

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 281

June-July, 1970

POLPEX TO HONOR U.S. SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS

Polonus makes it a practice of emphasizing Polish historical events as its Polpex themes. One of 1971's dual themes is the 50th anniversary of Poland's first airmail stamps. As the second theme, however, the members decided to make an exception to the rule. Instead of a Polish theme, they have decided to honor United States Space Achievements, mainly, manned space flights and the landing on the moon. This is man's greatest achievement of the century.

Project Apollo is Step 3 of NASA's manned space flight lunar landing program. Its goal was to put men on the moon and return them safely to earth. This goal was achieved with Apollo 12, 13 and 14 in 1970, and

July 10, 1969 and further flights of Apollo 12, 13 and 14 in 1970, and continuing in 1971.

With Step 1, Project Mercury paved the way by developing our man space vehicles and techniques for their use. Step 2 was Project Gemini, using two-man spacecraft, for longer orbital missions and for developing space rendezvous and docking where two space vehicles are maneuvered close together and joined or "docked".

Project Apollo fulfilled the late President's timetable (as stated in his message to Congress in 1961) and met the man-on-the-moon goal he set for America "within the decade."



In the past there has been a lack of participation of out-of-town members in our Polpex shows. Oftentimes the theme and dates of the Polpex were announced too late to enable these members to prepare their exhibits in time.

Many members cannot attend our meetings and take part in our local activities. They can, however, exhibit at the annual show. POLPEX 1971 will be open to all types of material with separate classes for Airmails of the World from pioneering times to the modern jet age; from zeppelins to rocket and space mail. There will also be classes for General Foreign and, of course, Poland.

The Polpex Committee has already begun its work. How about you? Can we count on your participation?

—Alfred Szebel

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

Poland has issued just a few miniature sheets, which is smart, as many collectors lose interest in any country that includes high-priced miniature sheets with nearly every issue.

A sheet I would like to recommend was sold in 1948 at a considerable sum over its face value in order to raise money for cultural causes. This was Scott No. 412a, printed in Switzerland by the world-famous house of Courvoisier. The mintage was 50,000 sheets. Scott lists it at \$35.00, but the German Michel net catalog prices it at about \$55.00. Retail prices are close to full Michel. In a price list just received from Germany that sheet is offered at about \$48.00. Having a low mintage, it is worthwhile picking up over here if you can find it at a good price. There are many collectors of the stamps of Poland all over the world, and that sheet is bound to be in great demand for a long time to come.

(Reprinted from STAMPS)

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The Polish American Congress Illinois Division will present a philatelic exhibition during the Congress' Convention taking place August 14, 15 and 16, 1970 at the Sherman Hotel in downtown Chicago.

The main theme of this exhibition is the beginning of celebrations in connection with the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of Mikolaj Kopernik. The actual anniversary will occur in 1973 as Kopernik was born December 19, 1473.

In 1970, however, occurs the 150th Anniversary of the release of the writings of Kopernik from the church index of heretic works. By decree of the Holy See in the Vatican in 1616 (73 years after his death), the writings of Kopernik were considered as heresies and publicizing or teaching them was considered as an act against the church. Not until 1820 were his writings officially removed from the index of untruths and his teachings were no longer considered sinful.

In addition to Kopernik material, the exhibition will consist of Polonica-Americana. Apollo 11 covers, War covers, etc. Polonus souvenir sheets and covers will also be displayed.

This is their first attempt at a philatelic exhibition in conjunction with the convention. Should it be a success, it will become an annual event of the Polish American Congress.

— N. C. Zbyszewski

REINSTATED

Stanley Bykowski #710

14 Cleveland St.

Hyde Park, Mass. 02136



H. G. WOLFE #499

Jackson Hts., N.Y.

Michel Scott

4 Mk./60 Pfg. olive green	41	45
10 Mk./75 Pfg. brick red	42	46
20 Mk./80 Pfg. orange	43	47

Errors

The 4 Mk./60 Pfg. value occurred with a .28 mm. white line completely across the sheet through the twelfth row from the top of the sheet. This was most likely caused by smudging rather than a cracked plate as the printing was done by individual type rather than from a casting. This would make a crack through an entire row very unlikely.

Validity

These stamps were valid until the departure of the Inter-Allied Commission from Upper Silesia on June 23, 1922, as were all previous issues.

THE INSURGENTS ISSUE

When the Third Silesian Uprising occurred the insurgents junta decided to issue postage stamps for use in the occupation areas due to the fact that the Inter-Allied Commission would not furnish Upper Silesian stamps for use in these areas.

This was not unusual as all administrative decisions and supplies came from the seat of the Inter-Allied Commission in Opole (Oppeln). When connections with Opole were severed by guerilla activities in the areas held by the insurgents they did not receive any further supplies.

On May 27, 1921 the insurgents headquarters paper "The Insurgent" announced the new issue of postage stamps for the following districts:

Opole (Oppeln)
Kozle (Kosel)
Strzelce Opolskie (Gross Strehlitz)
Rybnik
Raciborz (Ratibor)
Tarnowskie Góry (Tarnowitz)
Tost-Gleiwitz
Katowice (Kattowitz)

These stamps were issued on June 1, 1921 when the supply of Inter-

Allied Commission stamps was almost completely exhausted.

On June 15, 1921 the Insurgents Headquarters in Upper Silesia published Order No. 13 which contained these items:

Article 1—On June 17, 1921 a new series of postage stamps for Upper Silesia will be issued.

Article 2—The following values are to be issued:

10 Pfg. red
20 Pfg. violet
30 Pfg. dark yellow
40 Pfg. dark green
50 Pfg. light green
60 Pfg. blue
1 Mk. dark red

Article 3—The new stamps described in this order are available for use in the territories of Upper Silesia actually held by our armies.

Article 4—The existing stamps issued by the coalition do not lose their validity.

Article 5—The execution of this order is entrusted to the Post and Telegraph Department of the Insurgents Headquarters of Upper Silesia.

(Signed) Woj. Korfanty
Exec. Dept. (Signed) J. Biniszkiewicz
Fr. Roguszcak, Fr. Bias,
Borys, J. Grzegorzcyk

Simultaneously, the following type of order was posted in the post offices in the areas held by the insurgents (translation from Polish):

Post Office Schoppinitz
Post Check Account June 16, 1921
No. 4209 District Katowice

ANNOUNCEMENT

New postage stamps have been issued for territories held by insurgents, available for these areas only.

This Post Office will sell, from June 17, 1921, stamps of 10 Pfg., 20 Pfg., 30 Pfg., 40 Pfg., 50 Pfg., 60 Pfg., and 1 Mk. face values.

Because of the limited supply one person may purchase only ten stamps at a time.

The former stamps remain valid.

(Signed)

Design

Two designs were submitted from Warsaw by Burzynski and Skoczylas. Burzynski's design was selected. It depicts factory chimneys with the Silesian eagle in a circle at the top, the date 1921 and the inscription "Górny Slask" (Upper Silesia) below. Nominal values appear in both lower corners.



Paper

The lack of usable gummed paper was creating great difficulties. The insurgents could count on no support from Germany with whom all communications were cut by war activities and no supplies could be counted on from Poland who had just emerged from the war with the Soviet Union and kept a passive neutrality in regard to Upper Silesia.

These difficulties were finally overcome by the purchase of 3000 sheets of gummed paper on June 13, 1921 from the "Catholic" magazine in Bytom and 500 sheets from the Karol Miarka Printing House at Mikolow (Nikolai).

There were some basic differences in the two papers. The paper from Bytom is white, mostly thin and transparent, with white or colorless gum. The paper from Mikolow is yellowish or creamy, thick and with yellow-brown gum.

Quantity Printed

Due to the shortage of paper only 800,000 stamps were printed instead

of the planned 1,000,000. The 40 and 60 Pfg. values were in the greatest demand so 200,000 copies of each were issued. Also issued were 150,000 each of the 10 and 20 Pfg. values, 50,000 copies of the 50 Pfg. and 25,000 each of the 50 Pfg. and 1 Mk. stamps.

Printing

The sheets contain 100 stamps each, arranged in 10 vertical and 10 horizontal rows and were printed at the Karol Miarka Printing House by lithography from plates on June 14 through 17, 1921.

The stamps were line perforated $11\frac{1}{4}$ but due to their hurried production 10,000 copies of each value were released imperforate.

Part of the 60 Pfg. stamps (500 sheets) were printed on the yellowish paper from Mikolow while the remainder and all other values were printed on the white paper.

Very few errors occurred as the printing was carefully controlled. The 20 and 40 Pfg. values contain a colored vertical stroke against the right F giving it the appearance of a y or inverted numeral 4 at fields 12, 14, 19 and 21.

Validity

These stamps were issued by the High Uprising Authority of Upper Silesia and were thus legal postal issues even though they were not recognized by the Inter-Allied Commission.

They were in circulation at the same time as the Inter-Allied Commission stamps and can, therefore, be found on covers bearing stamps of both issues. Commercial covers with both stamps used together are very rare items.

These stamps remained in circulation until the insurgents final liquidation on July 7, 1921. Non-philatelic letters of this period bearing censor seals are very scarce.

POLISH ISSUE

As a result of the voting on March 21, 1921, the Council of Ambassadors divided Upper Silesia between Poland in the east and Germany in the west. Although Poland received the greater part of the industrial area, its population was predominantly German and Germany received the majority of the rural area with most of the Polish population. Some of these districts such as Strzelce (Gross Strehlitz), Kozle (Cosel), Opole (Oppeln), Rosenberg (Olesno), etc. contained over 85% Poles.

The Polish Administration took over on June 17, 1922 and on the same day put into circulation the new postage stamps issued by the Polish Mails' Ministry in Warsaw for use in these former Upper Silesian areas only. All previous stamps lost validity on this same date. All mixed frankings, therefore are speculative or forgeries.

Description of Values

The stamps for the new Polish Territory of Upper Silesia were issued in two sizes. The Pfennig values of 5, 10, 20, 40, 50 and 75 F. are small format like the current Polish Pfennig

value stamps. The design depicts a coat of arms with an eagle, the inscription POCZTA POLSKA (Polish Mail) and the face value. The design was the same as the current stamps of Poland but in different colors.

The Mark value stamps of 1 to 300 Mk. were a larger format. This design shows a miner with a pick axe on his shoulder against a background of Silesian chimneys. In the upper corners the face value, the inscription POCZTA POLSKA and two eagles. A Polish eagle and a Silesian eagle. They were printed in both flat and rotary techniques.

As these stamps were printed with Polish inscriptions but with German currency designations their purchasing power remained strong for a considerable time.

They were valid for postage only in the Upper Silesia areas and could not be used in Poland.

All F. values and the 1 Mk. through 50 Mk. values were issued on June 17, 1922. Later due to the decline of the German Mark, the additional values of 80, 100 and 200 Mk. were issued in March 1923 and a 300 Mk. stamp added on April 15, 1923.

POLISH ISSUE

Face Value	Color	Catalog Number	
		Michel	Scott
5 F.	blue, light blue	1	170
10 F.	violet	2	171
20 F.	pale red	3	172
40 F.	violet brown	4	173
50 F.	orange	5	174
75 F.	blue green	6	175
1 Mk.	black	7	176
1.25 Mk.	dark green	8	177
2 Mk.	deep rose	9	178
3 Mk.	emerald	10	179
4 Mk.	deep ultramarine	11	180

Face Value	Color	Catalog Number	
		Michel	Scott
5 Mk.	yellow brown	12	181
6 Mk.	red orange	13	182
10 Mk.	lilac brown	14	183
20 Mk.	deep violet	15	184
50 Mk.	olive green	16	185
80 Mk.	vermillion	17	187
100 Mk.	violet	18	188
200 Mk.	orange	19	189
300 Mk.	pale blue	20	190

The 300 Mk. value had rather a philatelic character as it had no real practical application and was issued only two weeks before the withdrawal of this entire issue. They were extremely rare on non-philatelic covers.

Validity

These stamps were sold until April 30, 1923 and were invalid for postage after this date. The regular Polish issues took their place. Mixed frankings were never allowed and all such items are speculative or counterfeit.

Color

Since several printings were made of most values and different printing methods sometimes used, there are some noted differences in the colors of some denominations.

Paper

For the same reason there were many thicknesses and colors of paper used. Nearly all issues were printed on thin paper but only a few on

thicker paper (10, 40, 50 and 70 F.)

The Mark values were issued in two printing types and the rotary printings were done on thin, transparent paper. The 5, 10, 20 and 50 Mk. values were printed on thick, horizontally ribbed paper.

The last printing of the 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 20 and 50 Mk. stamps was printed on very thin pelure paper with the overleaf print showing.

Perforation

Perforations differed widely as was typical for the post-war issues of Poland. The rotary printed stamps were usually harrow perforated 12½ while the flat plate printings were very mixed ranging between 9 and 14½.

Perforation Errors

- Imperforate at top.
- Imperforate at bottom.
- Imperforate at left.
- Imperforate at right.
- Double vertical perforation.
- Double horizontal perforation.

Perforation Errors							
Error	10 F.	20 F.	40 F.	50 F.	75 F.	1 Mk.	4 Mk.
a			*		*		
b	*		*		*		
c						*	*
d		*					*
e				*			
f					*	*	*

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**Compiled and Edited by
Stanley J. Bykowski**

**of the
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A book you will cherish for many years to come. Many unknown facts which are brought to life . . . the life that was once filled with uncertainty, and whose only crime was to be born Polish. These men, who with only God-given ability as free men, showed the world that with only primitive tools these men designed and printed stamps that even to this day are considered of high caliber . . .

\$3.00 postpaid

**Order from: Stanley J. Bykowski
14 Cleveland St.
Hyde Park, Mass. 02136**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, August 14, 1970 —

This is the evening that we participate in the Polish American Congress philatelic exhibition.

Instead of coming to the St. James Clubroom for our regular meeting, Polonus members will meet in the philatelic exhibition hall at the Sherman Hotel, Clark and Randolph Sts., at 7:00 PM. Here we will view the exhibitions which includes a special Polonus Philatelic Society exhibit, as well as exhibits of several Polonus members.

Friday, August 28, 1970 —

No meeting—summer vacation.

MEMBERS RENOVATE FRAMES

Several Polonus members sacrificed their time on a Sunday renovating our frames which badly needed repairs. R. Reinowski, W. Poniecki and son, N. Zbyszewski, S. Czarniecki, A. Juszkowicz, A. Szebel and J.P. Rux came to J. Janicka's shop and under his guidance reinforced the frames with rubber and installed a new system of

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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 \$2.50 —

opening and closing the frames.

There still remains one Sunday's work to complete the job. Chicago-land members are asked to turn out on Sunday, August 23rd at 10 a.m. at J. Janicka's shop, 7306 Ogden Ave., just three blocks west of Harlem Ave. Free Beer and Lunch.

NEW MEMBER

John F. Sledz
8020 Lawndale Ave.
Skokie, Ill.

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