

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 73 - FANTASTIC!

If one would be looking for one word to describe POLPEX 73, that word would have to be "fantastic". By any measure this year's show was a true super-show. The superlatives could go on and on.

What was it that made POLPEX 73 so great? First and foremost was the theme of the show — the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolas Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer. The first thirty of the 288 frames were dedicated to Coper-

nicus, and an additional 29 frames of coins and medallions on the Copernican theme were displayed by the Polish-American Numismatic Association. The remainder of the 288 frames were filled with material, some of it quite rare, and only seen at shows such as this. Most of the material was Polish or Polish related, such as: Polish postal history; "Na Skarb" in imperf; Full sheets of the Kraków overprints; used multiples of the Gniezno issue;



Cutting of the ribbon at official Polpex opening ceremony by the guests of honor, Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress, and Kazimierz Sepot of the Polski Związek Filatelistów in Poland. Left to right: J.P. Rux; Tom Gobby; Art Marquart; C. Schafer; R. Reinowski; A. Mazewski; Dr. Edw. C. Rozanski; Alfred Szebel; Kaz. Sepot; R. Strzelecki; F. Prochot; Judge L. Jankowski; Karol Synowiec; W. E. Bentkowski and Chester Mikucki.



The two workhorses of the Polpex — Tom Gobby and Alfred Szebel — look approvingly at the U.S. Copernicus stamp displayed at the show. It was Chairman Alfred Szebel's idea to run the Polpex on a grand scale, and together with Tom Gobby and the most helpful Committee, fulfilled the project.

selected errors and forgeries of Polish stamps; sheets of the Romkowski stamp; etc., etc. There were several exceptional exhibits of Auschwitz and concentration camp mail which touched the hearts of the thousands who attended. Zeppelin collections, specialized space and rocket, and stampless covers rounded out the exhibition.

Thousands of collectors and visitors from the Chicago metropolitan area saw the show. Several hundred out of towners made a special trip in to see the show — the first ever in a downtown location.

Executive Chairman Alfred Szebel's dream was a successful

reality. Fred was the guiding light and organizer, and the accolades are justly his. Fred, and his "right arm" Tom Gobby, put on a show that eclipsed the efforts of other special interest groups across the country, past and present.

Polonus, an international philatelic society, presented an international philatelic exhibition. Of the 49 exhibits, 19 came from the Chicago Metropolitan area, 11 from across the U.S.A., and 19 from foreign countries. Foreign exhibits were: Canada, 6; Poland, 4; United Kingdom, 4; France 2; and one each from Australia, Czechoslovakia, and Germany.



Dr. James J. Matejka and Kazimierz Sepot pose with out of town members attending the Polpex. Sitting: Jan Haniewicz of Brooklyn; Arnold Shay of Wynne, Pa.; Larry Zieler of Lincoln, Neb.; Milton Kohn of So. Holland, Ill.; W. E. Bentkowski of Detroit; Second row: Dr. Matejka; Kaz. Sepot; Jos. Bieniecki of Granite City, Ill.; M. Lubinski of Canada; John Hemak of Minneapolis; L. Zeller of Cleveland; Jos. Uszkowski of New York City; Dr. Matt Gajewski of Buffalo; Conrad Straube of Minneapolis; A. Franck of Bay Village, N.Y. Top: Daniel C. Dohm of St. Louis and Dr. Miet Kamienski of Canada.

Those out of towners who were seen at the show were from Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Dr. Matt Gajewski, Theo Skotnicki and Henry Skibinski came from Buffalo, N.Y. Joe Uszkowski and friend flew in from N.Y.C. Dr. Kuderevich flew in from New Hampshire. Dr. Kamienski and Mike Lubinski came in from Toronto. Arnold Shay from Philadelphia. There were many, many more, and our apologies for not being able to mention them by name.

Both the U.S.P.S. and U.N.P.A. operated sub-stations at the show. The U.S.P.S. did a most brisk business selling thousands of current U.S. commemoratives. They were steadily busy in applying the special pictorial cancellation which was designed by Tom Gobby. The U.N. sold current issues at face value and also furnished a special commemorative hand stamp for Pol-

pex. This hand stamp proved to me most popular — it should become one of the sought after of the U.N. specialty cachets.

Those who viewed the show — said it was great — they said it was — FANTASTIC!!!



Judging the show were Charles Hahn, Stamp Editor of the Chicago Sun Times, and Dr. James J. Matejka, Honorary Compex Chairman. Other judges were: Myron E. Steczynski, John Velek, and Daniel C. Dohm.

POLPEX AWARD WINNERS

Grand Award: Chester Makowski
for Poland Postal Stationery.

*Crystal Trophy (Reserve Grand
Award):* Dr. Miet Kamienski
for Kraków Overprints.

Kozakiewicz Research Award:
Chester Schafer for his Lublin
issues.

Uznanski Historical Award:
Lucjan Teter for Polish Field
Post.

P.Z.F. Medal of Poland: T. J.
Gobby, F.E. Wolosewick.

*Gold Medal of Polish Philatelists
of Gr. Britain:* John Bartczak.

*Copernicus Medal of Society of
Olsztyn, Poland:* Z. Wagrowski.

*Burkiewicz Award For Best For-
eign:* Julius Kaposta.

Gold Sieger Medal of Germany
Margaret Isabel Morris.

Silver Sieger Medal of Germany
Alfred Szebel.



*Grand Award Winner Chester Makowski
poses with Dr. James Matejka, the
Master of Ceremonies during the Award
Presentations.*

Bronze Sieger Medal of Germany.
Ludwik Pieczara.

Best in Aerophilately Award:
Dr. Josef Kuderewicz.

*American Topical Society Gold
Medal:* Al Rybarski.

Kohn Popularity Award Trophy.
T. J. Gobby.



*Polpex Award Winners who were present at the beebe-banquet. Sitting: Alfred
Szebel; Anold Shcy; Ludwik Pieczara; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Kohn. Second row:
C. Schafer; Julius Kaposta; M. Lubinski; Kaz. Sepot; Walenty Poniecki; Stefan
Koculanski; Roman Strzelecki; Conrad Straub; Frank Wolosewick; Sten. Dobrzycki.
Third row: Chester Makowski; Tom Gobby; Stanley Garczynski, Dr. Miet Kamienski
and Zdzislaw Wagowski.*



The official representative of P.Z. F. of Poland, Kazimierz Sepot presented the Crystal Reserve Grand Award Trophy to Dr. Miet A. Kamienski for his Krakows.

Polonus Gold Medals: T.J. Gobby Dr. M. A. Kamienski, Julius Kaposta, Jerzy Kucharski, Dr. Josef Kuderewicz, Wojtech P. Maxa, Stephan Rosinski, Arnold Shay, C. Schafer, Z. M. Staron, Conrad Straub, Lucjan Teter, F.E. Wolosewick.

Polonus Gold Medal with Felicitatio of the Jury: Mr. and Mrs. Milton Kohn.

Polonus Silver Medals: Col. Jan Berek, Józef Burkowski, Czesław Danowski, Stanley Dobrzycki, Winston Gruszczyk, Stefan Kochanski, Raymond Raymond Schneider, Z.M. Sta-

ron, Roman Strzelecki, George M. Troell, B.Z. Zasiedka.

Polonus Bronze Medals: Mieczysław Białobrodec, Rainer Heitmieller, Joseph Janecka, Jan Kuznowicz, M. Lubinski, W.Z. J. Nowicki, W. Poniecki, Vincas Urbonas, J. Winstanley, Eug. Zabiello.



The American Topical Society Gold Medal was presented by Dr. Matejka to Al Rybarski for his Kosciuszko collection.

Participation Awards: Eugene Bella, Thaddeus M. Olszewski, Joseph R. M. Uszkowski.

Copernicus Award in Numismatics: Stanley Garczynski.



Three members visiting from Buffalo, N.Y. — Henry Skibinski, Dr. Matt Gajewski, and Theo. Skotnicki.

PHOTOS: ANDRZEJ KOZŁOWSKI



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD J. DALEY
MAYOR

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the Polonus Philatelic Society will stage an International Stamp and Coin Show, "Polpex 73" at the La Salle Hotel on March 23rd through March 25th; and

WHEREAS, this exhibition is being held in honor of the Quincentennial of the birth of Copernicus the "Father of Modern Astronomy"; and

WHEREAS, Stamp Collecting is an excellent form of cultural and historical reference material:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard J. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago do hereby proclaim March 23 - March 25 as POLPEX 73 Days in Chicago and urge all citizens to attend this fine exhibit.

Dated this nineteenth day of March, A.D., 1973.


Mayor

Speech of Aloysius Mazewski

Given during the Presentation of Awards ceremonies by Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress. These ceremonies took place at the Beeba-Banquet in the Century Room adjoining the Grand Ballroom where the exhibition was held at LaSalle Hotel.

I sincerely appreciate your gracious invitation to participate in the ceremonies of Polpex 73.

It is for me a new and rewarding experience to at least review and appraise a cultural activity which has a deep and relevant meaning to those who see history as a vast river of life flowing toward the man's ultimate destiny.

Philately is not merely a hobby. It is a commitment to the preservation of certain cultural and historic values of one particular nation or, in a larger sense, all the nations and peoples of the world.

In a broad sense, philately is a mirror of the past and contemporary history, reflecting significant events and the deeds of great men and women who influenced the course of human events. It also reflects man's attachment to, and concern for his natural environment as the so called "nature" postal stamps of many nations so vividly demonstrated. And, parenthetically speaking, Polish stamps in the nature series are particularly appealing.

American Polonia has attained many high points in philatelic history. The United States Post Office has honored us with stamps of Kościuszko, Pułaski, Paderewski, Millennium, and currently with a stamp marking the quinquecentennial of the birth of Mikołaj Kopernik.



There are some individuals among us, who take issue with the Postal authorities, asking why on the American stamp the name of Copernicus is printed, and why not Kopernik? Or why projects submitted by Polish American artists were not accepted? . . .

In this, it would behoove us to be more pragmatic.

Copernicus, as the latinized form of Kopernik has been for centuries accepted by scientific communities in the West.

With one of two minor exceptions, all encyclopedias and reference books, obtainable in American libraries and bookstores list Kopernik as Nicolaus Copernicus and then add the Polish version of his name, explaining that he was a Pole.

If suddenly the name of Copernicus was restored to its Polish version of Mikołaj Kopernik, students and ordinary people seeking wider knowledge would not find him in encyclopedias and reference books under the letter "K". This would, indeed, create a great amount of confusion.

I agree that Kopernik, like Kepler, Galileo and other great men of his era should have his

native name restored.

This, however, cannot be accomplished suddenly by a fiat of those impatient with slow processes of history.

Polonia did make a promising start. Through its efforts many states and cities proclaimed *Mikołaj Kopernik Day*, and many general observances were held or are being planned under *Kopernik*, not *Copernicus* name.

In time, the Polish name of *Mikołaj Kopernik* will be universally accepted in the West. But it is not an overnight project.

As to the Postal authorities it will be well to remember that the portrait on the *Copernicus* stamp is a reproduction of the historic painting of *Jacob Van Merus*.

So much for our current controversies which I mention only in passing and of no special importance or validity.

With this out of the way, I would like to return to the important mission that you took upon yourselves by reason of your avocation.

As I have stated before, philately, or stamp collecting, is not just a hobby that any one can be engaged in.

It requires keen intelligence and love for history, a perceptive sense of appreciation of events and developments which usually escape the attention of the general public.

Your stamp collections mirror the history.

The land of our ancestry, Poland, has an ancient and splendid tradition of postal service. So has our land, the United States, the current shortcomings notwithstanding.

Thus, in your philatelic com-

mitment and activity, you are guardians of cultural, historic and traditional values that have been enhancing and keep on enhancing the quality of our life.

I am not an expert philatelist. Yet I fully realize and appreciate the value of your collections so lovingly and painstakingly garnered throughout the years.

I know this: — your collections are a priceless heritage not only in the stamps and their monetary value, but above all, in your dedication and commitment to something that stands above the humdrum of everyday pursuits, that inspires love and dedication, something that adds enriched meaning to our existence.

As good and knowledgeable philatelists, you are more deeply aware of our heritage than persons who regard postage stamps as merely a means of forwarding letters or packages.

Philately is a meaningful and beautiful avocation.

For this reason, it is your duty not only to keep your organization active within self-defined limits —

It is, I believe, your duty to spread the message of philately and reach with it all segments of our society, particularly our youth.

Your work and your exhibits can inspire our young people, can convince them that there are more meaningful, enlightening and rewarding experiences than mere pursuits of strictly defined education, that such avocations as philately could enrich the substance and meaning of their knowledge and preparation for life in professions and trades.

Perhaps it is outside the scope

of your charter declaration. But declarations can be enlarged by programs which could bring to your organization not only added recognition and acknowledgement, but also the all important sense of mission aimed at better and more enlightened future.

You have laudable accomplishments, and these could be projected into an even brighter and more rewarding future — to bold vision and willingness to serve our society and our youth in their unique and captivating way.

Szczeńć Wam Boże!

SIDELIGHTS OF POLPEX 73

The many long months and meetings before the show. The planning and arguing. The agreement and decisions.

The call for help answered by the membership. Without the physical and financial help of our members and friends we would not have had a show.

John Bartczak and Joe Janec-ka who did an absolutely great job of getting all those frames to and from the LaSalle Hotel.

The USPS who did another great job — Joe Truffant and company for a job well done.

The United Nations Postal Administration — first time at a POLPEX.

Fred Szebel, the human dynamo, who operated on adrenalin for most of the show. He was here, he was there, he was everywhere.

Chet Schafer, who did another bang up job in printing and helping with the many, many loose and easily forgotten items.

The judges: Dr. Matejka, and Messrs. Steczynski, Hahn, Dohm, and Velek who had a truly most difficult job. This years material was high powered!

Mitchell Wozny, a newcomer, who showed some of the old-timers what could be done. A real hustler and helper.



Polpex 73 Committee: Roman Reinowski, Chet Schafer, J.P. Rux, Chester Mikucki, Mitchell Wozny, Roman Strzelecki, Alfred Szebel, Tom Gobby and Art Marquart.



Typical scene at the U.S. Postal Station which did a brisk business of selling stamps and kept busy cancelling covers at the Polpex.

Roman Reinowski, Bourse chairman — another good job.

Chet Mikucki and son, Chet, founder of Polonus, put in another superlative effort.

J. P. Rux — another great job.

The USPS pictorial cancel designed by Tom Gobby — and then frantic last minute lettering changes by Fred Szebel.

Roman Strzelecki for great push in getting the show up.

Al Mazewski, a true Pole and American.

Tom Gobby and Chet Schafer proofing the program hours before the show.

An afternoon spent at U.S. customs, O'Hare International Airport, in getting a collection from Czechoslovakia released.

The last minute rearrangement of the exhibition. A real frantic moment.

The crash of a dozen frames during the show — but fortuna-

tely no injuries and no damage to the exhibits.

The many dealers who helped bring them in.

Apologies to Joe Janecka for the omission of his exhibit. Apologies to Christopher Poniecki for improperly identifying his exhibit.

Special thanks to: M. A. Ciu-rus, Ed Link and the Polish Scouts, Christopher Poniecki, Andy Kozlowski, S. Styczynski, and the many others who put the show up. George Jezioranski for calling our attention to a printing error that would have proven embarrassing if released.

And thanks to all of you who attended the show.

NEW MEMBER

T. A. Gackowski
26 Bowen Ave.
Ottawa, Kisoki, Ont.
Canada



L. A. RUPFERWASSER



POLPEX 73 PATRONS

L. A. KUPFERWASSER

T. TERPIN

WGN-TV

POLPEX MEMORIES

Polonus outdid itself this year. POLPEX 73 was absolutely superb in every respect. Each and every active member should hold his head high with pride. *Polonus*, an international society, presented a show of the first magnitude.

The membership responded in a most heart-warming manner. Many contributed their time and talents, while others, unable to be present, donated most generously. Without them POLPEX would have been doomed to failure. POLPEX blossomed, nurtured, and grew to a beautiful prize-winning rose in the champion class.

While the show may be over there are many, many items which must be attended to — frankly, the bills! If you did not contribute and missed the opportunity the first time around — here's a second chance. Anyone who contributes \$50.00 or more will receive a special, gold-plated medallion especially commissioned and struck for POLPEX 73. Each medal is serially numbered. If you haven't done so already, please give it a thought. Your help now will help wrap up POLPEX and keep us above water.

Send your \$50.00 or more to:

Al Rybarski

P.O. Box 82

River Grove, Ill. 60171

If you missed the show, and would like to have some of the items which were offered, Polonus

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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 —

nus still has the following available:

Set of souvenir sheets (2) with descrip. folder: 50c plus postage.

Set of 3 diff. covers cancelled with the spec. can. \$1.00 plus postage.

As above, but with UNPA cachet cancel: \$1.25 plus postage.

Program catalogue, illustrated 35c plus postage.

Special OAO (Copernicus satellite) cover: \$1.00 plus postage.

Set of 2 covers and SS (rocket mail) flown on Feb. 19, 1973 by Polonus in cooperation with the Reaction Research Society, Inc. Both are crash covers. \$3.50 plus postage.

Send all orders to:

J. P. Rux

6136 West Addison Street

Chicago, Illinois 60634

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, April 27th, 1973 —

Program Meeting. Speaker: Joseph Migala. Topic: *A Theme for Polpex 1974*. At this meeting Chester Makowski will report on his visit to Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Copernicus stamp first day.