

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 280

May 1970

POLPEX 1971 DATES & THEME ANNOUNCED

POLPEX 1971 will be held on February 27 and 28 at the St. James Auditorium, 2424 N. Mango Avenue in Chicago. The success of the previous Polpex at this location prompted the society to act on this site for our next exhibition. Rev. John Wodniak, Pastor of St. James, met with a Polonus committee and agreed to our next show being held here.

A popular subject of discussion at our previous meetings has been the theme of our coming Polpex. It was decided to honor the 50th anniversary of Poland's first airmail stamps which occurs in 1971. On May 29, 1921, a set of two semi-official air-

the 100 mk. paid the additional charge for letters.

As was the practise at the two previous exhibitions, Polonus will have a dual theme — the second being the Space Age. This topic was selected because of the popularity of the recent American lunar flights.

The exhibition will not be limited to collections of airmail and space. It was decided to have separate classes for Airmail, Space, Poland and Foreign. There are many members who do not specialize in Poland. They will have an opportunity to exhibit at POLPEX 1971.

The reason for announcing our show so far in advance is due to the many complaints we have received from out of town members, and those abroad, that our previous Polpex announcements were made so late that it gave them little time to prepare their exhibits. So let's get going fellow members . . . do your thing!

TID BITS

Walenty Poniecki was awarded a bronze medal at the recent international show in Australia for his Polish Field Post collection.

Member Joseph Jakubecki was elected trustee of the Wayne Stamp Society of Detroit, Mich.

Several Polonus members exhibited Polish airmails at COMPEX which was an all-airmail show this year.



mail stamps, a 25 mk. and 100 mk., were issued to pay additional charges for airmail during the Poznan Fair. They were privately produced by an agreement with the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, and were sold at the postoffices Warszawa 1, Poznan 1, 3 and 9. The 25 mk. paid the additional airmail charge for postal cards while

Philatelic Literature Review

"POLISH PRISONER OF WAR POSTS"

Compiled and Edited by
Stanley J. Bykowski

Polish Philatelic Society of Boston

This booklet deals with stamps, souvenir sheetlets, postal cards and illustrated embossed postcards issued by Oflag VII.A Murnau, Oflag II.C Woldenberg, Oflag II.D Gross Born, and Oflag II.E Neubrandenburg during the World War II period.

The book includes a general history of the stamps by M. Kalawski; cancellations and postmarks by H. M. Smith; designs and propaganda labels by J. Machowski; Madonnas on POW stamps by H. Zebrowski.

Stanley J. Bykowski compiled the works of these writers and came up with a detailed study of the stamps and postal services of these four Polish officers POW camps.

Its 72 pages are well illustrated and show stamps, cancellations, proposed stamp designs not accepted, propaganda labels and other special pages.

Three of the four camps reached standardization in the issue of stamps and most of the stamps of Woldenberg, Gross Born and Neubrandenburg exceeded in artistic quality the average stamp in circulation in many countries, claims Kalawski. He notes that nearly all POW stamps were woodcuts with known exceptions including sets printed from an engraved copperplate, rubber and linoleum dies.

Some of the stamps illustrated in the book include those featuring Copernicus, Paderewski, Pilsudski, Kosciuszko, the YMCA, National Day, Maritime Day, Olympic Games and Eastern Poland, Freedom, the Varna Battle, officials and postage dues.

The book sells for \$3.00 postpaid and can be ordered from Stanley J. Bykowski, 14 Cleveland St., Hyde Pk., Mass. 02136. (See ad on page 280-7.)

"SCULPTURE" AS A TOPICAL

In philatelic exhibits, especially in the last few years, topicals have been seen in their own topical category.

We see flora, fauna, space, and especially paintings. It is peculiar that topical stamps, and especially paintings, have an odor of speculation, issued by small nations called humorously "banana republics." But sculpture to date has not as yet been admitted into topical collections even though examples are numerous.

Because of the non-existence of sculpture in topicals, the Warsaw branch of the Polish Federation of Philatelists issued a brochure edited by Cesar Rudzinski. "Sculpture as a Theme of Philatelic Collectors." The author states that only on stamps of European nations do we note a few hundred reproductions of sculpture.

In this category Poland is well represented as it has many stamps which reproduced sculpture. A classical example is the altar of Wit Stwosz in St. Mary's Church in Krakow which appears on ten stamps and 186 illustrated postal cards. Other plentiful reproductions are monuments statues and architectural designs.

The author divides his themes in subdivisions or motives as: Sculptors and Their Work" — Antic Sculpture — Religious — etc. The author lists and illustrates the stamps giving the country of issue. It is not a complete listing but it does list the majority of the European issues showing sculpture.

Thus a new field and theme are now available to the topical collector. There is room for research and the material is plentiful, not very expensive and easily acquired.

— H.

In this issue of the "Bulletin" we continue with another segment of the "Handbook of Upper Silesia" by Dr. R. de Ragan. (Continued from the February 1970 Issue.)

Issue, such as letter spacing and alignment, were eliminated on this issue even though they were both prepared by the Erdmann Raabe's Printing House. Nevertheless, errors and flaws can be found. Most of them are found in the accent mark over the "E" in Plebiscite.

Occasionally small dots or marks caused by smudging of the printing plate can be found. More often shifted overprints, caused by movement of the sheet in the press, occurred. This is how the 20 Pfg. stamp with the

year date 1921 missing happened to occur.

Originally the printing ink was very dark and black with a glossy sheen but during the printing oil was added to the ink which sometimes caused the overprint to appear smudged and a grease ring to grow around it. Often this ink would be very slow drying.

Because the stamps used for this overprint came mostly from the second issue almost all of them have grey brown gum, except the 40 Pfg. value which has white gum.

Plebiscite Day Issue

Value	Color	Overprint Color	Quantity Printed	Catalog Michel	Number Scott
10 Pfg.	brick	black	200,100	30	32
15 Pfg.	violet	black	200,100	31	33
20 Pfg.	blue	black	200,100	32	34
25 Pfg.	brown	red	40,000	33	35
30 Pfg.	orange	black	100,050	34	36
40 Pfg.	olive	red	100,050	35	37
50 Pfg.	dark grey	red	40,000	36	38
60 Pfg.	blue	black	30,000	37	39
75 Pfg.	green	black	30,000	38	40
80 Pfg.	red brown	black	30,000	39	41
1 Mk.	lilac rose	black	30,000	40	42

Errors

The best known error of this issue is the 20 Pfg. stamp mentioned above with the year date 1921 missing. Other errors are very rare as this issue was carefully checked before being sent to the post offices for distribution. Most of those that can be found are occasional rather than constant types.

Once in a while an inverted or shifted overprint sheet would reach the window. Pairs can occasionally be found with one stamp overprinted and the other not or an overprinted sheet margin caused by this shifting. The 15, 20, 25, 30, 60, and 75 Pfg. and the 1 Mk. values exist with the overprint inverted.

Shifted
Overprint



Inverted Overprint



Inverted Overprint



Pair — One Without Overprint

A large number of stamps of this issue occurred with diagonal or double overprint or with the small format overprint on the large format stamp and visa versa but these varieties are strictly printers waste. There were many philatelists among the French delegation and much of this scrap reached the market in spite of the strict controls.



Small Format Overprint On Large Format Stamp



Double Overprint

Distribution

Due to the very small printing and because they were issued honoring the Plebiscite Day these stamps were sold under very strict controls to avoid speculation. Only every tenth voter was allowed to receive one of the low values of 10, 15 or 20 Pfg. and every twenty-fifth voter a complete set.

One third of the total printing was put at the disposal of the Inter-Allied Commission who allotted the following stamps to the Post Office officials.

Each official with 25 or more years seniority received 5 complete sets.

Each official with 5 to 25 years seniority received 1 complete set.

All other officials and workers received one incomplete set containing one each of the 10, 15, 20, and 40 values.

The remaining stamps were sold to the public in very limited quantities.

To assure a fair distribution to the public the Postmaster General of Oppeln (Oppeln), who was also Postmaster General for the entire plebiscite territory, issued this notice:

Postmaster General's Office
Oppeln

E. 1.

Oppeln, March 17, 1921

CIRCULAR

By order of the Inter-Allied Commission there will be issued on March 20, 1921 postage stamps with the overprint — Plebiscite 20 mars 1921 — in black on stamps of the face values 10 Pfg., 15 Pfg., 20 Pfg., 30 Pfg., 60 Pfg., 75 Pfg., 80 Pfg., and 1 Mk. and in red on 25 Pfg., 40 Pfg. and 50 Pfg. stamps.

These stamps will be on sale on March 20, 1921 only.

Post Office's of the first class will receive the stamps to sell in complete sets. They can be sold in incomplete sets only according to the following scheme:

A) One small set with the values 10 Pfg., 15 Pfg., 20 Pfg., 30 Pfg., and 40 Pfg. or two stamps of the values 10 Pfg., 15 Pfg., 20 Pfg., 30 Pfg. and 40 Pfg. or one stamp of the values 25 Pfg., 50 Pfg., 60 Pfg., 75 Pfg., 80 Pfg. and 1 Mk. only.

B) Post Offices will refuse the sale of complete sets to enable the largest possible number of inhabitants of the Plebiscite Territory to come into possession of these stamps, as a souvenir of the plebiscite day.

Postmasters will be held personally responsible for their deputies and selling clerks in keeping these orders in regard to the sale of these stamps.

At First Class Offices this sale is to be organized at two windows, one for sale of the stamps of face value 10 Pfg., 15 Pfg., 20 Pfg., 30 Pfg. and 40 Pfg. and the other for stamps of face value 25 Pfg., 50 Pfg., 60 Pfg., 75 Pfg., 80 Pfg. and 1 Mk.

Both functions are to be entrusted to absolutely trustworthy clerks and in no case to a philatelist.

Any abuse of the sale will be severely punished.

Signed: Koch

As can be seen from the above circular the commemorative stamps were issued only to First Class Post Offices.

Oppeln I (Opole)
Beuthen (Bytom)
Hindenburg I (Zabrze)
Gleiwitz I (Gliwice)
Kattowitz (Katowice)
Cosel I (Kozle)
Ratibor (Racibórz)
Kreuzburg I (Kluczborek)
Rosenberg O S (Olesno)
Tarnowitz (Tarnowskie Góry)
Lublinitz (Lubliniec)
Konigshutte (Królewska Huta,
obecnie Chorzów)

Rybnik

Gross Strehlitz (Strzelce Opolskie)
Leobschütz (Głubczyce)

They were on sale for one day only. For better control and to simplify sales the sheets were divided up into single stamps by the Postmasters before being distributed to their deputies. Therefore stamps of this issue in multiples are seldom found. Blocks of four are very, very rare as they almost all come from the gifts given to the Post Office officials of over 25 years standing who receive one complete set and a block of four of each stamp.

The existence of larger parts of sheets or complete sheets are impossible and those offered on the market are counterfeit.

Validity

These stamps were on sale only on March 20, 1921. Officially, they were valid until the end of the Inter-Allied Commission authority in Upper Silesia, until June 22, 1922.

Counterfeits

Due to the very great rarity of these overprinted stamps, because of their being on sale only one day and because of the limited number printed, probably 99% of these stamps offered on the market are counterfeits, coming largely from Paris.

THIRD DEFINITIVE ISSUE

On January 1, 1922 new postal rates came into effect in Upper Silesia and higher value stamps were needed to meet them. This rate change eliminated the need for the 50 Pfg. stamps still in circulation and caused the existing stocks of high value stamps to be quickly used up.

Since the Council of Ambassadors had given the Inter-Allied Commission only the first half of 1922 to hand over authority to the Polish and German administrations they did not want to spend any more than absolutely necessary for the new stamps so they decided to overprint stamps of the Second Definitive Issue design with

new face values. To eliminate the problems that would have been caused by overprinting existing supplies, such as counterfeiting, stamps of the face values of 60 Pfg., 75 Pfg. and 80 Pfg. were issued in new colors with higher value overprints added in black.

Printing

Both the printing of the basic stamp and the overprinting was done in Paris at the Imprimerie Nationale (State

Printing House). The overprint is 6.5 mm. high in dull, black ink.

The printing was done with the utmost care. All errors and faulty material was withdrawn and destroyed so that almost no flaws or misprints are known.

The following stamps were printed during the second half of January and the first half of February, 1922 and were put in circulation March 1, 1922.



10 MARK VALUE



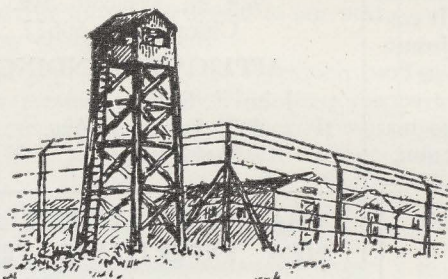
20 MARK VALUE

**The Boston Polish Philatelic Society's Newest
Contribution To The Field Of Polish Philately**

**Polish Prisoner
of
War Posts**

Oflag VII. A. MURNAU
Oflag II.C. WOLDENBERG.

Oflag II.D. GROSS BORN
Oflag II. E. NEUBRANDENBURG



Compiled and Edited by

Stanley J. Bykowski

of the

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF BOSTON, MASS.

A book you will cherish for many years to come. Many unknown facts which are brought to life . . . the life that was once filled with uncertainty, and whose only crime was to be born Polish. These men, who with only God-given ability as free men, showed the world that with only primitive tools these men designed and printed stamps that even to this day are considered of high caliber . . .

\$3.00 postpaid

Order from: **Stanley J. Bykowski**
14 Cleveland St.
Hyde Park, Mass. 02136

IN MEMORIAM



J. LOBSENZ, #46
New York, N.Y.

CHAS. A. ALEXANDER, #559
Rockford, Mich.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 12, 1970 —

Business meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Bring along some pages from your collection to show us what you collect.

Friday, June 26, 1970 —

Program meeting to be announced.

OUR PROGRAM MEETING

At the last Polonus program meeting at St. James Clubrooms, W. Poniecki brought his Polish Fieldpost collection which just returned from an international show in Australia. It covered the period from Dowbor-Musnicki to the present time. Being a Polish 2nd Corps veteran he had a very strong showing of Monte Cassino material. It's an impressive collection.

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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 \$2.50 —

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