

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chgo.

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Season's Greetings



As the new year of 1977 approaches, on behalf of the Executive Board of Polonus, I would like to extend Season's Greetings with Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

You probably noticed in the minutes that some basic changes have already been made in the Society. By having a Board of Directors meeting every month, we are trying to eliminate Society business from the regular meetings and substitute it with interesting philatelic talks and discussions. By doing so we hope to enlarge the attendance. We urge Chicagoland members to take a more active part in the Society's life. Join us every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. We try to have refreshments and a beebe when a special program meeting warrants it.

Out of town members should take advantage of the Members Mart in our Bulletin where a member's ad is printed free of charge. Articles on phases of Poland's philately are always welcomed by the Editor. Your Bulletin is what you make it.

We have many plans for 1977 and the future. Our By-Laws are already revised and brought up to date. In a short time they will be presented to the membership. A Polonus Handbook is to be published twice a year, featuring extensive articles covering various fields in Polish philately. The first edition will carry a deep study by the late Tadeusz Gryzewski on the I Polish Corps of World War I.

A Society lapel emblem was designed and approved by the Board of Directors. It will be available to the members in 1977 at a nominal price. Here's something you can wear proudly as Polonus is known throughout the U.S. and abroad for its contribution to Polish philately. Very shortly a Polonus medal will be designed for use at our future exhibitions and for distinguished contributors to Polish philately.

Other plans include a permanent clubroom reference library.

Polonus has willing-to-work officers who are supported by the Board of Directors. What we need now is more membership activity and cooperation in order to succeed in our achievements.

So look forward to a Bright 1977!

—Alfred Szebel, President

SLOVAKIAN OCCUPATION IN POLAND

By STANISŁAW J. ŻÓŁKIEWSKI - Warszawa

In, November 1938, shortly before World War II, the territory of Katowice and Kraków Districts of Post and Telegraph was increased by a little piece of land at the Slovakian-Polish frontier, ceded to Poland by Czechoslovakia according to the Delimitation Treaty signed in the second part of October, 1938 in Prague.*

The territories ceded to Poland were as follows: in Czadcz Land — three villages lying along the railway line leading from Jabłonków, through Swierczynowiec, to Zwardoń. Corresponding Post Offices were situated in the localities: Skalite (in Slovakian Skalite) and Czerna Beskidzka (in Slovakian Cierne pri Cadci). See Photo 1; in Spisz — the mountainous territory of Jaworzyna in the Pieniny Mountains with the Post Office at Jaworzyna Spiska (in Slovakian Javorina), cf. Photo 2; in Orawa — the territory of Sucha Góra in the Poprad valley, the Post Office was situated at Sucha Góra Orawska (in Slovakian Sucha Hora), cf. Photo 3.

Though Colonel J. Z. E. Berek in his most interesting investiga-



Photo No. 1



Photo No. 2



Photo No. 3

tion concerning the beginning of Polish Post activity in Cieszynian Silesia beyond the Olza River, in Czadcz Land, in Spisz and Orawa writes: "... From the frontier correction in Orawa there is no postmark, because the two mountaineers' villages Sucha Góra and Głodówka that came over to Poland did not have any postal devices..." nevertheless, in fact in Sucha (Góra) Hora, there was first a Slovakian and then a Polish Post Office. The lack of postmark at the moment of taking over this territory by the Polish Postal Administration was caused by an error in the name in the metal postmark made in Warsaw and on the metal "R" registration stamp, not by the lack

of a Post Office. The erroneously made postmark and "R" registration metal stamp found their way to the Museum of Posts and Telecommunications in Wrocław where they can be seen even today, cf. Photo 4.



The director of the Postal District in Katowice in his report addressed on November 30th, 1938, to the director of Military Bureau, Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs communicated that upon having organized, on the 26th of November, 1938, the postal service at Skaliste and Czerna Beskidzka, the action of taking over the post offices on these territories (that were under his postal administration) had been terminated.

The post offices at Skaliste and Czerna Beskidzka were under the administration of Katowice Postal District and Regional Telephone and Telegraph Office at Bielsko. As far as postal-telecommunication exploitation is concerned, they were within the Territorial Telephone and Telegraph Offices: Cieszyn 1 and Frysztat.

The post offices at Jaworzyna Spiska and Sucha Góra Orawska were under the postal administration of Kraków Postal District. They were put into operation on the 27th of November, 1938. The Post Office at Jaworzyna Spiska was under the administration of the Regional Telephone and Telegraph Office in Kraków, and as far as postal-telecommunication exploitation is concerned it belonged to the Territorial Telephone and Telegraph Office Zakopane 1. The Office (agency) at Sucha Góra Orawska was administered in respective fields by the Regional Telephone and Telegraph Office in Tarnów and by the Territorial Telephone and Telegraph Office Nowy Sącz 1.

By virtue of a decree of the authorities of former Slovak Republic the post offices mentioned above were again within the frontiers of Slovakia since December 22nd, 1939. This state remained unchanged after the cessation of war activities in May of 1945.**/

The only documentation of postal and philatelic character, of the temporary belonging of the Post-telegraph office Javorina - Jaworzyna Spiska to the Kraków Postal District is the metal postmark of the type normal in 1938, of 24 mm. diameter, with the identification letter "a", made in 1938 by the engraving workshop of St. Gajewski in Warsaw (cf. Photo 5) and two rubber stamps of propaganda type, one boxed (Photo 6), another one without boxing (Photo 7). Not a single copy of Sucha Góra Orawska regular postmark has ever been found in the accessible collection in Poland.

The work of Dr. V. Palkoska contains another interesting bit of information (pp. 109-110 of the above cited work). Dr. Palkoska tells us that in the Official Journal of the former Slovak Republic of December 22nd, 1939, item 325, there is a statement of including into the frontiers of the Slovak Republic 23 localities of the Polish Podhale (Mountaineering Region) among which seven had postal offices (in Slovakian: posty): Frydman (Slov. Fridman), Jurgów (Slov. Jurgov), Niedzica (Slov. Nedeca), cf. Photo 2; Jablonka Orawska (Slov.



Photo No. 5



Photo No. 6



Photo No. 7

Jablonka), Lipnica Wielka na Orawie (Slov. Nižna Lipnica), Podwilk (Slov. Podvilk), Zubrzyca Górna (Slov. Zubrica), cf. Photo 3; and two postal agencies (in Slovakian: postovne) in Piekelnik (Slov. Pekelnik) i Łapsze Wyżne (Slov. Vysne Lapse). According to the "Directory of Postal Offices" out of the post offices mentioned above, only that at Jablonka Orawska was a Post-Telegraph Office, probably of Vth class. The remaining offices were postal agencies, while offices at Podwilk and Łapsze Wyżne had post intermediaries.

Unfortunately, our information is so much delayed that getting any postmarks used by the above mentioned post offices in the Slovakian version would be regarded as one of the most considerable philatelic achievements.

—Translated by Leon Ter-Oganian

- */ Jan Z. E. Berek, "Zaolzie", Komunikat Filatelistyczny, London, Eighth Year of Edition, 1965, p. 105 (No. 88).
- **/ Doctor Vratislav Palkoska "Posta Na Slovensku po oslobodení" ed. by Philatelic Club 08-21 Hlohovac, 1975, p. 109 (Review thereof in "Filatelista", 23, 1976, p. 68 No. 3 (486)).

RUDIGER'S PRICE LIST

A 22-page specialized price list of Poland's stamps is available on request from Rudiger's International Stamps, 14842 Watt Road, Novelty, Ohio 44072.

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STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

Stamps of Poland are in great demand in Europe and dealers are looking to the U.S. to keep them supplied as at the time of issue most of the stamps of Poland were sold here; especially stamps issued right after the end of World War II when Europe's economy was down. Practically total printings were sold to dealers in U.S.

Try to get the single stamp issued in September 1945 to commemorate the **Polish Army's last resistance against the Nazis at Westerplatte, Scott B41**. Total printing was 67,050 copies. Scott 1976 upped the price to \$6.00 from last year's listing of \$5. Dealers in Europe are willing to pay \$5 at this time for either fine mint or used copies. This stamp was produced at the State Printing Office in Kraków as all printing facilities at the main printing office in Warsaw were destroyed. Its perforation is not of the best quality, so that many sheets were found poorly perforated and some showed up imperf. This stamp is worth about \$10 per copy if you are fortunate enough to own an imperforate stamp. I believe you will see a gradual increase in price for this stamp for a long time to come. As demand for that issue in Europe increases, prices will go higher.

* * *

When Hitler's armies overran Poland in the beginning of World War II, soon afterwards several sets of stamps were issued by the German military command. Most of these stamps were printed in huge quantities and still can be bought for less than \$1 a set, but the first set of fifteen stamps intended for official use is becoming scarce and should be bought now. This set was issued in April 1940, Scott No. 1-15. Just three months

later most lower values were re-issued in smaller format, most likely in order to save paper, and this is the reason why this first set has become increasingly more difficult to obtain than the second issue. Scott 1976 lists the set for \$16.20 unchanged from the 1975 Catalog; dealers in Germany are offering to pay over \$12 at this time which is \$3 more than they were willing to pay about nine months ago. Right after the end of World War II huge quantities of these stamps were sold to the USA. There is a very good chance you still could pick up this scarce set at a bargain price.

Reprinted from STAMPS

THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS AND BALPEX

The recent Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia which hosted a number of Church dignitaries from Poland and elsewhere, featured a Polish booth with 10 frames of stamps which documented the friendly relations between the United States and Poland over the past 50 years. The exhibit was from the Polonica collection of Myron Steczynski, who showed the Kościuszko, Pułaski, Paderewski, Copernicus, Polish flag and Millennium stamps of the USA as well as stamps of Poland that honored America.

Myron also showed the Flag Stamps of the Overrun Nations in the Championship Class at Balpex in Baltimore, where he won a gold award in the form of a heavy plate that features the early Baltimore Postmaster stamp.

The Editor of the Polonus Bulletin is working with Myron to prepare a serial article on the Flag Stamps of the Overrun Nations which will run as a supplement to the Bulletin over several months.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 14th, 1977:

Program Meeting - George Trefonas, President of the Hellenic Philatelic Society, will speak on "How To Mount Your Stamps For Exhibits". Mr. Trefonas won the Grand Award at the recent CPS show and is an International Gold Medal winner with his fabulous collection of Greece.

Beeba to follow.

Friday, January 28th, 1977:

Program Meeting - Walenty Poniecki will present a talk on the Field Post of World War II and tell of his personal experiences as a soldier in the Polish II Corps.

Beeba to follow.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Av., Norridge, IL 60656. This will insure your receiving the Bulletin promptly and avoid Polonus the expense of postage dues.

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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 \$5.00 —

POLPEX 77

This event is coming up fast, March 19-20. If you have not as yet mailed in your entry form, do it now. Our show is limited this year, first come first served.

For additional entry forms write to the Polpex Chairman, Edward Link, 4952 N. Nordica Ave., Chicago, IL 60656.

JAMES MAZEPA HONORED BY CHICAGO COLLECTOR'S CLUB

The Secretary of Polonus P.S. James Mazepa, was honored by the Collector's Club of Chicago at their dinner on October 12th, at which time he was presented with their special "Encouragement Award" consisting of a large Silver Plate. This is an award presented to a philatelist for outstanding efforts in promoting philately. This award is seldom given, and only after special consideration for individual cases. Mr. Mazepa was commended for his knowledge of Eastern European philately, especially that of Poland, the Ukraine and Russia. His collection of Poland and Ukraine have already received several Gold medals, and he has served as a consultant to New York auction firms. He has published several articles in Polish and Ukrainian Journals on postal history. He is the first member so honored.

MINUTES OF POLONUS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26th 1976
held at the Polish Army Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Park Road

The meeting was called to order at 8:17 P.M. by Mr. Szebel, the president. There were 16 members and one guest in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were published; the treasurer's report had to be postponed since the treasurer was downstairs making coffee. The secretary reported there were no new members.

Committee Reports: POLPEX 77, Mr. Link being absent, there was no report. **By Laws,** Mr. Szebel: The revised By-Laws have been approved by the Board of Directors. The Revised By-Laws will be available for the membership to read at the meetings during January. Any additions, corrections, or questions should be directed to the committee during this time. If none are received, the committee will move for adoption of the revised By-Laws the first meeting of February.

Christmas Party, Mr. Szebel: It looks like we will have about 30-35 attending the party. Several paid their reservation fee at the meeting.

New Business: Mr. Szebel asked Mr. Mazepa to summarize the meeting of the Board of Directors held Nov. 26, 1976. The decision about the By-Laws is noted above. Ads will be placed in Linn's to publicize Polonus under "SOCIETIES". A special Christmas letter was drafted by Mr. Mazepa for the officers to be sent to the Chicago area members in order to encourage attendance at meetings. The Board approved expenditure for emblems. We will wait to see the possible color combinations before final order is placed. We need speakers for meetings. There being no other business before the Society, a motion to adjourn made by Mr. Pristika, seconded by Mr. Styczynski, passed.

Philatelic Talk: Mr. Szebel then introduced our speaker for the evening. Mr. Chester Makowski who spoke on his multi-award winning collection of the Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising. The society was reminded that we owe Mr. Makowski much gratitude along with Mr. Schafer for the translating of the article by Mr. Gryzewski on the subject of the Scout Post. Mr. Makowski impressed all present not only with the extent of RARE material, but with his wonderful command of the history of the period. The material he showed covered the whole range of postal marks and censor markings as well. It was exciting to see "in the flesh" so many of the covers illustrated in the POLONUS handbook on the Scout Post (still available from Mr. Mikucki). There was even a lively discussion ensued whether a certain postmark was made from linoleum or a potatoe! But such were the circumstances at the time in Warsaw. After the informative and very interesting talk, Mr. Poniecki began to tell us about his personal experiences which followed upon the history of the period. He promised to expand this into a talk to the Society along with his collection of field-post. Our thanks, the whole society benefits when the "old timers" come out and are willing to share their knowledge and information and collections. A fitting close of coffee, tea, and waist-building snacks as observed. Mr. Mazepa was reminded to bring more cakes next time, figuring three apiece is not enough.

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary