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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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The World's Philatelic Tribute to Poles*

by Bert Powell

Of extreme importance to the Polish collector are the various philatelic emissions of other countries which acclaim Polish achievement in world's history. Some of these stamps honor Polish military aid to preserve their own liberty or their boundaries, while others honor the achievements of Poles in other fields. Some of the countries helped by the Poles in the past, are now completely indifferent to Poland's present struggle for existence.

Here, in the United States, three stamps have been issued to honor Poland and her heroic sons. Two of the three stamps issued honor the great patriots, Pulaski and Kosciuszko, while the third stamp honors the Polish flag, as representing the first of the downtrodden nations which bore the Nazi might.

The flag stamp issued in honor of Poland, was the first of a long series, and set a first day sales record which was not equalled by any other flag stamp! It alone, of all the flag stamps, was first put on sale in two cities—Washington and Chicago. The first day sale at Chicago occurred largely due to the active and aggressive campaigning of the Polonus Philatelic Society. The event was an extremely colorful affair in which many Polish societies participated, and made the ceremonies most unusual.



Bulgaria honors the Polish King Wladyslaw III

Austria's semi-postal issue of 1933 commemorated the relief of Vienna by King Jan Sobieska, the Polish military genius who turned back the Turkish hordes in a decisive battle and thereby saved Christianity for Europe. King Jan's likeness is shown on Austria's B96. A heroic size paint-

*—Reprinted with permission from STAMPS.

ing, depicting the surrender of the Turkish commander to King Jan, hangs in the Vatican as a constant reminder of the important part played by this Pole in Europe's destiny.

Bulgaria honored another Polish king in a series of five stamps issued to commemorate the Battle of Varna. The series appeared in 1935, and Scott's Nos. 282 and 284 depict King Vladislav Varnenchik, a gallant Pole who met his death in the battle of Varna, while aiding the Bulgars.

However, the philatelic tributes rendered by the world to Poles is not limited to honoring Polish courage or military genius. In the field of medicine the Curie name is immortal. In 1938 France and her colonies honored the historical medical achievements of Pierre Curie and his Polish wife, Marie Sklodowska-Curie, who continued radium research after the untimely demise of Professor Curie. Later, she was to be presented with the Nobel prize and gained world renown for her great work.

The stamps commemorated the 40th anniversary of the discovery of radium, and were sold with a surtax for the benefit of the International Union for the Control of Cancer. Other countries honoring Pierre and Marie Curie at this time were Afghanistan, Cuba, Monaco and Panama. Turkey also honored Mme. Curie with a stamp, Scott's B67, during the 12th Congress of the Women's International Alliance held in that country in 1935.

NATIONS OF THE WORLD HONOR POLES

	Country	Yr. Issue	Scott #	Subject
1	United States	1931	690	Casimer Pulaski
2	United States	1933	734	Thaddeus Kosciuszko
3	United States	1943	909	Polish Flag
4	Austria	1933	B96	King John Sobieski
5	Bulgaria	1935	28, 4	King Wladislaus III
6	Afghanistan	1938	RA2	Pierre and Marie Curie
7	Cuba	1910-13-44	246, 252, 371	Gen. Carlos Roloff
		1938	B1-B2	Pierre and Marie Curie
8	France	1938	B76	" " " "
9	Monaco	1938	B24	" " " "
10	Panama	1939	R1-2-3-4	" " " "
11	Turkey	1935	B67	Marie Curie
12	Cameroons	1938	B1	Pierre and Marie Curie
13	Dahomey	1938	B2	" " " "
14	French Equatorial Africa	1938	B1	" " " "
15	French Guiana	1938	B3	" " " "
16	French Guinea	1938	B2	" " " "
17	French India	1938	B6	" " " "
18	French Oceania	1938	B5	" " " "
19	French Sudan	1938	B1	" " " "
20	Guadeloupe	1938	B3	" " " "
21	Indo-China	1938	B14	" " " "
22	Ivory Coast	1938	B2	" " " "
23	Madagascar	1938	B2	" " " "
24	Martinique	1938	B2	" " " "
25	Mauritania	1938	B3	" " " "
26	New Caledonia	1938	B4	" " " "
27	Niger	1938	B1	" " " "
28	Reunion	1938	B4	" " " "
29	St. Pierre-Miquelon	1938	B3	" " " "
30	Senegal	1938	B3	" " " "
31	Somali Coast	1938	B2	" " " "
32	Togo	1938	B1	" " " "

BEEBA SOUVENIR SHEETS

The 1946 Beeba sheet is available at 15 cents per copy or 2 for 25 cents, postage included.

For prices on other Polpex or Beeba items, please refer to Polonus BULLETIN #43. Here also will be found prices for back numbers of Polonus Bulletins.

Make your remittance to the Seal Director, Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.

BEEBA—1946 STYLE

From all over the United States a record crowd of 500 flocked to the Polonus Beeba held August 23, 1946. By street car, by auto, by taxi they travelled to the Polish Falcons Hall after attending the A. P. S.—C. P. S. show at the Hotel Hamilton.

They heard Chopin's "Polonaise" played on the piano, they saw children dance the "Krakowiak" and the "Kujawiak" in colorful folk costumes, they ....but wait, let Harry L. Lindquist, publisher of STAMPS magazine, tell you about the Beeba.

Following are his impressions:

"We went with some curiosity, not knowing exactly what to expect, as it was our first experience at a Polish Beeba. Dr. M. E. Uznanski, President of Polonus, explained in his introductory remarks that it was the custom in Polish towns to hold a Beeba whenever distinguished guests visited the town, or even when an old friend among the peasants returned for a visit. At these affairs the entire population would turn out; and there would be music, singing, and dancing, all winding up with a sumptuous repast.

"Following out the tradition, the Polonus Philatelic Society had arranged heaping tables laden with Polish delicacies. Succulent sausages, brown bread, sauerkraut, cheese, and herring salad were in evidence. As the piles of food were depleted they were constantly replenished with more, until everyone had all he could eat.

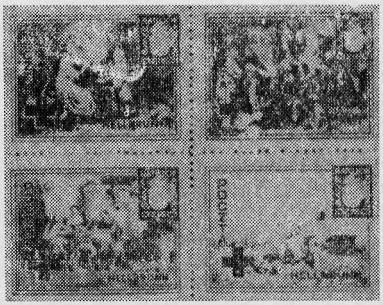
"Several typical Polish dances were staged by young girls in costume, who made quite a hit by their grace and precision. Then many of the visiting celebrities were introduced, including Alfred F. Lichtenstein, of New York; Roy M. North, representing the Post Office Department in Washington; and many others prominent in philately and philatelic journalism.

"The writer was very much surprised and honored by being presented with one of the handsomest portfolios he had ever seen. It was illuminated and engrossed on parchment in gold and colors, an expression of appreciation from the Polonus Philatelic Society. It was a splendid tribute, and one which we very much appreciated. The citation and accompanying material were bound in beautiful hand-tooled leather, lined with silk (it took the artist Jack Domar nearly a year to complete) making a permanent souvenir which will always be cherished."

Thus was Mr. Lindquist impressed. But so were many others. There was Dave Lidman, editor of PHILATELY; Fritz Billig, publisher of handbooks; Charles Hahn, stamp editor of the CHICAGO SUN; Harry Weiss, editor of GOSSIP; W. W. Wylie, editor of WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR; D. F. Lybarger, A. P. S. President, Luther Williams, publisher of PHILATELY; J. Elmer Zinsmeister, editor of S. P. A. JOURNAL; Ed Minear, S. P. A. Director; Richard Cabeen, stamp columnist; Al Diamond, S. P. A. Director; Judge David Caldwell, A. P. S. Vice-President; H. C. Musser, A. P. S. Exec-Secretary; Stephen G. Rich, noted writer and dealer; and many, many more.

Yes, this was the Beeba—1946 style.

POLISH RED CROSS ISSUE IN AUSTRIA



This souvenir sheet was issued by the Polish Red Cross in Austria, with the slogan "SAVE THE POLISH CHILDREN." It is made up of four stamps bearing reproductions of famous paintings by the Polish artists Chelmoski, Eismont, and Kotsisa.

A total of 40,000 sheets were issued 20,000 perf. and 20,000 imperf. They were sold at 10 Austrian shillings, and were sanctioned by the D-2 branch of the American occupation forces.

—Mr. Al Rybarski turned in this bit of information. He translated it from a magazine printed for the Polish Forces in Italy.

The spirit of cooperation that exists between Chicago philatelic societies was shown when members of C. P. S. chipped in and served food to guests at the buffet table.

EAGLE OVERPRINTS



The 25 gr. stamp of the Eagle and Monument Issue, withdrawn because of the change in postal rates, was overprinted and surcharged to the new value of 1 zl., which was the fee for letters delivered within the country weighing up to 20 grams. This stamp received a typographed four line overprint in black "—1 zl—, 31. XII. 1943, K. R. N., 31. XII. 1944," and was issued December 31, 1944 commemorating the one year anniversary of the activity of the Polish National Council (Krajowa Rada Narodowa).

1 zl. on 25 gr. bright red
- a. Inverted overprint
- b. First "3" damaged at the top, positions 1 & 51
- c. Numeral "9" in the upper date damaged, 2 & 52
- d. Numeral "1" torn at the top and "l" in "zl" damaged, 18 & 58
- e. "zl" and "9" in "1943" damaged, 26 & 76
- f. Numeral "9" in "1943" torn at the bottom, 31 & 81
- g. Numeral "4" in "1944" and the period of "N." damaged, 36 & 86

Because the overprinting form consisted of only 50 overprints, each sheet of 100 stamps had to be put in the printing press twice. Thus the overprint plate varieties occur in corresponding positions in both halves of the sheet.

For use on letters delivered outside the country weighing up to 20 grams, the 25 gr. stamp was surcharged 2 zl.; and for use on registered letters, the 25 gr. stamp was surcharged 3 zl. The 2 zl. received a typographed three line overprint in black "—2 zl—, P. K. W. N., 31. XII. 1944," and the 3 zl. "—3 zl—, 31. XII. 1944, R. T. R. P." Both these stamps honored the reorganization of the present government agencies. The Polish National Liberation Committee (Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodu) was transformed into the Temporary Administration of the Polish Republic (Rzad Tymczasowy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej). Both stamps were issued January 15, 1945.

2 zl. on 25 gr. bright red
- a. Inverted overprint
- b. Double overprint
- c. Value "2 zl." printed at the top and bottom of stamp.
- d. Value "2 zl." printed at the bottom instead of the top
- e. Damaged "9" at the top, 16 & 67
- f. Damaged "4" 20 & 70, 40 & 90

3 zl. on 25 gr. bright red
- a. Inverted overprint
- b. Value "3 zl." at the bottom
- c. Damaged "9" at the top, 16 & 67
- d. Damaged "4" 20 & 70, 40 & 90

The 2 zl. on 25 gr. is known imperforate at the right side (margin of sheet). Because each sheet passed through the printing press twice (as explained before) misplacing of the overprint and double overprints occurred as listed above.

All three stamps were withdrawn from circulation April 15, 1945, and the total quantity printed was 200,000 sets.

—Translated from PIONIER FILATELISTYCZNY edited by Dr. Kazimierz Lepszy, Krakow; and from KATALOG ZNACZKOW POCZTOWYCH POLSKICH edited by Tadeusz Gryzewski at Lodz.

THIS 'N THAT

Polish philately was introduced at a State Fair in Sedalia, Missouri, Aug. 18-25, 1946, with Bert Powell's exhibit of 8 frames of Polish Postal Stationery—the Wit Stwosz postcard issues, and 10 frames of Polish Airmail issues. These exhibits brought Bert first awards in the Foreign Topical Collection section and the Foreign Airmail section respectively. In addition to these awards, Bert also took first place in the U. S. Miscellaneous section with 6 frames of his U. S. Modern Postal Markings.

Member Ben Reeves also came through with a first award at this State Fair with his exhibit in the Most Educational Display section.

General Carlos Roloff, Polish-Cuban Patroit

by Edmund L. Kowalczyk

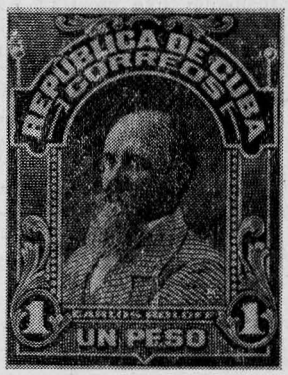
The first Pole to be honored with a stamp on the American hemisphere was General Carlos Roloff. The stamp was issued in 1910, three years after his death. Cuba honored its hero with Scott #246, a one peso, slate, #252, a one peso, black; and in 1944, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth with #371, a 3 cent, violet.

Roloff, a nobleman, was born in 1842. At the age of twenty-one, he volunteered for the Polish January Insurrection of 1863, and after its downfall fled to the United States. The Civil War was on at the time, so he enlisted as an officer in the Union Army and served until 1865.

Following the Civil War, he settled in New York City, and it was undoubtedly here, that he first came in contact with the Cuban Cause through the colony of Cuban patriots residing here. New York City and New Orleans, La., were the headquarters of patriotic Cuban organizations and from these points, expeditions were sent to liberate Cuba. In 1868, he sailed from the Port of New Orleans, with a filibustering expedition composed of many nationalities including Poles.*

His past experience in guerilla fighting in the Polish Insurrection of 1863 came in good stead during the following and later Cuban revolts. From Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, in February, 1869, Roloff led a battalion of seven thousand men and served through the bloody "Ten Year's War" with distinction. This struggle terminated with a peace treaty, which promised the Cubans certain rights and privileges. These promises were soon broken and once again unrest and strife prevailed.

From 1880 to 1897 he was either active in the field, or in organizing expeditions of men and arms in the United States or other countries. In 1898, in recognition of his twenty-eight years of untiring and devoted service to Cuba, he was elected to the office of Secretary of War. He held this post throughout the Spanish-American War. Later, he was Treasurer of the island republic. Roloff married a sister of General Santos Guardiola (President in 1903) of Honduras. Out of his sixty-five years, thirty-four were spent fighting oppression in three different countries, and ten in high public offices. Today children studying the history in the Antilles find him rated as one of the greatest heroes of Cuba.



*—This was not the first instance; several hundred Poles and Hungarians took part in the expeditions of Major-General Narciso Lopez to Bahia Honda in 1850-51. From 1806 to 1897, Poles participated in nearly all the revolts for the freedom of Latin American countries.

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Walker, Jeanie M., "The Cuban Martyr," Hartford, 1875.

At the Beeba, before the food was served, this sort of scene greeted one in the kitchen. Mrs. Al Kolaczewski with a big wooden spoon in hand stirring the sauerkraut, Jack Domar with his shirt sleeves rolled up cooking the Polish sausage, Ann Mikucki and Mrs. Rybarski in their Polish costumes whizzing by—their arms loaded with plates.

J. Ochab, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, was responsible for a large and full program of entertainment at the Beeba.

A POLISH ODDITY

By Bert Powell

This scribbler, like most of us average collectors always felt that he had at least an ordinary working knowledge of stamp nomenclature or terminology. However, as it usually happens to us would-be "experts," pride goeth before a fall, or—there is something new (to us) under the sun! In other words, we live and learn! Now the fact remains, that the information which is about to be disclosed here, may not necessarily be of an earth shaking nature—but it is new to us and as the case seems to be far from common, we thought that you might like to know about it. So, here it is!

The little joker in the deck, that started this mental upheaval was a descriptive term used on an approval sheet to wit, "printed through." Well, we pondered over that one for an eon or two, and were finally forced to grudgingly admit that here was a new one on us. The stamp was duly turned over and sure enough, there WAS a perfect likeness on the back of it. "Offset" we at once brightly concluded. So the little brain bedeviler was held to the light and our offset theory was at once blown up worse than if an atomic bomb had struck it. Why? Because, my little cabbages, as the French so aptly put it—THE BACK VIEW WAS IN PERFECT REGISTER OR ALIGNMENT WITH THE FRONT VIEW! And it wasn't a case of being printed on both sides either, because the lettering and subject matter would appear normal on EACH side, whereas, in this case the reverse side of the stamp has the lettering and subject matter backwards! So we were forced to conclude that this item was printed through—BUT HOW?

The fact that the paper of this stamp is of very thin, vertically laid type, seems to lend credence to the printed through supposition. Possibly too, the ink may have been a factor, insofar as it may have been of an oiler composition than usual and would thus permeate the paper of the stamp to a greater extent. Atmospheric conditions may also have contributed something to the creation of this oddity, for if the humidity was high when this stamp was being printed the ink may have soaked through to a greater depth. We immediately looked through the balance of our Polish duplicates but only this one stamp in this condition came to light.



Almost anything in the way of a variety or oddity is possible on the early issues of Poland, due to the lack of proper materials or modern equipment at the time of printing—but this case is unusual even for the primitive printings of this tragic country.

We would greatly appreciate a more qualified opinion from those of our readers who are more familiar with the printing art than we are. Possibly some one of our readers can tell whether the printed through theory is correct in this case. The little troublemaker along with a normal copy of the stamp in question is shown in the illustration accompanying this article. As will be observed, even the photo indicates the unusual depth of color on the printed through item.

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CANCELLATIONS OF THE PLEBISCITE TERRITORIES OF SPIS AND ORAVA*

by W. L. Russell

So far as I know, nothing has been written about the Plebiscite territory of Slovakia, as distinct from that of Eastern Silesia, yet philatelically it is quite interesting. Let's see if we can't add to our stock of knowledge about it.

First of all, whereabouts on the map are the Orava and Spis territories? If you move your finger along the boundary of Czechoslovakia and Poland e.stwards from the Silesian Plebiscite territory, you will find a Czech salient thrusting into Poland, with its apex north of Polhora. This salient and the Polish land to the north and east of it is known as the Orava. Now, still moving east, Poland pushes a salient into Czechoslovakia. Follow it down and, as the border swings north again, we find the Slovak town of Javorina. Go from there north and northeast until you come to Spisska St. Ves, and you are in the middle of the Spis area.

Now that we have located the territory, let's get on with the story.

At the Paris discussions in 1919, Poland claimed both Hungarian and Austrian territory. It was resolved, therefore, to establish a Plebiscite area in Orava, Spis, and Eastern Silesia. In Slovakia, the districts of TRSTENA, NAMESTOVO, SPISSKA STARA VES, and the region of JAVORINA were determined upon for this purpose. The International Commission consisted of one delegate each from Britain, France, U. S. A., Italy and Japan, and they had their sittings in JABLONKA and ORAVA. Sub-commissions sat in TRSTENA, SPISSKA STARA VES, and SPISSKA BELA.

Representing Slovakia on this Commission were the Bishop Marian Blaha, of Spis, the former Vice-President of the Lands Dept. (Dr. Milan Radlinsky), Dr. Juraz Slavik, and the former Burgomaster of Ruzomberok (Jan Jancek). In addition, an Arbitration Commission was appointed, whose Chairman was Anton Bulla, former Vice-President of the High Court in Bratislava. This Commission consisted of four Czech and four Polish judges.

The Plebiscite Commission began its activities at the beginning of February 1920, and completed them on July 28, 1920. Actually a plebiscite was never held, either in Eastern Silesia or in Slovakia. The desires of Poland were clarified in the course of proceedings and she was awarded territory as follows: In Orava, from TRSTENA district, 13 communities; and in Spis, from SPISSKA STARA VES likewise 13 communities, with a total population of about 23,000 souls.

If you've read this far, you're probably beginning to wonder how it affects us philatelically. Let's see:

First of all, there are plenty of people who believe that the "S. O." overprint on Czech and Polish stamps was used because the letters stood for Spis and Orava, as well as for Silesie Orientale. On that I make no comment, for I do not know.

However, in the Plebiscite territory, just as in the rest of Slovakia immediately after the revolution, only Hungarian stamps and cancellations were used. The cancellations were in use to the end of 1919 (except at CHYZNE, where they were used to the end of February 1920). Slovak cancellations came into use at the beginning of 1920 (i.e. just before the Plebiscite period), so that in these territories one finds:

1. Hungarian stamps with Hungarian cancellations.
2. Czechoslovakian stamps with Hungarian cancellations.
3. Czechoslovakian stamps with Slovak cancellations.
4. Plebiscite stamps with Slovak cancellations.
5. Polish stamps with Slovak cancellations.
6. Polish stamps with Polish cancellations.

In the territory surrendered to Poland it may be interesting to note the various spellings of the different towns. In Orava:

Hungarian name	Slovak name	Polish name
Jablonka	Jablonka	Jablonka Orawska
Podvilk	Podvlk	Podwilk n. Orawe
Chizsne	Chyzne	Chyzne
Also Lipnicza	Dolna Lipnica	Dolna Lipnica
Felso Zubricza	Vysna Zubrica	Gorna Zuzrzyca

*—Reprinted with permission from the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST.

and in Spis:

Hungarian name	Slovak name	Polish name
Frigyesvagasa	Fridman	Frydman n. Spiszu
Nedecz	Nededza	Niedzica
Ujterebes	Tribs	Trybsz
Szentmintszent	Kacvin	Kacwin

An essay by Herr Baurat Ing. Weiss, of Moravska-Ostrava, on the Plebiscite cancellations mentions that Plebiscite stamps were also used outside the Plebiscite territory. This is true also of the Spis and Orava districts, and it has been reported that the 15 h. postcard (issue of April 1919) overprinted "S. O. 1920," was also used in postoffices adjacent to the Spis territory. No official confirmation of this has been issued, but the card has been reported with cancellations of KEZMAROK, STARA LUBOVNA, PODOLINEC, SPISSKA BELA, JAREMBINA, and GNIAZDA.

Genuinely used letters from the Spis and Orava Plebiscite territories, with Plebiscite stamps, are for the most part rare. Oftenest the cancellations found are TRSTENA, NAMESTOVO, and SPISSKA STARA VES, because these places were district centers where, in addition to small traders, there were one or two lawyers, doctors, officials, and so on. The rest of the territory, with the exception of two or three communities such as USTIE, SLANICA, and BOBROV, was perhaps the poorest part of Czechoslovakia, the populace being at that time mainly illiterate.

It is a fact, too, that during the Plebiscite period, many postoffices exhausted their stocks of Plebiscite stamps, and ordinary Hradschin stamps without the overprint were used.

Well, this sheds a bit of light on a little known corner of the Czechoslovak republic, particularly if you are interested in postmarks. It is of interest to note, too, that in 1938 when Hitler overran the country, he handed the Spis territory to Poland, so now there will be new postmarks still to come from this part of the country.

(Note: Some of the details in this article appeared in the Bratislava "Donau-Post" in 1936, to which publication the author acknowledges his indebtedness).

HO! HUM!

by Clement A. Pulaski

Vacation time!—vacations are magnificent revitalizers, but what havoc is played with correspondence. Two weeks in the "Windy City" caused a piling up of seventy pieces of mail from philatelists in Poland. Patience is a grand virtue, particularly when applied by those waiting for replies.

* * *

Our Canadian member, Walter Dutkiewicz, presents a copy of "PRZEKROJ" a weekly news-magazine. The reader is pleasantly surprised to observe a three-quarter column section devoted to philatelic news which is edited by the well known Professor Stanley Mikstein. Incidentally, reports indicate that this "grand master" of the Krakow issues, continued his research and writings uninterruptedly during the war years.

* * *

Simply say "Lenard's" whenever an ideal meeting place is desired. A random visit to this elite Polish restaurant is certain to result in meeting old friends, but new friendships are instantaneously seeded there. In this charming environment a fine evening was spent with the congenial Dr. Mioduszewski and John Jaworski (a designer of bridal gowns). Thanks to both for an interesting hour of coffee sipping.

* * *

The A. P. S. had a grand show. With a bit of vacationing yet to do after the show, Myron Steczynski and his charming wife, took us into control for a few days and nights. Mrs. Steczynski is a perfect hostess. My family was engulfed by her warm hospitality and we are profoundly grateful for an enjoyable stay. John and Cynthia chummed together nicely. Be sure to read the next BULLETIN for details about the Larking Collection.

The Beeba ended shortly before 3:00 a.m. Lingering members assembled in the clubroom and at the bar, singing Polish songs and exchanging stories. Al Kolaczewski sang stirring songs with his resounding Bass voice. Adam Kloskowski surprised us with a repertoire of Polish and Ukrainian songs. Mrs. Kolaczewski proved to be just as adept at singing as at cooking, but best of all in story telling.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED

Stanley Falcon