

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Fri. at Jan Beyzym Memorial House, 6965 Belmont, Chicago

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POLPEX 73 JUST A FEW WEEKS AWAY!

In the 34 year history of the Polonus Philatelic Society, no event was ever as great as the coming POLPEX 73 on March 23-25 at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago. The largest exhibition ever — 288 frames — of Space, topical, special Copernicus, general Poland, U.S. and foreign material will be shown, with entries from collectors in Poland, Canada, England, France, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Australia, and the U.S. — truly an international show.



A coin and medal exhibit exhibit will be presented by the Polish American Numismatic Association. A forty dealer bourse, U.N. and U.S. post offices will operate on the premises using special cancellations.

Among the dealers will be Polonus members W. Kollakowski from Great Neck, New York, Jan Haniewicz from Brooklyn, N.Y., Joseph Bieniecki from Granite City, Ill. and local boys Roman Burkiewicz, Roman Strzelecki, Jan Kubicki and Gus Kokocinski.

A unique design appears on the special Copernicus medallion struck in Poland for the occasion. A gilded medallion will be presented to Polpex Patrons who contribute \$50.00 toward the exhibition expenses.

The presentation of medals, regular and special awards will take place on Saturday evening, March 24th, at the Beeba-Banquet in the Century Room of the La Salle Hotel. Dr. James J. Matějka will act as master of ceremonies. Cocktails at 7 p.m. Buffet served at 8 p.m. Live music during the reception. Tickets are priced at \$6.50 per person.

For Beeba-Banquet reservations please contact the Exhibition Secretary, Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622, phone BR 8-7876.

The official Polpex opening ceremony will take place on Friday at 12 noon with prominent personalities participating.

The Space Unit of the American Topical Association will hold a meeting Sunday during the exhibition.

With this issue of the *Bulletin* we enclose a souvenir POLPEX 73 multicolor label. Additional labels are available at 30c per

(Continued on Page 308-8)

U.S. COPERNICUS STAMP ON APRIL 23rd

The official U.S. Postal Service Philatelic Release No. 8 dated February 3, 1973 states:

An 8-cent postage stamp honoring Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), an astronomer who viewed the universe through modern eyes, will be issued April 23 in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Postal Service announced today.



The U.S. joins a number of nations who are paying postal tribute to this esteemed astronomer on the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Born Mikołaj Kopernik February 19, 1473, in Torun, Poland, he early latinized his name to Nicolaus Copernicus.

In 1543, his book "On the Revolutions of Heavenly Bodies" challenged a theory that had been held since the second century, when Ptolemy of Alexan-

dria deduced that the earth was the central position in the universe, around which the sun, moon and planets revolved. Copernicus gave the sun the central position, a theory later accepted by Kepler and Galileo.

His theory prevailed into the 20th Century, when a minor aspect of it appears to have been disproved by Einstein's theory of relativity.

The vertical stamp, based on an 18th century engraving, was designed by Alvin Eisenman, of Bethany, Connecticut. It was modelled by Howard C. Mildner and engraved by Albert Saavedra (lettering) and Arthur W. Dintaman (vignette) of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The portrait and the inscription "Copernicus 1473-1973" at the top and "8¢ US," lower left, will be printed in yellow by offset.

The first day ceremonies in Washington will be sponsored jointly by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academy of Sciences. The ceremonies will take place in the National Museum of History and Technology.

First day cancellation requests may be made to "Copernicus Stamp, Postmaster, Washington, DC 20013," enclosing proper remittance and with request dated no later than April 23.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday March 9, 1973 —

Last meeting before Polpex at 6965 W. Belmont Ave. — 8 p.m.

On the next four pages we continue with another installment of V. Maxa's article on the Piłsudski-Mościcki Issues.

Fig. 18



though the correct sequence should have been 2 I; the fourth is correctly marked 4 I. Oddly enough those two numbers come again from the right-hand vertical pair of the panes.

The damaged plate I was soon replaced by plate II to enable printing of the required number of stamps.

3rd Issue:

This is also a complicated issue. According to Polish sources 5,298,000 stamps were printed from plate III on papers w and z. Obviously, if English-made paper was used, stamps from this issue must exist both on papers v and w; those on paper w forming the majority (about 90%) and those on paper v a small part only (about 10%).

The order to the printers was sent on April 11, 1930. The plate III was, indeed, laid at the P.Z.G. and the printing and perforating of the stamps must have been executed there too, certainly that part of this issue printed on English-made paper.

I presume that after reaching 5 million stamps the stock of the English-made paper was exhausted. Late 1929 and early 1930 being the period of transfer of the stamp production from the P.Z.G. to the P.W.P.W. the plate III was probably sent to the P.W.P.W. There it was repaired and cleaned and another about 300,000 Mościcki stamps

were printed from it on Polish-made paper z. These stamps were then perforated 11½ only and the perforating was most most probably done by the P.W.P.W. machines.

This printing on paper z must have been small and it is very difficult to find copies used in 1930 — I have only one dated May 7, 1930 — the majority of them bears postmarks from January to May, 1931.

The plate number 3 I is reproduced in the Polish handbook but no information is given as to the kind of paper used.

As stated before, it is not possible to clarify stamps printed on papers v and w to a single issue 1, 2 or 3. Only the first issue can be separated with the aid of dates on postmarks (all stamps prior to say December 15, 1928, must belong to the 1st issue.)

All these Mościcki stamps can be found in black, grey-black, blue-black and brown-black; the first shade being the most common, the last the scarcest.

4th Issue:

Plate IV was used for this issue and the whole set of plate numbers is shown in fig. 19. The printing was ordered on May 16, 1931 and 4,913,200 stamps were printed on Polish-made paper z and perforated



Fig. 19

11½ only. All the four shades of black are known.

Plate IV was, of course, prepared at the P.Z.G. but the actual printing and perforating of the stamps was obviously executed at the P.W.P.W.

Again it is not possible to separate stamps printed on paper z from the 3rd and 4th issues. Only used stamps dated between April, 1930, and May, 1931 must be positively from the 3rd issue.

It is precisely the stamps from this issue that were stolen. The mint Mościcki stamp on paper z is quite scarce nowadays.

j. Issues 5 and 6: (Printers P.W.P.W.)

In 1931 plates A and B were prepared at the P.W.P.W. for further printing of the Mościcki stamp on Polish-made paper z.

A print from plate A was made but because of the stamp robbery, never came into normal use. It is not known how many stamps were printed. I doubt that it was a large number, certainly not five or ten million as was the norm for the P.W.P.W. manufactured plates. The printing was certainly stopped when the stamp theft occurred and perhaps only a few hundred sheets were printed. My plate number 3 A (fig. 20) shows that

stamps from this issue were used for the DOPLATA overprints.

Plate B never served for the printing of 1 zloty black stamps. It was kept in store till 1936 when the 1 zloty blue was printed from it.

k. Defects and Errors:

In my collection I have a Mościcki stamp printed on paper w with a small paper fold. Another stamp (also on paper w) shows a black short hair-line (in reality a print from a scratch) in the margin of the stamp.

l. Postmarks and Perfins:

Black postmarks were, of course, normal, but some post-offices used also brown, blue and magenta color for their



Fig. 20

postmarks. They are not very numerous.

As on the Piłsudski stamp, perfin also exist on the Mościcki 1 złoty black. Mr. Sękowski lists eight different firms but, indeed, more can be still discovered. (Perfins marked x are included in my collection).

- x B.A.L. — United Baltic Corporation, Warsaw;
- B.P. — Księgarnia Polska (The Polish Bookshop) Bernard Połoniecki, Lwów;
- x HFS — Henryka Franka Synowie - Skawina (holes 1,1 mm.);
- x HFS — ditto (holes 0,7 mm.)
- M — ? from Poznań
- OL — ? from Warsaw
- x VOC/D — Vacuum Oil Company, Działdowo;
- x S Z — Schneider & Zimmer Mill, Leszno Wielkopolskie.

The Polish post regulated the issue of perfins insisting that the holes of the monograms must measure not more than 1 mm. across. The firm of Messrs H. Frank's Sons did violate this regulation and therefore had to replace their old perfin (1.1 mm.) with a new one (0.7 mm.).

IV. MOŚCICKI 1 ZŁOTY BLUE

The 1 złoty blue stamp was issued on May 29, 1935 to mark the 10th Anniversary of the taking up of the Presidential Office by Ignacy Mościcki. It was withdrawn from use on November 15, 1937. From plate B only 330,000 stamps were printed in ultramarine blue on Polish-made white paper, all perforated comb. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The size of the stamp is A, i.e. 19.50×25.25 mm. With this kind of paper, the same shrinking effect occurred as on the Piłsudski stamp.

In my collection I have plate number 2 B; the Polish handbook shows a photograph of plate number 3 B which bears an odd numeral 2 in a horizontal position (fig. 21). The reason for the introduction of this extra plate number is unknown to me.



Fig. 21

The Mościcki blue was thoroughly described in the U.S. magazine *STAMPS* of March 3, 1956 (p. 306) by Myron E. Steczynski. He rightly points out that the commemorating date under the stamp — 1926 - 3. VI. - 1936 — is in reality an overprint although it is not placed on the stamp but below it (I would call it an *imprint*) and it was applied by a different technique. While the stamps were recess-printed, the imprint was applied by letter-press (typography). It was certainly done in single panes of 10×10 stamps.

Because the imprint was applied in a second operation on already printed panes the relative position of the dates to the stamp design varies. Thus we find the date close to the bottom frame or further down and shifted either to the right or left from the vertical axis of the stamp design (passing through the O in ZŁOTY). But these varieties are not constant, they differ from sheet to sheet

according to the register of the imprint.

The fact that the bottom inscription was printed by typography is revealed by the embossing of the letters which rise from the paper when the stamp

is examined from the back.

I have seen no defective prints. One złoty blue was never forged.

To conclude the description of the Mościcki stamp I put all the major information in table IV.

TABLE IV
Mościcki Stamp — Summary of Dates

Issue	Printer	Color	Plate Nos.	Papers	Perf. Varieties	Printing Ordered	Earliest Date	Last Date Of Use	Quantities in '000s
1	PZG	black	indexes only	v w	11 - 14	12-2-27			5,060
2	PZG	black	I, II	v w	11 - 14	12-18-28			5,000
3	PZG	black	III	v w	11 - 14	4-11-30			5,298
	PWPW			z			5-7-30		
4	PWPW	black	IV	z	11½	5-16-31		7-29-31	4,915
5	PWPW	black	A	z	11½	31			?
6	PWPW	blue	B	white	11½		6.3.36		330

IV. DOPLATA OVERPRINT

Closely related to the previous issue of the Mościcki stamp is the DOPLATA or Postage due overprint.

In June, 1930 the Polish postal authorities issued a 5 groszy postage-due stamp (Scott J83) which was obviously the first stamp of a new set. But this project was abandoned and for economy reasons new postage-due stamps were obtained by overprinting the withdrawn Mościcki stamp.

What kind of stamp was overprinted? Mainly the Mościcki 1 złoty on paper z but also a very small quantity of those on papers v and w. We can presume that in the summer of 1931 all the stamps from the 1st and 2nd issues and practically also those from the 3rd one on papers v, w and z were sold out everywhere with the exception of the village post-offices where the demand for the high-value stamps was small. The bulk of

the withdrawn stamps was printed on paper z from the 4th issue and the stamps held at the G.P.O. stores as reserve.

The DOPLATA provisionals were ordered on four dates and three different values were overprinted as shown in table V.

TABLE V.
*Doplata Overprint
Summary of Dates*

Date	Value	Type	Paper	Quantity in '000s
9-12-34	25 gr	I	v w z	950
1-16-36	20 gr	-	z	880
1-16-36	25 gr	II	z	950
5-27-36	10 gr	-	v w z	977
3-10-36	10 gr	-	z	818.5
Total Overprinted				4,575,000

When taking the inventory of the overprints we can neglect the stamps on paper v and w as not more than a few hundred sheets of 100 stamps each were overprinted. We can also presume that all the 298,000 Mościcki stamps printed on paper z

(To be continued)

PUBLIC AUCTION

MARCH 23-24 1973 In Conjunction With POLPEX 73



at the Lincoln & Douglas Rooms of the
LA SALLE HOTEL — 18th Floor

Over 1400 quality lots from various owners to be sold
at our unreserved Auction No. 27. Included are:

POLAND: An extensively specialized collection including a 1794 Banknote, 1771 & 1831 Newspapers, #1 (24 lots including a Pair on CVR), classical Errors, a large variety of Proofs and Essays, Warsaw Uprising Scout Mail, 1960 Stamp Centenary Sheetlets, strong showing of Postal History, Polish Army in Russia, WWI-WWII Military Mail, Prisoner of War Mail, Polish Navy in Great Britain; also includes an auxiliary collection of three extremely scarce MEMEL covers; plus many, many more!

UNITED STATES: 178 lots including the 1847's off and on cover, strong showings of other 19th Century issues, the 5c Lincoln Imperf and 2c Lincoln blue paper, Coils, Air Mails, a sheet of the 80c Hawaii, strong selection of Revenues including R79a, R135b, R385, R694; Freaks, Cut Squares and many, many more!

BRITISH EMPIRE: 200 lots including 19-20th Century Great Britain, Antigua, Australia, British Caribbean Arcas with Bahamas #17 unused very fine, Ceylon Top value KGV Specimens, Ghana, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Canada & Newfoundland, Malta #1, British Pacific, New Zealand and many more!

GENERAL FOREIGN: Hundreds of lots including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Congo, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Ethiopia, Finland specialized, France, Greece, Italy, Japan with early issues unused, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico (48 lots) Russia with #1 unused and a used Pair, No. 2-7 used, Spain, Switzerland, Western Ukraine Government in Exile, U.P.U.'s, Malania, Refugee Year and many more!

GERMANY: Including Legion Post issues, Bavaria, Brunswick #3 genuinely used, and many, many more!

U.S. & WORLDWIDE POSTAL HISTORY: Includes the 1847's on CVR, Civil War material, German Army in Bulgaria, Germany & Colonies, Great Britain, Israel, Concentration Camp Mail, Japan, Mexico, South Russia, French Mandate Syria, a Latvia Stampless (1826), Austria and many, many more!

AEROPHILATELIC POSTAL HISTORY: 125 lots including U.S. (with 8 lots of Zeppelin Covers with the Zeppelin issues), Catapult Mails (U.S., Austria, Germany, Netherlands), Zeppelin Covers (Brazil, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Paraguay, Russia, Romania), Rocket Mail (France, Germany), Worldwide First Flights, Balloon Mail, Denmark 1919 Aarhus semi-official adhesive, and many more!

Not on our mailing list? . . . Fully Illustrated Catalogue, 50¢ unused postage for First Class mailing.

Catalogues will be distributed, gratis, at the Auction Galleries and at our booth at Polpex 73.

1st Session 7 p.m. Friday, March 23 • 2nd Session 4 p.m. March 24

GREAT LAKES STAMP AUCTIONS

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sheet or 4 for \$1.00. Colorful Cacheted envelopes with the Copernicus theme have also been printed, 3 different for 25c. All proceeds for Polpex expenses. Write to C. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

Arrangements have been made for those persons desiring overnight accommodations at the La Salle Hotel during POLPEX 73 March 23, 24 and 25. Special rate for a single room will be \$20.00 per night (the regular rate for a single room is \$26.00 to \$32.00) and a twin deluxe room is \$26.00 per night (the regular rate for twins runs from \$32.00 to \$34.00).

Reservations should be made through

Mrs. Wanda Szebel
Bank-On-Travel, Inc.
1223 Oakton St. - Bank Bldg.
Des Plaines, Ill. 60018
Phone (312) 298-1757

whose office was instrumental in obtaining group rates at the La Salle Hotel.

Sightseeing arrangements for out-of-towners can also be made through Bank-On-Travel, Inc.

If reservations are desired kindly forward one night's deposit with your request.

POLKAPEX 73

The Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo, N.Y. will hold its annual show March 3-4 at the Polish Kadets Hall, 927 Grant Street in Buffalo. On display will be general Poland, topical, specialized (history, air mail) and Polonica. A U.S. post office will be open using a special cancellation. Cacheted covers and souvenir sheets are available. Their theme honors Nicolaus Copernicus. Hours of the show are Saturday from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. and Sunday from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Admission is free.

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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 \$4.00 —

HUNGARY TO ISSUE COPERNICUS STAMP



(Reprinted from Linn's Stamp News)

Hungary will honor Copernicus this month by issuing a 3-forint stamp with tab. The tab features the planets and other astronomical signs as well as a picture of Toruń, his birthplace. It will be intaglio printed. Quantities will be: 805,000 perforated and 9,000 imperforated.

(Cut courtesy Linn's Stamp News)

UKRAINIAN JOURNAL

The Society of Ukrainian Philatelists, Inc., 1555 Regent St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309, published a 32 page (8½ x 11) Journal. Free copy sent on request to interested collectors. Key articles are printed in English also. The Society has a membership of over 200 collectors. Officers are Dr. Geo. Slusarczyk, pres.; L. S. Onyshkevych, vice-pres.; and G. I. Pawliczko, secy-treas.