

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS **PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



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Życzymy dalszych 100 lat w rozwoju Polskiej
Filatelistyki oraz sukcesu wystawcom i organizatorom
Światowej Wystawy "POLSKA 93"

P.Z.F. "POLONUS"



100th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE POLISH
PHILATELIC MOVEMENT
1893-1993



POLPEX 93
SALUTES
POLSKA 93



Greetings and Wishes of Success to the
Exhibitors and Organizers of the
International Stamp Exhibition
"POLSKA 93"

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

POLSKA '93

The 3rd International Stamp Exhibition POLSKA '93, honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Philatelic Movement, will soon take place, May 7th-16th, 1993 in Poznan, Poland under the capable leadership of Mr. Ludwik Malendowicz.

Polonus members exhibiting: Dr. J. Kuderewicz, M. Rosen, Dr. J. Mazepa, F. Szebel, J. Rutkowski, Dr. C. Straub, H. Gagnon, T. Gobby and possibly others. A small group of Polonus exhibitors will travel to Poland on May 4th, arriving in Warsaw May 5th and immediately after the arrival of the LOT planes from New York and Chicago, they will proceed to Poznan.

For many of us, it will be a revisitation of the International Exhibition POLSKA '73, a reunion of some old Polonus members and friends from all over the world. Expected are Dr. R. Aszniewicz of Australia, J. Podejko, E. Neumann and P. Madej of Canada; Z. Mikulski of Switzerland; S. Rosinski and M. Koseve of France; S. Adler of Austria; M. Dabrowski and A. Roszkowski of England; S. Petriuk of Germany and others. It will be a pleasure to revive old friendships and make new ones.

Twenty years ago, Polonus Honorary Member, W. Zachariasiewicz represented the U.S.A. Post Office. As yet we do not know who will do so this year.

After 50 years of totalitarian communist rule, Poland is struggling in her new found independence. It has changed drastically from the days of communist rulers. The "Red" Premier of 20 years ago, P. Jarosiewicz was mysteriously murdered last year. The situation has turned. It is now a democracy.

Honorary Patron of POLSKA '93 is the first freely elected President of Poland, Lech Walesa. Hopefully he will open the Exhibition.

Our Honorary Member Czeslaw Slania of Sweden, engraved the Polish Eagle Souvenir Sheet for Polska '93. A special article on this subject appears in this Polonus Bulletin. Special C. Slania Days will be May 7th and 8th. Other known to Polonus members, is the Polish stamp designer A. Balcerowicz. His Special Day will be May 13th.

Many events are planned such as the Special Coach Mail, Air Mail Flights, Helicopter Flights, Glider and Balloon Flights as well as the publication of books, postcards, eleven special cancellations, etc.

Just as he did twenty years ago, Fred Szebel will officially represent Polonus at Polska '93. Our Honorary Member, J. Witkowski will be Senior Adviser and Chairman of the International Jury.

The Polish Post Office is entirely financing Polska '93. Gold and silver medals according to the F.I.P. rules will be made out of precious metals. Visitors to POLSKA '93 will find a different Poland!

—Fred Szebel

POLPEX 93

What is perhaps the largest collection of the Kingdom of Poland in the world, was exhibited at POLPEX 93 held March 19-21 at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. Dr. James Mazepa showed ten frames of this material from 1858 to 1870 which included Russian first issues used in Russia, the first Polish stamp and stationery and Russian stamps reintroduced in 1865. There were many rarities from collections of Fabarge, Mikstein, Poulie and Kozakiewicz. This same exhibit will be shown at POLSKA '93.

The main theme of Polpex was "Poland and her New Democratic Neighbors." A comprehensive exhibit of Lithuania was shown by Vito Lukosevicius of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society which covered the whole country in his thirteen frames.

Czechoslovakia was represented with thirteen frames put up by Mr. Charles Chesloe of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Society -- an enormous collection of postal history. Germany Private Post during the 19th Century was shown by Wladyslaw Dziemianczuk of Canada. There were many more excellent collections presented making this one of Polonus' most interesting exhibitions. A description of all exhibits can be found in the program catalog which is available for \$1.00 (see ad).

Dealers at the bourse reported brisk sales and many said that they would be back next year. Attendance was good and the weather was in our favor.

Award presentations were made at the Beeba-Banquet, where all enjoyed a most delicious dinner on Saturday evening. As per the Polpex Committee's decision to have no judging this year, all exhibitors received the Polonus medal encased in a walnut desk top ornament.

Coming in from out-of-town for our Polpex were: Henryk Kowalski Calif., Dr. Conrad Straub of Minneapolis, Richard Zak of Toledo, OH and Irene and Ray Orzechowski and Gene Wolosewicz of Milwaukee, WI.

"Poland and Her New Democratic Neighbors" was our theme. Later it was decided to add two more themes to the original one: the "100th Anniversary of the Polish Philatelic Movement" and "Polonus Salutes POLSKA '93". Special cacheted covers were printed for all three days of the exhibition with three different cancellations. The cover for Friday, March 19th carried the original theme and showed a map of Poland surrounded by her neighbors. The cover for Saturday, March 20th honored Maksymilian Mikolaj Urbanski, the organizer of the first Polish philatelic club in Krakow in 1893. The third cover for Sunday, March 21st is a tribute to Czeslaw Slania and a salute to POLSKA '93. All three covers



President Roman Strzelecki (center), Arkadiusz Walinski, Awards Chairman (right), congratulate Dr. James Mazepa (left).



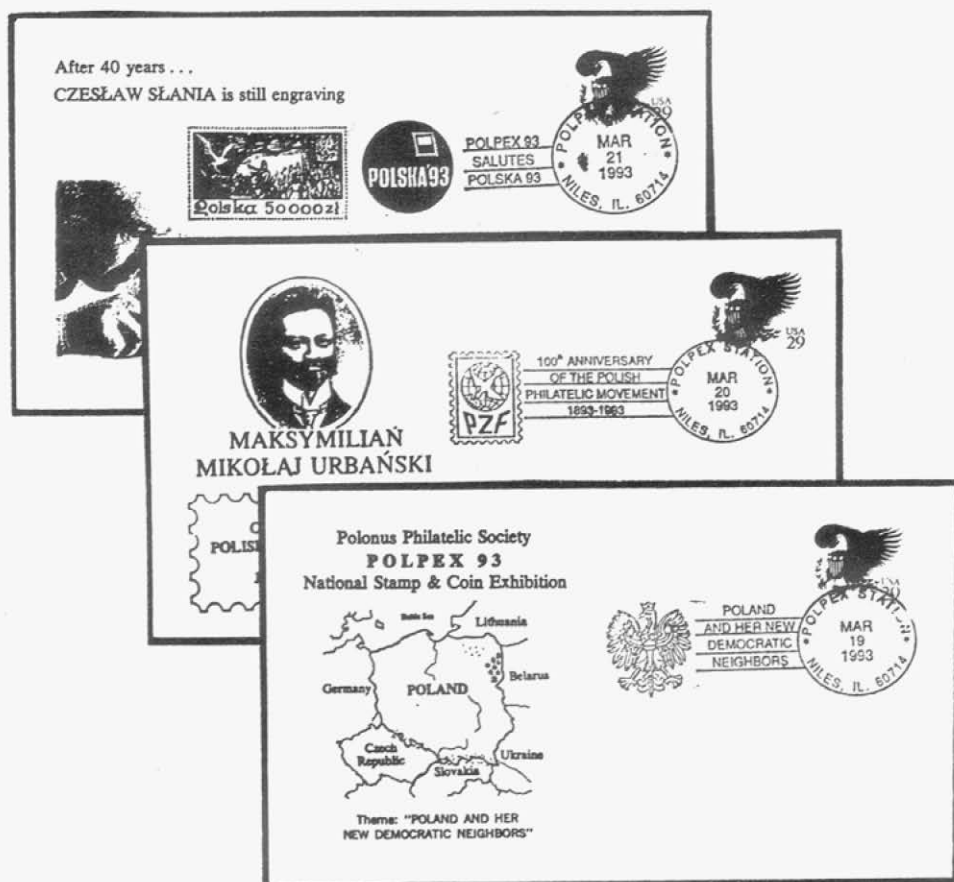
The opening ceremony included (left to right) Pres. Roman Strzelecki, Chet Marcin, Dr. Conrad Straub of Minnesota, Henryk Kowalski of California, Fred Szebel, Stefan Czarniecki and Dr. James Mazepa.

The show card is always a popular Polpex item and this year's card is an attractive one. It shows a map of Poland with the Solidarity stamp in the center surrounded by Poland's new democratic neighbors and a stamp issued by each of them: Lithuania, Bialorus, Germany, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Slovakia (see illustration).

Polpex always has a pair of our traditional souvenir sheets and this year the Polish eagle dominates both of them. One sheet shows the Polish stamp issued for the 100th anniversary of the Polish Philatelic Movement and has a bar of music at the bottom with the last line of the Polish national anthem which changed when Poland left the communist rule: "Ojczyznę wolną pobłogosław Panie" (God bless our free nation). The other sheet depicts the coats of arms of our new democratic neighbors surrounding the Polish eagle. The folder has a fitting write-up by Roman Strzelecki which tells the story. A pair of sheets with folder are available for \$1.50 (see ad).

The working force of Polpex this year was the board of directors and the officers. Art Walinski was Entries Chairman and he set up the show with Ted Sokolowski, Stanley Dobrzycki and others. Al and Fran Rybarski handled the Sales. The Art department consisted of Fred Szebel and Art Walinski. The Program Catalog committee was headed by Chester Schafer with Stefan Czarniecki responsible for Patrons and Well Wishers. Thanks to the other officers and members who shared the work and contributed another successful Polpex to Polonus history!

POLPEX 93 SOUVENIRS



3 different Covers with 3 different Cancellations — \$3.00

Show Card — \$1.50

Same Cancelled — \$2.00

Pair Souvenir Sheets with Folder — \$1.50

Program Catalog — \$1.00

Enclose \$1.00 additional for mailing.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 82 ■ River Grove, Illinois 60171

Polonus Philatelic Society
POLPEX 93
 National Stamp & Coin Exhibition

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 POLISH PHILATELIC MOVEMENT - 1893-1993



March 19-20-21, 1993 Niles, IL U.S.A.

Polonus Philatelic Society
POLPEX 93
 National Stamp & Coin Exhibition



POLPEX 93
 SOUVENIR
 SHEETS

Theme: "POLAND AND HER
 NEW DEMOCRATIC NEIGHBORS"

March 19-20-21, 1993 Niles, IL U.S.A.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX 93

POLAND AND HER NEW DEMOCRATIC NEIGHBORS



INTERNATIONAL STAMP & COIN EXHIBITION

Niles, Illinois U.S.A. — March 19-21, 1993

ABOUT THE ORIGIN of THE WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION POLSKA '93 MINIATURE SHEET "THE LEGEND OF THE WHITE EAGLE"

Attempts were made to find a motif which would present in a symbolic way the beginnings of our history, at the same time illustrating historic stages the nation had gone through till today.

The Polish national emblem features a white eagle against a red background. The origin of this image goes back to the legendary times and is closely connected to the Wielkopolska region. It was in Wielkopolska (the historic land of the tribe of Polanie) where the Polish state system was taking shape. Poznan has been the capital of this historical area. According to legend, when the supposed founder of the Polish state, Lech, was wandering with his army in the vicinity of the town of Gniezno, he spotted a white eagle in its nest. Believing it was a good omen he decided to settle down on this land.

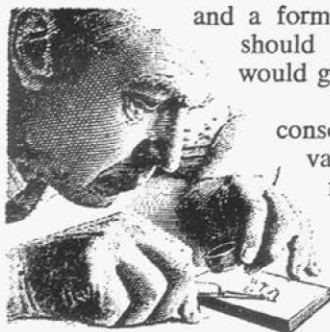
So we have found a motif for the stamp, which referred to the history of Poland and was related to the region which was going to host philatelists from all over the world. Then we had to enrich it with further historical and . . . philatelic elements in order that as many thematic collectors as possible may decide to include this stamp in their collections.

The design was commissioned to artist print maker from Poznan, prof. Andrzej Jeziorowski. There was also a suggestion to get in touch and invite to cooperation an outstanding Polish engraver, permanently living in Sweden, Czeslaw Slania, who had been engraving stamps for many posts, not only in Europe.

He had also designed and engraved a number of stamps for Poland before leaving the country (the last stamp in 1956). So it was an excellent opportunity to employ his talent for his native country again, after over 35 years. The world importance of the Exhibition required a world recognized co-author of the main postal issue of this grand philatelic event.

In 1991 the artist celebrated his 70th birthday. On that occasion, a great collector and connoisseur of Slania's works, Jerzy Krysiak from Sweden, presented his collection in the Museum of Posts and Telecommunications in Wroclaw (September 29, 1991). Czeslaw Slania was the guest of honor at this event. Director of Polish Posts, Grzegorz Szermanowicz, who participated in the opening of the exhibition, asked Czeslaw Slania to assist the preparations of the Exhibition stamp and received his consent. I myself also participated in those talks. All we had to do at that time was to complete the designing procedures. Having decided on the motif (generally accepted), we just had to make the decision whether to make use of a historical icon or to propose a new one.

In the Spring of 1992, we met Czeslaw Slania in Cracow and presented him with a dozen of horizontal and vertical versions of the miniature sheet. It took the artist quite a long time to analyze all the designs. In the end he approved three of them. He also introduced an important change (in the horizontal version): he "reversed" the horse and that was the way it remained. Although Czeslaw Slania liked both versions (horizontal and vertical), which he confirmed with his signature



and a formula "accepted", he suggested that the design should be graphically complex, as such a design would give him greater satisfaction.

Throughout successive confrontations and consultations the horizontal version started to prevail and eventually this version was assigned to final processing, after being accepted by the ministerial and postal authorities. This version fully represented the idea of the miniature sheet: starting with the legend, through various heralding images of our national emblem, which especially in the last few years

had been a symbol of changes in Poland: the eagle regained its crown!



akceptacja Slania

Andrzej Jeziorkowski carefully designed the central element of the miniature sheet — the representation of the legend.

This version of the design was immediately delivered to Czeslaw Slania, who started engraving in Sweden and finished it in Poland.

There was one restriction: the stamp was to be printed in a highly specialized printing house in Holland.

Thus the ultimate version of the miniature sheet.

And here on the next page is an essay sent by the engraver from Sweden:



In its central part the miniature sheet illustrates the legend which tells about Lech meeting the white eagle. Around the frame there is a sequence of heraldic symbols which are chronological representations of the Polish emblem. At the bottom on the left the sequence starts with the eagle of Kazimierz Wielki, followed by the eagles of Władysław Jagiello, Zygmunt Stary, Stefan Batory, Zygmunt III Waza, Jan III Sobieski, Stanisław August Poniatowski, the Polish emblem of 1919, the Polish emblem of 1927 and in the rectangle of the stamp the contemporary emblem: the crowned eagle.

The cartouches are bound with a wreath of oak and laurel leaves decorated with white and red ribbon. And there is one more motif for thematic philatelists. At the bottom of the block there is a coin from the 11th century, a denarius of Polish king, Bolesław Chrobry (crowned in Gniezno). The miniature sheet will be issued in three versions: perforated, imperforated and "essay".

—Adam Kochanowski

MONOGRAPH **of the "History of the Polish Army Postal Service"** **(MIDDLE EAST AND ITALY 1940-1948)**

The activities of the Polish Field Post Offices in these war theatres during W.W.-II were dealt with in many publications, but alas, only fragmentarily. At last, nearly a half century later we have a comprehensive, well researched monograph on this subject.



It has been written, by the London-based eminent philatelist, Mr. Ryszard Wagner. Many collectors remember him as Editor and publisher of the Polish Philatelic Review (*Polski Przegląd Filatelistyczny*), a magazine which won a very high appraisal at the International STAMPEX "POLSKA 60" in Warsaw.

Some collectors and stamp catalogues refer, most inaccurately, to the area of research, undertaken by Mr. Wagner that it is confined to

the Second Army Corps. In reality, the choice of the title of this comprehensive monograph does not sustain this argument. The substance and wealth of information contained in particular chapters amount to a truly magnificent piece of work. In it the author analyzes not only the Polish Field Post Offices but also the Postal Requisites, the Polish Red Cross, the Wartime calendar and the Allied Field P.O.'s.

The chronological Directory lists all Field Postal Services in Lebanon, Persia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Italy. Five maps and two drawings inform about their location. The Monograph examines in detail the task of the 38 Polish Field Postal Offices — including that of the Carpathian Brigade in Lebanon and Syria, as well as the work carried out by the Field Post No. 101, which was the main P.O. serving individual military units. The description of their activity includes detailed statistics, based on the number of postal items dealt with. By drafting a point-award system the rarity of any particular cancellation stamp becomes evident. The full listing of date, registered and censorship markings reflects a great attention to detail.

An interesting piece of information regarding Field Post 102 is perhaps worth mentioning here: The said FPO wanted to use (since December, 1944) an additional publicity stamp (to all foreign countries with the exception of Iraq, Persia and the USSR). The stamp read: "POLAND'S FATE SEALS THE FATE OF EUROPE." The plan was vetoed by . . . The Allied H.Q. in Cairo.

The time-consuming and difficult work of decodification of Postal Cryptonyms done by the author enables the collectors to locate all military units, institutions, workshops, refugee camps under a military umbrella from which postal items were being sent. The list of Cryptonyms also allows for any operational changes in their chronological order. One wonders what we have been missing — until now!

Published for the very first time, the list of FPO personnel and that of Censorship Centers comprises 521 names. Of equal importance to the reader is the register of all Allied Field P.O. collaborating with their Polish equivalent.

In a word: Any problem which a postal history collector of Polish Field Post may have encountered has already been solved for him by Mr. Ryszard Wagner.

As its title implies, this true compendium of philatelic and historical knowledge is bound to be called "unique" and a "must" for serious collectors in this field.

Mr. R. Wagner's book is the result of many years of research work at the Archives of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London.

HISTORY OF THE POLISH ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

Middle East and Italy 1940-1949

by Ryszard Wagner

Published by: Caldra House Limited, Hove, London, 1992.

First edition of 500 copies. 355 pages — 5 maps + illustrations..

For availability write to: Fred Szebel, 1615 E. Central Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005.

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NEW CALEDONIA/POLSKA 93

New Caledonia will commemorate Polska 93, the international stamp exhibition to be held in Poland, on a 110-franc stamp to be released May 6th. The stamp also will mark the 450th death anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus.

COMING STAMP SHOWS**COMPEX '93**

Americas largest philatelic club operated stamp show, COMPEX 93, will take place May 28-30 at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL. There was no show last year. Let's support this one.

CHICAGOPEX '93

The Chicago Philatelic Society has scheduled its annual show for Nov. 12-14 at O'Hare Expo Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL. For an exhibition prospectus contact ChicagoPEX 93, Box A 3953, Chicago, IL 60690.

FREE LISTS of Coins, Banknotes, Military Medals & Badges, Commemorative Medals, A.K. Medals & Badges, Books, Some Judaica. Postal History material available. Pre-WWII Picture Postcards, large selection, including: Military, Patriotic, Historic, Paintings. Selling out, at \$2.50 each.

J. KUBICKI

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic So-

ciety, P. O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

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