

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 189

April, 1961

POLAND NO. 1 IMPERFORATE VARIETY

By M. A. Bojanowicz assisted by S. J. Capes

About three million copies of Poland No. 1 were printed between 1860 and 1865 and yet only five completely imperforate copies, an average of less than two in a million have been reported during the 100 years of the stamp's existence. In addition there are quite a number of copies known which are imperforate on one side only. The fully imperforate variety has already been listed by Gibbons under Poland P4 at £600, but the partially imperforate copies have not yet been listed as varieties. This, in my opinion, is a mistake.

It is my contention that both forms of this variety come from sheets which have misplaced perforations or have been perforated in part only, but more regarding this later. We do know from the condition of the perforations of normal copies that the machine used for the purpose was of a very primitive nature and any study of this aspect of the stamp at this stage must rely upon careful deduction from established facts aided, perhaps, by a little intelligent guessing.

We have to consider two types of the variety:

- (a) Imperforate on one side only, and
- (b) Completely imperforate on all four sides.

My theory that imperforate varieties come from only partially imperforate sheets and sheets with misplaced perforations is based on the following data:

Quite a number of partially imperforate copies have passed into my collection each showing the imperforate

side either at the bottom but never, in any copies that I have been able to examine, at the top. It should also be pointed out that copies I have seen have been imperforate on one side only in each case.

It is significant that the majority of those imperforate at the left side are of the type showing left frame varieties, while those imperforate at the right side nearly all show the characteristic right hand frame varieties. Of those imperforate at the bottom, practically all are of the type showing varieties found at the bottom of the frame. These facts suggest that partly imperforate copies are mostly from the outside edge of the sheet where damage to the cliché was most likely to occur.

An order by the postal authorities stated that stamps were not to be sold in multiples or with marginal paper adhering. From the precise cutting of the imperforate edge it is reasonable to assume that some form of guillotine was used to trim the edges of the sheet—the top edge being left uncut, possibly to assist in securing the sheet by the adhesive for storing.

Careful measurement of the distance between the perforations of normal copies (side to side and top to bottom) shows that distances vary, sometimes by more than one millimeter, indicating that certain rows of pins became bent or were possibly never correctly aligned from the start. If this faulty perforation left a wide margin at the outside edge of the sheet—that is, the

copies were left badly centered, as indeed most of them are—it would be quite probable that the edge with the margin would be trimmed inside the perforations leaving the variety I have described as “one side imperforate” (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

Further corroborating evidence springs from the fact that a number of copies are known from the bottom row of the sheet, showing a full bottom row of perforations close to the design, but with the marginal paper trimmed away a short distance below (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

The copies which show marginal paper still attached at the top or bottom of the stamp, with an extra row of perforations a few millimeters distant are, of course, gutter copies from the center portions of the sheet (Fig. 3 and Polanski and Rachmanow Plate XI).

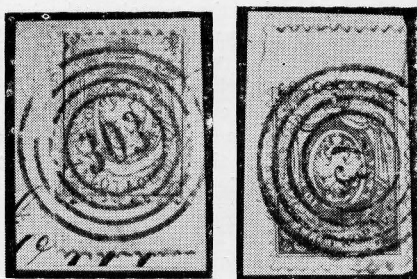


Fig. 3

We now come to the wholly imperforate varieties. The five copies discovered to date have been cancelled in places as far apart as Warsaw (2), Plonsk, Mlawa and Tyszwce, which certainly disposes of the idea that they all come from one imperforate sheet.

If it were possible to bring together either the stamps or else colored photographs of all five known copies, it would be an easy matter to confirm whether or not they all came from different printings. It is well established now that the color of Poland No. 1 varies within certain well defined groups and we can roughly estimate the year of the stamp from its color in relation to the thickness of the paper. In view of this I consider it misleading for Gibbons to list the imperforate copies as “Blue and Rose” until the shades of all fully imperforate copies have been established.

In regard to the manner in which these wholly imperforate copies came into being we are on less certain ground. I suggest, in this connection, that the perforating machine may have become damaged or even partly broken in some way, causing some of the stamps in the sheet to remain unperforated. Some such circumstance may well have been the case in view of the remarkably few fully imperforate copies reported so far. Some details regarding the five copies known may well be included here.

The only known cover bearing a fully imperforate copy, cancelled with No. 1 of Warsaw, was in the pre-war collection of Mr. Rachmanow and was purchased by him at an auction held by Doretheum in Vienna. For this great rarity (Fig. 4) Mr. Rachmanow paid 1200 Austrian crowns. He also bought a single copy for 700 zlotys from the collection of Dr. Farina of Warsaw (Fig. 5). According to information contained in an article printed in “Filatelista” dated 1st January, 1960, both transactions were effected in 1926/7 (Polanski and Rachmanow Plate XII shows both).

In the same article the author speaks of another imperforate copy which had a damaged corner. This stamp is almost certainly one of two copies which have passed to my own collection (Fig. 6). This was the first fully imperforate to be discovered and according to Mr. Rachmanow he first saw it in 1921/2. It



Fig. 5

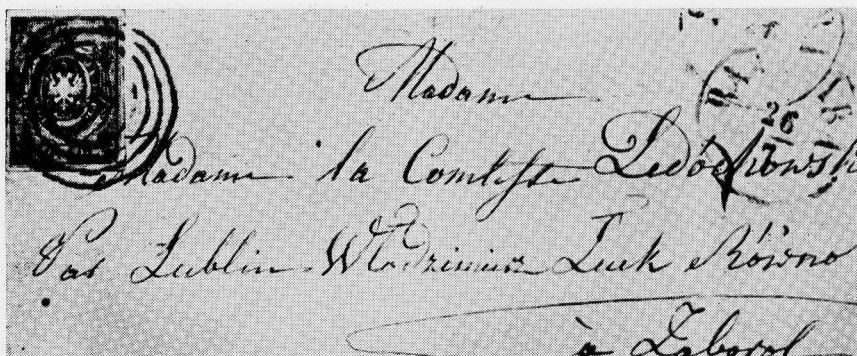


Fig. 4



Fig. 6

then formed part of a well known collection of European classics and he issued a certificate as to its genuineness. In 1952 it was sold through Stanley Gibbons Ltd. to Mr. Rodzewicz a Polish collector living in Rome at that time. After his death it came back to London and found an honored place in my own collection. The stamp is cancelled with the No. 260 of Płońsk.

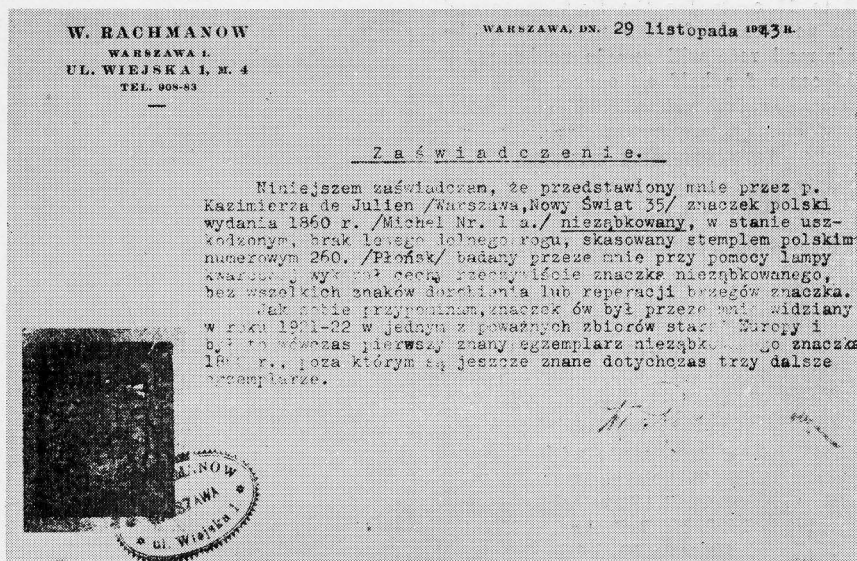
A fourth copy, canceled with No. 264



Fig. 7

of Mława is now in the collection of Mr. Steczynski of Chicago. This copy (Fig. 7) was bought from that famous collector of Poland, Col. R. N. Larking of London and had previously been owned by Baron Ferrari and later by Mr. Roberts, the London dealer, from whom Col. Larking acquired this rarity.

The fifth copy provided something of a tragedy for me personally! I bought it at a sale held by Harmers



of London on June 30th, 1947. It was cancelled with the No. 101 at Tyszwec (Fig. 8). In order that he might study the stamp closely I loaned it to Mr. B., a specialist in Polish stamps, then resident in London. This collector died before he could return it to me and the stamp disappeared. If this stamp is ever offered for sale it must be remembered that it is my property.



Fig. 8

The question of these partially and wholly imperforate stamps is one of very great interest and one would have expected more copies to have come to light, particularly as certain philatelists competent to judge consider that something in the neighborhood of 30,000 of the original 3,000,000 copies are still in existence.

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CHANGE IN POSTAGE RATE ON MAIL TO POLAND

Postage on ordinary letters to Poland will be increased on July 1 from 8 to 11 cents for the first ounce and on post cards from 5 to 8 cents. The air mail rate will remain unchanged—15 cents for half an ounce.

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HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

If not for the journal "Filatelista Bytomski" we here would only surmise the secrets of successful faring and rapid growth of the Bytom Philatelic Club of the "PZF"—Polish Philatelic Federation. But the twice in one year award winner—"Filatelista Bytomski" is the tell-table of their success. The articles, 99 % portent to philately, also carry one percent business news. And in this one percent business news is wrapped the whole secret of their growth, their achievements with the resulting recognition of merits awarded them twice within one year. Enthusiasm, dedication, cooperation are the means, by which they have developed their local Club of the "PZF" to over 400 member in the ten years of their existence.

Congratulations and best wishes from "Polonus" and the Polonus Bulletin to "PZF" Koło Bytom and to their Journal—"Filatelista Bytomski" on your 10th birthday!

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The Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising

By Thaddeus Gryzewski

(Continued from previous month)

In studying the whole sheet, I found the following additional flaws repeating themselves regularly:

On stamp 28—the first “l” is short at bottom (see illustration N).

On stamp 29—a white scratch on the left vertical frame.

On stamp 34—in “Warszawa” a nick in the right side in the upper part of the third “a”.

On stamp 43—in “Warszawa” a nick in the first “W” from outside left.

Both stamps of this design, in dark rose and light rose, come in darker and lighter shades.

Concluding the historical chapter on the origin of the stamps of the Field Post, I want to correct the myth spread by some philatelic experts and annotations in some stamp catalogs, asserting as if the Insurrection Issues were the product of speculation by private parties; that the need for their issuance did not exist, since the sending of letters was postage free and the presence of stamps on letters was a courtesy on the part of the people working in the postal service at that time.

The statements I presented of facts related by credible people, the statements from official orders and quotations of official public announcements in the government organs deny any such

allegations.

The letters described by me franked with the Insurrection postage stamps, were thoroughly examined by me. I have no doubts that these letters through and through were necessary letters, communication mail or as they call it in German — “Bedarfsbriefen”.

Was there really a need of the issuance of special stamps — that is another matter. Sure, they could have fared without them. The letters would have reached the addressees. But such charges could not be made in the world of today, where there is no postal administration that takes into account the question whether or not a certain issue is indispensably needed by the post as means of communication.

Objections and charges laid against the issuance of the stamps in the Insurrection period are attributable and could be made only by persons that had lived quietly in some secluded cozy corners and did not witness the deadly struggle with the hated occupant.

In Warsaw, after five years of brutal occupation, during which everything that signified Poland was hatefully condemned and suppressed, her inhabitants wanted to see everything Polish, at every step.

Symbolic of this, among others, were also postage stamps.

FORGERIES, REPRINTS AND VARIA

After recovering independence for the second time, when life came to a makeshift stabilization, there appeared on the philatelic market reprints of private origin, of the last stamp issued by the Field Post. The reprint was from an abraded (ground down) matrix and from the original matrix.

The writer saw the reprint on wove paper in a sheet of six in bronze color (see Illustration O). On these stamps one can find very fine horizontal scratches due to the abrading of the matrix. I also found a reprint on thin

white paper with a yellow tint, in a sheet of six imperfs. The color of ink was black. We noticed six vertical fine scratches on this reprint. Since these scratches differ from the first reprints, one can presume that the reprints were from the original litho stone (see Illustration P).

The first and second reprints were probably made during



Illustration P

the Uprising. This is assumed as the original stone disappeared, but the transfer matrix was saved. The reprints were made in small amounts as they are rarely found.

During the time of the recovery of independence there also appeared forgeries of the definitive series, in a sheet of five stamps (see Illustration Q). When placed alongside the original stamps, if it was not for the color, one has to admit that the forgeries were done very neatly by an individual



Illustration Q



Illustration Q



The reprints are on sheets size 104 x 141mm as compared to the regular genuine stamp with a white margin is 71 x 90mm. The size of the reprint is 79 x 8mm. Reproduction was by a photo (fotolito) method.

who had technical knowledge and must have worked on the original stamps of the Field Post.

The following characteristics are found on the forgeries:

Missing period between I and VIII.

A double frame under the word "Polowa" which is missing on the original stamps.

The little dashes designating Type

I is a little lower than those on the original.

Forgeries of Type II have not been seen. Paper used for the forgeries was of a satin smooth, even and clear white. The original stamps are found on coarse thin paper. Perforations of the forgeries are 10¾. The colors are different. The forgeries are dark-rose instead of brown-red as on the original; yellow-brown instead of brown; gray-green instead of olive-green, light-blue instead of grey-blue; gray-violet instead of dark-brown.

At about the same time there appeared reprints of the fifth stamp in an enlarged size in the following colors: red, bronze & black (see Illustration R).

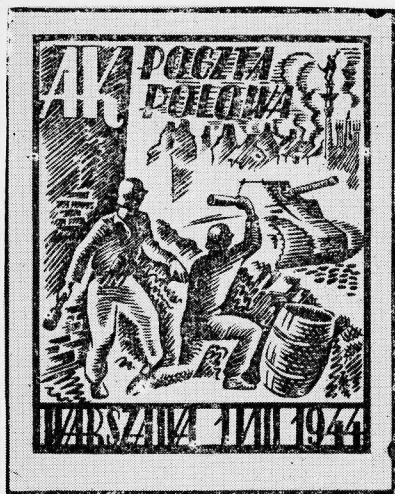


Illustration R

According to Eng. Mierzewski, during the original printing of the genuine stamps, this type of stamp was not made. Thus they are forgeries.

Known also are forgeries of overprints on General Government Hitler stamps of 6, 12, 16, 24, 30, 40, 50 and

60 gr. (Scott's N77, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 88 and 89). Most likely the forgers used other stamps to overprint which as yet I have not seen.

The overprint is a duplication of the reproduction "b" that appeared in a catalog issued by me in Łódź in 1945, "Catalog of Stamps of the War Years 1941-45."

The ink used to overprint the stamps is intense black. The contour of the letters seems to have a dark thread-like frame. Height of the complete overprint is 24mm, whereas on the genuine it is 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. These stamps appear with a false cancellation 9-23-44.

Towards the end of 1958 new forgeries appeared in the Łódź area, which were lithographed and mostly found on postal cards of the pre-war type and on pieces with cancellations "A.K. Na Barykadach" (see Illustration S). They are also known uncanceled.

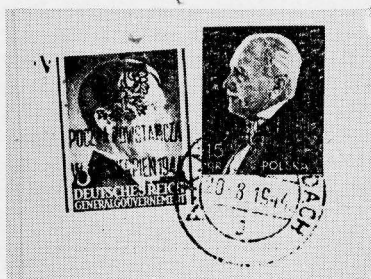


Illustration S

The false overprints are from a typograph plate (on the uncanceled stamps one can see the impressions on the reverse side of the stamp) in a black india ink with a grey matt shade, where on the original the overprint is in an intensive shiny black. Height of the false overprint is 22.55mm. instead of 22.25mm on the genuine stamp. The letters in the false overprint are thinner and even, without any evidence of damage. The crown is divided by two white spots and the peak of the eagle is open. Odd as it may seem, the forgers went a step further and applied a forged signature of S. Mikstein.

Also found are forgeries of complete covers with fantasy stamps. I saw a cover with such a fantasy of 20 groszy with the words "Tajna Poczta Polska"

(Polish Secret Post), and the design of a black eagle hovering over a downed white eagle on the background of a silhouette of Warsaw, cancelled with a three verse stamp "Poczta Polowa I-VIII-1944, Warszawa", plus a rubber handstamp "Cenzura 19" in a rounded frame at the sides consisting of vertical lines.

This entire cover is a fantasy because there were no stamps of this type issued during the occupation (it was first seen after the liberation of Poland). Secondly, neither the cancellation nor the censor's mark were ever in use at any time.

As to cancellations, there are forgeries known of a canceller of type 19. with the false cancellation applied by hand. The date on this canceller was 23.9.1944 and the cancellation is in the same identical black color as the overprint. This false cancellation is a reproduction of the cancellation appearing in my catalog., as previously stated.

A second type of false cancellation is one used to cancel the stamps with the verse "A.K. Na Barykadach" and the letter "J". These are found with the dates 10 or 20-8-1944, with the identical color of the overprint. The height of the cancellation is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm smaller than on the original. Also characteristic is the letter "H" where the vertical lines of the letter are turned inward (see Illustration S).

On the forged issues of the first set of the A.K. there is a rubber cancellation in black with "Poczta Polowa A.K." Height of the letters is 7mm and the date is 29-9-44 (see Illustration T). On the red stamp—the sixth stamp of the series, is found a rubber handstamped three verse cancellation "Poczta Polowa Nr. 2" in green (see



Illustration T

Illustration U

Illustration U). The letters used in this cancellation are identical to the one previously mentioned.

To these philatelic curiosities we must add that a stamp of the General Government of the Hitler type, having an overprint of type 8. The overprint is in a black oblong shape with the words reading from the bottom to the top, and cancelled philatelically with other stamps of Scott's NB19 to NB23 with cancellation Type 15.

More fantasies are the stamps of General Government Scott's N76 to N96 used on envelopes and carton paper, overstamped with the two letters "W" and "P" and an eagle between the letters plus a number. The cancellation is a copy of the insignia on the arm bands worn by the Army. There were many varieties of this mark and they have no philatelic value.

We must add that there are stamps of the definitive Field Post Issue with cancellations of P.O.W. Camps in Germany. This happened after the Uprising where officers when taken as prisoners took along a few sets, and while in camp, figured that with P.O.W. cancellations they would be very rare. In my collection are copies with cancella-

tions of the Gross Born Camp dated December, 1944.

In conclusion of this work I wish to add that in the first days of the Uprising the German occupant civilian administration was completely disorganized. In fact, the administration's officials, including Governor Fischer, sought refuge in the suburbs. After a short time those that stayed behind reorganized and kept up the civilian administration in the Building of the

Foreign Ministry near Saski plac. In fact they had a postal station which used the following cancellation "Adolf Hitler Platz" (see Illustration V).

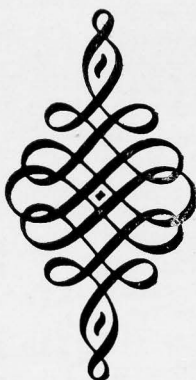


Illustration V

I have such a cancellation dated Sept. 13, 1944.

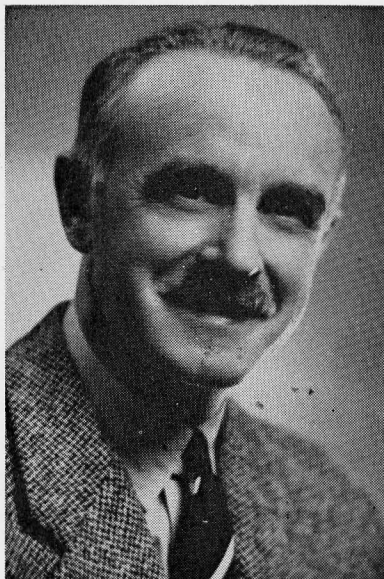
This article is based on the study of collections belonging to Dr. K. Borodzinski, Eng. C. Danowski, I. Gust, K. Joulien, Mr. Kaminski, S. Kossobudzki, M. W. Martin, Mr. Radwanski, A. Roszkowski, J. Straus, Dr. J. Swiderski, A. Szebel, W. Wierzbowski, the Postal Museum, the Warsaw Museum, the Army Museum as well as the study of my own collection.

FINIS



MIROSŁAW A. BOJANOWICZ of London

By Myron E. Steczynski



Mirosław A. Bojanowicz
Winner of the Grand Award at Polska
60 International Philatelic Exhibition

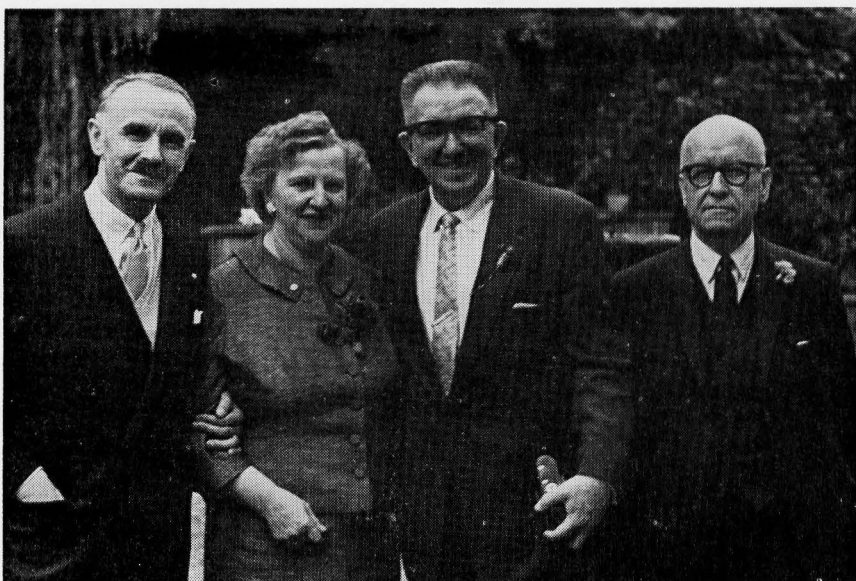
Here is one of the outstanding personalities in the Polish stamp world—a London philatelist with everything at his command—the stamps, the knowledge, the contacts, the manpower, and all facilities to place his collections at the top of the list in the big international exhibitions. He operates from two neighboring villas in the outskirts of London—his home with its library and study where he spends endless hours on his personal collection, and his business firm where he employs a sizeable staff to render such philatelic services as appraising collections for trusts, estates and dealers; describing lots and collections for large London houses in preparation for auctions and private sale; furnishing expertising and research service; acting as philatelic adviser to many big collectors for whom he reaches out to the four corners of the world by mail and in person to build outstanding collections, and finally he provides a mounting and art service

where the gems of philately and entire collections are meticulously placed in albums for exhibitions, for preservation and for reference. Such an operation is an entirely different concept from the stamp dealer who has a store in a business district where goods are sold over the counter.

With such a background it is no wonder that Bojanowicz was awarded the Grand Prix National at POLSKA 60 International Philatelic Exhibition last September. The judges were unanimous in selecting his neat, precise and professional compilation and showing of early Polish Postal History built around Poland No. 1 and cancellations of the period. His presence graced the occasion and his name was very popular in the Polish press whenever reference was made to the exhibition. He was not a stranger to the jury, to the commissioners and to others, especially to his fellow philatelists from London—Sir John Wilson, the custodian of the Royal Collection and an outstanding collector in his own right as well as Frank Godden, the British commissioner who handled the really big collections of the British Empire. Joining Bojanowicz in Warsaw was his gifted sister—a professor in the Polish school system, his distinguished brother, a physician and professor at the medical school in Łódź, and the doctor's lovely wife.

I might mention that I first met the two Bojanowicz brothers in London. From their natty clothes, trim mustaches and smart appearance, they certainly looked more British than the native Londoners themselves. We traveled together from Warsaw to Vienna, where Bojanowicz pursued his philatelic affairs and from where he went on to Switzerland for a well-deserved rest.

M. A. Bojanowicz was born in Yugoslavia in 1906 and educated in Poland, receiving his degree in economics and political science in Warsaw in 1929. By 1939 he was already director of the largest rubber and electrical establish-



A gathering at the villa of Mr. Bojanowicz near London when Myron and Mrs. Steczynski were on their way to Poland in August, 1960. Mr. Bojanowicz is at the left and his secretary Mr. Fox is at the right.

ment in Poland, when the war forced him to flee to Rome where he operated as a part time stamp dealer until 1943. His father was an advanced stamp collector in Poland to give young Bojanowicz a philatelic background which he cultivated with the years and used to good advantage in expanding his collections of Bosnia, Jugoslavia, Poland, Italian States, Russia and the British Colonies.

After World War II, Bojanowicz came to London, established himself as a full time stamp dealer and consultant, developing at the same time his private collection, especially in the classics, for which he won high awards at Venice 1952, Dusseldorf 1955, Hamburg 1959, and others. In 1946-47 he published WIADOMOŚCI FILATELISTYCZNE and continues to contribute specialized articles to the philatelic press.

Polonus is proud to have Bojanowicz as one of its loyal members and appreciates the many ways in which he is serving the Club with his vast knowledge and use of extensive reference material.

TID BITS

John Bor has undertaken the task of Regional Director for Stamps For The Wounded. This position was left vacant when our member Barney Fialkowski moved to California. It's a job that requires much self sacrifice of time and effort. Our hats go off to you John!

Send your duplicates, old stamp catalogs, albums, magazines, etc. to:

John Bor—Stamps For The Wounded,
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* * *

Member Richard Estka who operates the Patria Stamp & Coin Shop, will move to new location in the latter part of May. He changed his firm name to Richard Estka Coin & Stamp Co. and will operate at 6312 South Western Avenue in Chicago.

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 673 Pawlik Jan B., 1831 W. Evergreen, Chicago 22, Ill.—8-34-45-50-94-148-153
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WORDS OF WISDOM

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NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

In the period 1961 to 1963 a set of 16 stamps will be issued to commemorate outstanding rulers, educators, artists, learned men, commanders and political leaders. The series will be identified as "Wielecy Polacy" (Great Poles).

The first part of this series was scheduled for release during April 1961, a set of six stamps designed by artist Andrzej Heidrich. All six are of the same value, 60 gr., size 43 x 25.5 mm, 70 to a sheet, on unmounted paper.

The stamps were engraved by A. Szklarczyk, St. Lukaszewski, J. Miller, E. Tridiszek, E. Konecki and B. Kowalska. Printed in recess from steel engraved plates and rotogravure in quantities of 3 million each.

1. Mieszko I—The first historical ruler of Poland. He began to reign about 960 and died in 992.
2. Kazimierz II Wielki—reigning 1333 to 1370. He was responsible for the creation of a uniform system of law and administration. Under his reign Cracow University was established.
3. Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk—King of Poland 1447-1492.
4. Mikołaj Kopernik—Polish Astronomer 1473-1543.
5. Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski—born about 1503, died 1572. Political writer active in the field of the reformation.
6. Tadeusz Kosciuszko—born 1746, died 1817—A Champion of Liberty and Democracy.

—Filatelista



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A set of six stamps are to be issued honoring the Polish Shipbuilding Industry on Sea Day, June 29, 1961.

60 gr.—Factory Trawler	1,000,000
1.55 zł.—Mother Ship	600,000
2.50 zł.—Passenger Coaster	800,000
3.40 zł.—Cargo Liner	600,000
4.00 zł.—Cargo Liner	600,000
5.60 zł.—Motor Tanker	400,000

These were designed by George Des-selberger and represent some of the standard types* of Polish merchant ships. Printed by offset and in a rather large size.

* * *

On April 27, 1961 two stamps were issued honoring the orbital flight of the Russian Yuri Gagarin April 12, 1961.

40 gr.—dark red and black shows portrait of Gagarin and inscription "Pierwszy Lot Człowieka w Kosmos/Z.S.S.R. 12-IV-1961.

60 gr.—blue and red shows the globe with red line indicating the flight around the world; inscription same as above.

Postal stationery will also be issued.

— Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan

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The Polish Astronomer Mikołaj Kopernik is the subject of one of the set of 16 stamps of the Great Poles series.