

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 168

March 1959

RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned, do hereby **RESOLVE** as follows:

WHEREAS, IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI was a man of broad and deep vision, who distinguished himself during the Twentieth Century and particularly during World War I as a Champion of Freedom, and

WHEREAS, IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI was an outstanding world personality in the field of Music and an acknowledged World Statesman as evidenced by the facts that he was one of the signatories to the Treaty of Versailles and was a delegate to the League of Nations, and

WHEREAS, IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI, by his untiring efforts on behalf of freedom for all European Countries during and after World War I and by his devotion to the cause of Freedom for the Country of his birth gave rise to the establishment of the Republic of Poland, and

WHEREAS, during the time **IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI** was Premier of Poland, he continued to champion the cause of Freedom and Democracy believing them to be inseparable, and

WHEREAS, the 100th anniversary of the birth of **IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI** occurs on September 6, 1960, and no more appropriate date can be found to honor the memory of this great world personality and truly outstanding Champion of Liberty and of his many deeds in the struggle of the World for Freedom, Liberty and Democracy,

THEREFORE, we do hereby earnestly urge that the 100th anniversary of the birth of **IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI** be commemorated by the United States of America by the issuance by the Post Office Department thereof of four (4) and eight (8) cent commemorative stamps of the "Champions of Freedom" series commemorative stamps on the 6th day of September, 1960.

GIVEN under our hands and seals this 28th day of February, 1959, at Chicago, Illinois.

The resolution on the preceding page was kept on the table at the entrance to the Polonus Philatelic Society 20th Annual Exhibition at Falcons Hall, Chicago. Over 800 persons signed the resolution, with their names and addresses. This resolution and the signatures will be sent to the Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D.C.

How about you helping in this cause. We need as many signatures as possible. Enclosed with your Polonus Bulletin is a copy of this resolution. Get some blank sheets of paper, draw lines across the page and begin soliciting names and addresses of person in favor of a Paderewski postage stamp to be issued by the United States Post Office Department. If you belong to some organization that is interested in this cause, put its name at the top with the signatures and addresses of its member underneath. When you have obtained as many signatures as was possible, attach the sheets with the resolution and send it to Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield at the above address.

Individual letters to local Congressmen and Senators will also help. Address your letters with their name, Administration Building, Washington 25, D.C.

Heading this work for Polonus is Lester Jankowski. Information and additional Resolutions may be obtained by writing him at 10 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

APPRECIATION

The Twentieth Anniversary Polpex is in the past, but before we close our books on it, I would like to express my thanks to those who in any way made the show possible—beginning with the visitors, to the exhibitors, patrons, bourse dealers, advertisers, the philatelic publications that carried publicity on our show, and all the committees for their work.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Zdzisław Wągrowski and Zdzisław's mother for preparing all the delicacies for our Beeba, and likewise the other ladies who helped with the party: Mrs. Bogdan Wągrowski, Mr. and Mrs. Zoch, and last but not least the donors to the Beeba: Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Sid Shayman and Leo Topolinski.

The same goes to Hollywood Press of which our editor is co-owner, for donating the President's Award trophy.

Those of you who had not as yet obtained the Polpex souvenir seals may still get them. Send 25c plus postage for a set of two seals and folder to Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

—Stefan Kochanski, Polpex Chrm.

NEW MEMBERS

Marian Duński

Gomunice, Poland

Bro. John of the Holy Cross, C.S.C.

Holy Trinity High School Library

1443 W. Division St.

Chicago 22, Illinois

THE EXHIBITION

by Roman Strzelecki

For the benefit of those member who cannot attend our stamp exhibitions we are submitting herewith a detailed description of the various exhibits at our Polpex 1959.

Exh. No. 1 — Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz — Court of Honor—Selected pages from a highly specialized collection of Postal History. Real old material, showing pre-stamped covers with cancellations and different kinds of seals. Such material is not seen often. Covers with free franking during the period of 1791-92 were shown, and 1670 covers mailed at Brzeg in Polish Silesia. Also shown was a 1780 cover from Warsaw, covers with different handstamps, seals and other postal markings from Grodno of 1783, Pulawy 1780, Dubno 1791 and many others. The few selected pages by themselves formed an interesting and priceless collection.

Exh. No. 2 — V. Rachmanoff—Court of Honor—The official description of the entry was interesting from both a philatelic and historical point of view. Pre-stamp covers of the 18th century with district hand postmarks and other postal markings such as Zamość 1768, Winnica 1789, Posen 1780, Vilna 1800 and many other interesting items. Many covers shown with Militaria postmarks and Fieldpost cancellations of the 18th century. Also covers with postmarks of official letters which used the free

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OUR 20th POLPEX IN REVIEW

The new ruling adopted by the 1959 Polpex Committee, of a six-frame limit per exhibit worked out well at our Show this year. It resulted in a larger variety of exhibits and proved that an exhibit does not necessarily have to be large to win a major award. Walter Szymlek's exhibit of two frames "Poland Scott's 153 Analyzed" got him the Kozakiewicz Research Trophy. An unusual display of "Horses on the Stamps of Poland" by Jens Olesen brought him a plaque as the Best Topical exhibit.

The Grand Award winner was your editor Chester A. Schafer with his Polish Liquidation Commission Issue. Myron E. Steczynski got the President's Award for his Poland Airmail Covers. Major awards went to three exhibitors from different parts of the world. De-

rek Palmer of Santiago, Chile received the Third Award for his Polasd Number Ones; Kay Horowicz of Surbiton, England received a Gold Medal for her Study of Warsaw Date Stamps 1850-1870; and Marian Duński of Gomunice, Poland received the Novice Trophy for his "400th Anniversary of Polish Mail" exhibit.

First Award winner was Chester Mikucki with Polish Revenues; Second Award—Alfred Szebel, Postal History of German Occupation 1939-44; Best General Poland—Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz; Best Prisoser of War—Leo Topolinski; Best Fieldpost—Dr. M. E. Uznanski; First Best Other Than Poland—Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Papal States; Second Best—Lester Jankowski, Austria Newspaper Tax Stamps and Wrappers; Third



Photo taken at the Polpex 1959 Beeba Feb. 28, 1959. Present were these members of the original membership that started the Polonus Philatelic Society. They were given special 20 year certificates. First row: Chester Mikucki, Myron Steczynski, Jack Domar, Lester Jankowski, Roman Reinowski. Second row: Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Adam Kloskowski, Alex Warot, Bert Powell, and Frank Wolosewick. Chester Mikucki and Myron Steczynski both hold the trophies awarded them for their exhibits in the show.

Best—Adam Kloskowski, U. S. Coils.

The award presentation was made by Lester Jankowski during the Beeba on Saturday night, Feb. 28th. And what a Beeba it was—too. The crowd was the largest ever; tickets were sold out and in some cases money had to be refunded. All the Polish food went, down to the last dill pickle.

In addition to presenting the Polpex Awards, Lester Jankowski also gave out certificates of 20-year membership to those 20 yr. Polonus members present that evening. A great feeling of cordiality was present and the early days of Polonus were recollected.

Congratulatory letters and a telegram on our 20th Anniversary were read. We received such letters from the Polish Philatelic Association of Warsaw (Polski Związek Filatelistów), from the Government Postal Section and from our out-of-town member Leonard Zeller of Cleveland, Ohio.

As the crowd entered the dining room they were guided by the two doctors L. P. Kozakiewicz and M. E. Uznanski who acted as hosts.

One of the door prizes was won by the former President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Mr. Casimir Kozakiewicz.

The Polpex Director Stefan Kochanski, and his assistant Walter Szymlek were presented with Gold Lamp Pen Sets for doing an outstanding job at Polpex 1959.

THE EXHIBITION

(Continued from page 2)

postage privilege by order of the great Hetman Fr. Xawery Bronicki dated May 28, 1775 and the great Hetman of Lithuania Michal Ogiński dated June 28, 1775. Here was an exhibit of Postal History of great value with outstanding classical gems. No wonder that such material was exhibited by as equally prominent a figure as Mr. V. Rachmynoff.

Both this exhibit and the No. 1 exhibit were an extra treat for the younger collectors and a forum of discussion for the old timers.

Exh. No. 3 — Two small frames can't show much of Polonus Philatelic Society but what was presented was nicely arranged by Adam Kloskowski.

Shown were the highlights of 20 years of Polonus work. One frame showed some of the more interesting Bulletins exemplifying the achievements of Polonus, promoting Poland's Philately. The second frame was somewhat of a specialty arrangement of our Mr. Kloskowski the Seal Director, who for so many years managed the sales of the seals. Seals of Polpex shows and Beebas were shown, which made for interesting viewing.

Exh. No. 4 — Derek Palmer, Santiago, Chile — Showing a full frame of genuine Poland Number Ones. The first four stamps were in mint condition and they were followed by fifteen cancelled copies some with full cancellation. The rest of the frame was filled out with first class covers bearing the No. 1 showing various town cancellations both in Polish and in Russian. Among these sought after covers were covers with clear and readable cancellations of Nos. 80, 1, 70, 221, 16, 41, 211 and others. The write-up on the album pages was in the Spanish language. Viewers took it for granted that this was Dr. Kozakiewicz's exhibit until they saw the write-up in Spanish.

Exh. No. 5 — Marian Duński, Gomuńnica, Poland — This exhibit was a formation of very interesting and hard-to-get material of the recent 400th Anniversary of Polish Postal Services. Special cancellations for this occasion from all over Poland, on postcards, covers and cut-outs. Most of the cancellations with large slogans and fragments of old time postal service. Many publicity items were shown. Also the so-called "Jarosław Twaszkiewicz Issue" representing a stamp drawn by a child, and postally used with no postage dues. Many collectors copied the names of the town cancellations in order to have some reference for further "diggings".

Exh. No. 6 — Chester Schafer — The program described the exhibit as a specialized study of the Polish Liquidation Commission Issue and a study of an issue it really was. The judges, and there were three of them, all agreed that it was a good study, the best shown at the exhibition and selected it for the grand award. It consisted of double prints, proofs, shade varieties, perforations, paper and plate varieties.

There was the 1 halercy gray porous paper, broken "O" in Pocztka, full sheets of the many denominations. One could find practically every phase of philatelic varieties, even forgeries. Here was an exhibit of great philatelic value and a good example of specialized study.

(Continued next month)

APPLICANTS PENDING

Adam Schmidt
2819 - 31st Street, S.E.
Washington 20, D.C.

Edmund E. Blochowski
1006 Brrokley Blvd.
Toledo 7, Ohio

Mrs. Irene Jaroszewski
12028 Wentworth Ave.
Chicago 28, Ill.

Carl Marciniak
135 - 46th Street
Pittsburgh 1, Pa.

John Z. Gruszka
548 Edward St.
Woodstock, Ontario

PLEWACKI POST THIRD ANNUAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

It is gratifying to see another Polish philatelic society here in America active in putting on stamp shows. Our best wishes for a successful show are extended to the Plewacki Post Stamp Society by the Adam Plewacki Post No. 799 American Legion, as they present their Third Annual Exhibition March 20, 21 and 22, 1959 at their own Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, New York.

A set of three seals has been issued on this occasion in green, blue and red, honoring "Atoms For Peace And Industry", Alaska Statehood, Sesquicentennial of Abe Lincoln and the 40th Anniversary of the American Legion. These may be obtained from Roman Burkiewicz, 2008 N. Western Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

NEXT PROGRAM MEETING

Program Chairman John Bor announces that at the next program meeting of March 27th, the Grand Award Winner of Polpex 1959 Chester Schafer will speak on his prize winning exhibit the Polish Liquidation Commission Issue.

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 13

February 1959

We saw a display at our February meeting given by a regular advertiser in the *Polonus Bulletin*, Mr. M. A. Bojanowicz of Wembley. Apart from his activities as a dealer, Mr. Bojanowicz is known as a leading authority on the early postal material of Poland and has written articles in the press on "Poland No. 1". His display this time, however, was devoted to Polish town markings on Russian stamps.

Among the choice items we were lucky enough to be shown were some fine examples of the red markings on the stamps themselves. You will recall that it is more usual to find these particular cancellations beside the stamps, and the stamps themselves are pen-cancelled. In a large section dealing with the numeral cancels, there were specimens showing the use of this obliterator more than once on the same stamp, which is rare. Another highlight was a very nice "Zgierz" strike in blue.

The feelings of all present were summed up, when, in the vote of thanks, one of our members thanked Mr. Bojanowicz for showing us an international class display right on our own doorstep.

We are naturally proud of the fact that our President, Mrs. Kay Horowicz, was awarded a Gold Medal at POLPEX this year, and were delighted to see also that another of our "joint" members, Mr. Derek Palmer of Chile, featured amongst the award winners as well.

In the middle of March, our own National Stamp Exhibition (known as STAMPEX) will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster in London. This event is one of the leading philatelic occasions over here and we are glad that one of our members, Mr. G. E. Mason, has had an exhibit accepted. This will contain sheets showing various early Warsaw cancellations, and has already won Mr. Mason prizes at local competitions this season. Our secretary, Mr. Z. T. Bokiewicz will also be at STAMPEX this year as a stand-holder for the first time.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1959 DUES?
SEND \$2.50 TO THE TREAS. NOW!**

LET'S MEET THE NEGUS BROTHERS

By J. J. DOMAR

Our regular contributor Ron Negus is the younger of two philatelic brothers from London, England. Although both are keen and active philatelists, each concentrates on a different specialty.

Ron is the Press Officer of the Polish Philatelic Society and in this capacity is responsible for maintaining a link with our own Polonus Society. Jim, on the other hand, is interested primarily in Far Eastern philately and is perhaps best known for his work with the Junior Philatelic Society of which he is the Honorary Librarian. This job involves keeping in touch with the editors of all the leading English-language philatelic magazines in England and the U. S. A.

Both brothers are enthusiastic correspondents, averaging an outgoing mail of about 100 letters per week between them. This large output is looked after purely in their spare time, as both are employed in full-time non-philatelic occupations during the day. They jokingly agree that they should employ a stenographer if they could afford it, but since practically every activity they handle is done on a voluntary basis it is just not possible.

Most people are surprised to find that the two brothers are still young men. Jim is 32 and Ron is 25. They find it difficult to understand why the majority of their correspondents thing they are both in their "middle-fifties."

Jim's main collecting fields are Mongolia and China, although he is actively interested in many other countries including Japan, Persia, Albania, Hungary, Ryukus, Central America and Portugal. He is always keen to try to collect "difficult" and "unpopular" countries. He got interested in Mongolia, for example, when he discovered that there was really no authentic information to be had on stamps issued since the War, and it seemed impossible to make contact with the country. After much hard work, the result was a complete list of stamps which Stanley Gibbons are using for their Catalogue.



RON NEGUS



JIM NEGUS

The quest for information accounts for Jim's great interest in philatelic literature. As librarian for the Junior Philatelic Society ("Junior" only to the "Royal Philatelic Society", Britain's premier Society), he compiles every two months the "Index to Current Philatelic Literature" published in **The Stamp Lover**. This involves reading about 140 regularly published magazines and indexing their contents: about 2,000 references to articles are permanently recorded this way. Members of the J.P.S. bombard him with questions on many varied topics on which they want information; he deals with each personally, going to endless trouble to trace whatever is available from his Library, and sends out hundreds of items of published material each year.

Jim got the taste for philatelic writing fairly early and since his modest debut in print in 1950 (an article on Esperanto stamps) has had about 70 articles published on a wide range of subjects. He has had a hand in revising Gibbons Catalogue and compiling a directory of current journals for the **Stamp Collectors' Annual**, and is editor of the **Journal of Chinese Philately** published by the China Philatelic Society of London. Like his brother, Jim contributes a regular "London Letter" to **The Great Wall**, the China specialist's journal published in Australia.

He is a member of four national Societies and seven specialized groups and complains that he is never allowed to be an ordinary member, but is drafted for Committee work almost as soon as he joins! He has given talks on Mongolia and China to many Societies in

the Greater London area, something he seems to enjoy doing. Although not much interested in competing for prizes in exhibitions he has picked up one or two cups and is often asked to enter displays for exhibitions and Society functions.

People are always asking him: "Are you interested in anything else but stamps?" He is, and manages to give a little of his time to the work of the British Interplanetary Society, the Historical Association, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, of all of which he is a member.

Ron is much more restricted in his collecting and concentrates on two main groups—Poland and North Viet-Nam. The reason for this is his other interests, which leave him little time for collecting. In addition to playing regularly for his own youth club at table tennis during the winter and tennis in the summer, Ron is also secretary of a local Table Tennis League. This comprises teams from 15 youth clubs and caters for nearly a hundred boys aged between 14 and 21. Another voluntary interest in the Junior Section of his own club and once a week he devotes an evening to managing the 40-or-so members, whose ages range from 11 to 14. He has been keenly interested in all aspects of the Youth Service and in the past has attended many other courses and conferences dealing with this work. Like Jim, he finds that more often than not he is drafted on to administrative duties, and is at present a member of the Youth Committee of his local Borough Council. His "spare" time is devoted to freelance journalism and he is now giving up some of his other voluntary posts to concentrate more on this activity.

Apart from the Polish Philatelic Society, Ron is a member of four other philatelic groups including the Universal Ship Cancellation Society of the U.S.A. He has contributed to their magazine and his work has also appeared in many of the English philatelic journals. A recent article under his by-line was published in **Stamps**. With the assistance of Tom Morgan (editor of the **Philatelic Magazine**) he recently compiled the first complete English listing of the stamps of North Viet-Nam and

this was published in **Stamp Collectors Annual 1959**. Other works due shortly include a monograph about the Polish stamp issues of the 1920-25 period and an index to our own **Polonus Bulletin**.

Some 18 months ago, Ron invented a philatelic accessory called the "Philarule", which was marketed by the firm at which he works and sold well in England and abroad. This gauge is designed to measure the diameters of postmarks, and also surcharges, quickly and accurately without having to use a magnifying glass. Ron has also designed acket stationery which is now used by an entirely new type of Exchange Pamany English societies. This came out of another of his "hobbies" which is the study of office equipment and business methods.

Generally, both brothers work independently in the philatelic field, but they recently combined forces to write a series of articles for **The Stamp Lover** called "How to produce an amateur magazine". Improving non-commercial magazines is a subject about which they both feel strongly. Their series was so well received that it is now being considered for publication in book form.

The feature which strikes the outside observer about these two young philatelists is their constant activity. Neither of them could stay inactive for long, and both find new ideas and theories forming automatically about almost everything they read or come into contact with.

Their study at home is piled high with magazines, books, draft schemes, etc., and every evening between 7:30 and 11 p.m. their typewriter is in continuous use. The partnership is a firm one and each contributes to the knowledge of the other by constant discussions on almost everything under the sun. Their guiding principle is that if they can help others with information they will. The partnership may soon be broken up, however, because Ron became engaged last December and is now busy making his wedding plans. Whatever happens in the future, though, we may be sure that we shall hear a great deal more about these two in the years ahead.

POLAND'S POSTAL SERVICE IN DANZIG

By EDWARD NOWAK, SR.

(Reprinted from STAMPS of 2/21/59)

According to registered philatelic facts, the Polish postal service at Gdansk (Danzig) was inaugurated in 1654 by John Casimir, King of Poland. The mail service, from its inception, waged constant battle with postal services of Prussia, due to the insistence of that country on maintaining service through Poland, especially between the two Prussias.

The second partition of Poland in 1793, and the resultant Prussian absorption of Gdansk, was the cause of liquidation of Poland's postal service in that region of Europe. The last Polish postmaster to serve was A. Stanislawski.

On the strength of the Versailles Treaty (January 10, 1920) Poland again began to organize its own postal department in the newly created "Free City of Danzig" and the Polish corridor to the sea.

Pursuant to laws arrived at during the Convention of Paris (November 9, 1920), Poland not only was given

a free hand in establishing a postal service in the "Free City of Gdansk" and the Port of Danzig, but the "Free City itself made agreements to rent or sell to Poland land space or buildings indispensable for Poland's postal facilities: offices, telegraph and telephone housing", etc.

The Paris Convention also set up rules upon which Poland could obtain the right-of-way privileges for stringing wire net works through Danzig and the Polish Corridor with connections into Poland proper.

Because several legal points were not concluded during the Convention in Paris, one more meeting was called in Warsaw to iron out discrepancies between Poland and the Free City of Gdansk. The protocol agreement was signed (September 24, 1921) by Leon Plucinski for Poland, while a Senator from the Free City, Julius Jewelowski, signed for the opposition.

The seeming lawfully arrived at agreements and rules in Warsaw did



Nazi "Brownshirts" destroying Polish mailbox in Danzig during Polish post office employees' defense of post office. (Photo from Poland's archives). (Cut courtesy STAMPS).

not prevent a boycott, deliberate sabotage of Polish postal property and outright commando tactics by German nationals in Gdansk.

At first, due to a provisional agreement between the representatives of the Free City of Gdansk and Poland, the first Polish post office was established at Danzig October 10, 1920, and was named "Urząd Ekspedycji Pocztovej" (Office of Postal Expediting.) The duties of this postal service were the receiving of parcels from United States and elsewhere and the forwarding beyond the Polish border of parcels and bags of mail by sea-ways.

After special agreements arrived at between representatives of Poland and authorities of the Free City of Gdansk, a second post office was opened (April 14, 1923) in the Main R. R. Station in Gdansk. This post office No. 2) was assigned to maintain contacts with the post office in "Port of Gdansk" and to supervise the inter-Polish postal service, mail trucks, and correspondence on trains arriving at Gdansk.

Neither post office number one nor two was open to the public. During January 5, 1925, the Polish Postal and Telegraph Office—after a public ceremony—officially opened post office building number three on Hevelius Square. This establishment was opened for the general public.

The Gdansk mail was franked with stamps overprinted "PORT GDAŃSK". The adhesives were valid only for mail service at Polish post offices or for letters deposited in the Polish mail boxes placed at strategic street corners in Gdansk. Mailmen in Polish postal uniforms did not function until 1925.

The establishment of the Polish post office in Hevelius Square caused much destruction and sabotage by Prussian nationals in Danzig. As early as the night of January 5-6 "unknown vagrants" painted over Polish mail boxes, and poured oil or tar into mail receptacles. In general, anti-Polish attacks were started to harass the Polish mail service.

The mail deposited in the "Free City of Gdansk" post offices was returned after a lapse of days, because it was addressed "Gdansk" instead of "Danz-



Polish stamp of 1946 issued in honor of the Polish postal employees killed in German attack on Danzig, Sept. 1939. (Cut courtesy STAMPS).

ig". Echoes of the incidents reverberated through Warsaw to the meetings of the League of Nations, International Forum, and the Tribunal of Justice at The Hague. Poland suffered the humiliating Prussian insults until 1939 when the Nazis took an open stand, and Hitler's might began threatening an open war on Poland.

It was during the late morning of August 25, 1919, that Hitler's battleship Schleswig-Holstein steamed into the "Free Port of Gdansk" and anchored in the canal. There were no incidents until Tuesday August 29, when at noon, in front of the Commissariat of Prussian Police, the "visitors" from the Nazi battleship murdered a Polish mail carrier by throwing the victim to the ground and kicking him to death. Thus the Polish mail carrier, Franciszek Mionskowski was the first victim of Nazi brutality in the "Free City" of Gdansk.

Two days later—September 1, 1939—at 4:35 a.m. the Schleswig-Holstein opened intense fire on the Polish barracks on Westerplatte. At the same instant detachments of Danzig police and battalions of Nazi brownshirted S. A. Troops attacked the Polish post office building at Hevelius Square. The S. A. Troops encircled the Polish post office building and attempted to enter. The Polish employees in the building: mailmen, officials, truck drivers, janitors, and custodians, barricaded the building and attempted to communicate with the General Commissioner of Poland at Neugarten Street, but in vain. The wires had been cut.

With four machine guns, several carbines, and hand grenades the Polish

crew in the encircled building decided to fight and die rather than surrender.

The S. S. Troopers from the S. S. Heimwehr regiments, under the personal command of Gen. Eberhardt, charged at 5 a.m. against the fifty Poles barricaded in the building. The crew of Polish mailmen opened withering fire and tossed hand grenades forcing the S. S. Troops to retreat with considerable losses. Three more times the Nazis attacked and each time were repulsed with losses. The Polish postmaster, Konrad Guderski, was in command of the valiant crew, and when the S. S. Troopers finally broke into the hall on the first floor of the post office he entered the hall with hand grenade in hand, and blew himself up along with twenty-seven Nazis. After the heroic death of the postmaster the command was taken over by Alfons Flisykowski, already wounded and walking with aid of improvised crutch.

By this time over six agonizing hours had passed for the barricaded Polish postal workers. The S. S. Troops again charged, this time with the help of artillery firing point blank from a fifty-meter distance beyond the bridge over Rudnik. Armored cars also now arrived, and as if that was not sufficient to



Stamp issued Sept. 1, 1958, commemorating the defense of post office, showing postman with carbine against background of mailbox. Inscription at top reads "They were the first". (Cut courtesy STAMPS).

subdue fifty ill-armed Poles the S.S. Troopers started a new attack with flame throwers. The domed building, saturated with gasoline by Nazis, soon was a blazing inferno.

After fourteen hours—at 7 p.m.—the valiant Polish postal workers gave up. The thirty-five survivors, most wounded and burned, emerged from the building under the white flag of truce. Even at that moment of surrender, Dr. Jan



Valiant Polish postal employees being executed by machine-gun fire after surrendering. (Photo from Polish archives) (Cut courtesy STAMPS).

Michon, the assistant secretary of the post office fell mortally wounded. Joseph Wasik, superintendent of Polish Post Office No. 1, was literally roasted to death in the flames of a firethrower in the hands of a Nazi Trooper.

Disregarding all rules of war and the International Convention the Hitlerites refused to recognize the Poles as combatants. The Nazi military court, on orders from Gen. Eberhardt, condemned (Oct. 2, 1939) the Poles to death. Of the original fifty Polish postal workers barricaded in the post office building, only elderly Mrs. Malgorzata Pipkowa escaped the death sentence. Her husband, Jan Pipkowa, a janitor in the destroyed post office, had died a hero's death, carbine in hand.

The sentence of death was carried out Oct. 5, 1939. The valiant Poles, most of them wounded, burned and maimed, were "marched" over to the former Prussian rifle range in the vicinity of Zaspa, near Wrzeszcz, where they were mowed down with machine-gun fire by S.S. Troopers.

The bodies of the martyred Poles were secretly buried by Nazis in a single grave on Zaspa which even today, after careful search, remains unknown.

The grateful Polish Government, in recognition of the valiant and above duty defense of the Gdansk Polish Post Office, decorated the standard of the "Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Workers Alliance" with the order of *Virtuti Militari* V class.

The Polish Ministry of Posts also honored the memory of their valiant mailmen and postal employees with two commemorative stamps; one in 1946, and the second in 1958.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Editor, *Polonus Bulletin*

Dear Sir:

You no doubt would be interested to note the existence of what I believe has not yet been recorded. It is Poland No. 687 (Scott's) a variety fully perforated and gummed but with the yellow (or as Scott describes it, the orange color) color omitted.

H. English
315 Grove Ave.
Falls Church, Va.

MEETING OF MARCH 13, 1959

At the first meeting after Polpex 1959, there were twenty-three members and four visitors present. As through the 20 years of the existence of the Society, it turned out to be a "hot" meeting. Since the President was absent (he attended the Midwest Stamp Show downtown where he had a bourse table) Vice-President John Bor opened the meeting and thanked the Committees that worked at Polpex. Next, Polpex Director Stefan Kochanski gave a short report of the promising financial standing after the show. He too expressed his gratitude to the members for their participation in the exhibition. At this point a long discussion developed with many members participating. It was really a pleasure to hear all the favorable comments on our 20th Polpex from old-timers like Lester Jankowski, Roman Reinowski, Myron Steczynski and others. Only one complaint was voiced by the Seal Director Adam Kloskowski, who said that orders for seals were not as great as last year.

The Membership Committee reported two new members who were unanimously accepted. The Easel and Frame Committee reported one damaged frame and was authorized to buy eight additional frames in order to make up a full set of 144 plus extras.

Lester Jankowski, organizer of the appeal to Postmaster Gen. Summerfield for the issuance of a Paderewski stamp made a summary of his activities. Thus far he had over 800 signatures on the petition. He outlined his next move in search of support for this cause, and appealed to all members and sympathizers to send as many signatures and petitions as possible to the Postmaster General.

Myron Steczynski reported that *Polonus* received an invitation from the Chicago Philatelic Society to take part in their *Polonus* Night meeting in the first part of May. He suggested that we prepare a good Polish program.

Before old business was closed for new business, Mr. Kochanski brought up the Polpex again. He said his nerves could not hold up any more and was wondering when the criticism would begin. Through the whole meeting not

one word of criticism was brought up and he could not believe his ears.

Once again the Vice-President and other members expressed thanks to the Polpex Chairman and emphasized its success.

As there was no further business at hand a motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting.

—Roman Strzelecki, Secretary

A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COMMISSION OF THE POLISH PHILATELIC ASSOC. "P. Z. F.", POLAND

On the occasion of the 400th Anniversary of the Polish Posts, postage stamps were issued of a 2.50 złoty value in sheets of six stamps per sheet, dark-olive in color with the cream color background.

Recently, some private individuals were selling the above stamps and GROUND, that is, on plain white paper sheets, BUT WITHOUT THE BACK-

The Scientific Research Commission, on the basis of conducted experiments, has ascertained that these stamps are the normal stamps from which, through chemical action the cream colored

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

background has been extricated.

Such stamps are of no philatelic value.

Dr. Józef Tislowitz, Chairman
Stanisław Żółkiewski, Sec'y
Scientific Research Commission

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