

BULLETIN OF THE



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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COPERNICUS ALBUM PRESENTED TO POLONUS

Postmaster General Elmer T. Klassen presented the Polonus Philatelic Society with a Copernicus album at the Polish Constitution Day Parade ceremonies, held in Humboldt Park in Chicago and attended by tens of thousands of Chicagoans of Polish origin and heritage.

It was the first time such an honor was ever bestowed on a philatelic society. Polonus was instrumental in the drive to have U.S. commemorative postage stamps issued for Paderewski in the Champions of Liberty series in 1960. Its member, Myron Steczynski, was national chairman of the drive for the Poland's Millennium of Chris-

tianity issue in 1966. It was the first organization to prepare and circulate a resolution for the Copernicus stamp and to solicit names and addresses on these forms requesting the stamp issue.

The Postmaster General was an honored guest at this traditional Polish-American event held every May in Chicago. He lauded the Polish contribution to the founding and development of the U.S. and Poland's participation in the progress and knowledge as exemplified by Copernicus.

Poland was a fountainhead of learning and progress centuries before the birth of our own nation.



Postmaster General E. T. Klassen presenting the Copernicus album to Polonus President C. A. Schafer. At the same time your president is handing the Copernicus medallion to the Postmaster. Seated at front next to Schafer is Governor Dan Walker, Mrs. Klassen and Astronaut Capt. E. Cernan. At far left (top) is Polonus Vice President A. Szebel.

The Polish people were in the vanguard of the epic struggle between Western civilization and the ancient barbarians.

History will forever record the magnificent courage of the Polish people as they stood alone against the rampaging armies of Hitler and Stalin.

America will never forget the two of Poland's greatest sons — Pulaski and Kosciuszko — who came across the sea to join the fight for our national independence.

Stating that the U.S. Copernican stamp will be displayed at the International Philatelic Exhibition this coming August in Poznań, Mr. Klassen then presented Copernicus albums to:

P.N.A. President Aloysius A. Mazewski, to P.R.C.U. President Joseph L. Osajda, to Polish Women's Alliance President Mrs. Helen Zielinski, to Polonus President Chester A. Schafer, and to Alliance College and the Polish Museum of America.

Another guest of honor was Apollo 17 Commander, Navy Capt. Eugene A. Cernan. When called on to speak he extolled the greatness of Copernicus, praising Polish heritage and expressing hope that NASA's Apollo Program and its implementation will contribute to world peace.

POLONUS RECEIVES RECOGNITION!

On Friday morning, May 4th, your president received a phone call from Mr. Aloysius A. Mazewski requesting that your president be present at the Polish Constitution Day Parade ceremonies the following Sunday at Humboldt Park in Chicago. He said that the Polonus was selec-

ted to receive a U.S. Copernicus presentation album by the Postmaster General who would be in Chicago for the Polish Constitution Day Parade.

It was a surprise indeed! Our society, which took an active part in the last three drives for U.S. commemorative stamps — the Paderewski Champion of Liberty, the Polish Millennium of Christianity, and the Copernicus issue — was at last going to receive some recognition.

Your president phoned the vice president, Alfred Szebel, to tell him the news. Mr. Szebel quickly suggested that we present the Postmaster with our Copernicus medallion in appreciation. He said that he would see to it that one be engraved with the Postmaster's name that day.

I was asked to stop by the P.N.A. building and pick up passes that would admit your president and vice-president to the main speakers stand at the parade.

That Sunday we were on the main speakers stand with representatives of all the major Polish American organizations, the governor, other politicians and dignitaries. When your president was called for the album presentation, I handed the Polonus Copernicus medallion to the Postmaster General.

The parade celebrations did not end here as your officers were invited to a reception following at the Chicago Society clubrooms. Here the dignitaries assembled for more speeches and refreshments. We took ad-

(Continued on page 312-7)

Following is the final installment of V. Maxa's article on the Pilsudski and Mościcki issues.

Mr. Gryżewski also recalls that several thousands of the Exhibition sheets were bought for face value by the Union of Polish Reserve Officers who sold them for less than 3 zł. apiece. This caused angry protests from the collectors who acquired their block for 3 zł. at the Exhibition. Besides, despite the original plans, the block was on sale for many years at the Philatelic Counter of the Main Post Office in Warsaw.

This illustrates the different attitude of the late twenties' collectors to souvenir sheets. Nowadays the exhibition sheet is scarce and even before World War II was forged to deceive collectors.

Warsaw 1928 Exhibition Block Forgery:

A rather crude forgery by typography from a photochemically produced plate was discovered in 1935 in Paris. The forgery was of course meant to deceive the collectors but only very inexperienced ones could be misled. Billig's Handbook Vol. I (1945, 2nd Edition) gives enough details on pp. 196-7 but a comparison with the current Piłsudski or Mościcki stamps will at once show the difference. The most striking feature is the flat and dirty looking print which has no characteristics of the intaglio print as an aluminum foil test will show.

I have a mint copy and used copy of the forgery on a registered cover where all the markings are forged too. The cover bears a circular railway postmark WARSZAWA - LWÓW No. 20 without a date, an arrival postmark TARNOWICA LEŚNA with date 25. V. 28 and an incomplete and illegible registration stamp. It was addressed to

Tarnowica Leśna by Juliusz Skowroński from Warsaw. I was told that this gentleman made a tidy sum by spreading forgeries. Naturally, the cover never went through the posts.

This forgery is nowadays difficult to find and is quite expensive.

VI. PORT GDAŃSK OVERPRINTS

For the use of the Polish Post Office in the Free City of Gdańsk the 1 zł. Mościcki stamp was overprinted in two issues: for the first time in 1929, and for the second in 1936.



Fig. 25

a. First Overprint (1929):

The overprinted Mościcki stamp (fig. 25) was put on sale on Nov. 30, 1929 and it lost validity on June 1, 1936. The overprint is on English-made vertically laid paper v and w. in the autumn of 1929 when the overprint was ordered at the P.Z.G. only 1st and 2nd issues of the Mościcki stamp were available and most probably only stamps from the 2nd issue were used. The fact that the first overprint exists on stamps printed on papers v and w is a further confirmation of my theory that both papers are represented at the same time in a single issue.

The back overprint was applied by letterpress from a plate composed of 10 x 10 subjects. The measurements of the overprint are given on the diagram (fig. 26). the letters are .8 mm. thick. No defective overprints

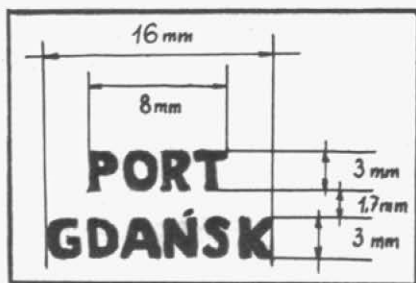


Fig. 26

are reported.

The overprint on stamps printed on paper v must be scarce, indeed: I have seen only one block of four at the Praga 1962 Exhibition. Overprint on paper w is normal and in my collection I have five copies perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Other perforation varieties can, of course, exist.

The total number of overprinted stamps is 181,200.



Fig. 27

b. Second Overprint (1936):

This overprint (fig. 27) was put on sale on July 1, 1933 and was withdrawn on September 15, 1936.

The overprinted stamps were those from the 4th issue, plate number IV, paper z and perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$. The method of plate fabrication was the same, only the words PORT GDAŃSK were placed vertically. The color of the overprint is dark blue and the measurements are given in a diagram (fig. 28), the thickness of the letter being about .4 mm. In my collection I have copies in black and grey-black.

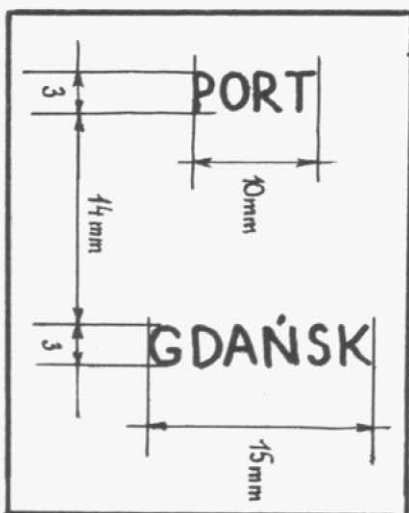


Fig. 28

The total number of overprinted stamps is 108,600.

c. Forgeries:

Forgeries of both overprints are reported to exist but I have not seen one neither have I read a description of any forgery. Zumstein catalog warns only that black overprint of the second issue is a forgery. Any existing forgeries would be dangerous because it is easy to fake a simple typographic overprint on a cheap basic stamp and there is little material for comparison.

VII. KING CAROL 1937 VISIT SHEET

Polish postal authorities must have been, indeed, very fond of the Piłsudski and Mościcki design because they used it once again in 1937 to celebrate the state visit of King Carol of Roumania which took place June 26 to July 1, 1937 (fig. 29).

A set of three blocks was issued, the first bearing the portrait of Premier E. Śmigły-Rydz (4 x 25 groszy) will not be described as it is outside the scope of this study.



Fig. 29

According to Polish sources the plates for all three blocks were laid-down at the P.W.P.W. by the roller-die transfer method. I doubt it. This certainly is true for the 25 gr. Śmigły-Rydz stamp previously produced by this method.

As to the Piłsudski and Mościcki stamps we know that their plates were made by galvanoplasty from Professor Schirnbock's master-die. It seems more likely that this method was retained for the sake of economy; certainly enough intermediate stereotypes were left to assemble a printing plate and reproduce it by galvanoplasty.

The printing plate was composed of two panes each carrying 2 x 2 blocks of four stamps (eight blocks altogether). As a rotary press was used the plates had to be curved to fit the machines.

My theory that single plates were used is supported by the fact that the lower left-hand 1 złoty stamp is out of alignment; a defect which is much more likely to happen when soldering single plates in a form than when rocking in the roller-die in a precision transfer apparatus. This defect is on all my five Mościcki blocks; this would certainly not be so if the plate was laid by the roller-die: then it would probably appear only on one pane in the eight.

Furthermore the Piłsudski stamp is of type II, which would be not possible if a roller-die was made from the original master-die which was type I.

The color of the stamps in the blocks is similar to the original ones: greyish-blue (varying in tone from light to a deeper shade) for the Piłsudski stamp, and grey-black for the

Mościcki stamp.

The two coats-of-arms and the dates (identical for all the blocks) were applied by letterpress in light red (the impression shows at the back). At last eight plates were made from the original model and assembled in a printing form.

As a second pass of the paper to print the inscription on the already printed blocks of four stamps was necessary, it is obvious that the relative position of the blocks and inscriptions varies. This can be demonstrated by placing a ruler to the right-hand vertical edge of the first stamp: it bisects the number "9" (from 1937) often in a different place.

The perforation is punched $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

This printing is notorious for a lot of intentional printer's waste which was not destroyed and which came illegally on the market in 1941. I have seen blocks with great shifts of the red imprint, and even inverted, sideways, askew or double imprints. Misplaced perforations and combinations of both perforations and imprints shifts also exist. These defects are so numerous and fantastic that the intention to produce items which will sell well is too obvious. Therefore their philatelic value is doubtful.

For each denomination 105,600 blocks were printed but only 99,279 sets of three blocks were sold (the package-lot had a face value of seven złoty!). During January, 1938, many 50 gr. and 1 zł. blocks were exchanged at the Warsaw Main Post Office for the normal stamps and the retrieved blocks are said to be destroyed. Their number,

however, was not published.

No forgeries are reported.

CONCLUSION

In writing this study I have relied mainly on stamps and other material in my collection, and on items seen at various Stamp Exhibitions. When I quote "Polish sources" I mean the handbook "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" Vol. I — III published by Ruch in Warsaw (1960-63) and written by several leading Polish philatelists.

Furthermore I quote from W. Rachmanow's article "Die Postwertzeichen von Polen in Goldwährung 1924-1932" published in *Die Postmarken* Nrs. 266 and 275 (Vienna 1932) and from Mrs. Kay Horowicz's article "Poland, the Marshal Pilsudski Stamp" in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 22-24 (London, October 1961).

Billig's Handbook and articles by M. E. Steczynski "Stamps" and K. Gryżewski in *Filatelista* are also quoted. The information on perfins is based on an article by Aleksander Sekowski — "Firmowe dziurkowania na znaczkach polskich", *Filatelista* Vol. XII, Nos. 23 and 24 (Warsaw 1966).

Any information regarding this issue, especially description of further plate numbers, defective prints, forgeries, etc., as well as any comment, suggestion or rectification will be very much appreciated by the author whose address is: Vojtech Maxa, Antonínska 8, Praha 7, Czechoslovakia.

Finally may I express my deep gratitude to the officers of Polonus Philatelic Society for accepting my article and for helping me with its publication.

POLONUS GETS RECOGNITION

(Continued from page 312-2)

vantage of the opportunity and presented a Polonus Copernicus medallion to Aloysius A. Mazewski who was guest of honor at our recent POLPEX 73.

At this presentation your president praised Mr. Mazewski as a great Polish American leader and also thanked the Postmaster for giving us the Copernicus stamp.

During the reception we were privileged to speak to the Postmaster, his assistant, Mr. Walter Zachariasiewicz, to the astronaut, Capt. Eugene Cernan, and to others.

Back in 1960 Polonus had the idea of the U.S. Post Office issuing a stamp honoring Ignacy Jan Paderewski in the Champions of Liberty series. Our attorney, Lester Jankowski, prepared a resolution. Polonus had copies of this resolution printed, the copies were circulated, signatures and addresses were solicited and the forms were then sent to the Postmaster in Washington, D.C. Our drive was publicized in the philatelic and the Polish-American press and it caught on. The result — the stamps were approved and issued.

In 1964 Monsignor Alfred Abramowicz, who was in charge of the Chicago Observances of the Polish Millennium of Christianity, approached Polonus to start a drive for a U.S. commemorative to honor that occasion. Our member Myron Steczynski undertook the job as chairman of this project and worked diligently at it until it was successful and a Polish Millennium stamp was issued.

In 1972 the Copernicus 500th anniversary was brought up at

Polonus and again we proceeded with printing up resolutions, soliciting signatures and with a publicity drive. And here again our efforts were rewarded when the Copernicus commemorative appeared on April 23, 1973.

The U.S. Postal Service acknowledged our efforts when they awarded Polonus the Copernicus presentation album at the Polish Constitution Day celebration on May 6th, 1973.

It was a great day for Polonus — we received recognition at last!

— C. A. Schafer

NEW ISSUES

25th Congress of the International Co-Operative Union

A 60 gr. commemorative was issued in September of 1972 to commemorate the 25th Congress of the International Co-Operative Union which was held in Warsaw. The stamp presents a multi-color rainbow which is the symbol of the co-operative movement. Rotogravure printed by PWPW, Warsaw, in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper. Designed by M. Wiczorek. Quantity issued: 8,000,000.

IN MEMORIAM

KAY HOROWICZ
TED MAKSYMOWICZ
FRANK RIZZO
C. W. MURPHY

NEW MEMBERS

A. Zygmunt
24212 Park St.
Torrance, Calif. 90505
Emil J. Walerko
157 Wessington Ave.
Garfield, N.J. 07026

KAY HOROWICZ PASSES ON

Polonus member Kay Horowicz died on March 10th, 1973 in England, following a long illness. She was the widow of a famous Polish Air Force war-time pilot, Artur Horowicz. She specialized in Polish philately and some of her articles appeared in our Polonus Bulletin. For many years she worked on editorial research for Robson Lowe. She was a co-author of two children's books on stamp collecting and contributed regularly a junior's beginner's page to Stamp Magazine. Her own interests covered postal history in a wide field.

LAST CALL FOR POLSKA 73

If you want to join Polonus on a trip to the POLSKA 73 International Exhibition which opens August 19th in Poznań and visit Poland, you must act now! You will not have another opportunity like this in your lifetime.

Departure will be on August 9, 1973 for a duration of 22 to 45 days. There are two variations for this trip:

1. Trip only, taking care of your own arrangements while in Poland.
2. Flight to Warsaw, Poland plus a tour in Poland where Copernicus lived and worked. The tour will last approximately 10 days with the remainder of the time to be spent as you wish.

Additional tours can be arranged in advance for the time you intend to spend there or while in Poland.

As for documentation—a valid passport is required plus two photos (could be from the automatic) for a Polish visa. Cost of visa with tour \$8.50, without tour \$17.50 plus vouchers.

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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 \$4.00 —

The costs of the tour from Chicago are approximately as follows:

1. Flight only (22 to 45 days) \$479.00
2. Flight plus ten day tour \$696.00

(Tour includes transfers, hotels, sightseeing and meals with the exception of the meals and sightseeing the first full day in Warsaw and the 9th and 10th day in Poznań). (The air cost from New York is \$67.00 less.)

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