 County Rawa Ruska
5/9 County Sambor
5/10 County Stanislaw
5/11 County Stryj
5/12 County Tarnopol
5/13 County Zloczow
5/14 County Stadt

District Radom:

3/1 County Busko
3/2 County Jedrzejow
3/3 County Kielce Land
3/4 County Konskie
3/5 County Opatow
3/6 County Petrikau
3/7 County Radom Land
3/8 County Radomsko
3/9 County Starachowice
3/10 County Kreis Tomaszow Mazowiecki
3/11 County Kielce Stadt
3/12 County Radom Stadt
3/13 County Tschenstochau Stadt

District Warschau:

4/1 County Garwolin
4/2 County Grojec
4/3 County Lowitsch
4/4 County Minsk
4/5 County Ostrow
4/6 County Siedlce
4/7 County Sochaczew
4/8 County Sokolow
4/9 County Warschau Land
4/10 County Warschau Stadt

Premium stamps were to be issued only in this sequence in order to maintain the value and quantities of premium goods in relation to their production.

One exception could be made for premium stamps with a value of 1 point, when issued for 50 points (50 stamps). Then the sheet could be separated horizontally, both halves having approximately the same counter-value

Iron:

P1. 1 Point, blue and red (I/4)

P2. 2 Points, carmine

P3. 5 Points, green

P4. 10 Points, brown

P5. 20 Points, red violet

P6. 50 Points, orange

