

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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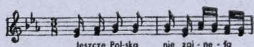
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Paderewski The Immortal

Myron E. Steczynski

Ignace Jan Paderewski, who has held the attention of the world for half a century, has rightfully been called a modern immortal—a genius who happened to play the piano. He needs no introduction anywhere in the world. Volumes have been written about him—about his playing, his oratory, his service to Poland, and his personality. He was a part of Poland where he was born on November 6, 1860 and where he reached political power, and he was a part of America, where he achieved success as a pianist and where he died on June 29, 1941. He joins Kosciuszko and Pulaski as a symbol of friendship between Poland and America — a friendship that is growing with the years.



Polonus Philatelic Society
POLPEX, 1941
MARCH 6, 7, 8 CHICAGO, ILL.



I saw and heard Paderewski for the first time early in 1916 and later, heard him as an orator and as an artist. He was the commencement speaker at Alliance College, Cambridge Springs, Pa., in 1916. The diploma, autograph, gold medal, and hearty embrace from him, as well as the Polonia Restituta Cross which he awarded to my revered father will ever remain dear to my heart. Ever since I can recall, I have heard about Paderewski's distinction in one form or another, so that he symbolizes to me the very finest in mankind. "His heart was pure, his life clean, his ideals lofty."

Playing did not come easy to Paderewski. Each day he devoted long hours of tedious practice to keep fit as a pianist. He once remarked that if he missed his practice for one day, he could tell the difference—if he missed it for two days, his wife could tell the difference—and if he missed it for three days, everyone could tell it. He played Chopin with the feeling and fondness of a kindred spirit and his melodious Minuet is popular

wherever music is played.

His musical conquest of America has no parallel. It began at a concert with an orchestra at Carnegie Hall on Nov. 17, 1891, when he seemed to instill a new magical quality and deeper heart appeal in music. Popular demand brought him back to Carnegie Hall as a soloist and kept him touring the entire United States for over 40 years, interrupted only by the war. His success in New York was so enormous that he gave 18 concerts there that first year. His initial tour totaled 107 concerts. His playing and personality gained him lasting affection in the hearts of Americans. It was the beginning of more than 40 years of successes in which he gave over 1500 concerts in over 200 cities in every state of the Union and province of Canada to over 5,000,000 listeners, travelling over 360,000 miles and reaping a handsome fortune in doing so. Every one of his appearances was an artistic triumph. The audience spontaneously rose to its feet when Paderewski entered the stage and the encore enthusiasts rushed down the aisles after each program. He has been the greatest box office attraction of all time. To cover his extensive tours, Paderewski made his home in a private railway

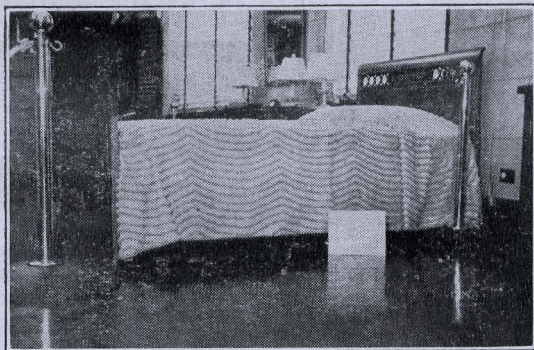
car where he ate, slept and practised his music. His railway yard experiences are quite unique.

Prior to the first World War, Paderewski was the rightful ambassador of Poland in the world's capitals when there was no Poland on the map. When the first World War broke out, he stepped from his niche as an artist to enter international politics. He closed his piano to devote his life to the creation of an independent and better Poland, winning the sympathy and countless friends for the cause he represented. Without the background of his influence in America, his work could not have been as effective as it was.

Our knowledge and sympathy for Poland have been strengthened immensely by our admiration for the man himself and by his magnetic oratory. Col. House regarded him as the greatest orator of our time. Paderewski spoke a perfect, eloquent English and made a most capable champion of the Polish question. His personal friendship with Col. House and President Wilson was a tremendous factor in establishing a free Poland of the large size that it was. He marshalled facts of history in masterly manner to prove his contentions and at the Versailles Conference e-



Autographed block of 4 owned by Paul W. Savage of Worcester, Mass.



Death bed of Paderewski

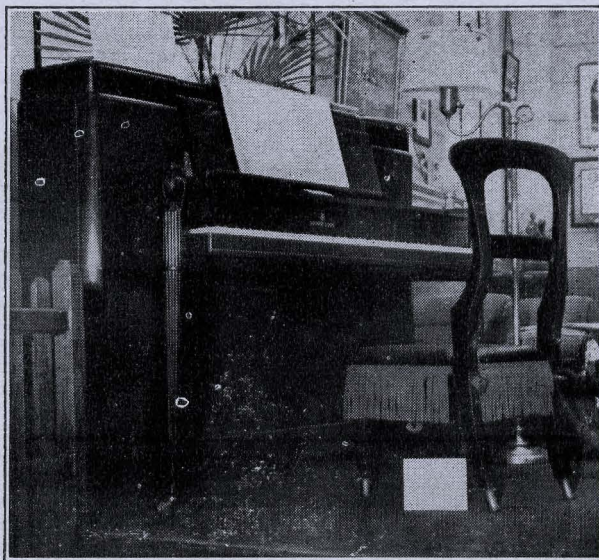
merged with a powerful reputation and enviable prestige.

Paderewski arrived in Poland in January, 1919, to face the staggering task of reconstruction. He became Premier and Foreign Minister and started Poland on a firm basis to recovery with many of his prominent friends from other countries lending their assistance. He later withdrew from political life to return to the concert stage in 1922 and was as much of an attraction as ever. The years added a maturity to his style and all music lovers were again spellbound when Paderewski played. The invasion and demolition of Poland in 1939

brought Paderewski back to public life—he was chosen President of Ministers in the exiled Polish war cabinet in France, then was forced to move to England and on his mission to America, died in New York. He died in moderate wealth as his million dollar hands lavishly gave away his entire fortune to the destitute and starving. His mortal remains rest in Arlington awaiting burial among the kings and immortals of Poland in the Wawel Cathedral at Krakow.

Poland now misses him in her hour of need.

In the world of philately, there is a stamp honoring Paderewski as pre-



The last piano of the Master

mier of Poland. It is Scott's No. 134 of Poland, one of a series to commemorate the First National Assembly. The Polonus Philatelic Society used this stamp as a basis for its souvenir sheet for the 1941 exhibition and also used Parrish's famous cartoon of Paderewski as the Music Master leading Poland again on its pilgrimage in history. Paderewski consented to let Polonus use his signature over the stamp—an honor we are proud of. He also autographed a large reproduction of the Parrish drawing as an award at the Polpex exhibition. He did not ordinarily autograph his stamp, we know of the copy that he autographed for Theodore Steinway of New York and the block of four that he autographed for Paul W. Savage of Worcester, Mass.

Many personal objects of Paderewski are now on display in the Polish Museum, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, where the Polonus Philatelic Society has had its historical meetings. In this Museum are the bed in which he died at the Buckingham Hotel in New York, his Steinway upright on which he last practised, his novel watch presented to him on his 75th birthday, his concert programs, his cigarette case, and all the other effects which he had with him in America. It is a shrine very much worth visiting.

ETERNAL IS HIS FAME

He struck the keys with vigor
Their thunder burst the sky,
They screamed for heaven's vengeance
For men about to die.

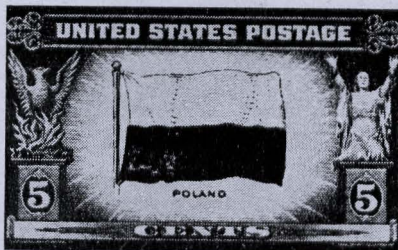
For men who'll die for freedom
For Poland's liberty.
To gain the rights of mankind
To crush all tyranny.

Though Death his fingers silenced
Accomplished is his goal.
For Poland shall have Freedom
Eternal as his soul.

—Lee S. Sobanski.

The Publications Committee reports it has received many requests for copies of the April BULLETIN containing the article entitled "The Art of the Polish Postage Stamp" by Dr. Irena Piotrowska.

U. S. STAMP HONORING POLAND



First-day covers of the postage stamp commemorating Poland's heroic resistance to the Nazis will be available at both Washington, D. C., and Chicago, Ill., on June 22, 1943, Postmaster General Frank C. Walker announced today.

The Chicago region probably contains the greatest percentage of Americans of Polish descent, and for that reason it was decided to have the first-day sale of the new stamp in that city as well as in Washington.

The new stamp is 84/100 x 1-44/100 in dimensions (size of the present special delivery stamp) and is arranged horizontally and issued in sheets of 50.

The central subject, which is surface printed, is a reproduction of Poland's flag in natural colors, red and white. In the main frame of the stamp, which is steel engraved, there is depicted on the left the phoenix, a mythological bird symbolizing the renewal of life; and on the right, in a corresponding position, is shown a kneeling female figure portraying the breaking of the shackles of oppression and enforced servitude. Both the phoenix and the kneeling figure are supported by pedestals. In each pedestal appears the denomination numeral "5" in white. The pedestals rest on a panel in which appears the word "Cents" in orthodox white-faced Roman. Immediately back of the wording the panel is of a darker shade fading out at each end. Across the top of the stamp appear the words, "United States Postage," in white-faced Gothic, within a ruled panel with ornamental scroll ends. The entire frame of the main features is set in a purple background, fading in rays toward a light center in which appears the flag. Underneath the flag, in red regular Gothic lettering, appears the country's name, "Poland."

—Post Office Department

CHICAGO—FIRST DAY CITY

In the early part of May, the Post Office Department announced the issuance of a new series of stamps honoring the Occupied Countries. The stamp honoring Poland was announced as the first of the series with Washington, D. C., as the first day city.

This announcement was received very enthusiastically by the members of the Polonus Philatelic Society who were of the opinion that Chicago, the largest "Polish City" in the world, not now subjugated, should also share in the first day honors in the issuance of this new stamp.

To secure this honor for Chicago was no easy task, for it was known that once an announcement is made by the Post Office concerning the first day issuance, it is virtually impossible to have a change made—almost impossible. The Society, under the leadership of its President, Myron E. Steczynski, undertook to secure for Chicago this honor. Everyone who could help in making this possible was contacted. It was important to bring to the attention and realization of the Post Office that to leave Chicago out would be an error. The splendid response and cooperation Polonus received was very gratifying and most important of all, successful, for on June 1st, came the announcement that Chicago would also be a first day city.

Myron E. Steczynski, President, should receive full credit. It was his untiring efforts, his zeal and unqualified insistence that Chicago with her large population of Americans of Polish descent be given an opportunity to participate in honoring Poland that led finally to a change in the Post Office's original announcement.

It is impossible, of course, and lack of space prohibits a full and complete publication of the nature of the cooperation received but it would be interesting, we think, to publish some of the responses to our President's appeal.

Edward J. Kelly, Mayor of the City of Chicago:

"Realizing the significance among our many citizens of Polish descent and ancestry in Chicago in this new stamp which will shortly be issued by the Post Office Department in honor of Poland, I wish you to know that I am most happy to forward

your letter to the Honorable Frank Walker, Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., with the request that he give this matter his careful consideration."

Dwight H. Green, Governor, State of Illinois:

"Wishing you success in your effort to bring about the designation of Chicago for a first day of issue on this particular stamp."

Hugh M. Clark, Scott Publications, Inc.:

"Glad to learn they have reconsidered."

M. S. Szymczak, Member Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System: "This will acknowledge receipt of your letter which I immediately took up with the Post Office Department."

Anthony C. Russo, President, Central Federation of Stamp Clubs:

"The Central Federation of Stamp Clubs, an organization combined of nearly all the philatelic societies and clubs in Chicagoland, wishes to add its voice to the appeal made to you by the Polonus Philatelic Society to add Chicago as a focal point for the first day issue of the stamp to be issued by the United States on June 22nd to honor Poland."

These are only a few of the letters the Society received in answer to our appeal. To the above can be added the weight of many of the individual stamp clubs in Chicagoland, the philatelic press, the press of Chicago and Polonus' numerous friends in the philatelic world. All of these things lead finally to making Chicago a first day city on this occasion.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Member No. 188, Rev. Marion John Weron, Mission House, Franciscan Fathers, Ellicott City, Maryland (U. S., Poland, North and Central Europe, Russia and Ger.)

Member No. 189, Joseph Wallace, 3800 Diversey Ave., Chicago, Illinois. (Poland, Other Europe and U. S.)

APPLICATION PENDING

Miss Regina Barbara Sierowiecki, 2568 East 117th Street, Cleveland, O.

RESIGNATIONS

Member No. 50, Casimer M. Wojcik, 1810 W. 17th St., Chicago, Ill.

Member No. 158, H. R. Zinda, 1209 W. Wright St., Milwaukee, Wis.

This 'n' That

Work on the Handbook is still in the preliminary stages, progressing satisfactorily. Would you like to help? If you have any specialized information on the stamps of Poland send it to the Chairman of Publications Committee.

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How about those snapshots? Jack Domar really wants them. Please send them in. The sooner, the quicker.

* * *

Polonus entered a 20 frame club exhibit in the Jack Knight Air Mail Society Stamp Exhibit, a one day stand, April 11, 1943.

The Club exhibit was made up of material from the collections of Gapinski, Steczynski, Mikucki, Sobanski, C. Wojcicki, Stuart and Jankowski.

* * *

Inventory Committee, headed by Ben Reeves, Chairman, is hard at work preparing a schedule of property acquired by the Society. This inventory will be published in the BULLETIN and should be welcome information for our members. Many of us will be amazed when we find out how much property the Society really has.

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Charles F. Mann, Treasurer of the Chicago Philatelic Society, for the past 38 consecutive years resigned at the June 3, 1943 meeting of C. P. S.

* * *

An orchid to our Pres. for his successful efforts in making Chicago a First Day city for the Poland stamp.

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Member A. P. Schaefer won a third award, exhibiting Poland, at the Austin Philatelic Club Exhibit recently.

* * *

Chester Langner won a second award at the Jack Knight Exhibit. Our apologies. This item should have been listed last month.

* * *

Roman Reinowski resigned as Director of POLPEX 1944. President Steczynski will soon announce a new Director.

* * *

At the June 11th meeting, an election to fill the vacancy in the Board of Directors caused by the resignation of Casimer Wojcicki was held. Member Walter Koczmarek, 5211 N. Latrobe Avenue, was the unanimous choice of the members present to fill the vacancy.

In the May issue of the BULLETIN, Article 12 in Section 2 was quoted in part. This article provides for a suspension of those of our members who have failed to pay their current dues by the 1st of June. At the June 11th meeting, the members refused to pass a motion suspending those whose dues are not paid for 1943.

It seems you don't have to pay your dues in order to be a member of Polonus.

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On May 4, 1943, at Wilmington, Cal. a Liberty Ship slid down the ways. It was christened S. S. I. J. Paderewski.

* * *

Thad Stanczak won a Grand Award at the Jack Knight Air Mail Society Stamp Exhibit with his Vatican City collection.

U. S. WAR SAVINGS STAMPS AND BONDS

"As you all know, the money which you are invited to put in these stamps and bonds will go to work at once in the national defense program to protect the freedom and safety of your glorious country.

"You have been given the respite of time to witness the tragic price of lost independence. Other countries have paid for their unpreparedness when called to face their hour of danger. It is far from my intentions to frighten you. But, under deep constraint of spirit I must warn you to be ready, because I have such great admiration for your noble country, because I am deeply attached to your democratic institutions, because thru many years of friendship I have come to love you."

—Ignace Jan Paderewski

FOR DEFENSE



**BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS**