

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

Issue No. 365

PRICE 50c

July-Aug., 1978

Let's Make Our 40th Anniversary The Greatest!

As announced in the last Polonus Bulletin by your President and Executive Polpex Chairman, Alfred Szebel, GALA POLPEX 79 will be held March 16-18, 1978 at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago.

To put on a successful exhibition of this magnitude requires a lot of work and the cooperation of all the Polonus members.

Local members willing to help in some way may call Alfred Szebel, phone 299-2580 after 6 p.m. or by writing to him at 9041 Emerson Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

Out of town members are cordially invited to attend the POLPEX as many did in the previous years of '73 and '76. Watch for the announcement on accommodations in Chicago on the exhibition.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of Polonus, the Polpex Committee commissioned the outstanding artist, member Leon S.

Kawecki, to design a special medallion. The finished design is illustrated here. This side of the medallion is the Polonus half.

The other side of the medallion will commemorate the 200th

anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski's death at the Battle of Savannah in Georgia. This half of the medallion's expense will be undertaken by the Polish American Numismatic Association.

As previously, the gilded medallion will be available to

those who contribute the sum of \$50.00 or more to help defray the costly expenses of the exhibition. A specially designed certificate will accompany each medallion. Don't miss this opportunity! Send \$50.00 or more to insure the success of POLPEX 79. Make check payable to Polonus Philatelic Society and mail it to Roman H. Strzelecki, 1620 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.



We need your participation — either working directly with the committee, or by exhibiting, or by your financial support. Let's make the 40th Anniversary POLPEX 79 a memorable one!

POLPEX 79 COMMITTEES

NEW MEMBERS

REINSTATED

AN URGENT APPEAL

The matter was brought up at the past Polpex Committee Meeting and John Bobo volunteered to donate the sum of \$500 toward this expense if other members would come up with donations for the remainder of the amount. From among the members present at this meeting a total of \$1,300 was pledged. Frank Woloszewick offered \$300, Walenty Poniacki \$200, Al Rybarski \$100, Alfred Szebel \$100, and Chester Schafer \$100.

We must respond to the bureau very shortly if our request is to be considered—but we need \$3,200 more. Are there any other Polonus members willing to pledge \$100 or more towards this worthy project? If so, please contact our Treasurer, Roman H. Strzelecki, 1620 North Latrobe, Chicago, IL 60639. His phone is (312) 237-7366.

TID BIT

Polonus Bulletin, July-August, 1978



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20228

July 5, 1978

Mr. James Mazepa, ACSW
Polonus Philatelic Society
Hines V. A. Hospital
Box 381
Hines, Illinois 60141

Dear Mr. Mazepa:

This is in response to your letter of June 26, requesting the issuance of a souvenir card when the Polonus Philatelic Society hosts POLPEX-79 in Chicago (March 16-19, 1979).

The Bureau produces a limited number of souvenir cards to commemorate special significant events and where Bureau exhibit participation is scheduled. Escalating costs over the past few years have forced us to reexamine the extent of our participation in these programs. An in-depth study of exhibit costs, including our souvenir card program, revealed that the rapidly increasing expenses dictate that we become more restrictive in our commitments. Accordingly, a decision has been reached that in formulating the Bureau's future exhibit activities, consideration cannot be given to any requests unless the requesting organization is willing to assume the following expenses:

1. Exhibit space at the show site;
2. Shipment/transportation of exhibit materials;
3. Transportation for Bureau personnel;
4. Lodging for Bureau personnel; and
5. Souvenir Sales costs (Kelly Girl or equivalent).

Security requirements provide that exhibits be accompanied by three Bureau representatives (Spokesman and two Guards). In addition to lodging and round-trip air coach fares, the cost for mailing exhibit materials is estimated at approximately \$250.

Should your organization agree to the above, please notify my office and your request will be given further consideration for our 1979 exhibit program. If it is determined that a Bureau exhibit will be provided for your activity, we will then decide whether or not a souvenir card will be issued.

Sincerely,

Seymour Berry
Director

PRE-PHILATELIC ERA IN OLD GALICIA (Continued from previous issue)

To show certain letters addressed beyond the Austrian Border were paid only to the border and not beyond it, another handstamp was introduced in 1841 with GRENZE within the postmark. The use of this was very necessary to the post office since conflicts arose at the out-of-country destination as to whether, in fact, the full postal rates were paid by the sender. Infrequently, we find an interesting nonofficial postal marking showing an item to have been disinfected by health officials. This occasionally happened during periods when fear of Bubonic Plague, Cholera or other diseases forced countries to close their facilities to mail coming from infected territories. To-date, we have found only one such cancellation, from Podgorze in 1831. Returned suspect letters bear numerous needle holes or holes made by a special puncturing apparatus.

As we leave these most-interesting postmarks of the engraver-type to other forms of cancelled letters from this era, it is necessary to acknowledge that ordinary letters, without postmarks, are an important part of this pre-philatelic history and these should be studied more closely. The absence of postmarks are compensated for by the many and varied handwritten postal annotations which indicate the mailing city, weight of letter, any additional postal fees to be received from the addressee, disinfected mail, numbers assigned to letter cards, official seals used by postal clerks or officials, handstamps showing outgoing or incoming dates, dispatch by courier rather than by normal postal means, etc. Not less interesting are the so-called receipts to sen-

der and receiver of important or valuable letters, which were initially handwritten and later handstamped.

Catalogue of Galician Postmarks

In order to simplify the illustrations of the postmarks used by the various postal authorities and offices, I have abbreviated where necessary to the clarity of city names and this article. To understand this, I submit the following:

- (1) Postoffices are numbered as shown herein, regardless of classification, in alphabetical order by city-town name given in this article. Because there are German language place-names, I added in brackets, as necessary, the actual Polish names at those times, since, without this consecutive numbering system, some names would sound unlike Polish.
- (2) The following line shows opening and eventual closing dates of post offices.
- (3) Other positions relate to specific postmarks of the 18th Century which I identify with Latin numerals, while the 19th Century are in Arabic numerals.
- (4) The symbols employed with these postmarks are, in substance, in two lines, showing the style (a star means ornamentation) and the origin of the letters used for place names, after the use of dots to show the date.
- (5) The confirmed year of use of 19th Century postmarks is given without the two first zeros, therefore, the shortened "fil." means that the given postmark is later used within the postmark's border.

(6) Should the identical symbol be shown in two or more examples means a difference in

letter size or in appearance, or occasionally an added designation.

CAPEX 78 International Philatelic Exhibition

By JAMES MAZEPA, ACSW

CAPEX 78 was my first opportunity to attend an International Exhibition and the fond memories of this show staged by our friends north of the border will remain for many years. I was able to spend four days there, the last four days of the exhibit. The city of Toronto is a most delightful place with no lack of opportunities for things to do. The Canadian people were without exception warm and friendly, which contributed to our pleasant stay.

The exhibition itself was in the Automotive Building in the Exhibition Center which is some distance from the hotels, but the Capex Committee had arranged for shuttle buses, so this presented no problems. On the main floor of the building were all the exhibits, some 3,500 frames, and the Court of Honor, and the U.S. and Canadian post offices. On the mezzanine were the dealers and other foreign post offices.

There has been much said in the philatelic press since the show about the poor organization, but I did not find it so. I understand that the first weekend was quite congested, but while I was there, not once was there a "crowd", except to see the Court of Honor, which always had a short line as did the U.S. and Canadian post offices. The exhibits were easy to find, the lighting and aisle space more than adequate, as was the security. The dealers were generally busy. One disappointment was how few people actually were viewing the exhibits. I understand that many,

especially on the first weekend, only went to purchase stamps at the U.S. and Canadian post offices. To me, this is like going to the Art Institute and only going to the retail gift shop. The whole history of our hobby was on view with so very much to be learned, and this is one of the few opportunities to study such an abundance of quality (not just expensive) exhibits.

In addition to the exhibits, the most enjoyable part of any philatelic exhibition for me is to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. There was no lack of Polonus members at CAPEX: Dr. Kamienski, Mr. Bojanowicz, Mr. Kucharski, Mr. Podubbiuk, Mr. Podejko, Mr. Gruszczyk, Mr. Lubinski, Mr. Poniecki, Mr. Olkowski, Mr. Pristika, Mr. Reinowski, Dr. Kuderewicz, Ms. Zilke, Dr. Fenigstein, and others. Other philatelists from the Chicago area attending, included Mr. Bernard Hennig, who served on the International Jury.

All in all, I felt that the Polish exhibits did not do very well. I believe this was due to the lack of classic material shown, e.g., only one exhibit showed any Number 1's, and a lack of good exhibits of the 1918-21 period. The Polish material received medals as follows:

Gold with Felicitations of the Jury — Russia Used in Poland by M. A. Bojanowicz. I felt like a beginner viewing this exhibit. Some of the rarest, even unique items of Polish Postal History, was there. A dozen covers with

Russia No. 1 used in Poland, and about two dozen off cover. There were also two of the St. Petersburg envelopes used in Warsaw as well as beautiful examples of color cancels and railroad postmarks.

There were no other Gold medals, but there were four Large Silver. Our Polonus Handbook on the I Polish Corps received a Large Silver. This is a great tribute to our Society and is an example of the impact we can have in even international philatelic circles. The other three Large Silver were Pre-Stamp collection exhibits in the Postal History area. Dr. Kuderewicz has his outstanding collection of Galicia 1773-1851 here. Undoubtedly, his is one of the finest collections in the world of this area with many rare marks. Mr. Tadeusz Hampel of Poland showed Postmarks of the Kingdom 1815-70. This collection was seen at POLPEX several years ago and Mr. Hampel continues to show a consistently high quality of material. Mr. Stanislaus Bienkowski of Poland showed Pre-Stamp Marks of the Russian, Austrian and Prussian areas. This was an interesting collection, but not much depth.

Silver Medals were awarded to a "Zbigniew" of Canada for Congress Kingdom of Poland 1815-51. This was probably the best presentation of all the Polish exhibits but needs more power. Mr. Rosinski of France had what I considered the most outstanding collection of pre-stamp material. His collection included the only known straight-line Warszawa postmark of the 1815 period, one of three or four recorded octagon marks, and many railroad postmarks. In addition, most of the letters in his collection were from commercial

correspondence, not the usual official mail most commonly found. He exhibited in the Europe section rather than Postal History and I believe this hurt him. Mr. Jan Kolpak of Poland proved that it does not take a lot of money to get a good award. He showed varieties of Polish Sstamps of the 1946-48 period.

Bronze Medals went to Mr. Winston Gruszczyk of Canada for his Groszy Overprints and to Mr. Harold Peters of Chicago for Polish POW Camp Mail.

Two other Polonus members received Silver Medals: Mr. Szebel for his Worldwide DO-X Flights, and Mr. Mazepa for his Ukraine 1918-20. Dr. Miet Kamienski exhibited Poland to 1923 in the Court of Honor since he was an observer judge.

CAPEX proved a most rewarding experience from all aspects and we can all look forward to the next International Exhibition on our continent which will be here in Chicago in 1986.

PLEASE BE PATIENT

For many years now the bulletin mailing, sales, and the membership chairman's duties were performed by our Polonus founder, Chester J. Mikucki. Chester, who is now a senior citizen, has been ailing lately and has fallen behind in his correspondence. He asks that you be patient in receiving your replies.

P.O.W. STUDY GROUP

The P.O.W. Study Group will have a show in conjunction with SEPAD Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 1, 1978 in Philadelphia. They plan their 1979 show at POLPEX 79.

Their May-June Newsletter devoted 12 pages to "The History of the British Airgraphs" used by Polish Forces in 1941-45.



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MEMBERS MART

WANTED: Letters and documents pertaining to Postal History of Poland prior to 1870 as well as literature covering that period. Willing to buy or trade. Ryszard Z. Poddubiuk, 31 Trotter, Dollard Des Ormeaux, Quebec, Canada H9A 2C8.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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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 —

NEXT MEETING

Friday, August 25, 1978:

Business meeting at Polish Veterans Hall, 6005 W. Irving Park, in Chicago. POLPEX 79 plans to be discussed. Starting at 8:00 p.m.

APPLICANTS PENDING

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Castro Valley, CA 94546



Polonus members hosted Jan Witkowski of Poznan, Poland at a dinner party held July 21st at Kasztelanka Restaurant in Chicago. Mr. Witkowski was Poland's foremost stamp dealer prior to World War II and published albums and catalogs. Left to right: Z. Wagrowski, C. Schafer, F. Wolosewicz, Jan Witkowski, S. Styczynski, Fran & Al Rybarski, R. Strzelecki, A. Bunge, R. Burkiewicz. (Poniecki Photo)