

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 242

July 1966

Bishop Wycislo — Honorary Polpex Chairman

The Most Reverend Aloysius J. Wycislo, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, will serve as Honorary Chairman of POLPEX 1966 which honors Poland's Millennium of Christianity, and will be held on August 26, 27, and 28 at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, in Chicago.

beautiful medal in bronze and pure silver which will be available at the Polpex.

As with every exhibition, Polpex souvenir sheets will be issued. This year we have an attractive three-color seal designed by artist M. Lepieszko. Shown are Mieszko and Dabrowka. Mie-



Entries are coming in steadily. Exhibits have been pledged from abroad, namely Poland, England and Australia. Because of the limited space available at the Museum each exhibitor is limited to but one exhibit of not more than eight frames and only Poland and associate material may be shown. If you plan to exhibit you must send in your entry application immediately. Deadline is August 16th.

For the first time, our Polpex will be held together with a coin show. The Polish American Numismatic Association will join us at the museum and will present their first exhibition of Polish coins, medals, decorations and numismatic literature. To commemorate Poland's Millennium P.A.N.A. struck a

szko was a Polish Duke who was converted to Christianity at the marriage to his Bohemian bride Dabrowka in 966. By adopting Roman Catholicism, Poland joined the western bloc of European nations.

The seal also shows the traditional postage stamp and bar of music. The stamp design is from the United States commemorative issued for Poland's Millennium, and the bar of music is that of the first known Polish hymn "Bogu Rodzica." A pair of seals with a descriptive folder is priced at 25c plus 5c postage. Opening Day Polpex covers are priced at 25c plus 5c postage. Orders and remittance should be sent to Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave. Chicago Ill. 60622.

We particularly invite out-of-town members to attend the Polpex. You will not only see the largest exhibit of Poland stamps this side of the Atlantic, but you will have an opportunity to see the gigantic manifestation planned by the Chicagoland Observance Committee of Poland's Millennium of Christianity at Soldiers Field on Sunday, August 28.

The U.S. Post Office Dept. will have a postal station operating at the museum during our Polpex show, and they will be applying a special Polpex postmark to all mail received at this station.

A Polpex would not be complete without a Beeba. This year's Beeba will be held on Saturday, August 27th, at 10 p.m. after the exhibition is closed for the day. Tasty Polish style food will be served in a friendly atmosphere. Highlighting the beeba will be the presentation of awards.

Incidentally, this year all exhibitors who participate will receive a special medal struck for Poland's Millennium of Christianity. This is in addition to the many regular and special awards offered: Two additional awards have been added since the entry applications were mailed out, namely: the S.P.A. and the Central Federation of Stamp Club awards.

At every Polpex we have a successful stamp bourse. This year our bourse will be held in a special room at street level. Dealers from all over the country will offer visitors a wealth of philatelic material. Don't miss the opportunity to browse through and secure missing items for your collection.

As every year, special Patron pages are provided in our Polpex Program Catalog listing Patrons of the Polpex. Be sure that your name is on the list. Your donation of \$1.00 or more will help to cover some of the many expenses connected with our presenting this Polpex honoring Poland's Millennium of Christianity. Send your donations to the Patrons and Ads Chairman, Chester Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

U.S. POLAND MILLENNIUM STAMP FIRST DAY OF ISSUE — JULY 30

On Saturday, July 30th, the U. S. Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp to honor Poland's Millennium of Christianity with a banquet and first day ceremonies in Washington, D.C. We hope that rank and file members of Polonus come to Washington from all over the country to attend this great affair.

Many of you have appealed to your Congressmen, Senators and to the Postmaster General that a Poland Millennium stamp be issued. Now that our wish has been granted we should show our Congressmen and others that we appreciate their efforts and that we are now lending our full support to the sale and use of the stamp on our mail and preserving in our collections mementos of the first day of issue.



We are urging our members to send souvenirs of the first day of issue to their associates, friends, parishioners, correspondents, relatives, customers, philatelic friends, etc. Our official cacheted covers make excellent souvenirs. Prices for each regardless of quantity are: 1 stamp — 25c; block of 4 — 60c; plate block of 4 \$1.00.

Order for first day covers together with check should be made out and sent to Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

THE CRACOW ISSUES

By Myron E. Steczynski

Reprinted by permission from The 'Collectors Club Philatelist' bi-monthly magazine
of the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016

The Cracow overprints of 1919 are not only Poland's scarcest stamps, but are as fascinating and as search-provoking as any issue of any country. As few as fifteen of the scarcest and as many as 100,000 of the most plentiful denomination were issued.

The overprints were counterfeited — even privately from the original type, but with expert knowledge and scientific data, the good can be separated from the bad. The typographed issues can be plated. Qualified experts are found in Poland, America, Britain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Germany and other countries.

All pertinent data have been firmly fixed and are recorded in black and white. Any element of doubt has been removed. Most of the bad copies appear to have fled. The catalogue value of these stamps, especially the scarcer denominations, has soared significantly to reflect their true value. This is due largely to the fact that the path is clearly open for any dealer or collector to have his Cracow issues examined by a recognized expert.

When Poland's independence was restored after World War I, Austrian stamps were still in circulation in that part of Poland recovered from Austria. The supply of definitive Polish stamps was being prepared. Since these same Austrian stamps were demonetized in newly-created neighboring countries, the stock of Austrian stamps in Poland was quickly overprinted as of January 10, 1919; they are listed as Scott Nos. 4L-60, J1-J12 and P1-P5.

Four distinct settings were used. Settings 1 and 2 were overprinted by letterpress (typography); settings 3 and 4 were lithographed.

The words POCZTA and POLSKA were cast in linotype slugs while the rhombi were being set by hand. The upper slug carried the word POCZTA five times, while the lower slug also had the word POLSKA five times. The



A VARIETY OF SCOTT No. 55



ANOTHER VARIETY OF SCOTT No. 55

many different alignments of the slugs and rhombi created considerable differences in the relation of the three lines to each other.

All the printings for Setting 1 were on a 100-stamp form. The linotype slugs for the upper left quarter of the sheet were cast in one setting of matrices where the thin "Z" in POCZTA in the fourth and fifth columns is typical. The slugs for the remaining three quarters of the sheet were cast in another setting of matrices where the raised "A" in the fifth and tenth columns of POLSKA is typical.

Setting II was formed by linotype slugs and rhombi similar to those in Setting I, but from entirely different



THE RARE POSTAGE DUES WITH THE OVERPRINT IN RED. SCOTT Nos. J8, J9 AND J10

type. Linotype slugs for the top two rows of the words POCZTA and for the first three rows of the words POLSKA were made in the same second set of matrices, as they were used for the top right quarter and the bottom half of Setting I. The remaining linotype slugs were made in a third set of matrices.

Being an entirely different printing form, the position of the slugs in relation to each other and the location of the rhombi, therefore, are entirely different from Setting I. The many various characteristics, and flaws, both in the letters and the rhombi are likewise entirely different.

This second setting was first fitted for the small red Austrian Postage Due stamps, but then was alternately enlarged to fit the changing sizes of the sheets and at the same time inadvertently shifted as follows:

Setting II A is the original setting of the linotype slugs to fit sheets of 100 of the small Postage Dues.

Setting II B is the vertical expansion of the entire form to fit four of the larger stamps.

Setting II C is a reduction in size to fit sheets of the smaller Newspaper stamps; there were five denominations.

Setting II D is the lower half of the form re-arranged to fit the 15 haller Postage Due stamps.

Setting II E is the vertical expansion of the lower half to fit the larger 6 haller remainders.

Setting III. This particular form, together with the large Austrian Krone denominations of Setting IV, was lithographed. The setting was confined to

the 25/80 haller in full sheets of 100. This represents the only change in value when the Krakow overprints were being printed. Certain indications in the entire sheet are repeated in every block of ten stamps, showing that this setting was made of ten similar blocks consisting of two horizontal rows of five stamps each.

Setting IV-A. Most of the 2 Krone and all the Krone stamps of Austria were overprinted in sheets of 100 designated as Setting IV-A.

Setting IV-B. A square segment to overprint twenty-five stamps from the bottom of the full sheet, denoted as Setting IV-B was used for the remainder of the 2 Krone and for all the 4 and 10 Krone Austrian stamps.

Setting IV-C. An undetermined block from the upper half of the form of 100 was used to overprint the large 1, 5 and 10 Krone Austrian Postage Dues with an absorbent orange-red ink.

Inverts. Seven denominations are found with the inverted overprint. Some of these are rare, it is believed that only a few stamps or portion of a sheet were accidentally spliced upside down.

Double Overprints. Double impressions are found only on three stamps.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Mr. Rycaj:

Enclosed please find my check for \$7.50 in payment of my dues to Polonus and the balance to go to help in a small way toward POLPEX 1966.

Very best wishes for the Continued Success of Polonus and POLPEX 1966. I hope to get away to attend.

Walter A. Franck
Bay Village, Ohio



SERIES OF SIX stamps issued by the Vatican in commemoration of Poland's Millennium of Christianity.

To commemorate the Millennium of the Christianization of Poland, Vatican City issued six stamps on May 3, 1966. The 15 l. shows King Mieszko I (962-992), the first Polish ruler to be converted to Christianity, and his Bohemian consort, Queen Dabrowka, whose chaplain, Jordan, later to become the first Bishop of Poznan, was responsible for the conversion. The decision of the king to embrace Christianity also had political overtones in that through this, King Mieszko hoped to align himself with the Christian German knights against the pagan Slavs threatening his eastern broders.

St. Adalbert, or Wojciech as he is known in Poland, (955-997), a Bohemian prince and prelate is shown on the 25 l. Adalbert was a Bishop of Prague who later became a missionary among the Poles and Hungarians and earned the name of "Apostle of the Prussians." Pictured with St. Adalbert

is the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Wroclaw (Breslau), begun in 1148 and completed in the 15th century, and the Gothic Cathedral of Gniezno (Gnesen), founded in the 9th century. The Gniezno Cathedral is the burial place of St. Adalbert and was the site of the coronations of Polish kings until 1320.

The 40 l. shows St. Stanislaus (1030-1079), the patron saint of Poland. While Bishop of Cracow, Stanislaus denounced the excesses of King Boleslav II and finally excommunicated him. In retaliation, Stanislaus was murdered before the altar of the Cracow Skalka Cathedral while he celebrated mass by the king's men who split open his head with a sword. The scene of the infamous slaying, the Gothic Cracow Cathedral, consecrated in 1359, which was the coronation and burial place of the Polish kings and which contains the relics of St. Stanislaus, is pictured on the right of the stamp. The Royal

Palace of Cracow, a huge building begun in the 13th century, situated on the Wawel, is shown on the left.

Queen Jadwiga (Hedwig), daughter of Louis the Great of Hungary and Poland, wife of Jagiello, Duke of Lithuania, and founder of the Polish Jagellon Dynasty, is pictured on the 50 l. stamp. Shown with the Queen is the Jagellon University Library in Cracow. The University, founded in 1364 by Casimir the Great and completed by Wladyslaw Jagiello in 1400, is the second oldest university in Central Europe. Its rich library is housed in 15th century buildings surrounding a beautiful Gothic court. A bronze statue of Copernicus was placed in the center of this court in 1900. To the left of the Queen is the Ostra Brama (Painted Gate) with its venerated 16th century Madonna, located in Wilno.

The famous Black Madonna of the Jasna Gora Monastery of Czestochowa, "Our Lady, Queen of Poland," is shown on the 150 l. denomination. The Monastery was founded by King Wladyslaw and is occupied by the monks of Peter the Hermit. The image of the Virgin is traditionally believed to have been painted by St. Luke, and is visited annually by thousands of pilgrims. Czestochowa's history has always been an intricate mixture of religion, politics and national pride, and the shrine has remained a symbol of Polish nationalism.

King John II Casimir (1609-1672), who prayed to the Virgin there, successfully defended the monastery with a handful of soldiers and monks against the Swedes in 1655. This is one of the most heroic episodes in Polish history. The King gratefully proclaimed the image "Regina Poloniae." This Madonna was shown previously on Vatican City Nos. 216-218, issued to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Madonna as "Queen of Poland." The Cathedral of St. John, the most ancient church in Warsaw, located in the Stare Miasto section, and built in the 13th century, is also shown on the stamp.

The 200 l. stamp departs from the style of the rest of the set; it pictures

Pope Paul VI blessing a group of farmers and students. The stamp is inscribed in Polish "Let Jesus Christ be Praised" and "Forever and Ever, Amen." The set was designed by Casimira Dabrowska and was printed in sheets of 40 with marginal scroll embellishments.

POLISH GOVERNMENT OBJECTS TO EAGLE ON U.S. 5c STAMP

The Polish government has threatened to refuse all mail bearing the new stamp which honors 1000 years of Christianity in Poland.

The eagle, the traditional symbol of Poland, appears on the stamp, wearing a crown and surmounted by a Christian cross. Polish officials have protested that the eagle is a pre-World War II eagle instead of the communist post-war eagle.

The post office insists there is no difference between the two except that the communist eagle doesn't wear a crown. That theory was rejected by Polish officials, who insist they don't object to the crown or the cross, just to the bird. A Polish representative, it was learned, said his government insists on a change in the design.

The United States and post office departments refused to change the design, as 115 million of the stamps are already in production. They then were notified that the Polish government "reserves the right" to refuse all letters and packages coming to Poland bearing the disputed stamp.

The unofficial United States view, it was reported, is that the move is a harassing gesture by the Polish government which has sought to play down the observance of the millennium and especially to dim its religious aspects. The source said the Polish government had originally expressed pleasure over the forthcoming stamp.

IKAROS PUBLICATIONS

Several books published by the pre-war periodical IKAROS are still available. For information write (in Polish or English) to:

V. HERMANOWSKI
1343 N. California, Chicago, Ill. 60622



NEW ISSUES

1000 Years of the Polish State

On the occasion of the celebrations connected with the 1000th Anniversary of the Polish State, the Polish Post will issue a set of six stamps. On July 21, 1966 four stamps will be released, two of 60 gr. and two of 2.50 zł. face value.

Of the 60 gr. stamps the first represents an eagle, the emblem of the Polish State. The second shows a flag of Poland. The same designs recur on the stamps of 2.50 zł. face value. The other two stamps will be released at a later date.

The stamps will be printed in sheets of ten each. On the five stamps of upper row the eagle design will be shown and the flag on the lower one.

Designed by Fr. Winiarski. Printing in gold and red by photogravure with letterpress embossing on the eagle and flag at P.W.P.W., Warsaw. Quantities: 60 gr.—20,000,000 2.50 zł.—10,000,000 60 gr.—20,000,000 2.50 zł.—10,000,000

20th Anniv. of Industry Nationalization

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the nationalization of industry the Polish Post issued a set of eight stamps each of the same face value—60 gr.

The first two stamps were issued on February 10, 1966 on the occasion of the Fifth Congress of Polish Technicians held in Katowice. The first stamp represented the Supervising Technical Organization, on the background of a crane, ship, tractor, airplane, and electric railway carriage designs. On the second stamp a mining tower and miner's badge were shown.

Six other stamps were released on May 21, 1966. Their subject is connected with various branches of industry and the International Poznan Fair organized for the thirty-fifth time this year.

The third stamp in turn, devoted to the stockyard industry, shows a ship design. The fourth is devoted to the chemical industry and shows the Combined Petrochemical Works in Plock. The fifth is devoted to the building of agricultural machines and depicts a corn combine. The sixth is devoted to railway building and shows a train.

The seventh is devoted to building machines production and represents a building crane. The eighth stamp, issued on the occasion of the 35th International Poznań Fair, represents an exhibition hall and the emblem of the fair.

Tabs are affixed to all stamps. The printing was by offset, on chalky pa-



per in sheets of 20 stamps and 20 labels at the P.W.P.W., Warsaw. Designed by Andrzej Heidrich. Quantity issued: 7,000,000 of each.

European Athletic Championship Meet

In August 1966 the Eighth European Athletic Championship meet will be held in Budapest. Top Polish athletes will participate. On this occasion the Polish Post released a set of eight stamps and a souvenir sheet.

- 20 gr.—start of the men's short dash
- 40 gr.—women's relay race
- 60 gr.—men's javelin throw
- 90 gr.—women's hurdle-race
- 1.35 zł.—men's discus throw
- 3.40 zł.—finish of men's medium distance race
- 6.50 zł.—hammer throw
- 7.10 zł.—men's high jump

The souvenir sheet of 5 zł. denomination will show a long distance race.

VIII MISTRZOSTWA EUROPY - BUDAPEST 1966



The stamps are multicolor printed by polychrome offset at PWPW, Warsaw. Designed by St. Malecki. First day of issue: June 18, 1966. Quantities issued:

20 gr.—6,000,000	1.35 zł.—3,600,000
40 gr.—6,000,000	3.40 zł.—2,000,000
60 gr.—6,000,000	6.50 zł.—1,200,000
90 gr.—2,500,000	7.10 zł.—1,200,000
5 zł. souvenir sheet—900,000	



KIERZKOWSKI CANADIAN STAMP

This coming year, 1967, will mark the 100th anniversary of the election to the Canadian Parliament of a Pole, Alexander Edward Kierzkowski. Dr. Stanley Haidasz, member of Parliament, has initiated action to mark the occasion by issuance of a commemorative postage stamp.

Kierzkowski, born in Poznan in 1816, was an engineer, having studied in Poznan and in Paris. In 1841 he emigrated to the U.S. and moved to Canada a year later, where he worked as an engineer in the Department of Civil Works and with various other government agencies.

Kierzkowski held several political posts before being elected to Parliament from the district at St. Charles, River Richelieu. He died in 1870.

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JOSEPH JAKUBECKI — A BUSY PHILATELIC BEE IN MICHIGAN

Our most active Polish philatelist in Michigan is Joseph M. Jakubecki of Detroit. His provisional collection, the Cracow, Lublin and Poznań issues, were entered in the Wayne Stamp Exhibit and won first place—foreign class, the SPA Gold Medal, SPA Research Medal and the Grand Award. At the Motor City Stamp and Cover Club Exhibit, his presentation of Warsaw Municipal Post took first place in the foreign class. He then showed his provisionals at the Michigan Stamp Club Exhibit and took a first award (missing the grand by two points). At the Peninsular State Phil. Soc. Convention which featured outstanding exhibits of European stamps, he showed his Warsaw Municipal Post and again was awarded first place.

In addition to exhibiting, Mr. Jakubecki is active as an officer serving as first vice president of the Wayne Stamp Society and also finds time to present talks on Polish philately at other Michigan stamp clubs.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, August 12th, 1966

Exhibit of U.S. Poland Millennium Stamps, First Day Covers, Maximum Cards, Official First Day Programs and other mementos brought back by Polonus members who attended the First Day Ceremonies at Washington, D.C.

Thursday, August 25th, 1966:

Official mounting of the exhibition at Museum — 6:00 p.m.

Friday, August 26th, 1966:

POLPEX 1966 opens at Museum.

ANNUAL WORLD WIDE PHILATELIC WRITING CONTEST

You can enter this contest by answering three simple questions before November 15th, 1966.

1. What is the **TITLE** of your choice of the best published article in English or Polish, on Polish philately?
2. What is the **NAME** of the author?
3. What **PUBLICATION** did it appear in?

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satisfaction of helping to judge the best article.

Attention All Philatelic WRITERS! To be eligible for competition, write for the **ENTRY FORM** and **CONTEST RULES**. Address your letters to:

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