

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. 270

June 1969

POLPEX 1970 PLACE AND DATES ANNOUNCED

Our next POLPEX will be held at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Chicago. The dates selected by the members at their last meeting were February 28th and March 1st. Thus far we have oral approval on the museum and the dates from the custodian, George Walter, and we are awaiting official confirmation in writing from the museum officers.

One of the Polpex themes that the society unanimously agreed on was that of — the 50th Anniversary of Poland's Defeat of the Bolsheviks.

Last year's Polpex was one of the most successful ever held. Radio Hall was packed to capacity. If any more people would have turned out for the Beeba, we wouldn't have had room.

The dual theme—the 25th Anniversaries of the Battle of Monte Cassino and the Warsaw Uprising—were very effective. The press gave us a lot of publicity and as a result we attracted many Polish-American organizations to our Polpex, including veteran, fraternal, civic and scout groups. Many of these organizations followed with celebrations of the two anniversary events on their own.

At the present time, the Polish Museum has an excellent Monte Cassino exhibit of documents, maps, photos and mementoes open to the public.

A Warsaw Uprising Anniversary Committee was formed and they plan a banquet, exhibit, mass and ceremonies in the fall.

Polpex 1970 may be eight months away but it is already time to think about it. Let's go over our collections and plan on what to exhibit. We are always in need of articles, historical and philatelic, to be used in the philatelic press, the Polish press and our own publications. So let's get with it...

FROM THE TREASURER

Polonus has changed the expiration date of its membership from Jan. 31 to Dec. 31 so that it will be identical to the calendar year. In other words, your 1969 membership card will expire on Dec. 31, 1969 and not Jan. 31, 1970.

At the same time, please watch for our reminders in the **Bulletin**. Mailing individual reminders is both time consuming and costly. Please consider

1. That our officers work at a full time job and the time they donate to the society is limited.
2. That in spite of rising mail costs and printing, the amount of our dues has remained the same for many years.

May we suggest that members who can afford it, send in two years' dues

and include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

We sincerely hope and trust that our members will show us understanding and cooperation.

—Stanley Dobrzycki

ATTEND OUR PICNIC JULY 20th

It's Picnic time again! As in the past, the Polonus Picnic will be held on Sunday July 20th at Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz's Aquilla Lodge in Powers Lake, Wisconsin. The time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Pack a lunch and bring the whole family. There are plenty of outdoor stoves for cookouts. The sandy beach and clear water of Powers Lake are excellent for bathing. According to the Picnic Chairman, Walenty Poniecki, and his assistants Zdzislaw Wagrowski and Sebastian Styczynski, there will be prizes, games, refreshments and treats for the children.

To get to Powers Lake, Wisconsin from Chicago: take US 12 to Richmond, Ill. After passing Richmond, on the curve take Trunk "P" to Aquilla Lodge.

WANT TO EXCHANGE WITH COLLECTORS IN POLAND?

In a recent issue of *FILATELISTA* there appeared a write-up on the Polonus Philatelic Society listing your editor's name and address. As a result, we were flooded with mail from collectors in Warsaw, Poznan, Przemysl, Katowice, Czestochowa, Kutno, Olsztyn, etc. They wrote asking us to publish their name, address and collecting wants in our "Polonus Bulletin."

In view of the large amount of mail received, it was decided by the society not to publish these letters. The letters would take up too much room and leave little space for philatelic articles.

Any members wishing to receive such letters from us, please write to

our Secretary, Alfred Szebel, 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

CPS — POLONUS MEETING

On Thursday May 15th, Polonus members attended a Joint Meeting of the Chicago Philatelic Society at the Sherman House in downtown Chicago. After a short business meeting of the CPS, your Polonus President, C. Schafer, was then asked to introduce each Polonus member present and say a few words about him. The guest speaker that evening was a member of the CPS and Polonus, Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz, and his topic: "Pre-Philatelic Covers of Poland".

Doc Kozy brought an album loaded with priceless historical gems — perhaps the greatest such collection known — with covers dating back to the 16th century. He explained each cover and always its historical background. After the talk the CPS President spoke words of praise on the high caliber of Doc Kozy's presentation. He expressed his hope for more frequent such meetings and then invited us to some refreshments.

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type B, the second Pf. type, on the second issue.

Not only are the individual klischees different but they are arranged differently in the sheet.

Block A — contains, as before, all type III A numerals.

Block B — The entire first two vertical rows and the last stamp in the third vertical row (fields 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, 27, 36, 37, 46, 47 and 48) are type IV A. The remainder of the sheet is type I A.

Block C — All stamps in this block are type IV A.

Block D — All stamps in this block are type III A.

Block E — The bottom three stamps in the last vertical row (fields 125, 135 and 145) are type V A. All other stamps in this block are type I A.

Block F — All stamps in this block are type II A.

Each sheet, therefore, contains the following:

Type IA — 36 times in each sheet.

Type IIA — 25 times in each sheet.

Type IIIA — 50 times in each sheet.

Type IVA — 36 times in each sheet.

Type VA — 3 times in each sheet.

Color

The overprint is dull black rather than glossy black as was the first issue.

Validity

Since these stamps were officially issued and had circulating power but were printed from different plates than the original issue, they should be considered as a completely separate issue of the same overprint and as "Official Reprints."

Combinations

Because of the changes in the klischee locations and in the arrangement of types, the possible combinations are also changed. The number

of combinations of this issue are considerably smaller than the first due to the elimination of types VI and VII and subtype B (see chart on pages 269-4 and 269-5).

Plate varieties

The plate flaws found on the first issue do not occur on these reprints since they were printed with new plates which were more carefully prepared. The first issue had been very hastily put together as the stamps were needed for postal duty as soon as possible but the reprint plates were executed with much more care as more time was available for these philatelic preparations. In those days only well executed, unsmearred specimens were in demand on the philatelic market.

The Postal Authorities delivered only 70 sheets to the printer but over a hundred were actually overprinted. It is obvious that the surplus came from private sources and the speculator was very much interested in their faultless execution. Especially since each sheet of the basic 5 Mk. stamp represented a face value of 750 marks and after the overprint was applied the new 50 Pfg. face value represented only 75 marks per sheet.

Therefore no plate varieties such as the faulty value markings in Pf. (Pi., Pr., Fr., Pt.) are found on this issue.

Printing Varieties

In contrast to the lack of plate flaws in the Bern Issue, there were a great many printing varieties. These, however, were not accidental as they were intentionally prepared for philatelic purposes.

- a. Inverted overprint.
- b. Double overprint in line (5050)
- c. Double overprint offset (5050 or 5050).
- d. Double inverted overprint — one line.

- e. Double inverted overprint — two lines.
- f. Double overprint — one normal and one inverted (see table for various combinations of types.
- p. Tripple overprint.
- q. Triple overprint.
- r. Triple overprint — one inverted
- s. Triple overprint — two inverted
- t. 05 fP instead of 50 Pf.
- u. 05 P instead of 50 Pf.
- v. 5 P instead of 50 Pf.
- w. 505 instead of 50 Pf. (double type u).
- x. Overprint on margin or gutter.
- z. Overprint offset on back.
- aa. Pair — one with overprint and one without.

Others with the usual errors on the basic 5 Mk. stamp can be found, such as, the inscriptions COMMISSIUN or COMMISSI N instead of COMMISSION.

The number of printing "errors", such as, inverts, double overprints, triple overprints in various combinations, diagonal overprints, etc. is very high in the Bern Issue. Probably 60% of the stamps printed were intentionally printed incorrectly, a hallmark of a speculative issue. Less than 20% of the first issue were printed incorrectly.

Type f Combinations:

Note: The first type listed is the normal overprint and the second is the inverted overprint.

Combination f 2 is identical to combination f 6 but inverted on the basic stamp. The same is true of f 3 and f 4, f 5 and f 7, f 8 and f 9.

Quantity of Stamps Overprinted

It is impossible to tell exactly how many sheets of the Bern Issue were actually prepared. Only 4 sheets (600 stamps) were to be delivered to the U.P.U. at Bern.

It is known for a fact that 70 sheets (10,500 stamps) were delivered to the Erdmann Raabe Printing House in Oppeln by the Post Office Oppeln 1 on March 26, 1920 for the purpose of overprinting as it is officially recorded by the Postal Department at Oppeln (French sources place the figure at 9000 copies).

The printing house records, on the other hand, show that 125 sheets (18,750 stamps) were overprinted on that day.

Let us assume then, that 100 sheets (15,000 stamps) were overprinted. This gives us the following quantities of each type of overprint:

Type IA — 3600 copies
 Type IIA — 2500 copies
 Type IIIA — 5000 copies
 Type IVA — 3600 copies
 Type VA — 300 copies.

Forgeries

All later issues and reprints, although they were prepared under the authorization of philatelically interested members of the Inter Allied Commission, differ from the Bern

Inverted Overprint on Normal Overprint

Combination Number	Types	Number in Sheet
f 1	I A on I A	28
f 2	I A on IV A	8
f 3	II A on III A	25
f 4	III A on II A	25
f 5	III A on IV A	25
f 6	IV A on I A	8
f 7	IV A on III A	25
f 8	IV A on V A	3
f 9	V A on IV A	3

Issue in that they were printed strictly to take advantage of collectors and are not postal issues. The Bern Issue, on the other hand, was an official postal issue.

The great demand for the 50 Pfg./5 Mk. stamps created the printing of several reprints after the printing of the Bern Issue was completed. On March 27 to 30, 1920 an additional 300 sheets were overprinted using the original Bern Issue plates. These are especially dangerous preparations as they are identical in design and color to the original printing. Some difference in the ink can be seen in some of them as, toward the end of the printing operation, the ink was diluted with varnish and is thinner and some smudging can be seen around the figures.

Most of the "errors" came from these printings, which were printed at the Erdmann Raabe Printing House not only in March but again in July and October, 1920 and February, 1921.

Some of these reprints can be found used on letters since all had circulation validity. Some do not appear the least bit philatelic.

The paper and ink differ in each of these later reprints, as little attention was paid to such things at that time. The February 1921 printing is especially noticeable as it was printed with a very fatty, smearing ink.

Only the first issue of March 10 to 12, 1920 can be regarded as a genuine postal issue. The later Bern Issue must be considered an official reprint as it was authorized by the proper authorities. All later issues cannot be considered reprints but are out and out forgeries created strictly for the purpose of taking advantage of the collector.

5 Pfg. on 20 Pfg. Overprint

After the first printing of the 50 Pfg./5 Mk. denomination was com-

pleted the zeros were removed from the plate to create the plate for the next issue — the 5 Pfg./20 Pfg. surcharge. Naturally the characteristic of the Pfg. plate are very much the same on the new 5 Pfg. value except that that the zero is absent.

Without the zero there are, of course, no types V, VI or VII as occurred on the 50 Pfg. value.

The clichés of 25 were also reset for this issue so they do not occur at the same position as for previous issues. The new arrangement is as follows:

Block A remained unchanged.

Block B was previously block D.

Block C was previously block E.

Block D was previously block F.

Block E was previously block C.

Block F was previously block B.

Due to these relocations the blocks are now arranged thusly:

Block A — All stamps in this block are type IIIA.

Block B — The entire first and second vertical rows and the last stamp in the third vertical row (fields 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, 27, 36, 46, 47 and 48) are type IVA. The remainder of the block is type IA.

Block C — All stamps in this block are type IVA.

Block D — All stamps in this block are type IIIA.

Block E — The bottom three stamps in the last vertical row (fields 125, 135 and 145) are type III. The top two stamps of the first vertical row (fields 101 and 111) and the entire fourth vertical row (fields 104, 114, 124, 134 and 144) are subtype B. All other fields in this block are subtype A.

Block F — Consists entirely of type II numerals. The bottom two stamps of the fourth vertical row of this block (fields 139 and 149) and the entire fifth vertical row (fields 110, 120, 130, 140 and 150) are subtype B. All other fields in this block are subtype A.

III A	III A	III A	III A	III A		IV A	IV A	I A	I A	I A
III A	III A	III A	III A	III A		IV A	IV A	I A	I A	I A
III A	III A	III A	III A	III A		IV A	IV A	I A	I A	I A
III A	III A	III A	III A	III A		IV A	IV A	I A	I A	I A
III A	III A	III A	III A	III A		IV A	IV A	IV A	I A	I A
BLOCK A						BLOCK B				
IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A		III A	III A	III A	III A	III A
IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A		III A	III A	III A	III A	III A
IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A		III A	III A	III A	III A	III A
IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A		III A	III A	III A	III A	III A
IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A	IV A		III A	III A	III A	III A	III A
BLOCK C						BLOCK D				
I B	I A	I A	I B	I A		II A	II A	II A	II A	II B
I B	I A	I A	I B	I A		II A	II A	II A	II A	II B
I A	I A	I A	I B	III A		II A	II A	II A	II A	II B
I A	I A	I A	I B	III A		II A	II A	II A	II B	II B
I A	I A	I A	I B	III A		II A	II A	II A	II B	II B

BLOCK E

BLOCK F

BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO 25TH ANNIVERSARY

By DR. M. A. LIPINSKI

On the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino, post office Poznan 9 used a special commemorative cancellation as illustrated below.



This battle was one of the hardest battles fought in World War II.

Monte Cassino, a monastery on a hill 1702 ft. high, overlooks the town of Cassino, Italy. The abbey was founded in 529 by St. Benedict of Nursia (Scott's Italy 232-238), whose rule became that of all of the Benedictine order in the world. Throughout the centuries Monte Cassino was one of the greatest centers of Christian learning and piety. The building of the abbey were destroyed four times:

- by the Lombards in 581
- by the Arabs in 883
- by an earthquake in 1349
- and during World War II.

At the end of 1943, the town, abbey as well as the nearby hills, were formed into the key defense of the Nazis blocking the Allied advances to Rome. The abbey and adjoining hills overlooking the the valley of the Liri river and road No. 6, Via Castellina, running from Naples to Rome were

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We received a limited amount of "DOJDZIEMY" handbooks by the late Dr. M. E. Uznanski. They are available at \$1.50 plus 12c postage from C. J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

used by the Nazis to close the Via Castellina and the local railroad. Despite repeated, concentrated ground attacks started from January 17, 1944, despite the Allied attempt to divert Nazi troops from here by landing at Anzio, and despite the virtual destruction of town and abbey through aerial and ground shelling in February and March, the Nazi positions held out until May 18, 1944.

The first attacks were made by the 5th U.S. Army with the French Auxiliary Corps on January 17 to 21, but were crushed by Nazi defenses. The second pairs of attacks made by the British Eighth Army on February 15 to 18, with the third attacks March 15 to 25 — all were unsuccessful with a great loss of men and arms.

The fourth attacks were made by the British Eighth Army with the aid of the Polish Second Corps under General Anders. A most powerful thrust by the Poles conquered Monte Cassino, the abbey, hill, the nearby hills Monte Cairo and Piedimonte, and opened the way to Rome for the Allied troops.

The battle resulted in:

- total defeat of the 34th and 36th U.S. Army Divisions
- total defeat of the 2nd New Zealand Division
- total defeat of the Royal Sussex
- total defeat of Rajputana Rifles
- total defeat of the 4th and 8th Hindu Divisions
- total defeat of the French Tunisian Regiment
- 924 soldiers and officers of the Polish Second Corps killed and 3225 wounded*

(*Most likely these figures are higher.)

Many of the valuable manuscripts of the abbey's library were stolen by Nazis, but after the war they were returned and the abbey was restored.

A great cemetery on the slopes of Monte Cassino serves as lasting evidence of the heroic bravery of the Polish soldiers, the fighters for freedom and liberty of all nations of the world.

Czerwone maki na Monte Cassino,
Zamiast rosy piły polską krew.
Po tych makach szedł żołnierz i ginął...
Lecz od śmierci silniejszy był gniew...
Przejdą lata i wieki przemiana,
Pozostaną ślady dawnych dni,
I tylko maki na Monte Cassino
Czerwienieć będą, bo z polskiej wzrosły
Czerwienieć będą, bo z polskiej
wzrosły krwi...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 11, 1969 —

Regular business meeting at Falcons Hall.

Sunday, July 20, 1969 —

Annual Polonus Picnic at Powers Lake, Wisconsin.

Friday, August 8, 1969 —

Regular business meeting at Falcons Hall.

NOTICE:

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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 —

August there will be no meetings on the fourth Friday of the month.

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