

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 76, PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you all know the U.S.A. will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence next

exhibition promises to be the biggest and most exciting ever presented by our Society — indeed, even surpassing POLPEX 73 which honored Copernicus.

However, ambitious undertakings such as an exhibition of this quality and scope just do not materialize on the basis of wishful thinking. Much hard work and many dollars are re-



year. The American Bicentennial will be observed in many ways, including Polonus's own commemoration of this event, POLPEX 76. Built around the Bicentennial theme POLPEX will also pay special attention and tribute to those Poles who played a significant role in the settlement and development of this great nation.

Planning for POLPEX 76 began in 1974. Under the very capable leadership of Alfred Szebel, POLPEX Executive Chairman and Polonus Vice-President, this



required. As always we need the help of our membership. Help in the planning, the execution, the coordination, and the numerous odds and ends which need attention.

Also needed are articles on Polish philately for the philatelic

press. Here is where our out of town members can really help. Please take the time and submit articles. Such contributions have a two-fold benefit: 1) it spotlights our efforts, and 2) it keeps attention focused on what is our main concern, Polish philately!

Fred Szebel earnestly requests your help. If you can spare some time and/or have any special talents please drop Fred a line at: 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016. Paraphrasing Uncle Sam: "We need you!"

We also need your exhibit to help make this the largest showing of Polish material in the U.S.A. Please complete the preliminary entry form included with this bulletin, and return it as soon as possible to Exhibit Chairman, Edward Link. Don't delay, it is important.

Also please give some thought to submitting material for a special auction to be held in conjunction with POLPEX 76. Commission proceeds of this auction will directly accrue to POLPEX to help underwrite some of the many expenses associated with the show, and the balance will go to the owners of the material. Plans call for a combined mail and floor bid auction. So give it some thought. Watch the Bulletin for further details.

As we did with POLPEX 73 we will again have a limited edition medallion specially struck in commemoration of the show. It is designed by and will be made by the eminent Polish sculptor Edward Gorol of Warsaw. A special gilded, and individually numbered medallion will also be given to individuals who contribute \$50.00 or more toward underwriting POLPEX 76. \$25.00 will reserve this medal now. Please send your check or money order to: Ches-

ter Mikucki, 4704 North Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

Remember! We need you, your help, and your contributions both financial and administrative. Help us make POLPEX 76 an event that will both be remembered and one in which we can take exceptional pride.

For general information and details regarding POLPEX 76 you may write to POLPEX Secretary: Walter Kramarski, 4811 S. Springfield Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60632.

If we don't do it now we'll have to wait another one hundred years for the next centennial.

—Thomas J. Gobby
President

POLPEX 76 COMMITTEE

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REMEMINDER

If you have not already done so, please fill out the Membership Directory questionnaire you received last month and mail it to the Secretary. Our plans are to publish the directory in the fall. Let us know if you want to work in any study group.

CZECHO EXHIBITION

Member Joseph Janecka was chairman of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club exhibition July 19-20 honoring the village of Riverside Centennial.

POLONICA

By PROF. ANTONI ŁASZKIEWICZ

Edited by T. J. GOBBY

The postwar years have seen increased articles on various political, scientific, artistic, and technological subjects which have provided considerable impetus to the formation of thematic stamp collections. Nationalistic feelings have also provided the stimulus for various topical collections. Many countries have stamp issues which honor the achievements and accomplishments of other countries. Some typical collections of such material can be classified as: Americana, Bohemica, Galicia, Germanica, Judaica, Lithuanica, and Polonica.

Generally, such collections are historical in nature and are made up of the postage stamps, cancellations and postal stationery of foreign countries. Usually such collections are stamps that portray individuals of a particular country. French collectors are known for such collections.

Polonica is a favorite collecting subject not only in Poland, but all over the world. In 1933 Austria issued a stamp with a portrait of King John Sobieski III. But it wasn't until the end of World War II that the real interest in Polonica began. Shortly after the organization of the Union of Polish Philatelists a contest was announced in its "Information Bulletin" (No. 2). The contest, "Polish Subjects on Foreign Stamps", required each contestant to identify all stamps with Polish subjects of themes that had been issued by Postal Offices around the world. Countries excluded were the Free City of Danzig and the former "General Gouvernement".

Contest results were published in the "Information Bulletin", No. 4, 1952 on pp. 7-9. This was the first listing of stamps on the Polonica theme. This listing was modified by W. Babiarczyk and published in "Filatelista", No. 7-8, 1952, pp. 9-12 (Edinburgh). However, his listing of certain Plebiscite stamps is difficult to support on the basis of the Polonica theme.

The range of collecting on the basis of certain common subjects provides considerable matter for discussion. In the broadest sense we can consider all the postage stamps that ever circulated on Polish territory to fall into the Polonica theme. Such stamps would not only include those introduced by the Polish General Post Office, of invading and occupation states, the Free City of Danzig, the Plebiscites, et al. Generally such emissions are usually found in general collections of Poland.

Judaica is also collected in the same way as Polonica. That is, the issues of the state of Israel, the stamps of the occupying powers before the formation of Israel, and then the stamps of other countries which have Judaica as subject matter.

Besides postage stamps Polonica also includes cancellations and postal stationery honoring Poland, Poles, and Polish history and culture.

Excluded from Polonica are any non-postal issues and memorial editions which are the products of organizations and private individuals. As such Polonica is limited to the strictly philatelic.

Also included in Polonica would be stamps of foreign countries which are the work of Poles. (Editor's note: an example would be stamps designed or engraved by C. Slania of Sweden.)

Post cards can be considered in two ways. More conservative collectors look only at the value, inscription, and design associated with the value. More liberal collectors take into consideration the marginal inscriptions and designs. Such additional inscriptions, not serving a postal purpose, do not qualify a postcard for inclusion in Polonica.

What does or does not qualify as Polonica can be debated. The element of subjectivity can and does enter the picture. Collectors, not satisfied with simply imitating others, have formed collections based on their own concepts and interpretations. Such collections should be considered from the viewpoint of Polonica.

In some cases a collector breaks from traditional Polonica and forms special thematic collections. One such example is the collection of Mr. Peter Bol of London. His "Polish Culture in Philately" received both a gold medal and the Grand Prix Award for best foreign exhibit at *TEMATICA-POZNAN* 68.

Another example of such collections are those built on a Copernican theme. Numerous such collections were formed during the period of the 500th anniversary of the great Astronomer's birth. During this period there were at least 165 stamps issued by 60 countries, 18 pieces of postal stationery, and over 160 cancellations dedicated to Copernicus. Such a quantity of postal material provides sufficient basis for a Copernicana collection. Po-

land itself has issued over 40 postage stamps, 30 post cards, and scores of cancellations dedicated to Copernicus.

Nobel Prize Winners and other subjects also fall in the realm of Polonica. Collectors both in Poland and around the world are eagerly awaiting the publication of a Polonica catalog. This catalog would furnish the information of what is considered Polonica and what is not, and why.

The publication of such a catalog is the objective of the *CLUB POLONICA*, organized November 21, 1964 in Poznan. After considerable committee discussion and annual congresses, the club established certain principles which have been published either in the Club Polonica's *Communiqués* or in "Wielkopolskie Wiadomości Filatelistyczne". Some of this information may also be found in *FILATELISTA* and in bulletins of the *ŁÓDŹ SOCIETY* and others.

What has been published already is sufficient for a Polonica catalog. An important first step has been a booklet entitled: "POLONICA na radzieckich znakach pocztowych/POLONICA on Russian postage stamps", published by the Warsaw Branch of PZF. I proposed this booklet as the model for the Polonica Catalog in 1970.

The cost of printing such a catalog is a problem. The Main Board of the PZF, which would underwrite the costs, at present does not consider the publication of a Polonica Catalog to be necessary or urgent.

Thus, the publication of a Polonica Catalog is delayed "ad calendae graecas".

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INTERNMENT CAMP MAIL

By J. Kwiatkowski

To those of us who were personally involved in it, it is difficult to believe that already thirty years have passed since the cessation of hostilities in Europe. From the philatelic point of view, much has already been said about various war issues appertaining to Poland. There is, however, one field which has hardly been touched upon: mail of Poles who found themselves in the unhappy position of being interned.

There are many reasons for the obscurity of this matter and relative scarcity of material. One of them is perhaps the essentially intimate character of this correspondence and the resulting reluctance of owners to part with such letters or even covers. Another reason being the abnormal circumstances in which both the senders and many of the recipients were at the time.

Thus it is all the more important to take stock at the earliest opportunity before human memory fails on these issues, and the remaining specimens disappear.

From Smith's catalogue "Polish Post Seven Years War" we know that various Polish military personnel were interned in a number of countries. There were internment camps for Poles in Roumania, Hungary, Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Switzerland and Spain. Some of the governments concerned endeavored to provide as good a link as possible between the internees in their care and their relatives or friends by permitting mail to be sent out, in some cases free of charge (which is, in any case, in accordance with the Universal Postal Convention) This is necessitated

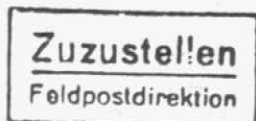
appropriate markings on these letters, making the covers not only historical documents, but also desirable additions to collections of Polish war issues.

Postal arrangements in Swiss camps have been most ably dealt with by M. A. Bojanowicz in an article in his "Wiadomosci Filatelistyczne" of March 1947. There he described stamp issues and markings, and gave a tentative list of the camps. An amended version of this list appeared in a well illustrated article by M. Perzynski in the Warsaw "Filatelist" March 15, '58, subsequently extended with details given by two other collectors, S. Kossobudzki and R. Winiarek ("Filatelist," September 1, '58). The impression of a rubber stamp shown in fig. 1 is typical for the various camps, the name of the latter being, of course, different in each case. It was applied in black. Correspondence within Switzerland was free of charge, and the rubber stamp was impressed in the upper right corner of the envelope. If the letter was for destinations abroad, a proper postage stamp had to be affixed and was cancelled with this rubber stamp, which was undated. Official correspondence had a similar cachet applied but without the camp's location, also a rectangular cachet in red (figs. 2 and 3 respectively). These Swiss cachets are found with German, French or Italian wording.

In Hungary there were several camps harboring Poles. Letters from the camp in Eger bear markings shown in fig. 4. We have seen a few official postcards of Polish origin, issued for



1



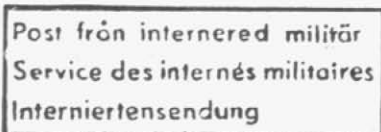
3



4



2



5



6

the "XXth Anniversary of Independence," franked with Hungarian stamps, and sent to Polish deportees in Russia.

Swedish authorities applied rubber stamps shown in figs. 5 and 6, of which one is violet, the other red.

It is regrettable that very little is known of internees' mail from other countries. The covers are very difficult to come by, and the difficulties will not become less with the passing of time. For this reason it might be desirable to collect information from people who were in any of these camps, and record all available markings. The writer would be grateful for any communications relevant to this subject, so that all the gathered information can be passed on in a future and more comprehensive article.

Reprinted from "Polish Philatelic Review" of the Polish Philatelic Society, London, Vol. 4, No. 19, Jan.-Feb. 1959.

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NEW ISSUES

Mountain Guide Tourist Set

On the centenary of mountain guiding in Poland, six postage stamps appeared in April, 1975.

- 1.00 zł.—Stone pine tree and the mountain guide logo on background of Tatras. 8,000,000 issued.
- 1.00 zł.—Gentian flower/Tatras. 8,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł.—Logo/Sudety mountains. 9,600,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł.—Yew tree/Sudety mtns. 6,400,000 issued.
- 4.00 zł.—Logo/Beskidy mountains 4,000,000 issued.
- 4.00 zł.—Arnica flowers/Beskidy 4,000,000 issued.

Multicolor printed in pairs in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designs by Alojzy Balcerzak.

"Arphila 75 Paris"

The "Arphila 75 Paris" international philatelic exhibition was held June 6-16, 1975. A 1.50 zł. was issued in April showing the face of Saint Anne, a fragment of the Altar by Wit Stwosz in St. Mary's Church in Cracow and the symbol of "Arphila 75 Paris". Multicolor printed in rotogravure in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Andrzej Heidrich. Total amount issued: 8 million.

Victory Day

Issued May 9, 1975 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the defeat of fascism. The 1.50 zł. stamp shows an upraised hand holding a bunch of tulips with a hand holding a rifle in the background. Multicolor printed in rotogravure in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Henryk Chylin-ski. Quantity issued: 8,000,000.

European Zootechnical Congress

On the occasion of the 26th Congress of this federation held

in Warsaw, a set of eight was issued on June 23, 1975.

- 50 gr.—hens. 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.00 zł.—geese. 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł.—cattle. 10,000,000 issued.
- 2.00 zł.—cow. 8,000,000 issued.
- 3.00 zł.—racehorse. 8,000,000 issued.
- 4.00 zł.—Arabian horse. 4,000,000.
- 4.50 zł.—pigs. 900,000 issued.
- 5.00 zł.—sheep. 900,000 issued.

Multicolor rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designs by Alojzy Balcerzak.

Health Protection National Fund

To promote the Health Protection National Fund, a 1.50 zł. commemorative was issued in July, 1975. The stamp is gray, blue, and black, and shows a symbolic emblem. Rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Design by Krystyna Tarkowska. Quantity issued: 10,000,000 copies.

—RUCH

POLISH P.O.W. STUDY GROUP

Polonus has been receiving the newsletter published by the Polish P.O.W. and D.P. Camp Study Group. This new, fast growing group seems to be well organized and hopefully will make significant contributions to Polish philately. Polonus member Henry Zebrowski is secretary and more information can be obtained from him. Write to:

Mr. Henry F. Zebrowski
3721 Nile Road
Davidsonville, Md. 21035

VERMEIL TO DR. KUDEREWICZ

Among the major award winners at ARPHILA 75 PARIS was Dr. Jozef L. Kuderevicz who received a Vermeil medal for his "Zeppelin Post" and "Napoleon Bonaparte in the Postal History of Poland".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 25, 1975:

Regular Business Meeting at Weisz Stamps & Coins Hall beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, August 22, 1975:

Joint Meeting with the Germany Philatelic Society at Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams St., beginning at 8 p.m.

HELP! HELP!

The Society is always in need of members to help in various ways. We realize many of our out of town members possess talents and abilities not taken advantage of. Now and in the future we will ask for that help.

The directory is on the way to becoming fact. The next project is a reference library with material available to all members. The "cornerstone" of this library is the Polonus Bulletin, which has been indexed to #200. Our hope is to find someone willing to index them from #201 to 300.

Also needed to be done is the translating from Polish to English of "Filatelista" Indexes published at the end of each year.

On the subject of translating: Do we have a member capable and fluent enough to translate articles from Polish for other members? Here we believe a fee would be appropriate.

If you are able to help, please write—details can be worked out.

—William R. Jusack
Secretary

CORRECTION

In the June issue of the Bulletin we had a typographical error. In listing the winners at STAMPEX-75 an asterisk, signifying a Polonus member, did not precede Mr. R. Z. Poddubiuk's

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— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

name. Our sincerest apologies to Mr. Poddubiuk for this error.

Our congratulations to Mr. Poddubiuk's son, Mark, who took the Junior Grand Award and a Silver-Bronze medal for his fine exhibit "Canadian Post Offices North of the Arctic Circle." Having personally viewed the exhibit I can attest to the quality displayed by this young collector.

—T. J. Gobby

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