

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONIS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Fri. at Jan Beyzym Memorial House, 6965 Belmont, Chicago

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Study Groups Forming To Study Various Areas

Over the past several months there has been a lot of discussion at the regular meetings regarding various areas of Polish Philately. Most of the members feel that, as collectors, they were missing some of the fun of collecting, especially in their various areas of interest. While there are many excellent sources such as catalogues, books, and articles appearing in the philatelic press and society publications, there are a number of shortcomings. Some of the information and data is published in foreign languages, some is outdated, and there is a lot that hasn't been published yet.

These discussions led to the conclusion that study groups could both help to fill that void and also provide valuable and much needed information for other collectors. The proposal of study groups presented many questions: How?; Who?; Why?; etc. After exploring these questions the members saw that a study group did not present big problems nor was it limited to the specialist. Let's take a look at these questions.

WHY? Study groups help to bring collectors with similar interests together. Groups bring

new information and data to interested collectors. Groups can help to put Polish philately in a better perspective and help bring new collectors into the fraternity.

HOW? Collectors with similar interests first assemble whatever data, information, and articles dealing with their area. They study that material (translating if necessary) and see what is common, and sift out the spurious or inaccurate data. They then assemble their own material and examine and study it to see if it corresponds to what is known. Now here it should be made clear that correspondence with other collectors is a vital and necessary element for the success of any study group. Xerox copies of other collector's material and letters must be exchanged. This does not mean that collectors in local areas cannot meet informally for this mutual exchange of information. How the study group will achieve its objectives is up to that study group.

WHO? Anyone can belong to or form a study group. The novice to the advanced specialist would be the basis of any study group. All it takes is your initiative and desire.

WHAT? Legitimate areas for study are many. Some examples are: Poland #1, Kraków, Gniezno, any issue of Poland, Pre-Stamp, Postal History, Perforations, Cancellations. Without too much effort the collector can literally come up with hundreds of subjects. The result is hoped to be in the form of articles for the bulletin and philatelic press plus special programs at future regular meetings.

What can you do now? You can either contact one of the members listed here or drop a line to the Secretary and tell him what you would be willing to do with a study group of your own. We know many of our out of town members have good areas for study and do hope that they will be willing to put forth the effort. Help bring some of your knowledge forward for the benefit of your fellow collectors.

The following members have expressed their willingness.

Postal History and cancellations of Wielkopolska, emphasis on the Porań area, 1900 to 1924:

William Jusack
12335 So. Parnell Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60628

Galicja Area, Pre-Stamp to 1920:

John Bartczak
10428 So. Avenue "O"
Chicago, Ill. 60617

Polish Postcards and Poland, 1922-3 Inflation Surcharges:

Roman Strzelecki
1439 No. Bell Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60622

Poland, Lublin Issue:

Chester Schafer
864 No. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60622

The Gniezno Issue (Scott #77-8) and Commem. Cancellations of Poland 1918 to 1939:

Thomas J. Gobby
5713 W. Warwick Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60634

German Occupation of Poland Eastern Territories (1939-45):

Alfred Szebel
9041 Emerson
Des Plaines, Ill. 60016

Polish Fieldpost, 1918-44:

Walenty Poniecki
6020 No. Mason Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60646

Pre-Stamp Period of the Polish Kingdom, Russia Used in Poland, Prussian area Pre-Stamp period only, and Ukraine:

James Mazepa
4800 S. Lake Park, #2409
Chicago, Ill. 60615

Drop the above a line if it's your area. If you wish to head a group not listed, drop the Secretary a line and we'll get it into the bulletin.

Remember! This can be informative, productive, and fun.

—TJG

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY ???

A number of members have expressed their desire to have Polonus reinstate the publication of a membership directory listing the members' address and collecting areas and interests. There are also some who are opposed.

May we hear from you? A short card or letter listing your opinions and suggestions would be appreciated. With your help and feedback we can know what should be done. Drop a line to the Secretary now.

On the next two pages of this issue of the Bulletin we conclude the article "Postage Due Overprints of January 1921 and Their Forgeries" by Stanley and Eric Kronenberg.



Pos. 78. Break in the left side of the vertical line of "p," the period is distorted.

Pos. 79. The period is shaped like an upside down comma.



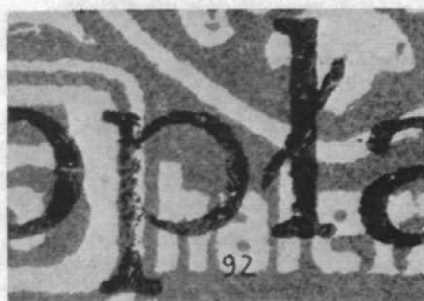
Pos. 81. Second "a" is weakly imprinted. (The degree of this distortion varies among sheets).



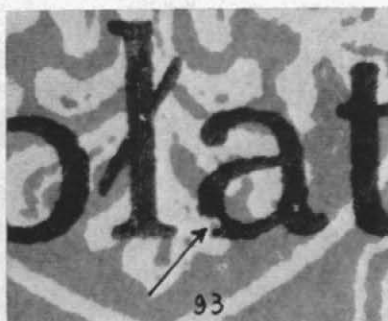
Pos. 83. Top of second "a" irregular (not always visible).



Pos. 84. "o" open on top, the "t" has a dent on bottom left.



Pos. 92. Weak imprint of "p".



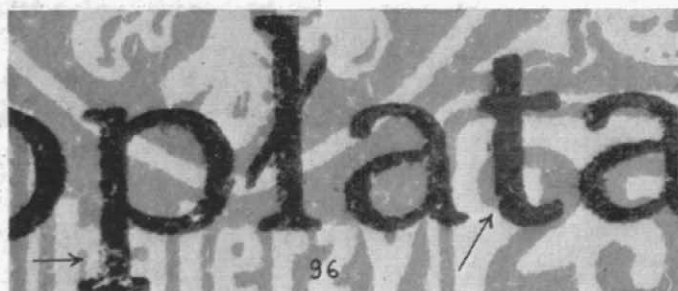
Pos. 93. Indentation at 7 o'clock on the outside of the first "a".



Pos. 94. Top of "d" cut off,
top of "k" damaged on the right.



Pos. 95. Distorted and weakly imprinted period.



Pos. 96. Dent on the left side toward the bottom of "t".
The bottom of "p" is damaged.



Pos. 99. Dent on the left side toward the bottom of "t".

FINIS

POLISH MARKET GAINS STRENGTH

Roman Burkiewicz, Polonus member and Chicago stamp dealer and auctioneer specializing in Poland, informed the Polonus membership at its July 26 meeting of present trends in the Polish philatelic market.

Burkiewicz stated that the European market was especially strong and this was having an effect on the American market, with much of the better material going back across the Atlantic. The Germans have been most noticeable in acquiring the better philatelic properties ... with an emphasis on the classic scarcer issues of Poland. In fact they have actively entered the American market in their search for material.

Burkiewicz pointed to a number of issues which are attractive to all buyers. Poland #1 in sound condition is regularly realizing \$90 to \$100 a copy, with prices in excess of \$100 becoming more common. Covers with #1, depending on town cancel, continue to bring top dollar.

All the Krakow issues, including the more common values, are quickly and eagerly picked up by collectors. The postage due (J2) is very rare, seldom seen or offered for sale, and when copies do appear they are quickly snatched up.

The Gniezno issue (Scott #77-8) remains a somewhat elusive item. Prices for both mint and used copies continue to climb, while covers with this issue regularly bring prices in excess of current catalogue. (NOTE: this issue has been heavily forged and buyers are cautioned.)

The 1st Polish souvenir sheet (Scott #251) has been regularly bringing \$50.00 for mint, NH co-

pies in the European market. The Stratosphere Balloon sheet (Scott #B31) is being sought by more and more collectors.

Postwar issues are also proving very popular. The BIE sheet (Scott B49c) is bringing \$250.00 in Europe!!! The Roosevelt SS (Scott C26d) is bringing \$90 to \$100 for a mint, NH copy. At a recent N.Y. auction a copy went for \$90.00. The imperf, blue issue of Scott C34 is becoming harder to find and the price climbs. Scott CB1, the full sheet of 12 with 4 labels, is a good item to latch onto now. Burkiewicz said that most sheets in the U.S.A. exist with folds, because found their way here in correspondence and were folded to accommodate the envelope. Any unfolded sheet would be worthwhile picking up.

Lastly, the General Government issues are being snapped up at an amazing rate. Again the Germans are most prominent in being at the front of the line in picking up these issues. Scott N 30-55 and NO 1-15 are two sets which are quickly purchased. N 30-55 is particularly elusive as a maximum of 20,600 complete sets could possibly exist, and keeping that in mind, is grossly underpriced in the Scott catalogue.

There are a large number of other issues that are good items and some which are current sleepers. In a forthcoming issue I hope to be able to report in greater depth the results of a dealer and auction house survey on Polish issues. Before then it will be interesting to see what the major catalogues will have to say about the stamps of Poland.

T. J. Gobby

LITERATURE REVIEW

LITTLE PHILATELIC ENCYCLOPEDIA

There has been a mention in the "POLONUS" Bulletin #305 (November 1972) that the printing of the "Little Philatelic Encyclopedia" as an annex to the Philatelic Bulletin issue by the Warsaw District of the Polish Philatelic Assoc. has just begun. The content of this publication has been more widely commented upon in our Bulletin #305.

At this moment, it should be mentioned that the printing of the said Encyclopedia has been already completed. It contains 92 pages of the large format filled with the most important information which is indispensable to the collectors of Polish Postage Stamps. It also provides the definitions and explanations of the most commonly used terms issued in the philatelic vocabulary. It is the first Polish publication of this type.

—H.

BOJANOWICZ HONORED

Polonus member Miroslaw A. Bojanowicz of England was recently honored when he was nominated Vice-President of the International Association of Philatelic Experts at a meeting in Basel, Switzerland.

Mr. Bojanowicz's collection of Russia used in Poland was awarded the "Grand Prix International" at the International Philatelic Exhibition held in New Dehli, India. The same collection also received a gold medal at the INTERNABA show held in Basel, Switzerland.

Polonus salutes Mr. Bojanowicz and wishes him well for his continued success and recognition.

MEMBERS MART

WANTED — Pre-Stamp material of the Kingdom of Poland, Duchy of Warsaw, and Republic of Kraków. Also Russian stamped covers/stationery used in Poland. Would you also share your literature of these areas!

James Mazepa, 4900 So. Lake Park, #2409, Chicago, Ill. 60615.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Jeannette Zilke
720 S. Oak Park Ave.
Oak Park Ill. 60304

Miss Alice Bunge
419 S. Oak Park Ave.
Oak Park Ill. 60304

Wiesław Nowicki
40 Ansell Rd.
London, Eng. SW17-7LS

Jos. S. Brosilo
4513 W. 66th Pl.
Chicago, Ill. 60629

Henry Osinowicz
16501 NE 4 Ave.
No. Miami Beach, Fla.
33162

WANTED

Internment covers containing Swiss postal markings during World War II.

Send a description or the material itself to me for a prompt and fair offer, postage paid both ways if we are unable to agree on a fair price.

ROBERT C. ROSS
28 Kenmore Place
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Collectors Club (New York),
APS 48176, Helvetia Societies
(U.S. and U.K.), SASS, S.C.C.

"Even if you have no covers for sale, any information on internment in Switzerland would be most interesting; several of us are working on a handbook on the area."

STAMP MARKET TIPS

John G. Ross

(Reprinted from STAMPS of 6-29-74)

In December, 1948, Poland issued a set of three values in memory of the passing of our President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. These stamps were printed by the famous printing house of Courvoisier in Switzerland and Scott Catalog did not list these stamps for many years as most of the whole printing of 111,000 sets was sold directly from Switzerland to dealers in this country before a small part was shipped and sold at the main post office in Warsaw for just a few hours. In the last couple of years Scott has listed the set under number C26A-C and priced it at \$25. The Michel Catalog lists the set at DM 180 which is about \$72 at today's rate of exchange. Dealers in Germany are offering DM 75, which is around \$30. I believe

you should hurry and try to find this scarce set as long as it can be had at all as sooner or later the few remaining sets in this country will be bought up and shipped back to Europe and retail prices will come close to \$50 as they are right now in Europe.

NEW ISSUES

25th Anniversary of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid

A 1.50 zł. commemorative was issued May ..., 1974 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of establishing the Council for Mutual Economic Aid to co-ordinate the partnership and development of the socialist countries. The stamp shows the C.M.-E.A. building in Moscow. Offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps by P.W.P.W. Warsaw. Designed by Zbigniew Stasiak. Qty. printed: 8,000,000.

POLAND UP TO DATE

NEW ISSUES

		MINT	USED	FDC
Motor Transport	(6)	\$.85	\$.40	\$1.20
Plants 1974	(6)	.95	.45	1.35
Countryside Architecture	(6)	1.40	.60	1.70
U.P.U. Centenary	(1)	.15	.10	.45
SOPHILEX—Flowers	(3)	.40	.20	.60
SOPHILEX—Flowers S. Sht.	(1)	1.20	1.05	
5th Z.B.O.W.I.D. Congress	(1)	.10	.05	.30
Victory Day 1974	(1)	.10	.05	.30
Mutual Economic Aid	(1)	.10	.06	.30
Football Championship	(2)	.75	.35	.90

Complete Year 1970	(65)	8.90	4.00	14.90
Complete Year 1971	(92)	11.50	4.75	23.50
Complete Year 1972	(90)	13.95	7.50	23.50
Complete Year 1973	(64)	15.50	9.90	24.50

From #1 all Polish issues in stock

25c Handling per order—N.Y. Residents add Sales Tax

Complete Price List 50c. RUCH Catalog \$3.00

W. KOLAKOWSKI CO.

P.O. BOX 394

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ARE YOUR 1974 DUES PAID?

Save Polonus the expense of having the Treasurer mailing a reminder. Postage and printing costs have gone up. Mail in your \$4.00 now!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, August 23rd, 1974 —

As a result of the forming of study groups at Polonus, this night will be devoted to philately of the Galician area, Pre-Stamp to 1920. John Bartczak, whose Galician exhibit won the Grand Award at POLPEX 73, will conduct the program this evening. Chicagoland members are asked to bring related material along, be it Polish town cancellations on Austria, Field-post, Pre-Stamp, or what have you.

The meeting will be held at Weisz Stamp & Coins, 2nd floor hall at 3938 N. Pulaski Road, at Irving Park Rd., starting 8 p.m.

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Thomas J. Gobby, Secretary
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

Al Rybarski, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82, River Grove, Ill. 60171

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, Ill. 60622

T. J. Gobby, Publications Chrm.
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$4.00 —

Friday, September 13th, 1974 —
Regular Business Meeting.

In Memoriam



JACK RUX

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of J. P. Rux on July 12, 1974. Jack served Polonus well as treasurer and Polpex Sales manager for many years. The executive board bestowed Honorary Membership on Jack just last March 9th.



We will sorely miss him.

FRANK M. PROCHOT

Polonus is saddened by the loss of its Honorary Member, Frank M. Prochot, Vice President of the P.N.A., who died on July 31, 1974. Mr. Prochot was an ardent stamp and coin collector. He was in charge of Membership, Sports and Development at the Alliance, editing its Youth Magazine "Promień" which was always open to Polonus in announcing its activities.