

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLONUS LOSES DR. LEON P. KOZAKIEWICZ

Polonus is deeply saddened by the loss of its prominent and popular member, one of its early Presidents and long time member of its Board of Directors, Doctor Leon Kozakiewicz, or more affectionately known as "Kozie". Our doctor has been in failing health for some time, being confined to a hospital in his last days and going to his eternal reward on September 29, 1976. He was one of our founding members in 1939 and a promoter of the philately of Poland long before Poland existed.

Doctor Kozakiewicz was always generous in helping the Society with its "beebas" and picnics. It was he who donated the meats for its Polpex festivities and it was at his "Aquila Resort" in Powers Lake, Wisconsin, where Polonus members and their guests enjoyed the swimming, the games and the barbecues at our annual picnics.

He donated the Kozakiewicz Research Award trophy which is given at each Polpex to the Polish exhibit showing most research. An exhibitor had to win this award three times after which Doctor Kozie would replace it with a new trophy.

The doctor had an outstanding collection of Poland and its relat-



Dr. Kozakiewicz (center), as we remembered him at Polonus. On this photo he poses with Myron Steczynski (left) and John Gapinski at POLPEX 69 held at Radio Halls in Chicago. All served as judges of that show.

ed groups in many forms, such as Ukraina, Lithuania, Warsaw Locals, and an admirable showing of pre-philatelic covers depicting Poland's postal history over hundreds of years. He was a specialist, however, in the No. 1 stamps of Poland, assembling an impressive grouping of the numerical cancellations on stamps themselves and on covers of the 1830 - 1835 period.

His prized and outstanding item was the largest mint block of Poland No. 1 in existence, a corner

block of 6 (3 wide by 2 high) with margin on the left and bottom to denote its position in the printing form. The margins added significance to the value of this gem. There were many other items, especially in Poland's early postal history that sparked the collection with interest and value.

Doctor Kozakiewicz was always available as a speaker on the philately of Poland and kept members informed on all phases of collecting. His magnetic personality will be sorely missed by the members.

To his wife Adele and to their four sons and families Polonus extends its deepest sympathy.

COMPEX WINNERS

Three Polonus members scored well in the Roosevelt Philatelic Society section at COMPEX 76 held in Chicago late August. J. Kaposta received the Grand Award for his Hungarian Airmails; John Bartczak scored a First Award for his Galicia Stampless Covers; William Jusack got the Novice Award for Postal History of Malopolska.

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POLPEX 77

Polpex Chairman, Ed Link, asks members to get their philatelic material ready to exhibit at POLPEX 77 scheduled for March 19-20 at the Polish Veterans Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd. in Chicago. Members who have not as yet exhibited are especially requested. Ed himself admits that the first time is the hardest but the reward is worth it. He showed a collection of "Polish Heroes In The U.S. Bicentennial" for the first time at our show last year and won the Novice Award. Since then the same exhibit brought awards in the Illinois State Fair stamp show, The Boston Show, MAPEX and at VALPEX 76.

This year's Polpex will be on our own grounds and responses have been received in the bourse with several dealers already booking tables.

The chairmen of the various committees are as follows: Entries—Roman Strzelecki; Sales—John Bor; Publicity—James Mazepa; Frames—John Bartczak; Program Book Ads—John Bor; Patrons—Chester Mikucki; Awards—Alfred Szebel; Bourse—Roman Strzelecki.

Entry forms are in preparation for printing and will be sent to Polonus members first. If the returns are not enough to fill the show, outsiders will be invited to exhibit. The show will be limited to 140 frames. First come, first served.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Av., Norridge, IL 60656. This will insure your receiving the Bulletin promptly and avoid Polonus the expense of postage dues.

Counterfeits of the Gordon-Bennett Overprints

By DR. JERZY J. BIAŁY

Poland 306-7 overprinted stamps were issued on August 15, 1936, to commemorate the Gordon-Bennett International Balloon Race. Soon after that date stamps with forged overprints appeared on the philatelic market. Until recently, only one type of a forged overprint was widely known. This overprint, designated here as type I, shown in Figure 1, was easy to detect because of the major difference in alignment of the numerals in the date.



Figure 1

While in the genuine stamp the "O" of the upper line of the date lines up with number "1" of the lower line, in the type I forgery it

is the period of the upper line and "1" of the lower line that are lined up. This forgery is described in early philatelic literature and most collectors and dealers of Polish stamps are well acquainted with it. The most recent comprehensive study of counterfeits of Polish stamps mentions only this Type I forgery.

The second type of counterfeit which is more difficult to detect was discovered fairly recently in a circuitous way. The discovery was made during routine sorting and segregating of the stamps when it was noticed they varied in size. Further research into the printing history of these stamps revealed that, indeed, the basic stamp (Poland 302) of 55 groszy denomination was printed by two methods. Initial printing of July 6, 1935, and May 27, 1936, was on a flat press, while the additional quantities of this denomination were printed again on February 18, 1937, using a new rotary press. Therefore, while the flat press stamps are 21.5 mm. wide and 28.3 mm. long, the rotary press stamps are 22 mm. wide and 28.5

Figure 2





Figure 3



Figure 4

mm. long. This difference in size becomes quite easy to detect when the two stamps are partially superimposed on each other, as demonstrated in Figure 2.

Now, since the second, larger stamps were not printed until February 1937, seven months after the issue of the overprinted stamps, it became apparent that a new forgery of them was discovered. This assumption was reinforced when only canceled stamps were found with this type of overprint, just as it is true with the type I forgery. This newly-discovered forgery, designated here as type II, is shown in Figure 3. The genuine overprint is shown in Figure 4. The type II forgery differs from the genuine overprint in several ways, none of them as easily discernible as in the case of the type I forgery. While the Type I forgery can be spotted by naked eye, type II can be only detected with the aid of a fairly powerful magnifying glass (5 to 8 x). Yet both types of the forgery use similar print type.

The following table summarizes main differences between the genuine overprint and type II forgery.

Genuine

- 1). Dark, vivid color
- 2). Lustrous appearance
- 3). Type edges well defined.
- 4). Right edge of numeral "6" in

1936 protrudes beyond imaginary vertical line through the middle Roman num. in VIII.

- 5). Numeral "6" has rounded right side.
- 6). Overprint flat, not discernible on the reverse side of stamp.
- 7). Rectangular (vertical) type used for periods.

Type II Forgery

- 1). Pale, dull color
- 2). Lackluster appearance.
- 3). Type edges ill-defined.
- 4). Right edge of numeral "6" in 1936 ends in front of imaginary vertical line through the middle Roman numeral VIII.
- 5). Numeral "6" has flat right side.
- 6). Overprint indentations discernible faintly on the reverse side of stamp.
- 7). Square type used for periods.

NEW ISSUES

Montreal 1976 Olympic Games

A set of six and souvenir sheet were issued in June, 1976:

50 gr.—Fencing; 8,000,000 issued
1.00 zł.—Cycling; 8,000,000 issued
1.50 zł.—Soccer; 8,000,000 issued
4.20 zł.—Boxing; 5,000,000 issued
6.90 zł.—Weightlifting; 2,000,000 is.
8.40 zł.—Track; 1,000,000 issued
10.00 + 5.00 zł. sheet—Volleyball;
900,000 issued. All are rotogravure printed in multicolor in sheets of 50 on chalky paper by PWPW in Warsaw. Designed by T. Michaluk.

Words of Advice From Off the Beaten Guide Path

By HELMUTH CONRAD

Here are a few time-tested words of advice, some of which you won't necessarily discover in standard guides to stamp collecting:

- When you finally find an item, and you want it so badly you can almost taste it, buy it immediately even if you can't quite afford it.

This operating principle is based on two facts. First, that most scarce, expensive material (if you discount phony wallpaper) appreciates in value far more quickly than nickel-and-dime items. If you wait too long, you may see the price skyrocket totally out of reach.

The second fact is that you may never locate that item again. As a young man, I spent two years hunting down a maddeningly elusive cover. Finally, I spotted one in a Texas dealer's mail ad. I did not buy it because it was priced just a touch beyond my budget. Today — 20 years later — I could afford to pay 10 times the price, but I haven't seen such a cover since!

- Develop broadly based sources of supply, but don't waste time shopping around for "bargains." There is no such thing as a "bargain" in philately.

I encourage all new collectors to get to know the dealers and the department store stamp sections in the areas where they live. In some respects, you can't beat face-to-face buying and selling.

It is foolish, however, to ignore mail-order dealers whose stocks of specialized material may be far better than you can find at home.

National stamp societies which send material on so-called "sales

circuits" are another source, and a fringe benefit of joining.

Finally, familiarize yourself with stamp auction houses and bidding by mail. It's one of the most pleasurable ways of making purchases — with the bonus of suspense. And don't ignore small auctions, where you can bid in person.

- Build yourself a decent reference library of general books and catalogs, as well as those pertaining to your specialized field. This message can't be overemphasized.

- Don't get locked arbitrarily into collecting only United States material. It's natural to favor the stamps and covers of one's own country, and the philatelists of most nations do. But there's nothing unpatriotic about ignoring U. S. stamps in favor of something else you find more appealing.

The best way to enter philately is via a world collection. Learning about foreign stamps also can broaden your knowledge of U.S. material.

- Try for originality in your collections. It doesn't cost any more than the plodding approach of simply buying current issues and mounting them in a preprinted album. Some creativity could bring you a medal at a stamp exhibition some day.

- If you have begun stamp collecting with only the idea of eventually making a fat profit, forget it. People with that attitude usually lose their shirts unless they're rich to begin with and rely on the advice of hired consultants.

Reprinted from The Chicago Tribune.

GET READY FOR POLPEX 77!

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING OF SEPT. 10, 1976 at Polish Veterans Home

The meeting was called to order by the President Mr. Szebel at 8:20 p.m. with 14 members and 3 guests in attendance. The minutes were read and approved, Mr. Rybarski making the motion to accept and Mr. Styczynski seconding. The treasurer reported that all the receipts and disbursements of POLPEX 76 have been recorded and they are as follows: Receipts: \$13,028.02; Disbursements: \$9,515.63. The Society gained \$3,514.39 monetarily and even more in good will.

Mr. Michael Cieplechowicz of Trenton, New Jersey was proposed for membership. Mr. Styczynski moved to accept him, seconded by Mr. Bor, carried.

Old Business: POLPEX 77 will be March 19-20 with set-up on the 18th. The official theme will be "Polish Contributions to the Bicentennial". The committee to revise the By-Laws continues to meet with the next gathering September 14th. The Committee hopes to finalize the work soon. Mr. Wolosewick is presently in Poland and will be checking on the progress of the index to the Polonus Bulletins.

New Business: The secretary read a letter from Mrs. Stanley Falcon who informed the Society of the death of her husband. The Membership honored this long time member of Polonus with a moment of silent reflection. Next, a letter from Mrs. Gryzewski was read, thanking the Society for the remembrance sent her after the death of her husband.

The President announced the formation of an audit committee in accordance with the State of Illinois regulations for not-for-profit organizations. The committee will consist of Mr. Strzelecki, Styczynski and Poniecki. No other new business was called, and Mr. Bor moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Niemiesz.

Mr. Schafer then introduced our speaker for the evening, none other than our illustrious President, Mr. Szebel. He spoke at length on his internationally famous collection of the flight of the Dornier DO-X. Fred described Mr. Claude Dornier as a "dreamer" in his day for wanting to construct a metal airship that would span the Atlantic Ocean. In 1916 Dornier built his first aircraft, but it wasn't until 1922 that his first four engine plane was created. His planes were most popular in the world and were used in many famous flights prior to the DO-X. Fred managed to have examples of many of these flights also. The DO-X got off the ground in 1928 with 170 people in an experimental flight and finally on July 12, 1929, it began its historic flight across the Atlantic. Fred had examples of every stop. All sat and marveled at the extent of rare covers passed around the room. Fred noted that the U.S. did not accept mail for the flight nor issue a special stamp for the occasion. The giant aircraft landed in Berlin on May 27, 1932, which was the completion of the flight. The evening came to a fitting conclusion with the serving of coffee and pączki and apple slices. Those who missed this meeting lost out on a wonderfully pleasant gathering. Plan to attend next time!

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

CREATIVE PHILATELY

By Kenneth A. Wood

It is seldom that we come away from a Stamp Show without experiencing a renewal of faith in philately's future and a feeling of pleasure at the attitude as well as the material which we have seen displayed.

A recent exhibition evidenced not only the usual warm camaraderie one encounters at such events but made it very clear that collectors are increasingly aware of the pleasure to be obtained from adding the extra dimension of creativity to their hobby.

Expressed in its most simplest terms, this creativity represents what one does with the material one collects beyond merely filling spaces in an album.

For many collectors, the Act of Acquisition and the Pleasure of Possession is sufficient; but, others ask themselves if there is not something more to philately. It is the answer to this question that we see displayed at Stamp Shows.

Postal History is one area that fits into this concept most perfectly, since one may delve into the postal history of the area in which one is interested and no great financial outlay need be involved. In fact, this would be a most worthwhile project!

A Study of the Production Methods used in the Creation of a specific postage stamp is another area of possible study; and, if more collectors were aware of the methods used, they would have a better understanding of the errors, freaks, and oddities that show up from time to time.

Yet, another group of collectors like to explore the past and investigate the methods and routes by which mail was carried years ago. Each country is rich in this mail-

carrying romance from courier to horse post to railroad and air mail.

To collectors who chose to go beyond the filling of album spaces, the search for information becomes as important, challenging and exciting as does the search for the material itself. It is this attitude which is responsible for the building of philatelic libraries, the formation and activity of Study Groups and the success of Stamp Shows.

We are happy when we see such an attitude in evidence as it means that collectors are getting *t h e e x t r a* measure of pleasure from their hobby!

Reprinted from Western Stamp Collector

NEW ISSUES

Poznań Theatre Centenary

A 1.50 zł. commemorative was issued in July, 1976 on the centenary of the Poznań Theatre. Pictured in said theatre building. Offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 30 by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Stefan Małecki. Total quantity printed 10,000,000 copies.

Editor's Note: New Issue information courtesy of R. J. Burkiewicz.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Hon. Members:

I have 200 + 2 packages of Polish used postage stamps (value of \$6.00 — \$7.00) for the exchange of U.S.A. and British Colonies (Commonwealth).

If any of you, dear members, will be interested in my proposition, kindly notify me as soon as possible.

Respectfully yours,
—Walter Nemyliwskyj
170 Spadina Ave.
P.O. Box 82
Toronto 133, Ontario
Canada, M5T 2C0

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 22nd, 1976:

After a stay of several months in Poland in pursuit of philatelic interests for Polonus, Frank Wolo-sewick returns to Chicago and will report on "Philately In Poland To-day" at this program meeting at the Polish Veterans Hall. Beeba to follow.

Friday, November 12th, 1976:

Program meeting with Roman Burkiewicz speaking on Polish Locals and the Occupation Periods of 1914-18 and 1939-44. Beeba to follow.

P.O.W. EXHIBITION GRAND AWARD GOES TO KALAWSKI

The first of its kind in the U.S., an exhibition displaying exclusively postal material produced and used in Polish Prisoners of War and Concentration Camps during World War II, was held September 11-12, 1976 in Cadets Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. and was hosted by the Polish Cadets Stamp Club of Buffalo.

Marek Kalawski of Worcester, Mass. received the best in the show award, plus first place in the POW class. William Draeger, Arlington, Va., won four awards: the show theme award, (POW Camps Olympiad), second place in POW class, second place award for research on POW camps postal issues, and the award for the best exhibit of the viewing public.

Henry Schwab of Newton, Mass., took the first place award for research on concentration camps mail. Sam Simon, Yonkers, N.Y., won the award for concentration camps postal history. Because of the excellent material submitted for competition the selection of winners was a difficult task for the judges: Dr. Matt Gajewski, Ray Schneider and Bernice Hochmuth.

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— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

Two different cacheted covers, one for each day, serviced with special POW cancel on Olympic stamp are two for \$1.00; the same covers with Olympic club cancel on Olympic stamp, two for \$1.00; covers with special cancel without stamp are two for 50c; the special show souvenir cards are \$1.50 ea., and can be ordered from: Theo Skotnicki, 2341 Falls Link, Grand Island, N.Y. 14072. Enclose sufficient return postage with order.

—Henry F. Zebrowski

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