

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

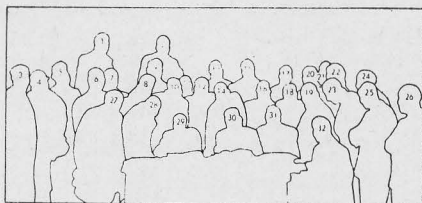
Issue No. 167

February 1959

POLONUS 20th ANNIVERSARY — 1939-1959



Little did Chester Mikucki realize when he began inserting notices in the *Daily Zgoda* for the formation of a Polish Stamp Club that the result of his idea would be the Polonus Philatelic Society. Chester was probably the most surprised young man when on February 26, 1939, fifty-four stamp-collecting enthusiasts responded to his call for a meeting at the Veterans' Home on Wood Street in Chicago. Nevertheless, such WAS the result. And the above photograph shows a part of the group that attended the first meeting.



The above sketch is a key to the identification of those on the photograph. No. 1 Felix Pientka, secretary; 2 Roman Reinowski, director; 3 J. Wisniewski; 4 Mrs. J. Wisniewski; 5 J. A. Kupiec; 6 F. Kunicki; 7 Charles Cwiakala; 8 Stanley Pin-

dak; 9 Bert Powell, publicity director; 10 unidentified; 11 J. Witkowski; 12 Walter Leja; 13 A. Zukowski; 14 E. Skupniewicz; 15 J. Migiel; 16 C. Sarniecki; 17 R. Wojciecki; 18 Dr. Leon Kozakiewicz, director; 19 Henry J. Choynecki, vice-president; 20 Stanley Madro; 21 M. E. Steczynski, historian and librarian; 22 Adam Nowinski; 23 Lester Jankowski, president; 24 J. Czesak; 25 W. Lewinski; 26 J. Jaworski; 27 unidentified; 28 E. Mizdrak; 29 Chester Mikucki, treasurer; 30 Dr. M. E. Uznanski; 31 Jack Domar, sales manager; 32 John Skotnicki.

THE STORY OF THE POLONUS SOCIETY

By Chester J. Mikucki

In the annals of Polish history there exists evidence of the operation of a system of couriers for the handling of official mail during the reign of King Chrobry, approximately 1000 A.D. The first postal system in the modern sense was definitely established by King Sigmund, 1548-1572.

In 1558 he granted a concession to one Prospero Povano of Venice for the dispatching of mail from the capital of Poland to Venice, then something of a mercantile center of the Mediterranean world. The cost of this facility was absorbed by the King.

Eventually this "franchise" was acquired by the well known Thurn and Taxis family, and from then on in developments came thick and fast.

With such a background, it was but natural that philatelists interested in Poland and its postal history and issues should eventually find their common interests drawing them to a common focus of activity. Thus it came about that on February 26, 1939, in response to an ad in the Polish Daily Zgoda and by personal contact with well known collectors of Poland and its associated countries, 54 collectors assembled and organized the Polonus Philatelic Society of Chicago, Illinois.

To many, the name "Polonus" strikes an odd chord, but it does have a meaning, as told to the members of Polonus by Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz. The name "Polonus" goes back to the times of Kopernik, the Polish astronomer, who while attending the University at Padua in Italy, registered at the school as "Kopernik, Nationality Polonus" (which meant in Latin, a Pole.)

At the first meeting officers were elected and the objectives of the Society were laid out, and the dreams of many collectors of Poland and associated countries were fulfilled. The following were elected as officers: president, L. J. Jankowski; vice president, H. Choynacki; secretary, F. Pientka; treasurer, C. J. Mikucki; Librarian, M. E. Steczynski; directors, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz and R. Reinowski; and publicity director, B. Powell.

The objectives of the Polonus Philatelic Society are:

To promote and encourage philately;

To do research, translate and disseminate information for the benefit of philately in general and the collectors of Poland in particular; and

To publish a bulletin and submit articles for publication by other sources for the promotion of knowledge of the postal issues of Poland.

One of our first and saddest disappointments was due to World War II breaking out in Europe. It caused the breakdown of arrangements which had been completed with the Polish Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs for an automatic marking of all new issues and first day covers. Assurance also had been received from the Polish Philatelic Agency that obsolete material would be available to us. Many members were fortunate to receive the first day covers of Scott's Nos. 340 and B35 just as Poland was invaded. These were the first and last covers received under the arrangements.

As a society of Polish collectors, we felt we had a duty to perform of influencing the catalog makers to recognize and record correctly certain Polish issues, which were then not properly listed. In appreciation of our cooperation along the lines, Scott Publications sent the Society a copy of the 1940 edition, inscribed with the Society's name on the cover. This acknowledgment is received annually.

Because of the war, correspondence with fellow collectors in Poland was discontinued. The job of keeping the stamps of Poland out in front was accomplished with timely articles in the Philatelic press for the duration of the war.

The first publication issued by Polonus was a mimeographed bulletin, issued in October 1939. It listed the officers and information about Polonus. Two issues were released after which the "National Stamp News" became the official organ of the Society. It carried a twice-a-month column about the organization.

At the October meeting, our president informed us that a charter had been granted us and that we were now a legally organized "not for profit" organization. Our membership had increased to 72.

In the early part of 1940, Polonus became Branch Chapter 110 of the Society of Philatelic Americans. Since that time many Polonus members have taken active part in the SPA. Proof of this was seen at the SPA Convention in 1955 when Polonus was awarded a plaque for having the most SPA members, a total of 54.

Among the members who were very active, here are a few who are known to the writer: V. Domanski, Philadelphia, Pa.; S. Rich, Verona, N. J.; Ben Reeves, L. J. Jankowski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, B. Powell, B. Fialkowski, and Stanley Falcon, all of Chicago, Ill.; Ray Bartz, Detroit, Mich.; R. Reinowski, North Riverside, Ill.; J. J. Domar, Berwyn, Ill.; and L. Topolinski, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

On the incentive of a Polonus member a magazine was begun, devoted to the stamps of Poland and associated countries. It was published by Henry Choynecki as a private venture, later becoming the official organ of the Polonus Philatelic Society. There was a total of thirteen issues. Today they are very scarce, being much sought after by collectors of Poland.

In August of 1942, at the SPA Convention in Detroit, the present Polonus "Bulletin" was launched. Number 152, September 1957, was our 15th Anniversary issue. In these 152 copies one finds very diversified writing on all phases of Polish philately, from the prestamp era to the present time. Included is much additional information on the Locals, Occupations, Plebiscites, Revenues, POW's, DP Camps, Fantasies and Forgeries, plus the social activities of the Society, which include our "Polpex" and "Beebas."

Polonus took a very active part in the International Philatelic Week. It also started a trend which is followed by many other societies, by holding a social, better known to collectors as a "BEEBA."

Many have asked, "What is a beeba?" All a questioner has to do is to ask anyone who attended either of the "Beebas" held with the National Philatelic Societies Convention in Chicago. One was with the SPA in 1944, the other with the APS in 1946. ("Pat" Herst calls it a Polish "Smorgasbord").

On June 22, 1943 Polonus acquired the well earned honor of having the U.S. stamp honoring Poland issued in Chicago as a first day of issue. This was accomplished thru the many philatelic friends of Polonus and with the help of the philatelic press.

POLONUS 20-YEAR MEMBERS

1. Lester Jankowski
2. Henry Choynecki
4. Chester Mikucki
7. L. A. Kupferwasser
8. Leon P. Kozakiewicz, M.D.
9. Adam Nowinski
11. John Skotnicki
13. S. Madro
14. Roman Reinowski
15. Jack Domar
16. Matthew Uznanski, M.D.
17. C. F. Sarnecki
19. Bert Powell
20. John Jaworski
21. Edward Skupniewicz
23. Roman Wojciecki
26. T. J. Zablocki
28. J. A. Kupiec
33. Ben Reeves
35. J. Witkowski
38. A. Rybarski
39. Walter Lewinski
40. Myron Steczynski
44. Adam Kloskowski
46. J. Lobsenz
58. F. A. Wolosiewicz
61. Vincent Domanski Jr.
89. Stephen Stecki
92. Clement A. Pulaski
95. Alex Warot

The above listed 20-Year Members are invited to attend the Beeba to be held on Saturday night, February 28th 9:30 p.m., at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago. The Beeba will be held in conjunction with Polpex 1959. All 20-Year Members will be honored and will receive a special certificate of membership.

Polpex 1959 Honors 400th Anniversary of Polish Mail

By Myron E. Steczynski

On the 20th anniversary of the Polonus Philatelic Society, its POLPEX 1959 honors the 400th anniversary of Polish postal service. It was on October 18, 1558 that King Sigismund II August by royal decree granted to his courtier, Prosper Provana, the right to operate a permanent mail service from Krakow to Venice, a route which was later extended to Milan and Rome.

The formally recorded establishment of such service developed the mails from a limited dispatch by couriers for the royalty, the Church and merchants and extended it to a widespread segment. Closer, more frequent and faster contact with Italy was earnestly sought because the mighty Milanese family of Sforza was related to Polish royalty, so both had much to discuss. Furthermore, the high cultural and economic development in Poland at the time was under strong influence and closely tied to Italian humanism, renaissance and the arts.

Realizing the tremendous importance of these contacts, the king extended the postal service to the public and financed the venture from the royal treasury. The route was simplified and alternate ways were established in case of adverse elements. Vienna was the principal city along the way. The journey from Krakow to Vienna took 4 and later 3 days; the journey from Vienna to Venice took 7, and later 5 days, with the service one week apart. In time, both the speed and frequency were bettered.

After Prosper Provana died, the postal service for nearly 2 centuries was handled by the Krakow burgher family of Montelupi, who later polonized the name to Wilczogorski. Service was constantly improved and extended in all directions. Stations were established and equipment modernized. Rates were standardized and scaled downward, so that the Polish postal service flourished with the years. Its first stamp appeared in 1860; the others during and after World War I.

Poland celebrated its 400th postal anniversary very impressively. The Min-



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX 1959

FEB. 27, 28, MARCH 1

CHICAGO

istry of Communications issued a large, deluxe, richly illustrated album of 400 pages giving the history, scope, operation, organization and description of the services and of the postal emissions.

A national philatelic exhibition was held in Warsaw from Oct. 25 to Nov. 10, 1958. A miniature sheet of six 2.50 zloty stamps in olive on buff paper was issued at this exhibition in a quantity of 250,000 and was limited to one sheet per admission ticket.

A mediaeval, horse-drawn post-chaise with attendants in historic attire passed through Wrocław, Kraków, Łowicz and Warsaw, accepted mail and applied special cachets.

On Feb. 28, 1958 Scott's No. 799 was issued. A two-color set of 5 stamps, together with four appropriate postal cards was issued on October 8, 1958. Anniversary cachets were used on presentation sheets and on mail. Two antique souvenir envelopes were also issued, one showing a post coach against the skyline of Kraków and the other a post coach against the skyline of Venice. Finally, a 50 zloty stamp, the same design as was used for the mini-

ature sheet of 6, was printed in blue on pure white woven silk and issued on Dec. 12, 1958.

The POLPEX 1959 souvenir sheet is based on two stamps of the anniversary series. A post-chaise drawn by four horses passing St. Mary's church in Krakow is the subject of the 60 gr. stamp. The upper stamp shows a mediaeval postal messenger as depicted on the 2.10 zloty value. The bar of music at the top is from a light-vein soldier song that fits the general theme.

There are two souvenir sheets to a set and these come with a folder containing historical information regarding the Polish Postal Service. The sheets and folder are 25c plus postage, and are available from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

One hundred and forty-four frames will make up Polpex 1959 featuring the mails, Locals, Plebescites, Fieldposts, stamps of Poland—General Issues, Air-Offices Abroad, Prisoner of War and Topicals. In the Court of Honor will be shown rare 18th Century Historical Polish Military Covers from Mr. V. Rachmanoff's collection and Civilian Mail of this era from Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz's collection.

As Polpex 1959 happens to be the Twentieth Annual Exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society, all the present members with twenty years of membership will be honored. The outstanding event of the Show takes place on Saturday night when the Beeba Party is held. Polish style food is served and a program will be presented.

AN INVITATION TO CHICAGOLAND MEMBERS

The Frame and Easel Committee
invites you to attend a

~ PUT-UP PARTY ~

on Thursday evening, February 26th
at Falcons Hall
1062 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Entree 6:30 p.m.

Bring along:
Small Screw Driver
and Wipe-Cloth

POLONUS PRESIDENTS

Lester Jankowski	1939—1940
Henry J. Chojnacki	1941—1942
J. J. Domar	1942—1943
Myron E. Steczynski	1943—1944
Dr. M. E. Uznanski	1945—1946
Ddam Kloskowski	1947—1948
Chester Mikucki	1948—1949
Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz	1949—1951
Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz	1951—1952
Leo Haska	1952—1953
John S. Bobo	1953—1954
Anton A. Banasiak	1954—1956
Stefan Kochanski	1956—1958
Roman J. Burkiewicz	1958—1959

OFFICERS FOR 1959

Roman Burkiewicz	President
John Bor	Vice President
Roman Strzelecki	Secretary
Adam Kloskowski	Treasurer
Mathias Pristika	Librarian
Stefan Kochanski	Director
Roman Reinowski	Director

APPLICANTS PENDING

Br. John of the Cross, C.S.C.
Holy Trinity High School
Library - 1443 W. Division St.
Chicago 22, Illinois

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

E. D. Wolski, No. 510
2104, 12th Ave.,
Braderton, Fla.
Thaddeus Kotowski, 595
168 Paine Ave.,
Irvington, New Jersey
John Jasinski, 534
Box 2713
Denver 1, Colo.

TID BITS

Dr. M. E. Uznanski will display his collection of Rocket Mail and talk about the tremendous progress and future in Rocket Mail at the Feb. 27th meeting of the Jack Knight Air Mail Society.

Place: Hotel LaSalle in Chicago.

BULLETIN ADS — PRICE LIST

For Polonus Members Only

Full Page	— \$12.00
Half Page	— 7.00
Quarter Page	— 4.00
One inch ad	— 1.50

U.S. STAMP HONORING PADEREWSKI REQUESTED

Washington—U.S. Rep. John Lesinski (D.Mich.) appealed to Postmaster Gen. Summerfield requesting that a stamp be issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in 1960.

Rep. Lesinski's recommendation was made in line with the Post Office Department's "Champion of Freedom" series of commemorative stamps.

"Paderewski, born on November 6, 1860, is one of the few great men of the twentieth century who distinguished themselves in more than one field of activity," Lesinski wrote to Mr. Summerfield. "Because of his eminence in the world of music, however, people often do not associate his name with another phase of activity — that of statesmanship."

Mr. Lesinski further stated that:

"Paderewski possessed a broad and deep vision. He was not a small patriot or narrow nationalist. He saw clearly that liberty and freedom could not be enjoyed by Poles, if these were denied to other Europeans.

"Paderewski was the indispensable man for the Poles; and he unhesitatingly and unselfishly devoted himself to their cause. He organized relief work for Polish war victims and worked with Polish groups in the United States to mobilize their united efforts for freedom in the defense of democracy.

"He wanted everyone with the means at his disposal to fight for the freedom of the West against despotism in the last war. His idea of freedom was inseparable from democracy, for to him without democracy and its institutions there could be no freedom.

"Clearly, Paderewski was a 'Champion of Freedom' and should be so commemorated by the issuance of a stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth."

Polish-American Cultural groups throughout the country should immediately petition Postmaster Gen. Summerfield supporting Congressman Lesinski's recommendation to honor Paderewski in 1960. Address all mail to Postmaster General Sum-

merfield, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D.C. Mark it Personal.

Individual Polonus members should write to their local Congressman and Senators. Address your letters with their name, Administration Building, Washington 25, D.C.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL CLUB?

It isn't a series of programs, or a hit parade of shows, or a smashing dynamic leader—albeit any one of each is an asset to any club.

Is not it the members themselves, each expressing a willingness to contribute in their best fashion a part of their collecting experience?

The old timer attends hoping to see what is going on and unconsciously regains some of his youthful enthusiasm for the hobby. The beginner soon sees that there is more to collecting than acquiring innumerable bits of paper.

The eager beaver extrovert has a fine meeting with others of his gender and polishing his ego with demonstrations and acquisitions of his collection.

The escapist soon forgets worldly problems in reveries over a phase or problem associated with his stamps.

It takes a bit of all kinds each with the common denomination of enthusiasm for his particular field that makes up a successful club. Hand and glove each needs the other to make the evening complete.

A successful club is a place where all find friendship and happiness and there is little antagonism.

A successful club has the confidence to plan and execute a series of events full knowing that its members will always be ready to partake their individual share of what must be done.

Oddly enough a successful club has no member by the name of "George." That is because no one there will let "George" do it!

Reprinted from "Garfield-Perryscope" the official publication of Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Cleveland, Ohio.

"HISTORY ON STAMPS"

To introduce myself to you readers, my name is John F. Szuch. I am 21 years of age, and a senior and a history major at John Carroll University in Cleveland. I had the pleasure of meeting some of you members at the 1957 Polpex.

I started collecting Polish stamps when I was about 11 years old. My main stimulus for collecting Poland was the fact that I am a Pole. But as I got older, I became aware of the wealth of historical and cultural information depicted on Polish stamps. This led to my intense interest in history, particularly that of Poland. Almost every stamp in itself depicts a story and a phase of Polish history or culture.

Each collector is aware of what is depicted on a stamp, but much too often he doesn't know what is the story behind what is depicted. How many of you knew for example that Jan Dabrowski and Joseph Poniatowski (on Scott's No. 329) lead Polish Legions in Napoleon's Army, or that Joseph Bem (Scott's No. 489) is a Hungarian hero because of his services in Kossuth's army during the Hungarian rising against Austria in 1849. These are only a few. I am sure that you have often wondered about a battle or person that is depicted on a Polish stamp. It would be a pleasure for me to be able to answer some of your questions through my column. Send me the Scott's number of the stamp you are wondering about, along with your question about it. Send your questions to John F. Szuch, 11712 Avon Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio.

Actually, this is your column, because it will contain the answers to questions you, the readers, have sent in. Your comments and criticisms will always be welcome, so don't be afraid to write. A 3-cent postcard will do. I am anxiously looking forward to hearing from you!

I hope that my idea appeals to you. It would give me a chance as an out-

of-town member, to do something for the club.

I think that this is the sort of article which would be of interest both to young and old collectors of Polish stamps. As far as research for my articles goes, I work in the History Dept. of the main branch of the Cleveland Public Library system.

—John F. Szuch

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 12

January, 1959

Our last meeting was held on the last day in January and we welcomed those two very famous philatelic journalists, L. N. and M. Williams to our Society. Their work is equally well known on both sides of the Atlantic and your members will recall they are at present writing a master series of articles called "Fundamentals of Philately" in the **American Philatelist**.

Their display was entitled "Stamp Production" and we were lucky enough to be shown many items from their box of treasures to illustrate the talk. The writer never ceases to be amazed at the long succession of rare and unusual stamps which these two eminent philatelists always produce when giving displays to societies.

Mr. L. N. Williams began by describing in detail the essentials of stamp production by the recess-printed method. A highlight of his display was an illustration of the 25 groszy error of colour in a pane of 9 stamps of the 1924 40 groszy First Gold Currency issue (Scott 215 to 225). Another photograph was then passed around which showed the repaired plate. On this could be seen the 9 clichés concerned, showing where the 25 groszy value had been cut out and replaced by the correct 40 groszy. This error, of course, is not listed by Scott, but does appear in the Polish catalogues and also in Michel.

The second part of the afternoon was devoted to a show by Fr. M. Williams, who passed around sheets from the brothers' extensive collection of local stamps. These included superb examples from Austria, Roumania and Hungary, and we understand that many of these stamps will be on view at the Inter-

national Philatelic Exhibition (INTER-POSTA 1959) to be held in Hamburg, Germany at the end of May. To complete a really interesting and unusual display, we were shown the recently discovered further copy of that famous local from Japan, the ¼ on 1 boo of Sutherland & Co.

— RON NEGUS

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

Just at press time of last month's issue, we received notice of a new Sports Set. The official information has since been received.

A set of four stamps was released on January 3rd in value of 40 gr., 60 gr., 95 gr. and 2 zloty.

40 gr.—Sailing boat at sea; background light blue and green.

60 gr.—Girl archer with drawn bow; orange and violet.

95 gr.—Two soccer players in action; green and violet.

2 zł.—Female equestrian taking the jumps; green yellow and blue green.

Size—25.5 mm. x 31.25. Printed in

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Chicago 22, Illinois

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Associate Editors this Issue

Chester Mikucki, Myron Steczynski,

J. J. Domar, John F. Szuch

Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

rotogravure by Państwowa Wytwornia Papierów Wartościowych (Government Printing Wks. of Valuable Papers at Warsaw. Artists were not mentioned.

POLAND 400 Year Anniversary Issues

No. 799 Postillion	Mint \$.10	FDC \$.15
Set of five 400 Year Anniversary Set.....	Mint .35	FDC .35
1959 Souvenir Sheet of Six.....	Mint .75	FDC 1.00
Same single value	Mint .10	FDC .15
400 Year Souvenir Sheet 50 zł. printed on silk....	Mint 2.50	FDC 2.50
Postal Cards — 5 varieties	Mint .50	
400 Page Book with Souvenir Sheet and Many Imperf. Proofs in color	5.00	
No. 745 — 60 gr. Olympic imperf.	Mint 7.50	
Nos. 761/763 perf., imperf. and Souvenir Sheet....	Mint 3.50	
Roosevelt Airmails San. Nos. 32/34.....	Mint 2.00	
Same in Sheets of 16	Mint 40.00	
Same in Souvenir Sheet.....	Mint 3.50	
General Gouvernement Hitler Imperfs. 15 values.....	15.00	
No. 50 90 hal. Kraków	Mint 60.00	
No. 50 90 hal. Kraków	Used 60.00	
No. 50 90 hal. Kraków "Thin Z" variety.....	Used 150.00	
No. J8 1 kr. Kraków	Mint 125.00	
No. J9 5 kr. Kraków	Mint 125.00	
1956 Bound Volume Filatelista	3.50	
1957 Bound Volume Filatelista	3.50	
1958 Bound Volume Filatelista when available	3.50	
1860/1956 Catalog of Poland	2.25	

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