

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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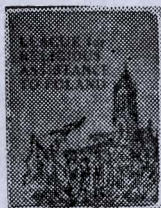
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Catholic League Charity Seals

by Bert Powell



Two charity seals have recently made their appearance which the writer believes will be of intense interest to those of our members who collect items of this nature, particularly since they are for a Polish cause. Inasmuch as these seals are intended for sale here in America and since the proceeds are for charitable purposes abroad, they are known as foreign-American. Charity seals of various funds from the last war are eagerly sought after by present day collectors of such items, and there is no doubt that charity seals, poster stamps and similar labels which portray Polish current historical events now being issued will certainly be of equal interest to the collectors of tomorrow.

Unfortunately, information of any kind is very meager on the issues of this type of material from the period of World War I. The writer for example, has been endeavoring to acquire information on the Polish White Cross Seals of that period for over

three years and still has not been able to obtain the complete facts pertaining to their issuance. On that basis, we owe it to the record to preserve all the facts that we can.

Now in regard to the seals being issued during this historical period: Through the kind co-operation of Rev. S. J. Piwowar, the executive secretary of the Catholic League, the writer was very fortunate to secure a complete story of the two seals with which this article concerns itself. I am most happy to present these facts to you as they have been received.

Issuing Organization

The seals are issued by the Catholic League, 1200 North Ashland Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois, which name however does not appear on the seals. The name shown is, "League for Religious Assistance to Poland." It is the writer's understanding that both organizations are one and the same group.

Purpose of Issue

To obtain funds for religious assist-

ance to Poland. Presumably this includes food, medicine and clothing which will possibly be dispensed by church authorities through priests and nuns. Churches and other religious edifices and church schools destroyed by German bombs will probably be restored as far as the funds derived from the sale of the seals will permit.

Number of Seals in Series

Two seals were issued, one printed in the Polish language and the other in English.

Source of Design

The design was conceived by a special committee appointed for this purpose. This committee was composed of the following five members: Rt. Rev. A. Zadzala, A. J. Rathnaw, E. Z. Wroblewski, Mrs. E. Morenz and Miss A. Rzepecka.

Artist

The Rev. John Podkul was the artist who executed the design and made the original drawing.

Description of Design and Layout

The design for the subject of both seals is an imaginary conception depicting the ruins of a bombed church in Poland after a raid by the nazis. The Polish seal is printed in red with a narrow white border and a heavy red frameline. The Polish text on the seal is as follows: "LIGA POMOCY RELIGIJNEJ POLSCE." The English seal is printed in yellow with the inscription and design in red. It has a fine double frame line in blue. The text on this seal reads as follows: "LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND." Both are printed on fairly thick wove paper.

Each seal measures $\frac{7}{8}$ "x1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " and each sheet is composed of 100 seals. The sheets are vertical in format and are printed with ten rows across and ten rows down. A complete sheet of either type measures 11 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ ". The gutters are extremely narrow and the sheets are rouletted, not perforated. They were printed on a flat bed cylinder press by Bare Bros. 2200 E. Forest Ave., Detroit 7, Michigan.

Distribution

The distribution of the seals is being made by the Catholic League through hundreds of Polish churches in this country. The League's own publication issued at regular intervals,

carries frequent publicity on them and many individuals buy direct from the league through this publicity.

Donation

The seals sell for a penny each or a dollar per sheet. The League will fill orders for sheets only when the funds are sent in advance.

First Days

There was no exact first day of sale nor any special First day ceremonies. However, the Polish seal was first offered for sale on February 1944 and the English seal was first sold in June 1944.

The Publication Committee of the Polonus "PULLETIN" wishes to express appreciation to the Catholic League for their generosity in donating the seals enclosed with this article. We urge our members to buy these attractive seals and use them on their mail. Set aside a block and a single of each type for your collection and help this good work as much as you possibly can...for help is most urgently needed at this time.



EAGLE UNCROWNED—The piast Eagle, long familiar on Poland's stamps, has lost his crown in his present reincarnation on a 25-groszy deep scarlet item which is the first definite stamp to be issued by the Polish Provisional Government. **Stamp Collecting**, the British weekly, reports a specimen used on a Warsaw-to-Lisbon letter dated October 28, 1944.

—Philatelic Gossip 6/9/45

In reply to our request in the May issue of the "BULLETIN" for information on the above issue, we were shown two Covers. One by John Jaworski, which was cancelled "Wolomin" (a suburb of Warsaw) using a circular hand stamp. The name of the city was in a semicircle and the date

2-X1-44 (Nov. 2, 1944) was placed horizontally across the center.

The other cover was shown to us by Roman Wojcicki and was identical except that it was canceled "Warsaw" No. 4- 9-X-44 (Oct. 9-1944).

Both letters were censored and were sealed with what appeared to be U. S. Army censor tape.

IN MEMORIAM



PFC. THADDEUS PIORKOWSKI

A Polonus "BULLETIN" sent to PFC. Thad Piorkowski was returned marked "Deceased" and signed Earl M. Walters, Capt. Inf. No other information has been received to date.

We do know from Thads' letter of Feb. 25th 1945 that he was in the Philippines, but how and when the end came we do not know.

Thad, joined our Society, Nov. 17th, 1941 at the age of 29. The following Feb. 16th he was inducted into the army and was sent to Camp Roberts, Calif. Later as his letter of Feb. 15th stated he spent 32 months overseas, 10 in Australia, 2 at Goodenough Island, 17 in New Guinea and Dutch East Indies and the remainder in the Philippines.

We knew him only by correspondence but in these few short years we learned to know of his goodness and unselfish consideration of his friends.

Polonus Philatelic Society mourns

the passing of a member beloved by all for his friendliness. He will be sadly missed.

DOC. "KOZY" NIGHT.

On Friday evening, June 8th the many friends and members of Polonus met to do homage to Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz. The regular duties of the Society were quickly dispensed with and Dr. M. E. Uznanski after some brief remarks turned the meeting over to Bert Powell, our Program Chairman. Bert, after a short introduction requested Lester Jankowski to take over. Lester, in his usual excellent manner reviewed "Kozys" contribution to the Society. (One, as a matter of information) was suggesting the name "Polonus." In conclusion, he presented to the Doctor a framed beautiful hand illuminated scroll indicative of the Societys' gratitude of his efforts.

In accepting, "Kozy," (as he is affectionately known) expressed his sincere appreciation for the scroll, mentioning also, the hope that he may continue to be of help.

The meeting then adjourned after which "Doc Kozy" gave a short biographical sketch of Dr. Karol Kaczowski, who is depicted on one of the sets of Polands' stamps. Upon his conclusion all present then partook of a traditional Polish lunch of "Herrings, Pumpernickle bread and Beer. A very pleasant evening indeed.

The climax of the evening occurred when it was learned that it was also "Doc Kozy's" birthday.

POLONUS — C. P. S. — MEETING, JUNE 7th HOTEL LA SALLE, CHICAGO

"Polonus" night at the Chicago Philatelic Society was a great success. In attendance were about 60 members from both Societies who came to listen to speakers Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Myron Steczynski and Lester Jankowski.

After being introduced by Walter G. Strait of the Chicago Philatelic Society, Dr. Uznanski took over as the Master of Ceremonies. The first speaker called upon was Dr. Kozakiewicz who spoke on Poland #1's. Dr. Kozakiewicz was followed by Myron Steczynski, whose subject was the "Krakows" and what the Society is planning to do in regard to expertizing

of these issues. He made it very clear that none should be purchased unless they are expertized. (At present this service is extended to members of Polonus by Messrs' Frank Wlosowick and John Gapinski). After Mr. Stecynski, Dr. Uznanski called upon Lester Jankowski to present to those present a Souvenir sheet designed for the occasion by Jack Domar. Dr. Uznanski concluded by exhibiting 3 volumes of Allenstein & Marienwerder, describing at length the various issues shown.

Upon completion of the program presented by the members of Polonus, Mr. Strait introduced Dr. Juljusz Szygowski, Consul General of Poland in Chicago. Dr. Szygowski spoke of Poland's contribution to the war effort. He mentioned and cited figures showing the tremendous losses of her youth in battle, the massacres, the enforced slavery, etc. He spoke also of the exploits of Poland's Army, Navy and Airforce in the various theatres of the European campaign. The remarks were both stirring and informative.

Surely a fitting climax to a perfect evening.

NEW MEMBERS

Zygmunt K. Rucker, #248
106-15 Queens Boulevard,
Forest Hills, L. I., New York.
E.P.P. and General.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Chas. S. Wengelewski, #146.
7051 S. Eggleston Ave.,
Chicago 21, Illinois.

FROM OUR BOYS

We are reproducing a letter from member Pvt. J. Bienocki. It is a first hand observation of what the stamp situation in Europe looks like to him. Time only will tell how correct were his opinions. Irregardless of the eventual solution, we believe it to be of interest now to most of us.

The letter as follows:

Dear Jack:

I thought I'd write and let you know what I've "Seen and Heard" of German stamps after reading Vic Bukiniks' column.

I have been doing fairly well collecting stamps over here. So far I have a well filled brief case and I be-

lieve some of those I have found will be good numbers. In going thru stacks of German letters I noted that German "Comems" were quite scarce postally used. There may be a large quantity of them in mint condition if they were kept where bombs couldn't reach them. Personally, I think many German stamps will be scarcer after the war. I think you might agree with me if you could see the bombed and burned German cities, towns and villages. The same will hold true for Poland and the other countries in the same condition.

In a recent issue of "Stars and Stripes," it said that all available stocks of German stamps that pertain to Nazism will be destroyed and replaced by an issue printed in the United States.

More than once I have worked on my accumulation while rolling across Germany in our tank. At present we are billeted in tents, in the middle of a beautiful valley in the Austrian Alps. We are having a pretty good time here but I would rather be in a town where I might add to my collection.

Best wishes to Polonus and all of the members.

"Joe"

May 13th, 1945

"Hello Jack"

How is everything in Polonus? Has Poland issued any new stamps? Say hello to Sid. & Alex. I am sorry that I cannot write to everyone but, we are very busy and get only a half a day off on Sunday.

Have visited Manila — sure is a wrecked city. Bought some First Day Covers. There sure are a lot of collectors here. Most of the civilians speak English and we get along swell. Am in the best of health, hope that you are the same.

Pvt. Stanley Kuchar:
(Gen'l Hosp. Philippines.)
May 17th, 1945.

Dear Roman:

Rec'd your letter and I sure was glad to hear from you once again. I have been on the run ever since I went East. I'm on my way to Calif., so if I can make Chicago, I'll try and say Hello. I certainly will try to make the "BIG BEEBA" when this is over. Have more work and packing to do by tonight, so will close.

Pvt. Johnny Sopczak.