

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chgo.

Issue No. 342

Price 50c

April, 1976

POLPEX 76 BEST SHOW IN POLONUS HISTORY

Polonus celebrated the American Revolution Bicentennial with the largest exhibition in its 36 year history. The show was held at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago March 19-21 and attracted over 2000 visitors.

The 300 frames of stamps, covers, historical documents, coins and medals represented one of the largest gatherings of Polish

material seen in this country. In addition were other quality exhibits of U.S. and foreign material. Featured were such items as two letters sent by the great Polish patriot, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko while he served in the American Revolutionary Army stationed at West Point; extensive collections of Polish postal history including the prestamp



Official Opening Ceremony with (left to right): C.A. Schafer, C. J. Mikucki, Pres. T.J. Gobby, Polpex Chairman A. Szebel, E. Link, J. Podejko, Major General Francis Kane, AUS (cutting ribbon), R. Reinowski, Dr. E. C. Rozanski, S. Kochanski, K. Synowiec, W. Poniecki, J. Mazepa, and R. J. Strzelecki. (J. Lukas Photo)



Grand Award Winner James Mazepa (center) holds framed photo of trophy with medal, and poses with Polpex Chairman, Alfred Szebel (left) and Guest of Honor, Aloysius A. Mazewski, Pres. Polish American Congress and Polish National Alliance.

period, Kingdom of Poland, Russian Administration of Poland, Polish Napoleonic covers, and Polish military mail. Also featured were Bicentennial-Americana and many outstanding foreign and topical collections.

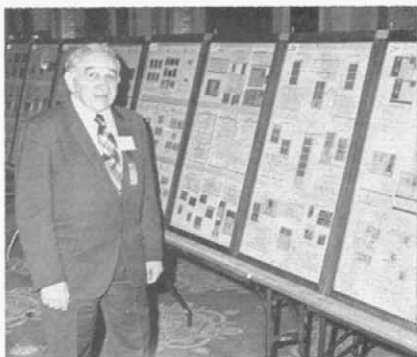
The United States Postal Service and the United Nations Postal Service operated sub-stations at the show. Outgoing mail received a special pictorial POLPEX 76 cancellation and the UN office applied a special commemorative cachet to philatelic mail. Each station did a brisk business as they sold recent stamps and philatelic items to collectors.

Thirty dealers comprised the bourse. They came from across the United States and from Canada and offered a wide range of material for collectors.

POLPEX 76 represented over a year of planning and coordination. Executive chairman Alfred Szebel provided excellent leadership supported by a very capable staff. Special mention should be given to Entries Chairman, Ed Link; John Bor, Mitchell Wozny and Chet Mikucki for sales; Ro-



The special award donated by "Polski Zw. Filatelistów", a framed picture of the Warsaw Castle in pewter, was awarded to Chester A. Schafer for his Kingdom of Poland exhibit.



Edward Niemysz with his POW exhibit which won a silver medal. Mr. Niemysz was a prisoner at Camp Woldenberg and brought many of the stamps with him.

man Strzelecki, Bourse Chairman; James Mazepa and Chet Schafer for publicity; John Bartczak, Bill Jusack and Joe Janeczka for set-up; Al Rybarski for Finance; and those who helped, each in his own way, for the success of the show — Walenty Poniecki, Stan Dobrzycki, Sebastian Styczynski, Tom Gobby, George Jezioranski and many others.

Judges for the show were Bernard Hennig, Dr. James Matejka, Dr. Miet Kamienski, Fred Blau and Theodore Light. The many frames of exceptional material required many hours of reexamination and deliberation

before awards could be decided. These awards were given at the traditional Beeba-Banquet held Saturday night. Over 150 guests were present. The Master of Ceremonies was Romuald Matuszczak and the main speakers were Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance and Professor Wagner from the University of Detroit.

Special labels, souvenir cards, seals and official covers commemorating POLPEX 76 were prepared. A set of two souvenir sheets is available for .50 cents; Souvenir Card for \$1.25 (with show cancel \$2.00), and a set of three Official Covers for \$1.25 per set. Orders may be sent to John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, Illinois 60647. Please include postage. The special gilded medal commemorating the American Bicentennial and designed by the famous Polish medalist, Edward Goral, is still available from Chester Mikucki, 4704 No. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656. Cost is \$50.00. It was minted in Warsaw in a limited quantity of 200 exclusively for our "once in a lifetime" POLPEX 76.



For the first time, Special Covers with a Polpex Cachet were prepared by "Polski Związek Filatelistów" in Warsaw, franked with Polish U.S. Bicentennial stamps. Not all were sold at the Polpex. Members may still get some at \$1.25 each from John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60647.



Romuald Matuszczak was a capable Master of Ceremonies at the Beeba-Banquet.



Dana Strzelecki views the Kosciuszko letter written in 1778 at West Point.



Chairman Szebel congratulates the youngest exhibitor, Joseph Schafer, who got the Bronze Illinois Bicentennial Medal for his U.S. Constitution exhibit.



Chairman A. Szebel holds the American Bicentennial Commission Certificate recognizing POLPEX 76 as an official celebration. Left to right: C. Schafer, General Francis Kane, Lou Koncza representing P.A.N.A., A. Szebel, Dr. Edw. C. Rozanski representing the Illinois Bicentennial Commission, & Karol Synowiec representing the Polish Daily "Zwiazkowy"



The U.S. Postal Service set up an attractive postal station on the premises and applied the special Polpex cancellation on mail handled.



Typical scene at a bourse table. This one was that of the Midwest Stamp Co. of Chicago.



The Grand Ballroom of the La Salle Hotel was completely filled with 300 frames.



Polonus Beebas are always buffet style. Members and guests walked single file pass the many trays of tempting foods.



The Polish American Numismatic Association had a table of the bourse selling coins, medals, and various publications. The table was manned by their Secretary, Ted Maczynski (seated).



Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, Treasurer of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission presents Polonus with plaque of recognition.



Chairman of Judges, Bernard "Bud" Hennig, announcing the winners during the presentation of awards.



Myron Steczynski receives a Gold Illinois Bicentennial Medal for his Polish-American Friendship exhibit.

POLPEX 76 AWARD WINNERS

Polonus Grand Award - James Mazepa, ACSW, for Russian Administration of Poland to 1870.

Presidents's Award for the Best Postal History Exhibit - Dr. J. Kuderewicz for Napoleon Bonaparte in Polish Postal History.

Kozakiewicz Research Award - J. Dobrzeniecki for Postal History of Warsaw.

P.Z.F. Award - to Chester Schaffer for Russian Stamps used in the Kingdom of Poland.

Burkiewicz Award for Best Foreign Exhibit - S. Jersey for British Solomon Islands.

Polonus Novice Award - Ed Link for Polish Heroes in the U.S. Bicentennial.

Copernicus Award - W. Z. Nowicki for Copernicus, An International Tribute.



Ed Link received two awards for his Polish Heroes in the U.S. Revolution: the Novice Award and the America Revolutionary Association Plaque.

Best Junior Exhibit - C. Sawicki for The United States Honors Poland.

Illinois Bicentennial Awards:

Gold - Myron Steczynski for Polish-American Friendship Expressed in Stamps.

Silver - Al Rybarski for Casimir Pulaski.



Judges of the Exhibition were: Dr. James J. Matejka, Bernard "Bud" Hennig — Chairman, Dr. Miet Kamieński, Fred Blau, and Theodore Light.



President's Award for Best Postal History went to Dr. Jozef Kuderevich of Manchester, N.H. Accepting the award for the Doctor was Roman Burkiewicz.

Bronze - J. L. Schafer for U.S. Constitution Honored on Foreign Stamps

Bicentennial Silver Medal - E. Tymkow for Tad. Kosciuszko. American Revolutionary Association Plaque - Ed Link for Polish Heroes in the U.S. Revolution.

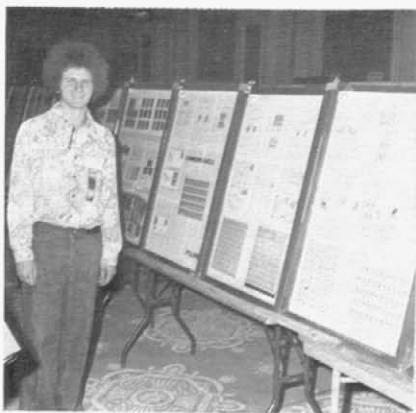
POLONUS MEDALS

Gold Medal with Felicitations of the Jury Magna Cum Laude - James Mazepa, ACSW, for Ukraine.

Gold Medals:

A. Olecki - for Postal History of the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1870.

Ryszard Poddubiuk - for Postal History of Warsaw 1818-1918.



Best Junior Exhibit was the U.S. Honors Poland showing by C. A. Sawicki of Phoenix, Arizona.

J. Podejko - for Classic Canada. Michael Madesker - for Canada Booklets 1900-1935.

Julius Kaposta - for Hungarian Airmails.

Polski Związek Filatelistów, Okręg w Szczecinie - for "Biuletyn Informacyjny".

Silver Medals:

Roman Strzelecki - for Postal Cards of Poland

W. C. Thorne - for Postal History of Warsaw.

W. Poniecki - for Field Post of the I Polish Corps and Polish Legions.

Conrad Straub, Ph.D. - for Poland Second Provisional Issue

W. Gruenbaum - for Austrian-Hungarian Navy History.

Z. M. Staron - for W.W. II Mail from Poland to England via Portugal.

H. E. Peter - for Woldenberg Polish POW Camp.

E. Niemiesz - for POW Camps Oflag IID and IIE.

M. Kohn - for French Art Issues



Treasurer Al Rybarski receives Silver Illinois Bicentennial Medal for his topical Casimir Pulaski exhibit.

Bronze Medals:

Jerzy Kucharski - for Postal History of the 2nd Polish Corps

S. Kucharz - for U.S. Fancy Cancels

W. Gruszczyk - for Bilingual Postmarks in the German Democratic Republic.

R. L. Kaposta - for U.N. Air-letters.

John Bartczak - for Pilsudski

S. Dobrzycki - for Paderewski

A. Laskiewicz - for Polonica

F. L. Przybysz - for Copernicus

L. W. Draeger - for Polish POW Camp Woldenberg Oflag IIC

Numismatic Award of the Polish American Numismatic Association - L. Koncza - for Orders and Medals of Poland.

VISITORS OF POLPEX 76

Visitors from across the United States and Canada gathered at POLPEX 76 to renew their old acquaintances and form new friendships. Among the out-of-towners were Dr. Stanley Kronenberg, Skillman, New Jersey; Leon Kawecki who designed the Official Souvenir Sheet, California; Josef Podejko, President of the Polish Philatelic Society of



Dr. Stanley Kronenberg of Skillman, N.J. (center) jots down some notes while J. Mazepa and Nik Sorokin watch.

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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 \$5.00 —



J. Podejko, President of the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada in Vancouver, proudly accepts his gilded Bicentennial medallion from A. Szebel.

Canada, British Columbia, Can.; Ryszard Poddubiuk, Montreal; Dr. Conrad Straub, Minneapolis; Jerzy Kucharski, New York; Mike Madesker, Downsides, Ont.; L. Draeger, Arlington, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Jan Haniewicz of New York; Dr. Miet Kamienski, Mike Lubinski and John Gruska of Canada; and Dr. Matt Gajewski, Buffalo, N.Y.

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