

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chgo.

Issue No. 350

Price 50c

February, 1977

POLPEX 77 SOUVENIR SHEET DESIGNED



A busload of members of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society will attend POLPEX 77 on March 19-20, 1977, at the Polish Army Veterans Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd. in Chicago.

The design of the souvenir sheet has been submitted by artist member, Leon Kawecki of California. The theme of "Polish Legacy in the U.S.A." is well portrayed on the sheet. It shows two Polish American heroes in this country's history: explorer Olbracht Zaborowski and General Wladimir Krzyzanowski. Pictured also is actress Helena Modrzejewska who distinguished herself in the field of drama, and Dr. Felix P. Wierzbicki who was first in the history of medicine in California.

The sheets will be issued in pairs, one showing the American eagle, and the other the Polish eagle. Accompanying each pair will be a descriptive folder with a short biographical sketch on each personage. A pair will cost 50¢ plus 13¢ postage, and will be available from John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, Il. 60647.

Also to be issued are a souvenir card, two different cacheted covers which will receive the special POLPEX 77 Cancellation used by the U.S. postal station at our show. Details and prices on these will be announced in your next **Polonus Bulletin**.

As is customarily done every year, a program catalog will be published for the exhibition.

Artist Kawecki submitted a design for the cover; Myron Steczynski is writing the feature article which will appear with the catalog of the exhibits, advertisements, list of well wishers, etc.

MILCOPEX 77

Due to the sudden closing of the exhibition area in the Plankinton House Hotel, MILCOPEX 77, the annual exhibition and bourse of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society will be moved to Ramada Inn — Airport, 641 S. 13th St., Milwaukee. The exhibition will be held March 4-5-6, 1977, the same weekend as previously announced.

A 170 twelve-page frame exhibition and a 34-dealer bourse is planned for the event. Polar Philately is the theme of the show. Five postal administrations; the USPS, Bureau of Engraving will have sales booths and demonstrations; Canada, India, Australia, U.N. and the Lundy Island P.O.

Chicagoland Polonus members are planning to attend. At the last meeting some eight people raised their hands when asked who would attend. An effort is being made to rent a bus or van so as to save on travel expenses. Members and their friends interested in going to Milwaukee for MILCOPEX 77 are asked to contact John Bartczak, phones: 731-0241 & 221-4516.

COMING EVENTS

March 4th — 6th, 1977:

MILCOPEX, Milwaukee Show. will be held at the Ramada Inn, Airport, Milwaukee.

March 19th — 20th, 1977:

POLPEX 77

March 26th — 27th, 1977:

ROCKFORD STAMP SHOW at the Clock Tower Inn, I-90 and Business 20 in Rockford.

POLONUS HANDBOOK ALMOST READY

The first in a series of Handbooks to be prepared by the Society will be presented at POLPEX 77. This issue will be devoted to the "Polish Occupation of Russia by the I Corps of General Dowbór-Muśnicki". Our editor, Mr. James Mazepa, announced that the issue will contain two articles. The first will be the lengthy treatise by Thaddeus Gryzewski on the history, stamps, stationery, postmarks and personnel of the I Polish Corps. The second article by Dr. Stanley Kronenberg will discuss the various forgeries of this issue. When published, this Handbook will be the finest and most authoritative presentation of this issue available.

MEMBER'S MART

Wanted by collector: Poland #1, mint, used and covers; Pre-1939 First Flights and LOPP covers. Write: James Mazepa, Hines VA Hospital, P.O. Box 381, Hines, IL 60141

* * *

Wanted: Pre-stamp covers used in Galicia. Also Polish Legion material, General Gouvernement covers and cards.

Write: John Bartczak, 10428 Avenue "O", Chicago, IL 60617

* * *

The Members Mart is yours — use it!

NEW MEMBERS

Josephine Rupinski Fitzgerald
14 Washburne Pl.

Caldwell, N.J. 07006

Stanislaus W. Pekala
23841 Ada

Warren, Mich. 48091

Luke J. Miodonski
4510 Bermuda St.

Phila, PA. 19124

JOHN GAPINSKI PASSES AWAY

By FRANK E. WOLOSEWICK

John Gapinski, **Polonus** Honorary Member, passed away in his sleep at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital, on February 4th, just two days short of his 80th birthday. He has been in failing health for over the past two years, but managed to keep his various interests alive in several of his hobbies.

John emigrated from Poznan, in 1914, as a young man of 17 years, and settled in Chicago, where he lived all of his life. Like all new arrivals, John had to make his own way in Chicago. He worked generally in a drug store during his youth; then gradually acquired additional education, he enrolled in a course of Chemical Engineering at the Armour Institute of Technology (now Illinois Institute of Technology), and graduated in 1925, with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

John was also a registered pharmacist, as well as a chemical engineer and decided to make pharmacy as his life work with his knowledge of chemistry helping him along the way.

John had an intense interest in things Polish. He not only collected stamps of Poland, but was also vitally interested in the archeological developments and in the growth of Poland as a nation.

He was one of the founding members of **Politechnik Club**, a group of engineers of Polish descent who attended Armour Institute of Technology. In 1975, the Illinois Institute of Technology honored him on his 50th year of graduation.

John had a unique sense of humor; his witticism was remark-



able; his play on words and his story telling was one of the outstanding performances of the monthly meetings of the **Poli-technik Club**.

Shortly after the beginning of W.W. II, together with Frank Wlosewick, he began to study and analyze the Kraków Issues. The work was exceedingly difficult, what with the shortages of suitable stamp material for comparative study, as well as the technological problems involved with precise measurements of the surcharges printed on Austrian sstamps. The work was carried on for about ten years, and stimulated considerable interest in the Kraków issues, to a point where Kraków issues are now one of the important facets of Polish philately. Other researchers have extended the scope of the work much further.

He did an extensive amount of translating of German philatelic articles into English; and was a co-author of the early series of articles on Kraków stamps published in the **Polonus** bulletin.

His passing is a loss to **Polonus** and to many of his friends.

POLES AND HUNGARIANS - UNITED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

By DR. MIECZYSLAW A. LIPINSKI

On November 26, 1976, Stephen Jendrychowski, Polish Ambassador to Hungary, unveiled a statue of General Joseph Wysocki in the Park of the National Museum in Budapest. General Wysocki is known not only for his participation in the Polish November Uprising of 1830-31, but also as the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Legions which fought in Hungary under the famous Hungarian patriot, Lajos Kossuth during the Hungarian War for Independence in 1848-49. This monument is a gift of the Polish people to the Hungarian people.

During the Hungarian War for Independence many Poles fought alongside the Hungarians. Among them was General Joseph Bem (affectionately known as "Grandpa" to the Hungarians), the bro-

thers Joseph and Mieczyslaw Woroniecki, Thomas Milkowski, who used the pen name "Thomas Jeż", and Counts Mierosławski, Dembinski, Bulharin, and the Commander of the Polish Cavalry, Count Tchorznicki. Also there were Captains Ignacy Czernik and Konstanty Malczynski and many others.

The dedication of the statue was preceded by a joint meeting of Poles and Hungarians in the Polish Cultural Society of Hungary building in Budapest. This symposium stressed the hundreds of years of friendship of these two peoples. Mention was made of the common struggle against Turks in the tenth century, and then later with the Germans.

Many Polish poets and novelists also allude to the Hunga-



Postcard prepared by Polish Cultural Society of Hungary with special cancellation used on the occasion of the unveiling of the General Joseph Wysocki monument.

rian's fight for freedom. These include Jan Brzoza, Jadwiga Charniec and others.

Dr. Mieczysław Lipiński was invited as an official guest to represent the "Polonica" Club of the Polish Philatelic Society. He presented specially designed philatelic awards to Ing. Henri Pabianiak, President of the Polish Cultural Society in Hungary; and to Dr. Farkasensky, Mayor of Budapest.

The Budapest Central Post Office used a special commemorative canceller on November 26, which depicts a Polish Eagle with an inscription in Hungarian, that reads: "Unveiling of the Monument - Budapest, Nov. 26, 1976 - Joseph Wysocki, Army General".

The Executive Committee of the Polish Cultural Organization also prepared 2,000 postcards with a portrait of General Wysocki in an Hungarian Army uniform.

The official ceremonies concluded with a banquet at the Polish Embassy honoring those Polish Volunteers who fought "For Your Freedom and Ours" in the ill-fated Hungarian War of 1848.

Edited by James Mazepa

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Av., Norridge, IL 60653. This will insure your receiving the Bulletin promptly and avoid Polonus the expense of postage dues.

BULLETIN AD RATES

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IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Mr. Schafer:

Please convey my sincerest thanks to all the Polonus members for the lovely flowers and the visits in memory of my father, John Gapinski. Your thoughtful expressions of sympathy are deeply appreciated and especially meaningful because I know how important the Society and its activities have always been to Dad. The honorary membership and awards pleased him very much. I regret I did not locate them early enough to display them. However, they will be wonderful remembrances for me — reminders of the great enjoyment he derived from the Polonus philatelic activities, as well as your appreciation of his contribution to the Society.

My special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Al Rybarski, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Strzelecki, Chester Makowski, Sebastian Styczynski, as well as you and your wife, for giving their time and thoughtfulness.

Gratefully,
Dolores Gapinski-Banzhaf

POW/DP CAMP STUDY GROUP

The Jan.-Feb. 1977 Newsletter of the Polish POW and DP Camps Study Group carries an article on how the prisoner of war stamps came about at camps Woldenberg, Gross-Born, Neubrandenburg and Murnau. The author, M. Lubinski, clears up many questions one may have on these issues.

Worthy of note is a review on a handbook in German on the POW Olympic Games issues by Heiko Volk, Jr.

For more information on this study group write to H. F. Zebrowski, Editor, 3721 Nile Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

**POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING of February 11, 1977
at the Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Park Road**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Mr. Schafer, at 8:10 P.M. with 13 members and 2 guests in attendance. The minutes, having been sent to the members, were called for approval. M/S/C, Messrs. Bartczak, Poniecki; to accept the minutes. The Treasurer reported \$636.32 in disbursements so that we have a checkbook balance of \$237.73. M/S/C, Messrs. Bor, Resner: to accept the report. The following were proposed for membership: Luke Miodonski, Philadelphia, Penna.; Stanislaus Pekala, Warren, Michigan; and Josephine Fitzgerald, Caldwell, New Jersey. M/S/C. Messrs. Wolosewick, Janecka: to accept into membership.

Old Business: POLPEX 77: Mr. Link reported that everything is completed except for the cover of the program. We need to check the frames to see that they are all in good condition. **By-Laws Committee:** Mr. Mazepa reported since the last meeting was cancelled, the members would have an additional two weeks to read the revisions. If no amendments are proposed by the next meeting, the membership will be asked to approve the revised By-Laws.

New Business: Mr. Schafer announced the death of Mr. John Gapsinski, and the members rose for a moment of silent respect for this long time member of Polonus. Mr. Mazepa announced the rules for the Clothesline Exhibit next meeting. Members will exhibit three favorite pages from their collections. These will be "mounted" on a clothesline (provided by Mr. Poniecki — his wife vowed not to do the laundry that week; and the clothespins provided by Mr. Bartczak, who reminded the members that he was coerced into bringing these womanly items). Those who have received Grand Awards in a Polpex exhibition will not be eligible for the prizes so as to encourage participation. Prizes will be: 1st Place: the book: **Poland's Millenium in Philately**; 2nd Place: **Scott's Handbook for Philatelists**; and two runner-ups: of the **Stanley Gibbons Color Guide**. Mr. Schafer discussed the possibility of a bus to MILCOPEX (they are bringing a bus load to POLPEX). Information will be in the next Bulletin. The business of the Society being completed. M/S/C, Messrs. Link, Wolosewick: to adjourn.

Philatelic Presentation: Mr. Schafer then introduced our speaker for the evening, Walenty Poniecki. The topic of the II Polish Corps was not just a narration of historical events, but an actual life history of someone who lived the experience. He told us of his journeys through Poland and Russia and the hardships that were endured — almost unbelievable to many of us. Death was never too far away and came to many of his friends, yet he managed to survive. In the midst of these hardships he found the woman who later became his bride. We were treated to view **rare** postal items from the Polish POW camps in Russia. As the War turned against the Russians with Germany declaring war on its "friend", the Polish II Corps was formed. He traced the history of the Corps and showed us probable unique sheets of the "STAN" essay and so many "Dojdzieny" stamps and sheets we lost count. This outstanding presentation was concluded with pastries & refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mazepa, ACSW, Sec'y

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 25th, 1977:

Clothesline Exhibit. Each member is asked to bring three pages of his most prized material. Four awards to be given. (See Minutes page for details.)

Friday, March 11, 1977:

James Mazepa will speak on the I Polish Corps in Russia during the First World War.

Friday, March 18, 1977:

POLPEX MOUNTING PARTY.

Sat.-Sun., March 19-20, 1977:

POLPEX 77 EXHIBITION

Friday, March 25, 1977:

Grand Award/Gold medal winners of POLPEX will discuss their collections.

1977 POLAND PRICE LIST

Member Roman J. Burkiewicz announces that his 1977 Price List on Poland and associated material is now available. Write him at 6687 Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60631.

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622

James Mazepa, Secretary
Hines V.A. Hospital, Box 331
Hines, IL 60141

Al Rybarski, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171

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 ISSUES

Katowice Steel Works

Issued in December 1976 on the opening of the Katowice Steel Works plant, the greatest in all Europe. Construction started in 1972 but it wasn't till 1976 that it actually produced steel.

The 1.50 zł. commemorative is offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 20 stamps by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by J. Zabagło. Total quantity issued: 6,000,000.

—Ruch

New Issue info. courtesy R. Burkiewicz

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