

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 255

January, 1968

POLPEX 1968 MARCH 2 & 3 AT RADIO HALLS

Polonus officers undertook a POLPEX for 1968 and made arrangements during the last days of December to hold an exhibition on Saturday and Sunday, March 2nd & 3rd, at the beautiful Radio Halls, 5356 W. Belmont Ave., corner of Long Ave., on Chicago's Northwest Side. They unanimously agreed on the theme for the show — "Poland's 50th Anniversary of Independence." Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz was named as Honorary Polpex Chairman.

Myron Steczynski readily undertook the designing and art work of the seals and Alfred Szebel undertook the entries. Roman Reinowski willingly accepted the bourse assignment. J. P. Rux volunteered for the sales of seals and will be assisted by Chester J. Mikucki. Chester Mikucki will also handle the Patrons while Chester Schafer will take care of ads for the program catalog.

With this issue of the Bulletin we enclose an entry application. Members are asked to particularly exhibit the stamps of Poland of the period between World War I and World War II. Included with this are the Polish Field Post issues of World War I, the plebescite issues of Eastern Silesia, Upper Silesia, Allenstein, Marienwerder and the issues of Central Lithuania. Each exhibitor is allowed to show up to 12 frames with no more than

VISIT POLPEX 1968

MARCH 2 & 3 — RADIO HALLS
5356 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago



Honoring Poland's 50th Anniversary
of Independence

6 frames per exhibit. A separate entry application is required for each exhibit. To obtain additional entry forms write to Alfred Szebel, Entries Chairman, 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016. Deadline for entries is Feb. 16, 1968.

Admission to Polpex 1968 is free. Funds for the show are obtained from the sale of seals, rental of bourse tables, frame charge to exhibitors, from advertisers and patrons in the program catalog. Full page ads run \$25.00, half page ads \$15.00, and quarter page \$10.00. Your ad can contain your philatelic wants or just greetings. Mail copy and check to Chester A. Schafer,

Ads Chairman, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

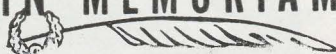
Support the Polpex by having your name printed in the Patron list. This costs \$1.00 and should be sent to Chester Mikucki, Patrons Chairman, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

In the past our Polpex shows have been outstanding cultural events in Chicagoland where the Poles number some 700,000. Our last Polpex drew over 3,000 visitors. Publicity in the philatelic publications, Polish press, in radio and television is planned.

Articles to promote Polish philately which will appear in the philatelic press at Polpex time are needed. As the time is short, we ask you to send them to your editor as soon as possible.

Let's get behind the officers and make POLPEX 1968 a success!

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. H. C. Mroczynski
St. Charles, Illinois

Henry Barth
Chicago, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Thomas Mackowiak #657
3530 N. Oconto Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60634

NEW MEMBER

Thomas J. Gobby
2501 N. Newland Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60635

RESIGNED

A. H. Ganczarczyk #770
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Mrs. Lidia Andrew #646
Fullerton, California

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

In the December 16, 1967 issue of STAMPS, in his column, entitled "Stamp Market Tips", John G. Ross writes as follows:

"I had the pleasure of talking to a collector who had just returned from Warsaw, where he attended some meetings of a large government-sponsored stamp club. He was surprised that the pre-World War II issues are just about non-existent over there, and if available, would cost you several times the price Scott quotes, even if you figure their money at the black market rate of exchange. To give an example, a set of four issued in 1930 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the insurrection of 1830 (Scott Nos. 263-266) was offered to him for one-thousand Zlotys! Even at the black market rate of exchange that is \$10.00. You probably can pick that set up here from your dealer for about \$3.00. Things are improving rapidly in Poland, and it might not be too far off when people there will be able to purchase stamps from foreign countries. Once that would happen collectors might start outbidding one another to get these sets back to the home country, and prices would be bound to go up over here. Check through your album and try to complete your pages especially from 1918 to 1939."

The information I have indicates that John knows what he is talking about.

However, I would like the members of Polonus to write to me and tell me what they know about the present philatelic market in Poland and more important the availability of Pre-World War II material in Poland.

If I receive the kind of cooperation I hope I will from collectors of the stamps of Poland, who are members of the Polonus Philatelic Society, the information would form the basis of an informative article which would be of value to all.

Lester Jankowski
7303 N. Kildare Ave.
Lincolnwood, Ill. 60646

POLAND'S MILLENNIUM

5-cent commemorative
issued July 30 1966
at Washington, D.C.

By Belmont Faries

Reprinted from "S.P.A. Journal"
of December, 1967

In the year 966 A.D. a Polish prince named Mieszko married a Bohemian princess and was converted by her chaplain to Christianity. The millennium of this event provided the occasion for one of the most controversial of recent United States commemorative stamps.

Mieszko became King of Poland and as a Roman Catholic turned Polish culture toward Western Europe rather than to the East. There had been Christians in Poland for at least a century, but they were of the Greek or Slavonic rite. Mieszko made Roman Catholicism the state religion of Poland.

Today the Catholic Church, under Cardinal Wyszyński, provides the strongest element of opposition to the Communist government installed at the end of World War II. The millennium year offered an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the strength of the Church's hold on the Polish people after a quarter of a century of Communist political indoctrination.

A great religious celebration was planned for May 3, 1966, feast day of "Mary, Queen of Poland" at the Jasna Gora monastery where the painting of the Virgin Mary known as the "Black Madonna of Czestochowa"



hangs in the chapel. The Pope himself planned to attend in what would be the first visit by a Roman Pontiff to a Communist country.

In the United States the observance was planned around a visit of Cardinal Wyszyński to cities with large Polish populations, with the highlight a mass at Soldier Field in Chicago on Aug. 28.

The first request to the Post Office Department was dated March 3, 1964. A formal request from the "Committee to Honor Poland's Millennium of Christianity with a U. S. Postage Stamp in 1966" organized by the Polonus Philatelic Society of Chicago was dated Oct. 15, 1965. In it Chairman Myron E. Steczynski urged that such a stamp be issued in Chicago on Aug. 27, the day before the Soldier Field mass. Other Polish-Americans in Buffalo already were actively campaigning for a stamp.

The proposal for a Polish Millennium stamp came before the Stamp Advisory Committee at its San Francisco meeting of June 25, 1965. No action was taken. At the next meeting, on Nov. 4, a new art member, Walter Krawiec, an editorial cartoonist for the Polish Daily News of Chi-



Three designs by Sister Mary Geraldine of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph at Hamburg, N.Y., submitted to Postmaster General O'Brien by Representative Dulski.

cago, strongly urged approval of a Polish Millennium stamp, but other members of the committee indicated a reluctance to support a commemorative for such an obviously religious occasion. The committee again considered the proposal at its meeting of Jan. 13, 1966, but took no action.

Meanwhile the stamp had gained considerable political support, with Senator Muskie and Representatives Derwinski, Dingle, Dulski, Grabowski, Helstoski, Pucinski and Zablocki strongly urging its issuance. There was also some support within the Post Office Department itself.

Late in February Postmaster General Lawrence F. O'Brien decided to issue a Polish Millennium commemorative and notified its Congressional supporters that he would do so. Formal announcement of plans to issue stamps to "salute the United States Marine Corps Reserve, encourage the Beautification of America program and commemorate 1,000 years

of culture in Poland" was made for release in newspapers of Sunday, Feb. 27.

Design Development

First design suggestions were three sketches by Sister Mary Geraldine of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph at Hamburg, N. Y. which were submitted to Postmaster General O'Brien in January by Representative Dulski. They featured the American and Polish flags, the Polish eagle and Mieszko with his bride Dabrowka. Each included the wording "Polish-American Observance" and a reference to Poland's "Christian Culture" or "Christian Heritage."

Postal officials asked a Polish-American artist, Stephen Mrozewski, to prepare a design but were not satisfied with his wood cut representation of Mieszko and Dabrowka. They tried again with Edmund D. Lewandowski, director of the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee. His design was a simple but effective one; Poland's historic

POLAND'S MILLENNIUM



UNITED STATES POSTAGE

A woodcut design showing Mieszko and Dobrowa by Stephen Mrozewski and (right) the original artwork for the stamp by Edmund D. Lewandowski.

white eagle on a red shield, with "Poland's Millennium", the dates 966 and 1966 and a cross above and "U. S. 5c", below.

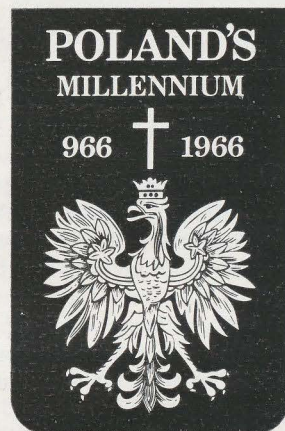
At the May 23 meeting of the Stamp Advisory Committee the Lewandowski art was "favorably received" but with the suggestion that "United States" be used instead of "U. S." With this modification, the model by Robert J. Jones was approved by Postmaster General O'Brien the following day.

Meanwhile, Mr. O'Brien had announced in a news release for Sunday, April 10 that the Polish Millennium stamp would be issued July 30 at Washington, D. C. and that he had asked the Very Reverend Norbert Zonca of Buffalo and Judge Thaddeus V. Adesko of Chicago to serve as executive co-chairmen of a National Committee for the Millennium of Poland Stamp. This disappointed the Chicago Polish groups but avoided tying the first day ceremonies directly to the religious observance planned for Aug. 28. The announcement explained the stamp not in terms of Polish "culture" but as the anniversary of the Polish state.

Postmaster General O'Brien made the design for the stamp public at a ceremony in his office on June 1 to



US 5c



UNITED STATES 5c
The approved model.

which he invited his sponsoring committee co-chairmen and all members of Congress who had urged the stamp. The news release prepared for the occasion frankly explained the religious nature of the stamp for the first time:

"The Polish Millennium stamp commemorates the one thousandth anniversary of the adoption of Christianity in Poland — the most significant event in Polish history. In embracing Christianity, the Poles became a part of Western civilization".

The release also noted that "A symbolic cross appears between the dates" in the design.

Release of the design photographs set off a confused controversy between the State Department and the Polish government. The Warsaw government, which was marking the occasion as the millennium of the Polish state, protested that the eagle in the Lewandowski design was a Fascist symbol of the prewar dictatorship of Gen. Joseph Pilsudski, and warned that it reserved the right to bar mail bearing a stamp with such a design from the Polish mails.

Pinned down to details, the Poles did not object to the crown on the eagle, and aside from the crown it was impossible to distinguish Lewandowski's eagle from the one on the stamps the Polish government was issuing for its own celebration of the millennium of the Polish state. The United States ambassador in Warsaw, former Postmaster General John A. Gronouski, took up the matter and on July 26 the State Department announced that Poland had agreed to handle in a normal manner mail bearing the United States Millennium stamp.

Stamp Manufacture

With the approval of the model by Postmaster General O'Brien on May 24, 1966 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing assigned Joseph S. Creamer to engrave the vignette of the master die and Robert G. Culin the cross and lettering. Postmaster General O'Brien approved the die proof for engraving on June 24, leaving the exact shade of red to be determined from plate proofs.

Since only one color was involved the stamp could be printed on one of the Cottrell presses. Four plates were manufactured, 28625, 28626, 28629, and 28630.

Plates 28629 and 28630 were sent to press together on June 29 for a run of 467,927 sheets of 200 or 93,585,400 stamps. On July 13 plates 28625 and 28626 were sent to press. Advance orders for the stamps from postmasters had been heavy and the standard order was increased by 10 million. In this run, completed on July 28, 375,903 sheets of 200 or 75,180,600 stamps were printed for a total printing of 843,830 sheets or 168,766,000 stamps.

The printing breakdown by plates was:

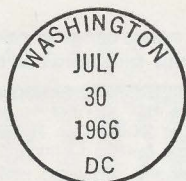
Plates	Impressions	Stamps
28625	187,951	37,590,200
28626	187,952	37,590,400
28629	233,963	46,792,600
28630	233,964	46,792,800

The Bureau made a first shipment of 8,500,000 stamps to New York City on July 15, 1966. By May 16, 1967, when its stocks were exhausted except for a reserve of 1,000,000 stamps for the Philatelic Sales Unit, a total of 127,975,000 stamps had been distributed.

First Day Ceremonies

First day ceremonies were held at an especially arranged Polish Millennium Stamp Banquet on Saturday evening, July 30, 1966 at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington. Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine was master of ceremonies and there were talks by Judge Thomas E. Kluczynski of the Illinois Appellate Court, Judge Thaddeus V. Adesko of the Cook County Circuit Court, Chicago, and a response by Charles Rozmarek, president of the Polish American Congress, to the chief address by Postmaster General O'Brien.

The National Committee's Philatelic Committee, headed by Myron Steczynski who had directed the original Polonus Philatelic Society ef-



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Handstamp first day cancel.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Machine first day cancel.

fort, encouraged Polish groups to make bulk purchases of the stamps on day of issue and to send first day covers.

Sigmund H. Uminski, who made a study of the subject, reports that at least 45 different cacheted envelopes were prepared for first day use. The Post Office Department later reported that 712,603 covers were canceled at Washington on the day of issue and that 3,278,116 stamps with a face value of \$163,905.80 were sold there that day.

Philatelic Data

Five cent red on white wove paper, vertical format, 0.84 by 1.44 inches, intaglio printed from 200-subject plates on a web-fed Cottrell press, electric eye perforated 10½ by 11 and divided into panes of 50 for post offices.

The Mr. Zip cartoon is the walking type first used with the Sam Houston stamp and appears in the same position in the selvage four times in each sheet of 200 and once on each post office pane of 50.



Cover Craft combination cover with Polish Millennium stamps.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 12, 1968

Business Meeting . . . By-Laws of the society to be reviewed. Nomination of Officers for 1968.

Friday, January 26, 1968

Program Meeting . . . Polonus will be the guests of Mgr Romuald Bilek at his Bagatela Club, 1122 Milwaukee Ave., where he has displayed an extensive documentary collection of Polish Millennium material with the first day cancels of Washington, D.C., Vatican City, and with Polpex 1956 cancels. Officers to be elected at this meeting.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?

The Treasurer reports that many members mistakenly think that their dues are paid for the year when they actually are not.

Polonus was organized in February and consequently our year begins February 1st and ends on January 31st. Check your membership card and you will see.

K-LINE PAGES FOR POLAND



Supplement #11, 1966
Now Ready at \$1.95
plus 35c postage

Write us for a special price on
complete Poland pages
(to Members of Polonus only)

**K-LINE
PUBLISHING, INC.**

Geo. C. Kobylka

P.O. Box 159, Berwyn, Ill. 60402

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ALFRED SZEBEL, Secretary
9041 Emerson St. Des Plaines, Ill. 60016
STANLEY DOBRZYCKI, Treasurer
1935 N. Tripp Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60639
CHESTER A. SCHAFER, Editor
864 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60622
LESTER JANKOWSKI, Publications Chairman
7303 N. Kildare Lincolnwood, Ill. 60466

The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. 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 —

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

POLAND, DANZIG & LITHUANIA
COINS, MEDALS, TOKENS, PAPER
MONEY. GOLD COINS OF ALL PERIODS,
SINGLES, LOTS, ETC.

PRE-WAR POLAND MINT STAMP
COLLECTIONS AND BETTER ITEMS

JOHN SKOTNICKI

1036 N. WOOD ST.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60622

OUR PRICE 65c PER COVER
Commemorating America's most important **SPACE LAUNCHINGS** from **CAPE CANAVERAL**: postmarked on date of launch. Original cachets by the Space Artist Carl A. Swanon. Each cover contains descriptive card giving even more details of launching. Our subscribers receive **FREE** — **THE SPACE CRAFT EXPLORER** Bi-monthly Newssheet.

A \$5.00 advance deposit will assure your receipt of future covers and **THE EXPLORER**.

Space Craft Covers

P.O. Box 2296

Huntington, W. Va. 25724

Member: Polonus, APS, ATA, ASDA