

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd and 4th Friday at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 274

November 1969

AMPOLPEX '69 – GREATEST SHOW IN THE AREA

Our sister organization, the Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo, held their annual exhibition November 1st and 2nd at Adam Mickiewicz Hall, 612 Fillmore Ave., in Buffalo, N.Y. "It was the best show in the area", said the exhibition chairman, Theodore Skotnicki.

The exhibitions consisted of one-hundred and twenty-eight frames supplied by twenty exhibitors, and was classified into the following categories: General, Polonica, Balloon and Air-mail, Postal History, Specialized, Topical, Junior and Honorary.

Judging the show were Dr. Matt Gajewski, Mrs. Bernice Hochmuth, George Olchevsky, William Crick and M. Stachura.

They awarded the Grand Award trophy to Chester Schafer for his Study of the Lublin Issue of 1919. The President's Award went to Tad. Malanowski for Poland's History. The Kolakowski Award was given to Alfred Szebel for Poland's Postal History and the Polonus Award went to H. Zebrowski for P.O.W. Camp Woldenberg. Other awards were as follows:



Exhibition Committee for AMPOLPEX '69 of the Polish Philatelic Society in Buffalo. Seated (left to right): Theodore Skotnicki, Chairman; Jerome Mazurek, Christopher Wloch and Walter Kalist. Standing: Frank Oliwiecki, Matthew Fuszara and Z. John Ordon.

— Cut courtesy of LINN' STAMP NEWS

General

- 1st — Postage Due and Revenues
Barbara Wloch

- 2nd — "Groszys" Overprint

Polonica

- 1st — Poland's History
T. Malanowski

- 2nd — Polish Forces Thru the Ages
M. Bialobrodec

Balloon and Airmail

- 1st — Polish Balloon Post
R. Schneided

- 2nd — Balloon—Gliders
C. Wloch

Postal History

- 1st — World War II
Alfred Szebel

- 2nd — Polish Army in France
Chester Schafer

Specialized

- 1st — Lublin Issue of 1919
Chester Schafer

- 2nd — P.O.W. Camp Woldenberg
H. Zebrowski

Topical

- 1st — Jagiellon University
C. Wloch

- 2nd — Boy Scout Post
B. Wloch

Junior

- 1st — Monuments on Max. Cards
Eva Wloch

The theme of their show was "Poland in World War II." Souvenir sheets and cacheted covers were issued. A U.S. Postal Station operated at the show and all mail cancelled with a special AMPOLPEX postmark.

Souvenir sheets are priced at 15c and covers are 30c each plus postage. Available from the Polish Philatelic Society, 612 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

The Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo came into being eight years ago. Today, over 70 participating members meet at Adam Mickiewicz Hall on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 8:00 PM, when all matters pertaining to philately are discussed, problems aired and stamps exchanged. At 9:30 each 4th Friday,

following the business section, there is a social tea and auction. The officers are: Christopher J. Wloch, president; Frank I. Oliwiecki, vice-pres.; Zdzislaw Ordodnd, secretary; Jerome Mazurek, treasurer; Michael Gnoinski, librarian; Walter Kalist, correspondent; Theo. Skotnicki, Matt Fuszara and Henry Skibinski, directors.

Editor's Note:

From our London member, M. A. Bojancwicz, we received an article on "The Re-Cut Dies of Poland No. 1" which we have printed in the center section of this month's Bulletin. The final installment on this article will appear in our December issue.

The Upper Silesia Handbook will be continued in our January issue.

NEW MEMBERS

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The Re-cut Dies of Poland No. 1

By M. A BOJANOWICZ, R.D.P.

Reprinted from Robson Lowe's magazine "PHILATELY"

It is generally known that Poland No. 1 was printed from two dies, one for the red background (*fig. 1*), and the other for the blue print (*fig. 2*). The red die was modified before definitely being used for printing and the definite part used for the issued stamp is shown on *fig. 1A*.

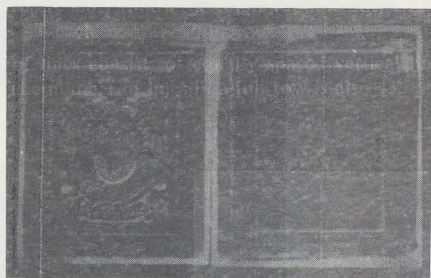
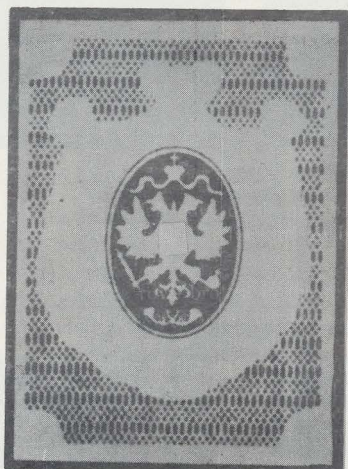


Fig. 1

Fig. 2



*Red background with
red oval Fig. 1A*



*Blue print with blue oval
Fig. 2A*

The blue die has been unchanged with the exception of the blue oval surrounding the Russian Eagle in the centre which appears on certain stamps, although most of them had the blue oval removed. This variety of double oval, blue and red (*fig. 3*), has been previously described by me sufficiently and therefore I will not go into any further details.

The varieties on the blue colour on Poland No. 1 have been studied more than those which appear regularly on the red background although the blue varieties generally listed are only a small part of constant flaws and varieties which happen on this issue.

Some of the unrecorded varieties from the Author's Collection.



Normal stamp red oval
only Fig. 3A



Type I

Type II

Type III

Red and blue oval variety Fig. 3



Figure "40" instead
of "10"



Cracked plate
variety



"10" with a point
variety

Fig. 4

Most authors and philatelic publications follow the lead given by Polanski in his book where he shows some of the better known varieties without any system or cohesion. The



Red filter applied
Fig. 5



Violet filter applied
eliminating yellow. Fig. 6



Green filter applied re-
inforcing the red. Fig. 7

present article will not embark on enlarging this part of research on Poland No. 1 leaving it to special articles about flaws and varieties on the blue die.

The red flaws and varieties on the background have been rather neglected. The reason for this is that the blue print covers the red background in such a way that it is very often difficult to see exactly or discover flaws and varieties on the red part.

It is still difficult to get the blue colour eliminated to be able to study the red background by itself. (The known photographic techniques makes it quite impossible to completely remove the blue part of the design to get a clear picture of the red background). Although double filters have been tried, as you can see on illustration, fig. 5, 6 and 7, the blue design is still dominant covering the details in red.

The removal of the red colour is more successful as we can see on Fig. 8, where the application of a red filter eliminated completely the red background.



Fig. 8

As shown on Fig. 7 the most helpful filter is the green one disclosing most of the red background for study.



Fig. 9

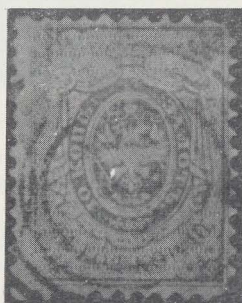


Fig. 10

These two pictures show clearly that the damage to the blue die (Fig. 9) is not connected with equal damage to the red background (Fig. 10).

Some authors have tried to write about the red background, but no conclusions have been taken and some facts have never been mentioned which is the reason for writing this article.

For the first time after about 100 years of the existence of the first Polish stamp and after many years of research, I discovered that the red background, and in part also the blue die have been recut (due to damage occurring during the printing and rough handling) in the first stages of the printing process.

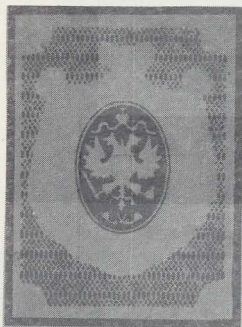
To understand better the new discovery of recuts to the red die it is necessary to remind readers on some details of the red background.

The Red Background

Beside the centre coat of arms the red die fills in the background between the centre emblem and the edge of the stamp.

Characteristic details of the background (*fig. 1A*) are as follows:—

1. The drawing of the red background consists of 29 equally spaced bands of dots or lines. At the top of the stamp and at the bottom are bands of dots. The upper bands (the first dots and first lines) as well as the four bottom bands (two dots and two lines) are full, that is they run across the entire width, while the remaining ones are broken symmetrically in the centre, in order to clear the coat of arms.
2. Each band of dots really consists of three rows staggered in such a way that each period (centre dot) follows a colon (double-dot). All of these bands as a rule start at the left with a period (centre dot) follows a colon (double-dot). The number of dots and colons in a full row is 43 each.
3. Each row of lines consists of equally spaced vertical lines aligned with the periods (centre dots). The number of lines in a full row is also 43.



4. The left edge of the red background is more distinct than the right edge, because the first dots and first lines of all bands are aligned, whereas the colons (double-dots) protrude at the right.
5. The rows broken in the centre to clear the coat of arms are as a whole symmetrical, with the exception of the third band of lines from the top and the fifth band of lines from the bottom, in which there are five dashes at the left and four dashes at the right; one dash more at the left and four dashes at the right; one dash more on the left than on the right may be found in several of the middle rows where the coat of arms is widest. In the broken rows are also other characteristic details such as a single row of dots (instead of three) in the centre of the fourth band from the top.

Varieties in the Red Background

The red background described above is most common (say on over 60% of the stamps). There are varieties where the top or bottom bands are made up of two rows of dots, instead of three.

These varieties are distinct at times especially in the bottom row.

Besides this, they reveal such differences as: two rows of dots in the top and half of either the top or bottom band with two rows of dots, etc.

LET'S GET POLPEX MINDED

POLPEX 1970 is just around the corner — February 28th and March 1st. With the December Bulletin you will receive a prospectus or entry application. Plan your exhibit now! You might use some of that free time coming up with the holidays to prepare your collection.

Art director, Alfred Szebel, brought preliminary designs for the souvenir sheets to our last meeting and they well portray our dual theme — the 50th anniversaries of Poland's Defeat of the Bolsheviks at the Battle of the Vistula in 1920 and Poland United to the Sea.

Right about Polpex time we stir up some publicity in the Polish and Philatelic Press to draw attention to our show. We need articles for our Polpex program catalog and other publications. If you have some literary abilities, please write up something historical and philatelic pertaining to stamps of the 1920 period and send it to your editor.

The Polpex is our biggest event of the year. Polonus has built up a reputation with its many successful Polpex ventures in the past. Let us not fall down on the job this time!

ROGER KOERBER AUCTION

The Roger Koerber stamp house will auction off Part I of the Walter Dziuda Collection on December 6th. Many Poland No. 1 and 1919 Krakow items are being offered. For catalog write to them at 605 Northland Towers W., Southfield, Mich. 48075.

BULLETIN AD RATES

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NEW ISSUES

Monument Unveiling In Majdanek

On September 20, 1969 a 40 gr. commemorative was issued in conjunction with the unveiling of a monument on September 21st in memory of the victims of the concentration camp in Majdanek near Lublin. In this Nazi extermination camp 1½ million people lost their lives in the years 1941 till 1944.

The bicolor stamp shows two fragments of the immense monument erected after the design of sculptor Wiktor Tolkin. Offset printed in sheets of 80 stamps on common paper by the State Printing Works, PWPW, Warsaw. Quantity issued: 6,000,000. Designed by K. Rogaczewska.

Polish Regional Costumes

A set of eight multicolored stamps were issued on September 30, 1969 depicting Polish regional costumes.

In Poland there are a dozen or so regions of the national costume, and each of them has numerous variations, sometimes even individual villages.

- 40 gr.—Krzyszów, Lublin province
5,500,000 issued
- 60 gr.—Łowicz, Łódź province
5,000,000 issued
- 1.15 zł.—Rozbark, Katowice province
4,000,000 issued
- 1.35 zł.—Lower Silesia, Wrocław prov.
3,500,000 issued
- 1.50 zł.—Opoczno, Łódź province
3,000,000 issued
- 4.50 zł.—Sacz, Kraków province
2,000,000 issued
- 5.00 zł.—Highlanders, Kraków prov.
1,100,000 issued
- 7.00 zł.—Kurpie, Warsaw province
1,100,000 issued

Offset printed in sheets of 30 on chalky paper at PWPW Warsaw. Designed by S. Malecki.

BOJANOWICZ IN "SOFIA 69"

Member M. A. Bojanowicz received a special Gold Medal for his exhibit in the Court of Honor at SOFIA 69.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH Z. RYCAJ

The society extends its most heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Sylvia Rycaj upon the loss of her husband Joseph who died November 30th. He is survived also by two sons, Jerry and Mark.

Polonus members remember him as a former treasurer who did his job conscientiously. He was a captain in the Polish Army and was a prisoner of war in Camp Woldenberg. He was a collector of these P.O.W. stamp issues many of which he brought back with him after his release from Woldenberg.

"SOFIA 69" WINNERS

The Ambassador of the Bulgarian Peoples Republic presented 37 medals to 32 Polish exhibitors who won awards at the international show SOFIA 69. The presentation took place October 13, 1969 at the Bulgarian Embassy in Warsaw.

Gold medals were given to RUCH

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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 —

for its publication POLSKIE ZNAKI POCZTOWE (Handbook of Polish Stamps), and to Miss Mary Groer for her topical collection "Under the Sign of Esculapus."

Dr. M. A. Rayal de Ragan received two awards: a silver medal for his collection and "Handbook of Upper Silesia Plebiscite" (presently appearing in print in our "Polonus Bulletin"), and a silver-gilt medal for his total literary contribution to philately in articles, research reports, etc.

— Dr. M. A. Rayal de Ragan

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