

## BULLETIN OF THE

# POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 144

November 1956

### PROF. STANISŁAW MIKSTEIN

By Marian Duński and W. Hermanowski

On September 30, 1956 after a long and painful sickness, death overcame the well known Prof. Prof. Stanisław Mikstein — the Dean of Polish philately, and chairman of the Scientific Research Commission of the Polish Philatelic Association "P. Z. F."

Prof. Stanisław Mikstein, son of Antoni and Maria, née Mikschów, was born on November 10, 1888 in Lanckorona. After graduation from elementary school in Zatór, he attended High School (Gimnasium) in Wadowice. When later his father was transferred to Kraków, he continued his high school education in Kraków-Przedbórz Gimnasium.

In 1906 he enrolled at the Jagiellonian University majoring in Philosophy and Science, with Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics as secondary subjects.

From 1911, after completion of his studies, he dedicated his life to teaching. He was professor at Rzeszów and Nowy Sącz Gimnasiums and from 1921 in Kraków, where on September 30, 1948 he retired. His philatelic activities he pursued from 1898. Until 1914 he was collecting stamps of the world. From 1914 to 1919 — stamps of Europe. From 1919 on — stamps of Poland exclusively, devoting himself to research and study of stamps of Poland.

During his stay at Nowy Sącz he befriended Dr. Jan Dudziński, a man of broad philatelic culture and one



whom he regarded as one of the best and greatest philatelists of his time.

In 1921 Prof. Mikstein joined the Kraków Philatelic Society.

Using H. Adamski's collection as a basis, in 1922/24 he described "The First Polish Provisional Issue for Little Poland and Cieszyn Silesia of January, 1919." Part of this work was printed in the "Illustrated Philatelic Review" (Ilustrowany Przegląd Filatelistyczny Toruń 1927/29.) The complete work was published in the "Illus-

trated Philatelic Courier" Lwów 1927-32. Later it appeared also in the philatelic bi-weekly "Die Briefmarke" in Vienna 1933. "Die Briefmarke" published it in a booklet form of 75 pages with many illustrations.

This work was exhibited at the "Warszawa Philatelic Exhibition 1928" in manuscript form and it won the gold medal and the "Honor Award" of the Ministry of Communications.

In 1932 he published his second work in the "Illustrated Philatelic Courier" Lwów entitled "The Second Polish Provisional Issue for the former German Occupation — Poczta Polska — On Stamps With The Overprint "Gen. Gouv. Warschau." These two works exhibited in 1934 won the silver medal award at the International Philatelic Exhibition "Wipa" in Vienna. In 1935 at the International Exhibition at Królewiec — two silver medals: one, the exhibition award, the other, from the "International Philatelic Press."

From January 1935, in addition to the monthly publication "Ikaros" in Białystok, he published the work "Postal Markers On Polish Territories in the 18th Century, 1762 - 1800" (Pieczęcie pocztowe na Ziemiach Polskich w XVIII w.). A voluminous work of 128 pages—a work on which have labored without success: Samuel Koprowski, Rev. St. Biegański and Wł. Polański. Above all, due to the destruction of archives during the German Occupation in 1939/45—it would be impossible to accomplish this work at the present time.

Supplements on postal markers of the 18th Century discovered after 1937 he gave in "Illustrowane Wiadomości Filatelistyczne" Nos. 95, 96, August and September 1939. Subsequently this work was published in a digest form in the weekly magazine for youth "The Young Republic" (Młoda Rzeczpospolita) Kraków, no. 16-48, from September 1946 till May 1947.

From October, 1937 to August, 1939 in addition to the "Ikaros" also appeared the continuation of the work on the postal markers of the Warsaw Duchy and the Kingdom of Poland — "Stemple pocztowe Księstwa Warszawskiego i Królestwa Polskiego 1806 - 1870" comprising of 48 pages, compiled jointly with Władimir Rachmanów.

From September, 1938 he published in the "Ikaros" the work on stamps of the First Polish Corps of General Dowbór Muśnicki. This work was not completed in the "Ikaros" and the uncompleted part of this work was published by the "Philatelic House" of Ark. Pachosiński, Warszawa 1942, entitled "Pocztowe znaczki, całostki, stemple oraz znaki fiskalne I. Korpusu Polskiego" (Postal stamps, entireties and fiscal markers of the I. Polish Corps) 48 pages, total printing 1000 copies, of which the greater part perished in fire during the Insurrection of 1944.

Besides this, some 100 articles appeared in various philatelic publications such as:

"Illustrowane Wiadomości Filatelistyczne" - Poznań 1932/36.

"Illustrowany Przegląd Filatelistyczny" - Łódź.

"Ikaros"

"Pionier Filatelistyczny" - 1945.

"Wiadomości Filatelistyczne" - London, 1947/48.

"Filatelista" - Edynburg.

"Filatelista Polski" - Poznań, And others.

After 1945 in his work he concerned himself mostly with the problems and trends in philately and with legal aspects and characteristics of postage stamp Issues; classifications of postage stamps; proofs and printers waste, and the division of postal service enterprises — also: suggested principles for cataloging the stamps of Poland. From 1945 he worked as technical expert by the printing of Polish postage stamps in the National Printery in Kraków, where in the sphere of his duties and responsibilities were:

1. Technical corrections in submitted projects.
2. Supervision of the technical preparation of photographs and matrices.
3. Examination of the etching quality of printing cylinders.
4. To establish the color and shade in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Communications.
5. Final inspection of all preparatory work prior to printing and give the order for actual printing.
6. Determine the degree of wear of the printing cylinders and order

the destruction of worn out cylinders.

7. Selection of printed copies of stamps for the Postal Museum.
8. Furnish complete technical data on each stamp printed with all details of printing processes used.
9. Preparing short description of each stamp for use in the "Postal Regulations" introducing that stamp.

It is because of these methodical preparations that Poland's post war Issues are so outstandingly beautiful.

Prof. St. Mikstein's research work and publications have helped the comparatively young, for on a broader range only from 1918 developing Polish philately to stand as an equal with philately of the Western nations, which have done methodical work for many years before. In his thorough research and his prolific writings for philatelic press at home and abroad he was continually striving to bring up the standards of Polish Philately — guarding it from weeds of pseudoscientific and surreptitious trade publications and protecting the collectors from humbug and fraud.

Before Prof. Mikstein conducted his studies — the analyzing of stamps was achieved rather by subjective study and more or less by intuition of the examiner. Constant contact with genuine and counterfeit stamps developed the skill of passing correct opinion by many examiners, but without proofing it, and many times the opinions of various examiners differed. Prof. Mikstein based all his research on the exact and thorough knowledge of stamps, their production technique, measurements and tabulation of details. Publishing always the complete results of his studies — he gave an opportunity to everyone interested to verify it.

In recognition of his merits and for services rendered in the field of philately, he was made honorary member in the Philatelic Associations of Katowice, Poznań, Kraków, Łódź, and from 1945 nominated by the Ministry of Communications as member in the Council of the Postal Museum.

Translation by Walter Szymlek.

This biography is based on Mr. Szezerba's work "Polish Philatelic Literature" Wrocław 1952.

## TID BITS

Polonus Experts J. Gapinski, F. Wołosewicz, M. Steczynski and J.J. Dolar are working on a publication of The Kraków Issues. It is to be printed in sections. Setting I will be the first work.

\* \* \*

Doc Kozy suggests that the Bulletin be enlarged. The Abundance of material available warrants more than an eight page issue each month.

\* \* \*

Dec. 28th has been designated as Christmas Party Nite. Members are asked to bring down their wives and sweethearts. Door prizes for the ladies. Zdzisław Wągrowski is Chairman of

\* \* \*

the Xmas Party.

Ben Reeves has become a stamp dealer and opened a shop at 4359 No. Elston Ave., Chicago 41, Ill. His specialty is covers. Drop him a line or a visit when you can!

\* \* \*

## NEW POLAND POST-WAR ALBUM

George Kobylka's Poland 1944-45 Album is now published and available from him and dealers at \$7.00 plus 50c postage (see ad in this issue). This long awaited album solves many a Poland collector's problems. Descriptive copy is in English. Best of all supplements will be issued yearly.

Following are some of the member's comments on this album . . .

"The pages arrived today and I looked them over carefully and I want to congratulate you on the splendid job done. I am not kidding when I say 'It's the Cat's Whiskers.' Beautifully executed and the arrangement is excellent. So CONGRATULATIONS!"

—Fr. Marion J. Weron, O.F.M.

"These are basic album pages for the Poland collector. Listed are all the major varieties yet going not too far into specialized fields. Some of the good features of this album are that the pages are loose leaf for a standard three ring binder and blank pages can be added for minor varieties, blocks and covers."

— Roman J. Burkiewicz

## NEW MEMBER

Janusz Bogusław Jablonski  
Box 101, Snow Lake  
Manitoba, Canada

# Saintly Queen Hedwiga Converts A Nation

By CECIL YOUNG

(Reprinted from LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS 9/17/56)

One of the most beautiful stories of love and sacrifice to come to us from Europe is that of the Blessed Hedwiga. Hedwiga gave up her personal life for that of uniting the pagan nation of Lithuania with that of Catholic Poland by her marriage to the prince of Lithuania.

Hedwiga was born toward the end of 1373, of Louis, King of Hungary and Poland, and Elizabeth of Bosnia. In her veins flowed the blood of saint and sinner alike. Amongst her ancestors were St. Louis of France, St. Hedwiga of Silesia, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and her great uncle Casimir the Great.

Hedwiga along with her two older sisters was brought up according to her father's wishes. Not only very carefully and religiously, but also in all the courtly graces and accomplishments for which the House of Anjou was celebrated.

From her early childhood Hedwiga lived in the great world, amidst the finest chivalric traditions of the age. The atmosphere of the court was devout.

The neighboring sovereigns sent their children, both boys and girls to the court of Hungary, for higher education.

One of the earliest existing Polish manuscripts "The famous Florian Psalter" in which the Latin Psalms are followed by Polish and German translations was transcribed for Hedwiga and her sister Maria.

Hedwiga grew up knowing several languages. She spoke Hungarian, German and French and in all probability Italian. Besides the art of music and poetry, she was skilled in embroidery.

At the age of three Hedwiga was betrothed to Prince Wilhelm of Austria, while her sister Maria was engaged to the heir of the throne of the German Empire. The oldest child, Catherine died in early childhood.

Hedwiga was about five years old and her fiancée eight, when the ceremony of the infant marriage took place. Hedwiga grew up looking upon Prince Wilhelm, with whom she spent many



**King Ladislaus II Jagiello and Hedwiga**

of her childhood days, as her future husband. This was to bring tragedy into her life.

Three days after the death of King Louis, Maria was made Queen, and the whole of Hedwiga's life took an opposite direction from that which she had been brought up to expect.

The Poles had seen too clearly the evil of uniting the crowns of Poland and Hungary from the example of Louis. They resolved to give the crown to the daughter who would agree to reside in Poland. It was therefore planned by the most influential section of Polish officialdom to choose Hedwiga as their Queen. They also obtained from the queen mother a sealed document, conferring upon the nobles of Poland a free hand regarding Hedwiga's marriage.

In October 1384, the little queen started on her journey under the escort of the Archbishop Demetrius, a faithful and trusted friend of the family, along with a retinue of Hungarian nobles. Thus the queen mother, with tears, parted from her daughter of twelve never to see her again.

Two days after her arrival in Cracow, Hedwiga was crowned Queen of Poland. She was the first to sit on the Polish throne in her own right.

The queen once crowned, the burning question of her marriage was the next affair to occupy the attention of her counsellors. The nobles who had summoned her to the throne had already

determined upon a marriage. They planned to marry her to Jagiello, the Grand Duke of Lithuania.

Their marriage would unite two neighboring states that were frequently at war with each other. Thus united these states would present a common barrier to their greatest enemy on the west, the Teutonic Order, and to the growing threat of Muscovy on the east. Lithuania would be brought into the Catholic Church, and Poland would become the most powerful State in Eastern Europe.

All this depended on the word of a girl of twelve. Would she consent? The Polish men of state sent a deputation to the Grand Duke offering him Hedwiga's hand and the crown of Poland on the condition of his accepting Catholicism. A number of Lithuanian nobles were already Christians.

In answer, Jagiello sent a group of Lithuanian nobles to Cracow to ask formally for the hand of the Queen. If the Queen would accept Jagiello as her husband, he together with all those of his brothers not yet baptized, also all the nobility and inhabitants of his land, from the highest to the lowest, consent and desire with all their hearts to receive the Catholic Faith in the Holy Roman Church.

Few girls could ever have been called to listen to a more remarkable proposal of marriage. The idea seemed to her impossible to deserve consideration. She looked on young Wilhelm as her husband, and it never crossed her mind that so terrible a sacrifice would be asked of her as that of giving herself to a man three times her age, a man who she considered, and not unjustly, a barbarian.

Her reply was that her intentions were to marry Prince Wilhelm, and referred the envoy to her mother. Queen Elizabeth's answer to the envoys was a bitter blow to her daughter. "The Queen and the Polish lords must act according to what the welfare of Poland and the Christian commonwealth demands."

Hedwiga realized that the conversion of a nation depended on her consent, and that her own country's good demanded it, against the cry of her heart. During this moral struggle, before Hedwiga could bring herself to

part with Wilhelm forever, and still more to accept the marriage from which her whole being shrank, she passed the night in prayer and weeping at the foot of her crucifix. The following morning Hedwiga renounced forever her own wishes for the good of her country.

On February 12, 1386, the Grand Duke of Lithuania entered Cracow as the chosen husband of Hedwiga and King of Poland. A few days later Jagiello was baptized in the Cathedral under the name of Ladislaus. Since his mother was a Christian the faith was not new to him. Jagiello became a devout Catholic. Three days later the royal wedding took place.

Thenceforth the dreams of the queen were turned to spiritual realms that her self oblation had opened to her. Now she would do all in her power to spread the Kingdom of God. Hedwiga cast no backward glance upon what might have been. With the heroism of a saint she fulfilled the most exacting vocation of a saint upon the throne. The girl who brought peace to her distracted people began her reign by her husband's side as an advocate of the distressed.

In time Jagiello returned to his native country, accompanied by the prayers and gifts of Hedwiga to the churches that were to be founded. Many of the altar linens were prepared by the Queen herself.

On reaching Wilno, Jagiello sent out a proclamation, summoning all Lithuania to embrace the Catholic faith. By his command the great statue of the god Perkunas, which towered over the pagan temple in Wilno, was hurled down and the Christian cross raised in its place. The temples were destroyed and the sacred oaks felled.

Led by the Lithuanian boyars, the multitudes flocked to the cross which Jagiello had erected in Wilno. Day after day they were taught the truths of the Christian religion. With the coming of spring, there was the baptizing of thousands.

While Jagiello was engaged upon his apostolic labors in Lithuania, Hedwiga at the other end of her kingdom, mounted on horseback, attended by her nobles and soldiers, rode to the southeast. Here, with peaceful means, she won back Red Ruthenia for Poland.

The blessings of God seems to have rested upon every undertaking of Hedwiga's for her country. Prosperity for her nation followed her footsteps. So intense was her care for every class of those entrusted to her rule that young as she was, they called her Mother of Her Country.

She opened schools, built churches and monasteries, and founded the University of Cracow. Under her order translations were made of the scriptures and other writings into the Polish language. The saying "Who will give them back their tears?" has come down to us today from the saintly Queen.

The devotion to our Lady of Częstochowa, which is associated with the picture of our Lady of Częstochowa and so intimately connected with the life of the Polish nation, was developed during Hedwiga's reign.

In the year 1399 Hedwiga's one great wish was granted. There was to be an heir to the throne. The whole nation rejoiced with her at the prospect. Prayers were offered for her safe delivery not only in all the churches of her country but also by order of Pope Boniface in those of Rome.

Hedwiga who twice prophesied the future for others, now foresaw her own end near. On June 22, 1399, she gave birth to a daughter, who three weeks later preceded her in death. Hedwiga lingered on till July 17, 1399, and then passed on to her reward. The whole nation was plunged into mourning. Every subject in the land lost a personal benefactor.

Many miracles have been wrought through her intercession, before and after her death.

#### PRICES FROM RECENT AUCTIONS

I think that the members of the Polonus Philatelic Society might be interested in the prices realised at the recent auctions for Polish stamps. One of the largest lots of Polish stamps No. 1 was sold by Mercury Stamp Co. of New York on Sept. 21, 1956. Here is the listing:

No. 1 mint sold for \$16.00.

Three copies No. 1a: mint (very poor centering) \$30; \$33; \$36. (The latter two had plate flaws on top left and lower right corners).

No. 1 on letter with small red circle

"Warszawa" cancellation \$40.

No. 1 on letter with "80" and a straight line "Piaski" postmark sold for \$28.50.

No. 1a on cover with "1" (Warsaw) cancellation \$18.00.

No. 1a on cover with "221" Konin cancellation sold for \$23.

No. 1a on cover with "250" (Dobryń nad Drwęcą) sold for \$26.

No. 1b on cover with "28" (Suwalki) sold for \$33.

No. 1b on cover with "73" (Lublin) sold for \$32.

No. 1b on cover "138" (Radom) \$33.

No. 1b on cover "183" (Rokiciny) sold for \$28.

No. 1b on cover "295" (Soczewka) sold for \$36.

As we can see the mint stamps brought about 60-70% of Scott prices. The used ones on covers—from 100% to 175% (majority of covers were sold for more than estimated prices of the catalog).

A set of 11 values (Scott 15-26) in sheets of 100 with varieties like "Pocata, Poczo", inverted "s", "1", etc. (cat. \$234.00 for plain stamps without varieties) was sold for \$97.50 only, very cheap, indeed.

— Dr. H. Fenigstein

#### POLPEX 1957 CREEPING UP

Polpex Chairman Roman Reinowski reminds us to prepare our collections for the coming Exhibition March 1, 2 and 3, 1957. With the coming holiday season we will have more leisure time which can be devoted to our stamps.

Plan now to win your award later!

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# FORGERY OF THE BLUE IMPERFORATE MINIATURE SHEET

## Issued For The Third Congress Of The Polish Philatelic Union

By ZBIGNIEW MIKULSKI

(Reprinted from FILATELISTA, Warsaw, October 1956)

**A Communique from the Experts Section, Scientific Research Commission, Polish Philatelic Union —**

The Experts Section hereby communicates that for several months there have been continued talks as to the appearance of forged "Blue Miniature Sheets of 1954", a great number of these having appeared abroad and in this country, especially at Cracow. Af-

ter having carried out detailed researches, the Experts Section has stated that there is really a skillful forgery of the above-mentioned miniature sheet.

The forgery is recess printed by steel plate engraving process, but shows a number of details differentiating it from the genuine miniature sheet.

Here are a few comparative data of the genuine and forged sheets:

|                                                                       | Genuine<br>mm.                    |    | Forged<br>mm.            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Size of the stamp                                                     | 21                                | 27 | 20.6 x 26.4              |
| The length of the inscription<br>"Polskiego Związku Filatelistów"     | 38                                |    | 37.2                     |
| Length of the inscription PWPW                                        | 2.4                               |    | 2.8                      |
| Encadrement                                                           | 50 x 61.5                         |    | 48.5 x 61                |
| Diameter of the globe over the stamp                                  | 6                                 |    | 6                        |
| Distance between stamp and inscription<br>"R. Kleczewski PWPW—Brandt" | 0.2                               |    | 0.1                      |
| Letter P of Polska at bottom                                          | does not touch line shading       |    | touches the globe        |
| Letters Z and A in Warszawa                                           | connected at bottom               |    | not connected at bottom  |
| In the word "Filatelistów"                                            |                                   |    | diff. cut of letter W    |
| In the price "5 + 2.50"                                               |                                   |    | diff. cut of first no. 5 |
| In the word "5 + 2.50 ZŁ"                                             |                                   |    | diff. cut of Ł in ZŁ     |
| In the word "Polskiego"                                               |                                   |    | diff. cut of Letter G    |
| Color                                                                 | dark blue                         |    | dark blue-grey           |
| Paper                                                                 | white with slight yellowish shade |    | white                    |
| Gum                                                                   | yellowish, slightly rippled       |    | white                    |

There are also distinct differences in the globe with the dove and in the inscriptions under the stamp.

The Experts Section informs us that in order to eliminate the forgeries from collections, they have undertaken expertising of the miniature sheets at the fee of 10 zł., postage extra. Persons

wishing their miniature sheets to be expertised are required to send them to the following address: Zarząd Główny Polskiego Związku Filatelistów, Warszawa, Widok 22, Poland.

—Zbigniew Mikulski, Chairman  
Experts Section

### APPLICANTS PENDING

Edward G. Wasniak  
Hq. 7310th Air Base Group  
Civilian Personnel Office  
APO 57, New York, N.Y.  
Mieczysław Tarłowski  
99 Miller Street  
New Britain, Conn.  
George S. Bobinski  
300 S. Main  
Royal Oak, Mich.

### NEW MEMBER

A. J. Pulnarowicz  
P. O. Box 5446  
Milwaukee Junction Station  
Detroit 11, Mich.

### 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    |

## NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

It was reported that a miniature sheet was to be issued on Oct. 16, 1956 in recognition of "Stamp Day" which was to be celebrated by Poland and Hungary.

Actually it was issued on Oct. 25 — printed in green, showing profile portraits of Chopin and Liszt, in the value of 4 + 2 zł.

A set of three stamps were to be released late in October to publicize an International Campaign for Museums. The values are as follows:

40 gr. "Niebe" of an unknown Greek sculptor — Nieborow collection.

60 gr. "Madonna" by Wit Stwos — Detail of St. Mary's Altar, Cracow.

1.55 zł. "Lady With a Weasel" Reproduction of Da Vinci painting — Cracow Museum.

In regard to the Olympic Games Series, these are to be issued either late October or early November. The Polish Olympic Team will fly direct from Warsaw to Melbourne on a special plane Nov. 4, 1956. On that day, special en-

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Marian Duński, W. Hermanowski,  
Zbigniew Mikulski, Cecil Young and  
Dr. H. Fenigstein.

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.

velopes are to be issued with the Olympic stamps affixed and stamped with a postmark commemorating this first Olympic flight.

Price per cover will be 75 cents each plus postage and can be ordered from "ARI Polonia" - Centralu Handlu Zagranicznego, Warsaw, Poland.

"Ruch"

"ARS Polonia"

G. W. Kukiz

### FOR THE RECORD

Thru the courtesy of member G. W. Kukiz we were privileged to examine 8 original covers bearing the 10th Anniversary Issue. They were cancelled at Sanok from April 11, 1955 to June 25, 1956. The unusual feature of this note is that they are all gutter pairs. The values are 10, 20, 25, 40, 45 groszy and 1.15, 1.55, 2.10 złoty.

Also shown was the 1.55 zł. value of the Pomeranian Issue showing the broken "L" variety. A cover and 12 stamps — the stamps were picked from a mixture.

The outstanding piece which was quite interesting was the Kosciuszko set plus the 60 gr. value, blue error all on one cover, cancelled at Sanok on July 7, 1955.

They were all very interesting and worthy of note. — J. J. D.

## ALBUMS FOR POLAND

### POLAND - 1944-1945

(Does not include Air-Mails)

\$7.00 plus 50c postage  
Supplement No. 1, 1956, in March

### POLAND AIR-MAILS

(Complete up-to-date)

\$1.20 plus postage

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