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POLISH STAMPLESS COVERS

Some New Information Since 1941*

by Stephen G. Rich

When Vincent Domanski, Jr., and I compiled the report of Polish Stampless Covers which appeared in "The Stamp Specialist," Orange Book, in mid-1941, we aimed to include everything previously reported, as well as the covers we had or had seen. As far as we can tell, we did this, with one exception. We included everything listed in the 1936 and 1938 handbooks of Mikstein and Mikstein-Rachmanow, as far as we know, as well as the material in the earlier books by Count Polanski and by Rachmanow. But we omitted Polish material reported by Edwin Mueller in his articles, "Neue Briefe ueber Alte" in "Die Postmarke," later published as a book, and in one article in that journal, in that same year of 1932, called forth by Mr. Mueller's work. We then thought that the Mueller information was not complete enough to be usable. My judgment has since then changed. As Mr. Mueller's reports fit in with other material now recorded for the first time, perhaps holding it back until now has made it actually easier to use and more valuable than if previously presented.

Derek Palmer, of Santiago, Chile, has come into Polish philately as recently as 1939. Since 1941 he has become the owner of one of the four largest collections of Polish stampless covers in all the Americas. His

courtesy in volunteering much information has really made this article possible. Not only has Mr. Palmer furnished additional information on covers now owned by him and which were recorded in the Orange Book, but he has also secured a number of covers hitherto unreported, and has given ample information on them. These are all covers from Congress Poland to England. Apparently they have only recently come into philatelic hands. Presumably it is only such finds of covers sent outside Poland that will now add to our Polish stampless records, since war destruction and looting have most likely destroyed all Polish sources since 1939.

The record of covers from the original Kingdom of Poland before 1795, receives four additions, all from Mr. Mueller. He gives us a second report of the early L with crown in circle from Lublin in 1780. Unless this is the cover we reported from the Choy-nacki collection, now owned by Mr. Palmer, we have two uses, both 1780—and only 1802 use of this mark under



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

* Reprinted from STAMPS.

BEEBA

BEEBA! What a night, what a party! Over three hundred tired and hot (hottest August 11th in years according to the weather man) came from the Hotel La Salle to learn the answer to the question they had been asking, "What is a Beeba?"

Were we to tell the story of the Beeba in detail, from the moment of its first mention to the glorious hour of its achievement, it would be telling the story of the acme in accomplishment and cooperation among members of a club. Who did what and when? Should we mention the names of a few and be damned for having failed to name all?

No, it were better to say, Polonus did it again, not any one individual, but under the able management of the Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Anne Mikucki. It was she who looked after all of the details, reminded members of their promises to bring things, supervised the preparation of the food and then the tedious task of cleaning up. It was she who arranged for the dancers in native Polish costumes—it was she, oh, why go on—she did it all. Yes, and the members helped with a tremendous spirit of cooperation, the like of which Polonus never experienced before, to make THAT evening much more of a success than was anticipated.

More than 300 participated in the Beeba. After the Exhibition closed at the LaSalle at 10:00 P. M., the trek to the Beeba began. By street car, by auto, and by taxi they came to learn at first hand the answer to the question, "What is a Beeba?" Now they know. They also know what Polish hospitality is. They also know what goodfellowship among stamp collectors can really mean.

Each one of the guests at the Beeba received a souvenir of the occasion—a beautiful folder, prined in red, in which was reproduced the five POLPEX souvenir sheets in miniature.

David Lidman, Stamp Editor of the Chicago Sun, and Publicity Director of the S. P. A. Golden Jubilee and Chipex III had this to say about the Beeba:

"One of the most pleasant events on the program was the Beeba, put on by the Polonus Philatelic Society on Friday night. More than 300 attended the

affair, which was sparked by native dances by daughters of Society members. Jack Domar's Natzek jokes, musical numbers by the wife and daughter of John Rux and plenty of excellent native food. It was an evening long to be remembered by those who attended."

What more can we say.

THIS 'n THAT

The Auction to raise the balance of our life membership fee in the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museums will be held Friday, October 27, 1944, at the society's clubrooms, 1062 North Ashland Avenue, at 8:00 P. M.

* * *

Most of the lots were donated by Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz. Other members donating lots were Chester Mikucki, Jack Domar, Myron Steczynski, and Lester Jankowski.

* * *

J. Elmer Zinsmeister, Editor of the S. P. A. Journal, sent in a very nice lot for this auction. Elmer is not a member of Polonus. Thanks a million!

* * *

Vincent Domanski, Jr., was elected president of the Society of Philatelic Americans.

* * *

Stephen G. Rich was elected treasurer.

* * *

Pvt. Thaddeus J. Stasik in a letter to Roman Reinowski, Auction Manager, said he regretted he had no material to send to the auction and enclosed \$3.00 as his donation. Thanks very much Ted.

* * *

"Just dropping you a few lines to let you know that I got the June issue of the BULLETIN, and enjoyed it very much." T/Sgt. Charles Wrobel, Somewhere in Panama.

* * *

"My favorite column is THIS 'n THAT. It gives you a little of everything. Only it looks like Chicago members hold a monopoly on this column. I believe, that after the war is over, we, the non-Chicagoans, will have to get our hands into the BUL-

LETIN." Pvt. Thaddeus J. Stasik.

* * *

A good idea, but why wait until the war is over. Do it now. Send in news items of your activities or of other members to the editor.

* * *

Some time ago, we intended to register a complaint that we had little or no information of the activities of our out of town members. Not having it, we could not mention it. We are happy to note the comment of member Stasik.

* * *

One of the highlights of the meeting preceeding the Beeba was the presentation to the Society of the flag of the MS. Pilsudski by Vincent Domanski, Jr. Vince explained that a few years ago this flag was given to his late father by the then Captain of Poland's first Motor Ship.

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In the course of the meeting that followed the presentation it was decided that Polonus should make a gift of this flag to the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum as the proper repository of such an historic item.

* * *

Vincent Domanski's much heralded talk was another of his worthwhile contributions to Polish philately. Many of our members knew him by name only and through the many articles he has written.

* * *

Vince talked about and displayed the provisionals of Poland or what is commonly known as Polish Locals. He attributed the wide variety to a misunderstanding of the decrees and directives of the newly formed Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs by the postmasters in the small towns of Poland.

* * *

This issue of the BULLETIN completes the second year and begins the third. My, how time does fly.

* * *

One of the high spots of the Beeba was when Fritz Bilig thanked the members of the Society, on behalf of all those present, for a truly enjoyable evening. Fritz tendered the the thanks in Polish!

They were still talking about the Beeba at the A. P. S. convention in Milwaukee.

* * *

In addition to Vince Domanski and Steve Rich, Polonus entertained some of her out of town members.

* * *

Dr. Babowicz and his wife, flew in from Erie, Pa., just in time for the Beeba.

* * *

Clem Pulaski and his wife enjoyed themselves to no end at the Beeba and S. P. A. convention.

* * *

Alex Warot, of Hammond, Ind., made one of his periodic visits, joining in the festivities. Alex has not missed a Beeba!

* * *

Ray Bartz and Mr. and Mrs. Kolanowski, of Detroit, were having fun and didn't miss a thing.

* * *

The Old Sleuth of STAMPS said this before the Beeba: "The Old Sleuth learns that the Polonus Philatelic Society of Chicago is planning on putting on one of their famous "beeba" parties at the forthcoming S. P. A.—ChipeX Golden Jubilee show in Chicago this August. What is it? Well, reliable informers tell the Old Sleuth that it's a typical Polish party with not only lots of fun but plenty of Polish dishes that appeal to many." That was before the Beeba. Wonder what he will say now?

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS RE KRAKOW ISSUES

Members of the society should exercise extreme caution when purchasing the Krakow Issues, Scott's Nos. 41 to 60. The catalog carries this warning "Collectors are warned against counterfeits of Nos. 41 to 60."

It is suggested that members communicate with the Experts committee, consisting of Frank Wolosewick and John Gapinski, before making any purchases, especially of the expensive items.

Members will be surprised to know that most of the higher priced Krakows sold on the New York market are bogus, fakes or counterfeits. A good rule to follow is to submit the stamps for expertization first.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jack Domar, Secretary, has mailed the souvenir of the Beeba to ALL members of the society who were not present that evening. You should have your souvenir by the time you read this announcement. If for any reason

you have not received it, drop a line to Jack.

A limited number of these S. P. A. —Chipex III souvenirs are available for distribution. Should you desire an extra copy, send 15 cents to Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.



Official U. S.
Signal Corps Photo

Let these guys start it!

There's a day coming when you'll want to stand up and cheer the greatest victory in history.

But let's not start cheering yet.

In fact, let's not start it at all—over here. Let's leave it to the fellows who are *doing* the job to begin the celebrating.

Our leaders have told us that smashing the Axis will be a slow,

dangerous, bloody job.

If we at home start throwing our hats in the air and easing up before the job's completely done, it will be slower, more dangerous, bloodier.

Right now, it's up to us to *keep* on buying War Bonds until this war is won.

If we do that, we'll have the *right* to join the cheering when the time comes.

Keep backing 'em up with War Bonds

Austrian rule as later report of it. (Illustration 1.).

The W and crown without circle is reported from Warsaw in 1890; as for the Lublin cover it is either a second piece of the same date as previously known, or a second report of the Count Polanski cover. The W and crown in circle from Warsaw is likewise reported in 1787 use; again this may be a second report of the Count Polanski cover. The Grodno mark with full town name and crown in circle is reported from 1787; again this may be either a different piece or the Bisier

ALEXOTA 1 AUGUSTI

Fig. 3

cover we reported. As the Grodno mark has not hitherto been separately illustrated in any source in English, but only in a photo of one cover, Illustration 2 is given herewith.

All these marks prior to 1795 appear to have been in black.

Two interesting cases of manuscript town marks on Polish stampless covers, deserve to be recorded here. A. Scholz, in "Die Postmarke," June 20, 1.32, reports them; his article is not primarily on Polish stampless. One is "Warschau" in red manuscript, April 8, 1805, on a letter to Treblin in Farther Pomerania, between Rummelsburg and Stolp. As Warsaw was German-held from 1795 to 1807, this is presumably a normal mark of the period of the Partitions. It is the second item of this period thus far known; the first being Lublin 1802, mentioned earlier.

Mr. Scholz's second piece is a cover from Pyzdry, to an address in Prussia. It bears in blue ms. "Peisern d.22. Marz 1819." The German name of this town is used, though it was just within the Polish border. It bears the dated double straight line marks of Konin March 24 and the Prussian office Strzalkowo March 24.

Mr. Polanski and Mr. Rachmanow had included Strzalkowo among the Polish dated double straight lines illustrated; and in the Orange Book we followed them in including it among The Polish offices. Checking on maps shows that this office was just across the border in Prussian-held territory, and on the stage route from Warsaw

to Poznan via Kutno and Konin. The Strzalkowo listings therefore belong in the Prussian-held group, not where they have previously been placed. Mr. Scholz's item is earlier by several months than hitherto recorded.

From Mr. Mueller we report three more Polish dated double straight line marks, in the style of Illustration 3. Kalisz adds a new year of use within the known range; Warszawa is some months earlier than hitherto reported; Wejwery is an entirely new listing.

1826 KALISZ	Sept. 15	Red
1819 WARSZAWA	April 29	Red
1828 WEJWERY	June 2	Red

Mr. Mueller, from whom we had the



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Cracow oval, of the Republic of Cracow office, in 1838 (Illustrated 4), reports it from Sept. 7, 1837, in the articles mentioned.

Mr. Mueller further ascribes a double straight line mark, reading KRAKAU 17 APR., used in 1846, presumably in black, to the Prussian office in that city. It may well be such, but evidence for its origin is as yet not published. Mr. Mueller's picture shows numerals similar in style to those on the Strzalkowo mark, and the month is abbreviated after the Prussian and Austrian style.

He also mentions the mark reading "Cracovie" in upper and lower case, used in the 1820's stating that it is not a Republic of Cracow mark nor that of an office in the city. It is he states, an Austrian mark showing origin of letter within the Republic of Cracow, allied as a transit mark at the border office, Podgorce, on mail not previously postmarked.

A few stampless covers from Prussian-held Poland, usually not recognized as Polish, have found report in various articles. Mention has been made of the Strzalkowo dated double straight line, which had been taken as of Poland proper, by previous listers. Poznan had an interesting rimless circle type, reading POSEN, in use in 1837, in black, according to Oswald Bourne in "The Philatelist" (London) Nov. 1942.

Illustration 5 is a tracing of Mr. Bourne's picture; size not guaranteed accurate. Poznan also used a double circle type, again reading POSEN, much like the "Thorn" type of Torun shown as Fig. 11 in the Orange Book, in the 1850's. Mr. Palmer has reported to me a 30 mm. single circle reading THORN, Aug. 1, 1844 use in black, from Torun. I add a THORN single circle, 21 mm., black, 1842, as receiving mark on a cover from Warsaw, in my own collection.

Several additions to the list of single straight line marks either give us new early dates or complete the information on those reported previously. Illustration 6 shows the style.

GOMBIN

Fig. 6

Ozorkow and Sieradz are entirely new; Sieradz is the earliest date for this type yet known. Can the Sieradz item be a poor strike of a dotted double line mark? The supplier of the information is named with each item: 1845—MIEDZYSEC, Boxed 4 mm., Red (Palmer). 1839—OZORKOW, Not boxed 5 mm., Black (?) (Palmer). 1821—SIERADZ, Not boxed 6 mm., Black (Mueller). 1837—SEYNY, Boxed 4 mm., Black (Mueller). 1832—WLADISLAWOW, Boxed 3 mm. Black (Mueller).

The early circles, contemporary with the single straight line marks, are increased by several new items.

The smallest Warsaw circle type, the 17 mm. known hitherto from 1853 only, is reported by Mr. Palmer from 1850, and thus finds place in the "early circles" group. The date is Aug. 27, 1850, and the color red. The 1853 report of it in the Orange Book omitted mention of color: it is also red, on a cover in my collection.

As in the Orange Book the new circle marks items are here listed up to 1850, in chronological order. Source is named with each: 1828 (Dec. 5)—WARSZAWA, 19 mm., Red. No dash in date (Mueller). (Previously known 1829 only.) 1838 (Sept. 20)—MIECHOW, size not sure, Red. Year date at bottom (Mueller). 1843, 1847—WARZAWA, 19 mm., Red. The later bold-letter type (Palmer). (Previously known 1840, 1845 to 1850). 1844 (July 31)—WLOCLAWEK, 30 mm.,

Red. Date in ms. (Palmer). 1848 (Nov. 13)—RADOM, 23 mm., Red (Mueller). (In the 1840's)—SUWALKI, 19 mm., Red (Mueller). 1850 (May 11)—WARSZAWA, 34 mm., Red (Palmer). 1850 (Aug. 27) — WARSZAWA, 17 mm., Red (Palmer). Previously known 1853 only, also in red.

A number of circle town marks are known, on which the dates are not yet to be had. By their style or features, they clearly belong with the early circles; but in many cases they continued in use into the 1860's and the period of stamps. Those known hitherto are illustrated as Fig. 30, in the Orange Book. Mr. Mueller shows the same Osieciny 19 mm. mark as there pictured, with star at bottom, noting it as in red, but without year identification. He adds KONIN, 18 mm. circle in red, also without year being known.

Until space will permit of presenting a full list of the later circle marks, perhaps set forth after the manner of the U. S. Stampless Cover Catalog, all mention of this large and interesting group must be deferred. Fortunately, I have nothing from any of my informants and sources on this group, and can omit it without harming this article. Memoranda made in 1941 have been preserved, and thus a future article is assured.

When we come to the "fancies," no new items can be listed, but Mr. Mueller helps us with information on several that have been reported.

The oval of Olkusz (Illustration 8) is reported by him from 1831 in red, with manuscript date 10 over 6 (June 10).

The oval of Zolkiewka is reported by him from 1846 in red, same date as given by us in the Orange Book,



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

apparently from the same cover.

The half-circle of Turek (Illustration 9) is reported by him from 1841, color not mentioned, but presumably in red since this is the only color otherwise reported. Mr. Mueller shows it with manuscript date, same day and month as in the figure (Dec. 1). I am a little unwilling to think that both ms. and inserted slug dates would be used on the same day; the chance of marks of the same day in different years being preserved is very thin; and Mr. Mueller's picture seems to be an actual photograph. Hence I report an unsolved puzzle here, to add zest to early Polish philately. Mr. Mueller, like Mr. Rachmanow in his great book, says this is a broken-off double circle mark; but his picture would indicate that it was made as an arc type.

The double circle of Radomsk is reported by him in red, with manuscript date instead of slugs—again same day and month as illustrated with date in slugs by Mr. Rachmanow and in the Orange Book. He says this mark is "later than 1850." The same problem as with the Turek half circle is here again: an unlikely coincidence. The fact that it happens twice makes me suspect that Mr. Mueller is correct in both cases, and the other artist incorrectly showed date in slugs in each case. Further information much wanted in both cases.

The 19 mm. small double circle of Zawichost, with ms. day, month and part of year, is reported by him in red, dated 29 over 5 (May 29) and year filled in as 1852 (52 in ms., 18 part of handstamp). As this type has not been pictured in any article in English, Illustration 10 reprints Mr. Polanski's picture of it.

Mr. Palmer has given material additions to our information on the late bilingual straight line marks. Thanks to him, and with much appreciation, I give the height of lettering for a number of items on which it could not be had in 1941. The fact that he did not volunteer to furnish dates also, may be taken as presumable evidence that the covers themselves bear no year dating indications. The sizes as here listed go into the gaps in the table on page 94 of the Orange Book, but are worth reporting in any case. I add that I now suspect that some at least of these items may be earlier than 1865-67 as given in the heading

of that table.

ALEXANDROW	4 mm.
BRESC KUJAWSKI	4 mm. or a little less
DOBRYN N/W	4 mm. scant
GROJEC	4 mm.
JEDRZEJOW	4 mm.
NIESZAWA	3 mm.
NOWO ALEXANDRYA	2 mm. (in 4 lines)
PILICA	4 mm.
PRZEDIESCIE PRAGA	3 mm.
RADZIEJOW	4 mm.
RYPIN	4 mm. scant
SIERPC	4 mm. scant
PIOTRKOW KUJAWSKI	3 mm. scant
WLOSZCZOWA	5 mm.

Finally, the use of the FRANCO rate mark in boxed arc can now be dated back some years. Mr. Palmer reports it, on letters to England, as follows, on covers whose town marks have found listing earlier in this article. This is the mark with manu-



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

script actual rates added beneath it, as shown in Illustration 12.

Warszawa,	Nov. 24, 1843, red
Wloclawek,	July 31, 1944, red

The actual manuscript rates are most interesting. The 1843 Warsaw cover has 55½ and 90½, both in ms. beneath the "Franco" hand-stamp. The Wloclawek cover of 1844 has this in manuscript (all in column beneath the handstamp; some figures not entirely clear).

Polskiu	16½
Pruskiu	45
Morskiu	12
agio	4½

78

The whole matter of rates may some day form a separate article of some length, if enough information can be found to make a reasonably complete and coherent story.

Meanwhile, the record of Polish stampless covers must rest at the point here reached.

Non-postal marks of various sorts occur on Polish stampless. Thus, my



Fig. 13

1842 letter from Posen to Torun has, in addition to the 21 mm. THORN receiving mark, a 23 mm. black customs mark, single circle with Prussian eagle in center, inscribed "K.P.R. HAUPT ZOLL AMT THORN." In this same class I tentatively place a 16 mm. circle mark, shown as Illustration 13, and which occurs on a cover of mine from Kalisz, unknown date, with red Kalisz dated double line postmark and black boxed Official Business mark same as Fig. 51 in the Orange Book, to Krotoszyn (then Prussian held). Bourne, in "The Philatelist, November, 1942, shows a similar mark, calling it "a Berlin instructional marking used on letters circa 1832 on which there was move to pay." Further information would be welcome.

MONTE CASSINO ISSUE

by Lester Jankowski

To commemorate the victory of the Polish troops in the battle of Monte Cassino, on May 18, 1944 the Polish Government in Exile (London) issued a series of four stamps. Four values of the first "Offices Abroad" series, 3K5, 3K6, 3K7 and 3K8 were overprinted in blue in two lines, Monte Cassino/18.V.1944

A single bar, in blue, obliterates the original inscription on all values except the 3K8, in which case a double bar was used. The original values are obliterated by three bars in each case. The new values are surcharged as follows: 45 Gr on 75 Gr (3K5), 55 Gr on 80 Gr (3K6), 80 Gr on 1 Zl (3K7), and Zl 1/Gr 20 on Zl 1/Gr 50 (3K8).

These stamps were printed "in accordance with the Universal Postal Conventions in 1939" and are valid on mail posted aboard Polish merchant vessels and warships.

From a cover at hand that purports to be a First Day Cover, it is concluded that June 27, 1944 was the first day of issue. No information is at hand as to the identity of the printer



of the overprint and surcharge.

The official announcement states that the issue is limited to 50,000 sets. This announcement has resulted in a terrific scramble for the stamps and for first day covers. The stamps have a face value of fifty-one (51) cents. *Illustrations are by courtesy of the Weekly Philatelic Gossip.

Buy War Bonds & Stamps

POLISH PHILATELY IN AMERICA*

by Bert Powell

Polish philately has had its devotees in the United States for a great many years; just how many is not definitely known. However, when famous Polish stamp collections in this country are mentioned, such names as that of Domanski, Kozakiewicz, Rich, Godlef and Lewandowski are immediately brought to mind. Most of these gentlemen were exhibiting their Polish holdings, in stamp exhibitions here and abroad, long before organized Polish philately was ever born in this country. In this field, all credit must be given these men for pioneering the stamps of Poland in the United States. In many cases, their collections are internationally known. Some of these philatelists, as for example, Messrs. Domanski and Rich, have done considerable writing on various phases of Polish stamps and their articles have done much to add to the philatelic record of Poland in this country. Their treatise on Poland's first stamp (Poland No. 1) sometimes known as the "Lone Adhesive," for example, is not only of a very high order, but is also the most learned and complete in the English language. Since the plundering Nazis have issued orders to burn all Polish books in that country, it is not unreasonable to assume that philatelic works on the stamps of Poland compiled by such famous philatelic students as Mikstein, Rachmanow, Gryzewski and Rembielinski have not escaped the self-styled, "superior Aryan's" systematic stamping out of Polish culture. It is fortunate indeed, therefore, that Polish philatelic writings published in this country, are preserved for the record.

The great handbook on Polish stamps printed in that language and published in Poland is entitled *Ikaros*. From the known record, it is extremely doubtful if more than twelve to eighteen copies are known to exist in this country. The importation of this truly great Polish philatelic reference work stopped with the commencement of the brutal and unprovoked hostilities by the murdering Nazi hordes. The limited number of copies of "Ika-

ros," in the hands of American collectors, together with the addition of the articles written by Polish collectors in this country, will undoubtedly form a very necessary aid in re-establishing the philatelic record in Poland, when freedom comes there again. The contribution of American aid will prove invaluable!

Organized Polish Philately

The record shows that it was not until January, 1938, that the first Polish stamp club was formed in this country. To Buffalo, New York, goes the honor of being the first city wherein organized Polish philately was born. The name, fittingly chosen for the new society was, The White Eagle Stamp Club. Pressing the newly-formed organization for the honored "first," was the Pulaski Philatelic Club of Detroit, Michigan, which came into existence just one month later; February 1938.

The largest and now possibly the most aggressive and active group, the Polonus Philatelic Society was organized in Chicago, Illinois, in February 1939. Other Polish stamp groups followed the formation of the three clubs mentioned above, from time to time, until now there are about six Polish stamp clubs known to be in existence. Of course in stamp clubs, like in everything else, the war has made itself felt. While attendance has no doubt fallen off, yet in many cases a few of the active members continue to carry on the good work. It is safe to assume that after the cessation of hostilities, Polish philatelies in the United States will grow as it never has before, due to the unceasing publicity and work being carried on by the societies now in existence.

A record has been compiled by the author of the various Polish stamp clubs known in this country, and where the history of such an organization is also known, it has been kept for the record. This record is now being published for the first time together with the names of the various contact persons in the organization when such is known.

**The White Eagle Stamp Club of
Buffalo, N. Y.**

This club was organized in January

* Reprinted from THE POLISH REVIEW.

1938, under the auspices of the publication in that city known in English as Polish Everybodys Daily. This organization has a record of several unusual and large stamp exhibitions to its credit and was the first group in America to hold a stamp exhibition as a Polish group. Other accomplishments include a record of several stamp auctions, the proceeds of which were donated to the various Polish Relief Funds. When war came to Poland, organized Polish Philately was quick to come with aid, and this group was one of the very first to do so. It is the custom in this country to issue souvenir sheets in connection with philatelic exhibits and since the White Eagle Stamp Club was the first Polish stamp club ever to hold an exhibit in this country, their souvenir sheet issued for the affair becomes the first such remembrance to be issued in this country by a Polish group. The sheet was a very artistic one printed in the languages of the two countries and designed by Mr. Stanley Arnstein of that club who is an artist.

This club is also extremely proud of the fact that it has had the honor of receiving the Apostolic Benediction from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. Mr. Joseph Wiza, 258 Wilson Ave., Buffalo, New York, will be very happy to answer any inquiries pertaining to this organization.

'The Pulaski Philatelic Club of Detroit Michigan

This group was formed in February 1938, just one month after the start of the White Eagle Stamp Club, and has a most enviable record of accomplishment. It has a national reputation for the general excellence of its philatelic exhibition and in early days of organized Polish philately, the club probably exhibited more Polish stamps than any other similar group then in existence. It has done much to awaken interest in Polish Philately among collectors in the Detroit area. As so many Poles, the club's members are not only interested in Polish stamps, but in all things Polish. Mrs. Theophila Sawicka, a charter member of this club, has donated historical material pertaining to The Polish White Cross of World War I days; to the P.R.C.U. museum in Chicago, thus preserving for posterity the charitable chapter as played by the Poles

of this country to their less fortunate brethren in Poland.

One of the most dramatic chapters in this club's history is the important part which they played in the famous World Wide Convention of 1940, which was held in this city. Not only did they have a large display of Polish stamps in the exhibition held in connection with the convention, but they were also responsible for a beautifully printed program for the affair—which was the only program given by any group at the convention. This club also acted as hosts to visiting Polish delegates and the series of informal parties given the visiting guests, are still a pleasant remembrance by the many collectors who attended them.

A high honor was paid the Pulaski Philatelic Club at this convention. They were presented with a beautiful gold Bielce trophy in recognition of their achievements in Polish Philately.

Detroit being the arsenal of democracy, and many of the club's members being in war work, it is but natural that the war has temporarily lessened the club's activity, but has not daunted their spirit of progress, for they are still forging ahead in Polish philatelic fields.

Mr. Frank Jancowski, one of the most active of the charter members of this club, resides at 3588 Frederick Street in Detroit, Michigan, and will be glad to hear from any one that may be interested in his club.

Polonus Philatelic Society, of Chicago, Illinois

This internationally known Polish philatelic society had its inception in Chicago, Illinois, February, 1939, and has consistently added to its laurels ever since it was formed. It is beyond a doubt the most leading and active society for Polish stamp collectors in this country. Polish stamps were rarely, if ever observed in Chicago-land stamp exhibits previous to the formation of this dynamic group. Among their record of important Polish philatelic accomplishments are: gigantic displays of Polish stamps in their great annual show, the "Polpex," its large international membership, its past radio activity in publicizing the stamps of Poland, its helpful cooperation in the revision of the Polish section of Scott's catalog of stamps, its aggressive and constant publicity

campaign on the stamps of Poland, its active junior programs and last but not least—the publication of its own organ, "The Polonus Bulletin," which is one of the best written publications of its kind in this country.

The record would not be complete without mentioning the active campaign conducted by Polonus in 1943 to bring the first day of sale of the Polish Flag stamp to Chicago. The campaign was entirely successful, with the result that only the Polish Flag stamp of all the flag stamp issues was sold in two cities; Washington and Chicago on the first day of issuance. Important American and Polish officials participating in the opening day ceremonies, as well as the Polonus Philatelic Society whose aggressive campaign resulted in the first day of sale also being brought to Chicago. Great credit is due Mr. M. E. Steczynski, the president of Polonus for his hard work and active part in the campaign.

This society is also extremely active in participations of various stamp exhibits throughout the country and have thus attracted much favorable publicity to Polish stamps through this means. Numbered in its ranks are many members who are well informed students and writers on the stamps of Poland. At this very convention, a special meeting will be sponsored by Polonus, wherein the original research work on the much debated Cracow issues will be demonstrated by two of their ablest and well informed members, Messrs. J. Gapinski and F. E. Wolosewick. This important meeting is expected to be one of the philatelic highlights of the present convention. The record would not be complete without a mention of the famed Polonus Beeba's which are annually given by the society during International Philatelic Week for Chicagoland collectors. The Beeba's are a permanent institution in Chicagoland philatelic social activities. Many more successful accomplishments could be listed would the space permit. Mr. Jack Dymar, the chairman of the membership committee, resides at 3715 Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois, and will be glad to answer any interested inquiries concerning the organization.

Kosciuszko Philatelic Society of Cleveland, Ohio

This society was organized during the 46th Annual Convention of the So-

ciety of Philatelic Americans, held in Cleveland, Ohio, during August 29 to September 1, 1940. Members of Polonus who also belonged to the Society of Philatelic Americans and who were in attendance at the convention, helped in the formulation of the Cleveland group.

Though not heard from very frequently, the writer understands, though slow, nevertheless progress is steady and that the society continues to flourish.

Sometime ago, the secretary, Mr. Jan Konwinski, advised that this group met on the second and fourth Friday of each month in the Polish National Alliance Home, Council No. 6, located at 7205 Fullerton Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Konwinski's address is 7209 Park Avenue in that city, and he will be glad to answer all interested inquiries.

Polonica Philatelic Society of New York, New York

According to an advertisement appearing in the February, 1942, issue of the Polonus Magazine, this society was formed on October 13, 1942. The writer does not possess much information on this group with the exception of a few details concerning this meeting place. In the same advertisement as mentioned above, the society mentions that it meets every fourth Sunday of the month in Dom Narodowy (National Home Building) located at 19-23 St. Marks Place, New York, New York. The meetings commence at 4 o'clock P. M.

No doubt, Mr. Wacław M. Komorowski, one of the officials of that club, would be interested to answer any inquiries addressed to him at the Dom Narodowy.

Paderewski Philatelic Club of Detroit, Michigan

According to the record, this organization held their first meeting on Sunday, March 2, 1941, at the Art Stamp Shoppe located at 5348 Chene Street, of Detroit, Michigan.

The club was apparently sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Cass Maternicki, who are the proprietors of the Art Stamp Shoppe. We believe that the club was organized for juniors but complete details are not at hand at the present time. No news of the organization has appeared in the recent philatelic press but no doubt, interested inquiries ad-

dressed to the Maternicki's will evoke a prompt response.

Contrary to general opinion, Polish collectors are not only interested in Polish stamps alone, but for historical reasons in several other countries' emissions as well. As a rule, they collect in addition to Polish stamps, those of Allenstein, Marienwerder, Central Lithuania, Eastern Silesia, Upper Silesia and Austrian Military stamps as well. Some specialists collect Poland under Austria, Russia and Germany also, so it may be observed that the field of Polish philately for specialization is indeed a large one.

Thus we have seen Polish philately continue to grow. Now that the Nazis have done such a thorough job of bombing Poland, the glory that was hers continues to live on Polish stamps and through the work of Polish stamp clubs in exhibiting, attracts favorable attention to the Polish cause.

S. P. A. AND CHIPEX III NOTES

Vincent Domanski, Jr. and Stephen G. Rich exhibited in the Row of Honor at the recent ChipeX III and received special plaques.

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Vince exhibited two frames of his Poland No. 1, and Steve showed two frames of his Cape of Good Hope Triangles.

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The following members of Polonus exhibited for competition and won awards as indicated:

John Bobo exhibited "A selection of Snuff Revenue Stamps of the U. S. THIRD AWARD.

Stephen G. Rich exhibited "Natal: Selected pages mostly 19th Century, from a well developed collection." SECOND AWARD.

Stephen G. Rich also exhibited "Orange Free State: The Independent Republic before 1900; a highly specialized collection." FIRST AWARD.

Stanley Bialkowski exhibited "A complete collection of semi-postals of Austria and Saar, mint, in very fine condition."

Bert Powell exhibited "A study of Poland No. 1, on and off cover; also other early issues showing proofs, cancellations, varieties, oddities, inverted surcharge and perforation errors."

Matthew E. Uznanski, M. D., exhibi-

ted "Marienwerder, a specialized and philatelic study of the plebiscite stamps of this country." Vincent Domanski, Jr., POLAND AWARD.

Ben Reeves exhibited "France—Its postal history as shown by its stamp and cancellations from 1849-1870, including covers from the Napoleonic era and the Bordeaux issue." FIRST AWARD.

Ben Reeves also exhibited "The History of Precancels. Selected pages from an extensive collection of postage stamps of the U. S. and foreign precancel issuing countries. Some on original cover." FIRST AWARD and Col. Hans Lagerlof Precancel Award.

Myron E. Steczynski exhibited "Poland—Flight covers." THIRD AWARD and Special Poland award donated by the Polish Information Center.

Myron E. Steczynski also exhibited "First showing of Warsaw Locals, featuring plating."

Thaddeus L. Stanczak exhibited "Vatican City—Special Flights, Zepelin Flights."

Lester Jankowski exhibited "Precancels of Austria. Selected pages from a specialized collection." SECOND AWARD.

Lester Jankowski also exhibited "Pilsudski—the Stamp Highlights of a Hero." FIRST AWARD.

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From the above list it will be noted that nine members showed thirteen exhibits and won eleven awards. Not a bad showing.

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The Pulaski Philatelic Society of Detroit presented President Edw. Vining with a gavel to open and conduct the first session of S. P. A.'s Golden Jubilee Convention.

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Ray Bartz made the presentation on behalf of the Pulaski club.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Member No. 226. Walter A. Franckiewicz, 4178 W. 62nd Street, Cleveland 9, Ohio (EPP and US)

Member No. 227. Bronislaw A. Zar-emba, 40 E. 62nd Street, Los Angeles 3, Calif. (P, US and F.D. Covers)