



FORMATION OF POLONUS BULLETIN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

By: HANK BIENIECKI

Background:

Over the last 60 years, numerous individuals have contributed articles to the Polonus Bulletin. These articles comprise one of the most extensive and useful English Language reference libraries on Polish philately. From the end of World War II until January 2000, Chester Schafer was responsible for virtually all elements of the Bulletin's production. Chet elected to retire from his Bulletin related duties subsequent to the publication of Issue No. 499, and requested that we transfer its production to a committee of Society members interested in preserving and continuing this publication.

Publication Committee Candidates:

Formation of a Publications Committee has been initiated to assume responsibility for quarterly production of the Bulletin. The advent of electronic Internet-communications has created an environment in which our geographically dispersed members can efficiently and effectively combine resources to participate in producing the Bulletin. To date the following members have agreed to serve on the Publication Committee.

Committee:

Committee Members

Hank Bieniecki
Stanley Kronenberg
Conrad Straub
Frederick Kozub
Gerald O. Zedlitz
Chester Schafer

Position

Administrative Editor
Senior/Contributing Editor
Senior/Contributing Editor
Associate Editor
Associate Editor
Editor Emeritus

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These individuals participated in producing this, the 500th issue of the Bulletin. This represents a significant change from past practice, and it is anticipated to be the first step in reinvigorating both the publication and our Society.

Information Request:

Enclosed with this Bulletin is a request for electronic communication information from our members. If you have Internet access and wish to participate in various current and future activities of the society, please complete and return this form.

Publication Committee Candidates:

If you have Internet access and would like to participate as a member of the Publication Committee, please contact Hank Bieniecki.

Additional Projects:

In addition to the publication of future Bulletins, the society is also seeking members to work on the following projects:

1. Indexing of Bulletin Numbers 400 through 500.
2. Production of a searchable electronic version of the Polonus Bulletin library for Polonus.org, our future Internet site.

Interested members should write or E-mail Hank Bieniecki.

Closing Thought:

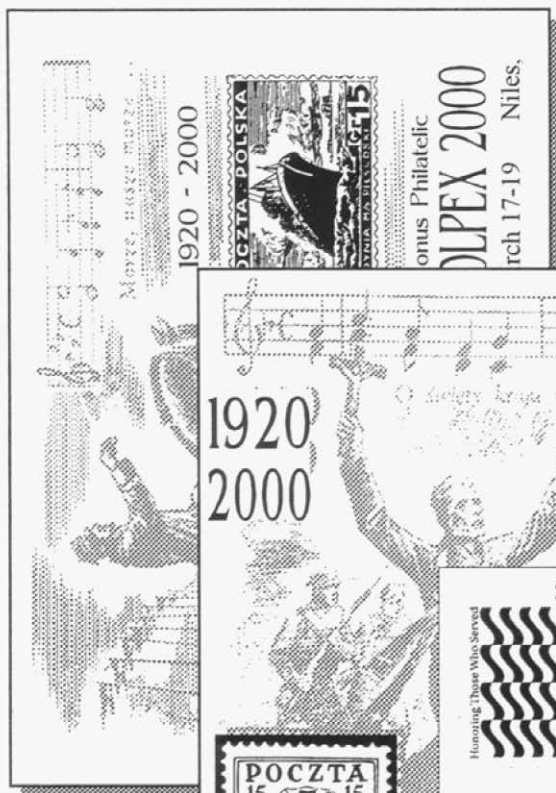
On behalf of the membership, I want to extend our sincere thanks to Chester Schafer for his dedicated production of the Bulletin over the course of the last 50 years.

*We wish you many
years of enjoyable
retirement with
your family !!*



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MYSTERIOUS PROPOSED STAMPS WITH TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO

By: Jerzy Tokar

I am presenting a little known design for a Polish postage stamp with the face of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, the inscription "Poczta Polska", and the nominal value "50" without a defined currency. Apparently this design was not previously presented and nothing is known about it, at least not in Poland.

As far as the style of the graphic composition is concerned, it resembles proposed designs of stamps with the inscription



"Krolestwo Polskie" entered in 1917 in a competition organized by the Artistic Society of Warsaw. This society issued in 1918 the "Catalog of Competitive Designs for Stamps of the Polish Kingdom" which contains 143 designs for stamps on 35 pages and a foldout which consists of three parts with 13 designs in colors which were chosen by the jury of the competition on Jan. 11, 1918. Among these designs of 1917 are several which depict T. Kosciuszko, but none of them resemble the design which is here described.

This design is known to me in seven colors: yellow, carmine, violet, gray, dark green, dark blue, and black on regular paper or on enameled paper. The designs in yellow, carmine, violet, and gray are printed in sheetlets of 15 stamps; those in dark green, dark blue, and black in sheetlets of 16 stamps.

No concrete information about these designs is available. Supposedly it originated in the U.S.A. and at a much later date it was used to print the sheetlets described above. Possibly this design is based on a private initiative, on the initiative of some society, or a Poland collector may shed some light on this matter.

Translated from Polish by S. Kronenberg

POLAND F. D. C. s -- A NEW POSTAL POLICY

by Stanley Kronenberg

Starting December 16, 1950, Polish Postal Authorities issued official first day covers with each issue of postage stamps. Such covers have affixed the newly issued stamp or stamps postmarked with the appropriate first day cancellation. On the left side is imprinted a cachet which compliments the theme of the stamp.

Unused F. D. C. s can be purchased at post offices and in philatelic stores. They are valid for postage at the face value of the affixed stamps. If required additional postage may be affixed on the front or on the reverse of such F. D. C. s.



Until recently there was no time limit for postal use of F. D. C. s except when the affixed stamps lost their validity. This has changed now; new postal regulations limit the validity for prepayment of postage by F. D. C. s to two weeks after the date indicated on the first day cancellation.

The F. D. C. shown here illustrates the above. It commemorates the arrival of the year 2000. The commemorative postmark of Warsaw is dated 2 January 2000. It was used for registered, air mail postage to the United States, additional postage in the amount of 6.40 zł is affixed on its reverse. It was mailed in Rabka.

CONSTITUTION COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE - 1921

(Scott 156-162, Ruch 128-134)

By: *Conrad P. Straub, Ph. D.*

The designs and denominations for the Constitution Issue of March 2, 1921, were selected from an earlier competition. Two examples were selected, the 2 and 25 mk from a project submitted by E. Bartomiejczyk,¹ and one, the 6 mk stamp from a project submitted by W. Huzarski.² (Incidentally, there is an error in the illustration of Huzarski's project in PZP,¹ in which the 25 mk is shown, but actually the 6 mk stamp illustrated on page 194 should have been shown).

After unification of the wording on these stamps, five values, the 2, 3, and 4 mk based on the 2 mk example and the 6 and 10 mk values, based on the 25 mk value were selected for final release from the Bartomiejczyk project proposed earlier. The remaining two values, the 25 and 50 mk values, were based on the 6 mk value from the project submitted by Huzarski.



Figure 1. Proof



Figure 2.



Figure 3

Full descriptions of the final designs are given^{3,4} and will not be repeated here. In this article only the proof of the 25 and 50 mk and the issued values are considered, and comments related to Włodarski's letter to the editor.⁵ He specifically refers to pages 194-196 in PZP,¹ and differences to be found in a proof of the 25-50 mk⁵ (Fig. 1) with the 25 and 50 mk printed sheets as they finally appeared (Figs. 2 and 3, respectively). Particular differences noted and described in more detail are tabulated below.

Differences.	Proof and Final Printed Copies of 25 and 50 Mk Values		
Characteristic	Fig. 1 Proof	Fig. 2, 25Mk Value	Fig. 3, 50 Mk Value
Monogram. MK above value			
Letter "K" in "Konstytucja"	Upper right leg of "K" ends at left side of "o"; bottom leg of "K" ends at left side of "o". Slight evidence of serifs.	Top right leg of "K" curved and ends at right side of "o". Same for bottom right leg. Strong evidence of serifs	Top right leg of "K" straight and ends left of right side of "o"; bottom right leg of "K" ends right side of "o". Strong evidence of serifs.
Plaited hair around head	See Proof. Fig. 1.	See Fig. 2.	See Fig. 3.
Shading, sharp side of sword on which sitting lady is resting her right hand	One long line, shorter line interrupted	One line, about 3 mm long	One long line almost length of sword; one short line about 1½ mm long.
Center finger right hand	Long, extends beyond fourth finger.	Long	Short
Background shading	Differs in each plate (figure)		
Shading in garment	Differs in each plate (figure)		

From the differences indicated, it appears as though three different plates were used for the proof and final printings of the 25 and 50 mk stamps. The other denominations should be examined as to possible differences in printing plates except for the denomination, for example, the 2, 3, and 4 mk and the 6 and 10 mk printings.

The seven stamps in the series were perforated 11 and $11\frac{1}{2}$ per two cm as shown in Polish catalogs and various articles. Yet, Scott⁶ lists the perforations as 11, $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13, and compound. Scott is wrong; there were only two perforations used: 11 and $11\frac{1}{2}$.

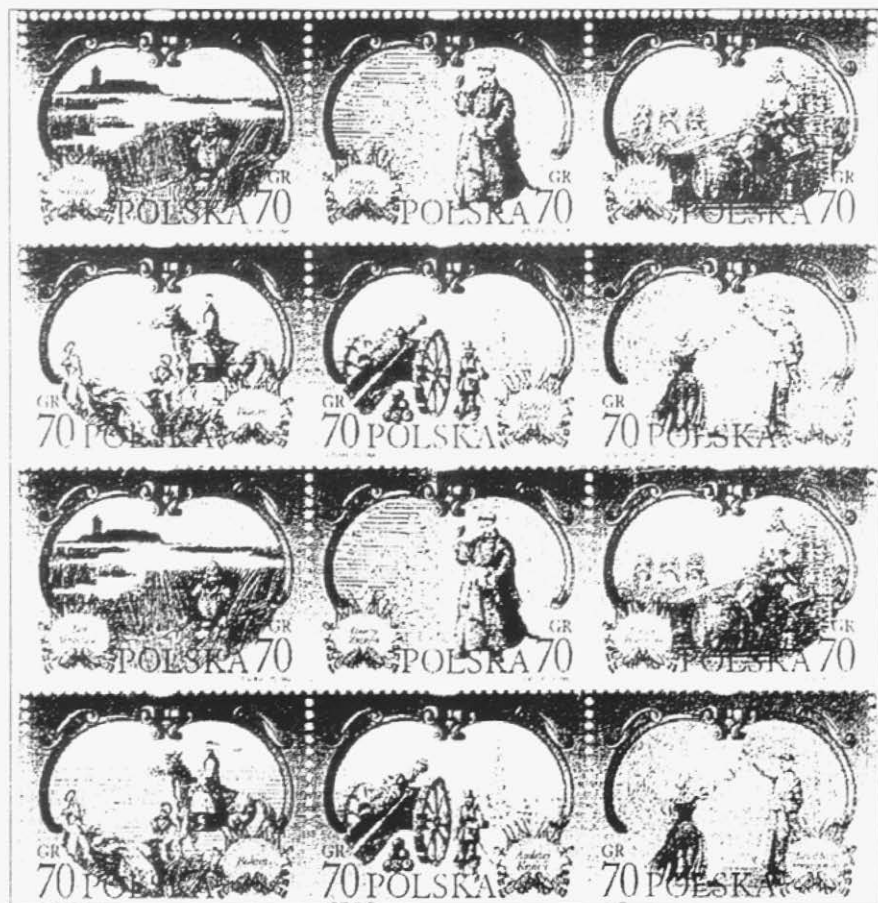
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2. Nowak, Edward, Sr., Important Facts Are Disclosed on Polish Constitution Issue of 1921, Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, 228: 4-5 (Jan. 1965). Reprinted from Postal History Journal.
3. Larking, R.N.W., Poland. The Postal Issues During and After the Great War, Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, 91: 39-40 (December 1950). Reprinted from Gibbons Stamp Monthly - October 1929 - August 1932.
4. Zinsmeister, Marian Carne, Notes from My Polish Scrap Book, Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, 153: 9-10 (October, 1957). Reprinted from Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Nos. 10 and 17, 1952.
5. Włodarski, Z. M. Listy do Redakcji. Sprawdź! Łódzki Biuletyn Filatelistyczny, XVI (3): 171-172 (Lipiec--Wrzesień 1975).
6. Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. 4, Scott Publishing Company, Sidney, Ohio (1990).

NEW ISSUES

HEROES OF THE SIENKIEWICZ TRILLOGY

A first-night showing of the film "With Fire and Sword" of the Trillogy by Henryk Sienkiewicz was held February 8th at the Warsaw



Great Theatre. "The Deluge" and "Pan Michael" were filmed previously. Author of the Trillogy novels Sienkiewicz, winner of the Nobel Prize, presented a picture of life and historic events in the 17th century in Poland during wars with Cossacks, Swedes, with Turkey and Moscow. Six Different persons and scenes from the Trillogy are show: (1.) Jan Skrzetuski and the fortress in Zbara, (2.) Onufry Zagłoba on the background of a map of Poland, (3.) Longinus Podpipięta and three Tartars, (4.) Bohun with the kidnapped Prince's daughter, (5.) Andrzej

Kmicic and a cannon at Jasna Góra Monastery, and (6.) Michał Jerzy Wołodjowski and Basia during a fencing class. These stamps were issued April 6th at Warsaw 1 and offset printed on fluorescent paper. Quantity issued: 2,500,000 sheet and designed by Andrzej Gosik.

**PROJECT TO HONOR POLONIA'S
SESQUICENTENNIAL IN 2004 VIA ISSUANCE OF
U.S. POSTAGE STAMP COMMEMORATING
PANNA MARIA SETTLEMENT IN 1854**

BY: Hank Bieniecki

Polonus members Robert Ogrodnik and Zbigniew Szymanski recently contacted me seeking support for their efforts to have the United States Postal Service issue a postage stamp to commemorate the establishment of the first Polish community in North America. I advised them that both I and the Polonus membership would support this effort. To initiate this project, Polonus is reprinting the following article by John Radzilowski from the March, 1998, issue of the Polish American Journal. Additional information and requests for membership participation in this project will appear in the next bulletin.

POLONIA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL, 2004

BY: JOHN RADZILOWSKI

In December 1854, a sailing ship landed on the Texas Gulf Coast. From its interior came a group of tired immigrants. As they waded through the surf to get up a temporary camp on the shore, they made history. They were from Silesia, from Poland, and they were about to establish the first Polish community in North America.

The beginnings of the Panna Maria settlement marked the start of an organized Polish community in America. Although individual Poles had arrived as early as the 1600s, they put down no permanent roots and were too few to be anything more than a brief but interesting episode in American history. After 1854, however, Poles became something more than talented or heroic visitors to the New World. They began to help shape it and to make it their home.

The landing at Panna Maria, then, marks the start of something we are all a part of, that is, Polonia and the Polish-American ethnic group, which today numbers some 10 million people and is the ninth largest ethnic group in America.

In 2004 we will mark the 150th anniversary of this important date.

This should be a time for celebration in Polish communities around the country and also a time for reflection on our rich history here in America and on how we will shape our future history as well.

Although five years seems like a long time, we cannot leave this important celebration until the last minute. This date will provide a great opportunity to build bridges among different groups, generations, and communities within Polonia as we come together to celebrate our common origin as an American ethnic group.

Of course, historical and genealogical organizations should take the lead, but there is a place for all Polish-American groups and individuals. It would be nice to couple this date with a fund raising drive to create a trust fund for Polish-American history. There are many museums, libraries, and archives in need of restoration and refurbishment. What a wonderful gift it would be to give the next generation of Polish Americans a knowledge of their history and culture!

Other ethnic groups have had similar celebrations. A few years ago, Swedish Americans celebrated the 150th anniversary of their first American arrivals, inviting the King and Queen of Sweden and many other dignitaries to a festival that combined joyous celebration, solemn commemoration, and historical and cultural programs and reflection. There are three times as many Polish Americans as Swedish Americans, so there is no reason why our celebration cannot be three times as impressive.

So, we must begin planning now. Leaders in each community and Polonia's national leaders should look on this event as a golden opportunity and reach out to the many Polish Americans who are not connected to any of our formal organizations.

The immigrants who began arriving in 1854 gave us many gifts and made great sacrifices so that we could live the lives that they

they could not. By celebrating their achievements in 2004, we honor our communities.

NEW MEMBERS

Dennis Sadowski #1497
3245 Nagel Road
Avon, OH 44011-2509

Nils Agrell #1498
73 Roxbury Road
Garden City, NY 11530



DECEASED

Stanley King, a Poland philatelist and a long time member of "Polonus" died on the 26th of March, 2000, at the age of 84 in East Hannover, Wisconsin. He is survived by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley King, Jr. Mr. King was a journalist.

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