

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Here's Your Chance To Exhibit at POLPEX 77

With this edition of the "Polonus Bulletin" you will find an entry application which you must fill out if you want to exhibit at POLPEX 77. The show is limited to only 140 frames as it will be held in a smaller location—Polish Veterans building (S.W.A.P.), 6005 W. Irving Park Rd., in Chicago. Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

As the exhibition will take place on March 19-20, 1977, you have plenty of time to get the exhibit ready. With the holidays coming and winter snows to keep you at home, you can't miss this time.

The U.S. Bicentennial Celebrations continue to July 4, 1977. Our POLPEX 77 theme will again dwell on the Polish contribution to the U.S. Bicentennial emphasizing other contributors than C. Pulaski and T. Kosciuszko.

Our exhibition is not limited to collections relating to the theme. Your material could be any subject. Poland material is the main class however, and the Grand Award is given to a Polish display. Awards are also given to non-Polish exhibits in the Foreign class.

The early bird catches the worm so act now!

NEW POLAND PRICE LIST

Member Joseph Bieniecki just published an impressive Poland Specialized Price List covering Poland No. 1 all the way thru the issues of 1975. The stamps are listed with Scott, Minkus & Ruch catalog numbers and prices are shown for mint, used and first day covers. Besides the regular issues, semi-postal, air post, postage due, official and newspaper stamps, there are listings of occupation, occupation semi-postal, rural delivery, and official stamps, offices in Danzig, Turkish Empire and exile government in Great Britain. Interested collectors may write to Jos. Bieniecki, Box 100, Granite City, Illinois 62040.

NEW MEMBERS

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First Issue of the Polish Consular Mail in Turkey

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG



On June 2, 1919, the Polish Government started a mail service between its Consulate in Constantinople and Warsaw to transport public mail between Turkey and Poland. For this purpose, on April 19, 1919, the state graphic agency in Warsaw overprinted a few thousand current Polish stamps with the inscription: "Levant" (Scott's 2K1-12) and sent most of them to the Polish Consulate in Constantinople.

To mail a regular or registered letter, the customer handed it unstamped to the postal clerk at the Consulate who, upon receipt of postage, would both affix and cancel these overprinted stamps. The mint stamps were not sold neither in Poland nor in Constantinople, but 100 sets of 12 mint stamps were presented by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Warsaw to the Polish Philatelic Society, which distributed them to its members.

To satisfy numerous philatelists who complained about the non-availability of these stamps, the Ministry ordered the overprinting of 30,000 additional sets in October 1919. These stamps were sold in mint condition at the Philatelic Window of the Post Office, Warsaw*.

This second overprinting was made with the same plates as the first but appears somewhat different: The letters have slightly wider lines, the ink is shiny and brick red whereas on the first issue it is dull and cherry red and most important, under ultraviolet illumination, the first issue overprint letters have bright fluorescent edges while those of the second do not.

Although the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs considered both printings as one issue, it became customary among philatelists to consider only the stamps of the first issue as the authentic ones. Those of the second are treated as officially made reprints and Scott's Catalogue describes them as such. However, the term "reprint" means the printing (from original plates) was made after the use of the stamps for postage was discontinued, whereas in this case the second issue was made while the stamps were still valid for postage on letters from Turkey. The fact the stamps of the second edition can be distinguished from those of the first, and they have not been reported postally used, makes them philatelically much less desirable than the others.

The use of the stamps from the second issue for postage on letters from Constantinople was legal and can be documented in at least one case. I have in my collection a postally used cover (see illustration) on which the 1 Mk stamp is from the first issue, while the remaining stamps, 1.50 Mk, 2 Mk, 2.50 Mk and 5 Mk, are from the second. The cover is addressed to Stanislaw Frackiewicz, District Director of "the Office to Fight the Black Market" in Krakow, All Saints' square, 2. The sender is Dr. Tadeusz Zakrzewski, Constantinople, Grande Rue de Pera, 116/15. The cancellation reads: "POCZTA POLSKA * KONSTANTYNOPOL" in a ring with the date: "8 NOVEMBER, 1920" in the bridge. This type of cancellation with lines on the top and on the bottom of the date Bridge is illustrated in Reference 1. It appears there on a cover which is very similar to the one reported here (except for having been sent by a different person to a different address). The arrangement of stamps is identical in both cases, indicating that they were indeed pasted on by the postal clerk rather than by his customers.

Both covers were cancelled on the same day; their registration numbers are 621 and 619, respectively. On the reverse of both covers is the round seal of the Polish Mail in Constantinople with the Polish Eagle as described in reference 2. I do not know whether the stamps on the cover shown in reference 1 are from the first or from the second overprint edition. Both covers are obviously philatelically motivated (the postage is overpaid). Apparently some postal customers, whose friends collected stamps, asked the clerk to put one each of the available stamps on their letters.

The question arises concerning the reason for the mixture of stamps from the first and the second overprint issues on the cover shown here. One possibility is that mint stamps could have been

bought privately at the Philatelic Window in Warsaw, transported to Constantinople and used there at the Polish Post Office for postage together with the 1 Mk stamp of the first edition. This is unlikely to have happened, since the post office did not sell mint stamps they would not have accepted a letter with uncanceled stamps already affixed.

A more probable explanation is, the consulate in Constantinople, upon depleting its original stock of overprinted stamps, received from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, in the fall of 1920, a small quantity of stamps from the second issue of overprints and used them for a short time. When this supply was also exhausted, towards the end on November 1920, Polish stamps with locally made overprints "P. P. C." (Poste Polonaise Constantinople) were used.

This possibility could be confirmed by reports of more covers bearing stamps from the second issue, either alone or together, with the stamps of the first, mailed by different persons to different addresses in the fall of 1920. This could change the status of the second issue overprints from that of "reprints" to normally-issued and used stamps with full philatelic value.

REFERENCES:

- 1 Lucjan Teter, "Levant" Filatelista #11 (350), June 1, 1970, p. 240 (in Polish)
- 2 "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" Vol. III. Warsaw 1962, Ruch p. 734, (86) (in Polish)

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

NEW MEMBER

George Alevizos
Box 5159
Santa Monica, Cal. 90405

CORRECTION

Through a printer's mistake a wrong word appeared in the obituary article on Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz in last month's "Polonus Bulletin". The paragraph should have read as follows:

"He was one of our founding members in 1939 and a promoter of the philately of Poland long before Polonus existed."

MINUTES OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING
OCTOBER 22nd, 1976 — Polish Army Veterans Hall

The meeting began at 8:19 p.m. with 20 members and 2 guests in attendance. The minutes of the previous two meeting were read by the secretary, M/S/C Mr. Bartczak, Mr. Kupiec: to accept the minutes. Treasurer's report: After adding what came in and subtracting what went out, we have a balance of \$2,742.46. M/S/C Mr. Bartczak, Mr. Mikucki: to accept the report. A discussion then followed about the possibility of putting some of the funds in a certificate as we do not need so much in working capital until POLPEX time. M/S/C Mr. Gobby, Mr. Wolosewick: to place \$1,500.00 in a 90 day certificate. There were no applications for membership.

Old Business: Mr. Link reported that he is preparing the contracts for dealers for POLPEX 77. Time is getting late and these need to go out soon. The Audit Committee reported no progress. The treasurer states, he is ready for them whenever they get ready for him. By-Laws Committee is finished with the third draft of the revised By-Laws. They should have something for the membership by the end of November.

New Business: Mr. Schafer read a letter from the Kozakiewicz family expressing their thanks to Polonus members for their expressions of sympathy on the death of Dr. Kozakiewicz. Mr. Szebel noted that the INTERPHIL Committee has returned the \$25.00 we sent them to get the show underway. Mr. Szebel announced that the Christmas Party will be December 10th. The Chicago area members will be notified by mail as to the location. It is narrowed down to two and he will check again with each to see about the rates, availability, etc. A short discussion about the arrival of the ship (boat) M.S. Polonaise, pros, cons, and various other feelings were brought out by the members. Mr. Jezioranski noted an error in the latest "Bulletin." Correction should read "Dr. Kozakiewicz began collecting Poland before the founding of POLONUS", not "founding of Poland." M/S/C Mr. Pieg-zik, Mr. Link: to adjourn.

Presentation: Mr. Frank Wolosewick spoke on his recent trip to Poland. He left Warsaw on September 8th and spent 34 days in Poland, traveling all around the country. Unfortunately, it rained for 27 of the days he was there. Frank offered many interesting highlights of his trip ranging from the food (good to lousy), the prices (good to lousy) the architecture (mostly lousy). As far as philatelic material, there is nothing available in the shops except the recent issues. Frank spent some time with Mr. Schmutz, the expert on the Krakow issues, and found one of the finest collections of this issue in the hands of a collector. Frank reported that in the near future we will all know the "truth about the Krakows", based on some yet unreleased information. We can hardly wait! The evening ended with much food (all good) and we adjourned into the night (mostly lousy).

Respectfully submitted,

James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING
NOVEMBER 12th, 1976 — Polish Army Veterans Hall**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. Szebel at 8:30 p.m. with 14 members and one guest in attendance. The minutes of the last meeting were read. M/S/C Mr. Resner, Mr. Jusack: to accept the minutes. The treasurer did not have a current financial report, but indicated that a certificate in the amount of \$1500.00 has been deposited as moved in the last meeting. The president then asked Mr. Mazepa to summarize the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of October 22nd: The By-Laws are in their third revision and should be ready to present to the membership by the end of November. Mr. Szebel is working with the Jansco Co. about striking of Polonus medals. Mr. Kawecki will submit a design early next year. The first issue of the Polonus Handbook has been edited and is being typed, reported Mr. Mazepa. Should go to the printers in November. Mr. Szebel and Mr. Mazepa will help Mr. Schafer arrange for speakers. Mr. Lipinski is willing to come to this country to work for Polonus. We might have to pay \$200.00 for his air fare. Mr. Poniecki would be pleased to have him stay at his home. We need to check on the library at the Polish Museum. Mr. Szebel, Mr. Bartczak, and Mr. Schafer will do this after the beginning of the year. Mr. Mazepa proposed sending a letter/Christmas card to the Chicago members to encourage attendance at meetings.

New Members: Applications received from: George Alevizos, Santa Monica, Cal.; Prof. John Godbey, Chicago, Ill.; Leon Kawecki, Buena Park, Cal.; Mr. Zbigniew Stankiewicz, Eddystone, Pa.; and Paul Kniffel, Lompoc, Cal. M/S/C Mr. Jusack, Mr. Zych: to accept into membership.

Old Business: Mr. Link reported we have some designs for the cancellation for POLPEX 77. Mr. Szebel informed us that Mr. Kawecki is designing the souvenir sheet. So far three dealers have signed up. Tables are \$30.00. By-Laws are finished in their final draft form and will be ready for duplication by the end of the week, reported Mr. Mazepa. Mr. Szebel reminded members that the Christmas party will be December 10th, at Irena's Restaurant. Dinner at 8:00, cocktails before, dancing into the night for those who could take it.

New Business: The secretary informed the membership that Mr. Mazepa received a Vermeil medal at the Chicago Philatelic Society exhibition October 8-10, and Mr. Bartczak received the Grand Award and first place in Postal History at POLCAPEX in Vancouver, B.C., October 15-17. The Secretary also noted that the Midwest Stamp Show is in progress and that the Suburban Stamp Club has its exhibition next week in Brookfield. M/S/C Mr. Link, Mr. Styczynski: to adjourn.

Philatelic talk: Mr. Schafer introduced Mr. Burkiewicz who was to speak on the Polish Locals. Mr. Burkiewicz apologized that he did not have time to prepare the talk (which disappointed us all) and he spoke about some prices realized on Poland material at his latest Great Lakes Stamp Auction. Okay, Roman, we'll still get you next year!

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary