

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue No. 185

December, 1960

Wesolych Świąt



Merry Christmas

The Art Work of Wit Stwosz on the Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church at Cracow

By Dr. Rayall de Ragan

Cracow is known for two outstanding places, without argument: the Castle at Wawel and the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The second is known primarily for its gothic type architecture, and specifically for its elaborate altar created by the carver Wit Stwosz. This most elaborate work of gothic art was the subject of reproduction on postage stamps several times.

For the first time in 1933, on the 400th Anniversary of the death of Wit Stwosz, the Polish Post issued a stamp reproducing the center part of the Altar (Scott No. 277). This stamp was known

as "The Sleeping Blessed Virgin Mary", on a stamp of 60 groszy (Scott No. 746) which belongs to the most beautiful stamps of the world.



This year beginning the Millenium of the Polish State, a series was issued in the section of the Masterpieces of Polish Sculpture, showing fragments of some parts of the altar on six stamps mainly, The Annunciation, The Nativity, The Epiphany of the Three Kings, The Resurrection, The Ascension and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. The center part of the altar representing the Sleeping Blessed Virgin Mary was shown on a special sheet (Scott No. 746). Entirely made by steel die engraving, of the whole series, the best is the sheet, as in individual stamps

as one of the best emissions of Poland before the war. In 1956, on the occasion of the International Week of Museums, another fragment of the center part of the altar, the so-called "Sleeping Bles-



the details of ornamentation are overloaded, by which the stamps lose their clarity. It could be that if the center portion of the stamp was done in a different color, or at least a different tint or shade, or if it were made larger, the clarity would be brought out. But in spite of this it is necessary to recognize them as well made.

Now about the creator of the altar.

The construction of the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls into the period of greatest progress and bloom of the Polish intellectual period. This is also the period of the so-called Jagiellon Golden age. Poland beamed with culture all over Europe. Jagiellon University was the largest seat of knowledge and culture, and because of that Poland drew large numbers of scholars, artists and creators, as it showed a superior tolerant attitude to religion. People oppressed elsewhere, because of their religious or political beliefs, found refuge here. One such political immigrant Wit Stwosz. He was born about 1438 (or 1445), the place of his birth is unknown, contrary to the German pseudo-historians. He first studied at Nuremberg from whence he came to Poland, in about 1475. In the years 1477-86 and 1489-96 he lived and worked in Cracow. Wit Stwosz is a well known carver of gothic art in Europe and his works are masterpieces.

In the years 1477-89 he started work on the altar of the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the meantime he left for Nuremberg, where he stayed for nearly three years, so that he finished his work on the altar after his return from Nuremberg. About 1492 he carved the sarcophagus of Casimir Jagiellonczyk in the Cracow Cathedral, also the tombs of Bishop Olesnicki in Gniezno, and Bninski in Włocławek.

Among the work done in Poland it is necessary to mention his carved crucifix in the side nave of the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cracow, Ogrojec, and also part of the plate of the tombstone of Kalimach in the Church of the Dominican Fathers in Cracow.

Of his work done in Nuremberg are known:

Three Passion scenes (1499).

Statues of Blessed Mary and St. John at the St. Sebald Church in Nuremberg.

Angel's Greeting in Church of St. Lawrence in Nuremberg.

Altar in the parish Church in Bamberg.

Crucifix in German Museum.

Besides carving, Wit Stwosz also excels in painting and engraving, especially in the period after leaving Cracow (1490-95). Of his paintings there are: the painting of the Legend of St. Kilian in Munnerstadt, plus ten copper etchings.

In philately Wit Stwosz was honored on a stamp issued by the Germans during the Occupation of Poland, General Gouvernement (Scott No. NB19).

Toward the end of his life Wit Stwosz wanted to return to Cracow but from 1526 he was guarded in Nuremberg. His son, a hostage, died in 1527, and Wit Stwosz, jailed many times, died in 1533 in Nuremberg, where he is buried.

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IMPORTANT!

With this issue of the **BULLETIN** is enclosed a postal card which you are requested to fill out. We are compiling an up to date Membership List for publication in our **BULLETIN**. Please fill it out and mail it immediately!

The Third Flight of the Balloons "Katowice" and "Syrena" During Poland's Aviation Week

by Wacław Czarnowski

On October 9, 1960 the third flight of the balloons "Katowice" and "Syrena" took place. To add lustre to the "Aviation Week" festivals, the Silesian Aeroclub staged an Air Show at the Sosnowiec Peoples Stadium.

Following the official air demonstrations, the balloons "Katowice" and "Syrena" took to the air, carrying mail on their flights.

The mail carried on this flight received special philatelic treatment and the covers from this flight show a cachet with a balloon in flight in a rectangular, vertically oblong frame with the wording: "Wolny Balon Sportowy", in green, and in the upper left corner another boxed green impression in three verses: "III. LOT BALONU KATOWICE/ Z OKAZJI DNIA LOTNICTWA/ 1960." The overall size of this marker is 67 x 28 mm. At the top center is "Specjalna Poczta Balonowa" in red, and through the center of the cover an oblique placed red impression "Przewieziono Balonem 'Katowice'."

The balloon vignette was cancelled in violet ink with a round marker with a border inscription "Aeroklub Śląski" and a flight checkerboard in the center.

The balloon carried 200 letters; each letter bears a consecutive number. The numbers run from 1 to 200.

The balloon "Katowice" was piloted by Eng. Zbigniew Burzynski, Inspector Antonina Byrzenska, Eng. Jacek Świergot and Eng. Roland Ciszewski.

It took off from the Peoples Stadium, Sosnowiec, October 9, 1960, at 2:30 P.M.

The landing was at Sączęw at 6:35 P.M. same day. The mail was post-marked identically with no varieties in text or color.

The second balloon, starting together with "Katowice" was the "Syrena" from the Aeroclub of Warszawa. It also car-



ried mail, and letters on this flight received somewhat different treatment. The cachet "Wolny Balon Sportowy" was impressed in red; the upper left corner bears a boxed green impression of two-verses legend: "LOT BALONU 'SYRENA/ Z OKAZJI DNI LOTNICTWA 1960." At top—center: "Specjalna Poczta Balonowa"; through the center of the cover stamped in red on a slant is the single line verse: "Przewieziono Balonem 'Syrena'." The balloon vignette was cancelled in violet ink with a round marker "Aeroklub Śląski—Sekeja Balonowa" showing a balloon over a flight checkerboard in the center. The mail was marked with consecutive numbers—from 1 to 125. The "Syrena" was piloted by Mgr Józef Zych.

The start was from the Peoples Stadium, Sosnowiec, October 9, 1960 at 3:22 P.M.

The landing was at Mierzęce, at 6:10 P.M. on the same day. The mail was date-stamped there and forwarded to addressees. All letters of this flight are marked identically with no varieties of either color or text.

The Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising

By Thaddeus Gryzewski

(Continued from previous month)

In the collection of Dr. Swiderski is a variety of such a card on which the word "Harcerska" is removed from the text, changing the whole paragraph to "Poczta Polowa." A characteristic detail on this card is the up-side-down letter "N" in the word "Nadawca" (see illustration at the bottom of page 184-10).

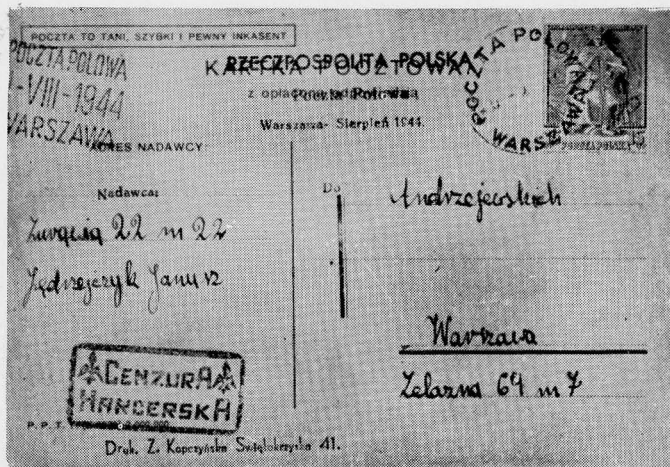
In the same collection is also a second card variety on which the "Rzeczpospolita Polska" is printed with a different (Cicero) type. Both these cards are unused. They are presumably trial copies.

The above variety of text was utilized for overprinting of Polish and General Government postal cards with impressed stamps, that were found most likely in the Main Post Office building.

The following postal cards are known to be overprinted:

A. POLISH

1. With imprinted 15 gr. postage stamp featuring President Ignacy Mościcki.
2. With imprinted postage stamp of 15 gr. featuring King Casimir Jagiello; printing code "X. 1938" and advertising slogan "Poczta peronowa zapewnia w podróży kontakt ze światem."
3. Same type but paid reply card "Z opłaconą odpowiedzią" and printing code "II. 1939" and slogan "Korzystajcie w podróży z radiotelegrafów między lądem a statkiem."
4. As No. 3 with printing code "II. 1939" and slogan "Poczta to tani, szybki i pewny inkasent" (see illustration below).

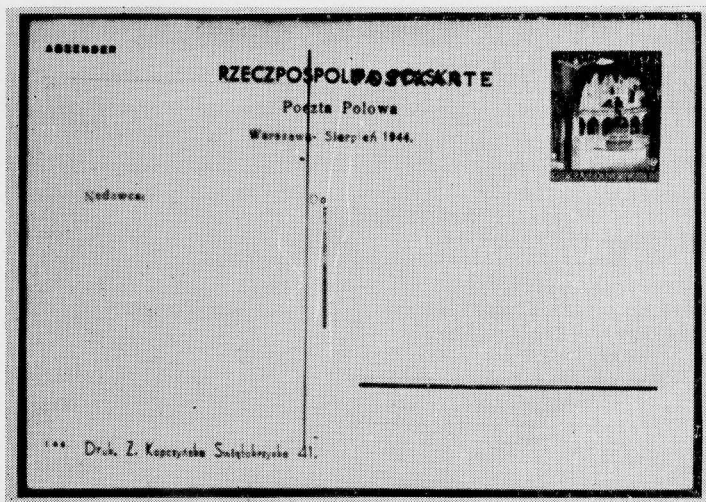


5. The same postal card, inscribed "Na odpowiedź" (for reply), and printing code "II. 1939" and slogan "Telegramy można nadawać w pociągach i samolotach."
6. As No. 5 with slogan "Czytelny i dokładny adres przyspiesza doręczenie."

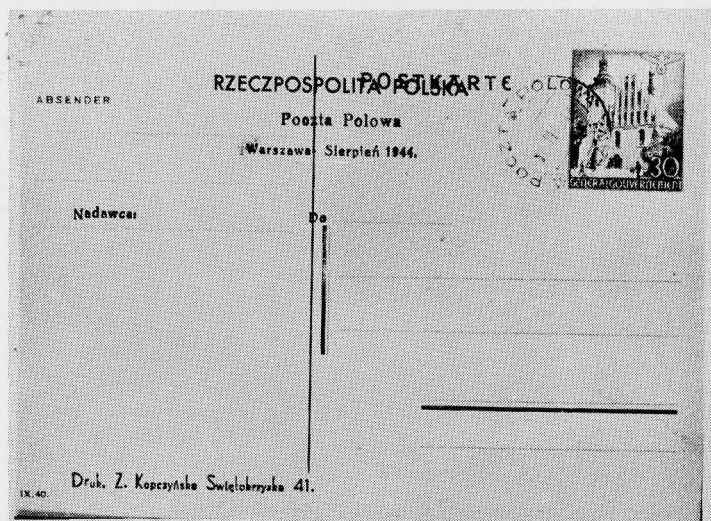
B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

7. Postal card with imprinted postage stamp 12 gr. value, violet, featuring the Courtyard of the Jagiellon University; printing code "I. 44" (see

illustration below).



8. Postal card with imprinted postage stamp of 30 gr. value, violet, view of the Church of the Sisters of Visitation in Lublin, and printing code "IX. 40" (see illustration below).



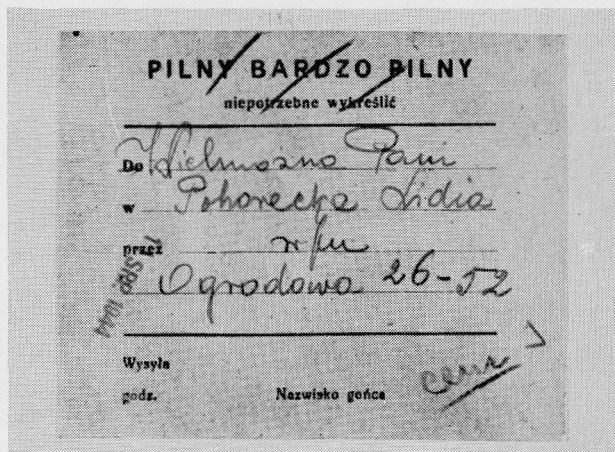
9. Envelope with imprinted postage stamp of 24 gr. value, dark-red, featuring the view of Wawel and a printing code: "III. 42" (see illustration below).

below).



From this listing I have found only Nos. 1 and 6 postally used. These were used during the month of September and posted at the Post Office City Center South. Other entires that I have seen were either unused or with favor cancellation.

In the original planning the Postal Administration entailed a contingency for Official Mail. For this purpose special forms were issued. These forms measured 121 x 97 mm, and were of white paper with black ink imprints. At the top appeared the wording "PILNY BARDZO PILNY/ niepotrzebne skreślić." Through the center run four horizontal lines that begin with the words "Do", "w" and "przez". At the bottom are the words "Wysła", "godz." and "Nazwisko gońca" (see illustration below).



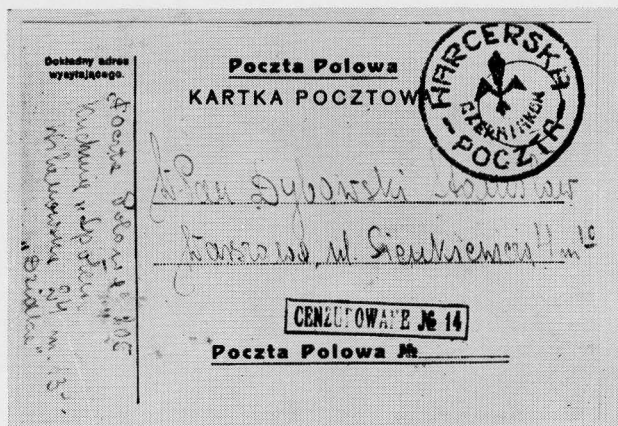
A unique copy of this form known to exist is in the collection of the Historical Museum at Warsaw. It was posted at the Post Office City Center North and bears the postal marking type 27 with date of August 11th.

The Post Office Mokotów nationalized postal entires with a hand marker with the same imprints as were used on postage stamps (see section on postage stamps). The following entires are known:

- a. General Government postal card with 12 gr. imprinted postage stamp, blue-violet; Courtyard of Jaggiellon University; printing code "III. 42".
- b. Envelope with imprinted postage stamp of 24 gr.; view of Wawel; printing code "VI. 41".

Both entires seen bear favor cancellations.

Among the postal cards sent through the mail are found old postal cards of 1939 designed for correspondence of the armed forces and civilians and distributed among the individual Fieldpost units (see illustration below).



Sent through the mails were also pre-war postal cards of 25 gr. value, steel gray, issued for the 25th anniversary of the Polish Legion (illustrated below).



and the General Government postal cards, 12 gr. blue-violet.

These cards naturally were passed through the postal channels and the value signs were cancelled with markers of the Insurrection Post. On the Occupation postal cards in most instances the senders themselves obliterated every sign of the former occupation.

(Continued next month)

IGNACY LUKASIEWICZ

By Dr. Rayall de Ragan

The Post of Western Germany since 1948 yearly issues a series of postage stamps honoring those who dedicated themselves toward the betterment of mankind (Helfer der Menschheit). One of those forgotten by his own countrymen without doubt is Ignacy Lukaszewicz, the inventor of the first naphtha lamp.

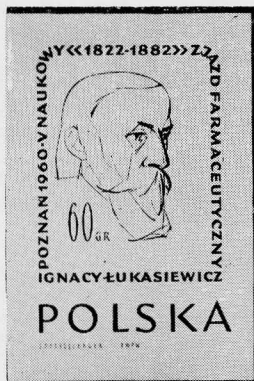
Today in the atomic age, the naphtha lamp is so far back that perhaps many people do not know, that this lamp once existed and was a milestone in the path of humanity.

Ignacy Lukaszewicz was born on March 8, 1822 in Zaduszniki near Rzeszów, as a son of a poor tenant farmer Joseph Lukaszewicz and his mother Apolonia. From 1832 he attended high school of the Pijar Fathers in Rzeszów, where in the earliest times he took an active part in conspiring organizations.

After the death of his father in 1836 he was forced to interrupt his study of practical pharmacy, and to start work as a 14 year old boy in the pharmacy of Anthony Swoboda in Łańcut. Well qualified, he spent all spare time educating himself, so that after four years he passed the so-called examination "tyrocynjalny" as an apprentice pharmacist.

Meddling in revolutionary incidents, he left Łańcut in 1841 and returned to the pharmacy of Edward Hibla in Rzeszów, where he secretly worked, without knowledge of his superiors, on distillation of crude oil (raw naphtha). At first in 1852 it came out unclear, later clearer, after which he made tests for the use of naphtha for lighting purposes. The tests were satisfactory and already on July 31, 1853 the General Hospital in Lwow installed—as the first in the world—a naphtha lighting system. (They previously used oil lamps for lighting).

He made other technical improvements in the field of obtaining crude



oil. At this time crude oil was taken from Podkarpacie in the vicinity of Krosno and Bodyslaw in natural containers, holes. Then in 1862 Lukaszewicz started a deep well system of drilling based on the American system.

Involved in a series of political incidents, and specifically the so-called, Awakening of the People in 1848 (Wiosna Ludów), Lukaszewicz was arrested and jailed at Rzeszów and later at Lwów. The time he spent in jail affected his health and after he was released he resumed his study, working this time in the pharmacy of Zech in Rzeszów.

As a result of his radical beliefs Lukaszewicz did not live long enough to get credit for the results of his studies, even from the Poles. To this day there never appeared a full biography of this revolutionary student, to the extent that even credit for discovery of the naphtha lamp was taken by others, Germans, Austrians and even an Englishman. Lukaszewicz died in 1882.

Ignacy Lukaszewicz was a pharmacist and because it was necessary to honor the Fifth National Convention of Society of Pharmacists, the Minister of Posts issued a commemorative stamp, showing a likeness of Ignacy Lukaszewicz and a naphtha lamp. The stamp is entirely golden-yellow in color, the color of naphtha.

We must remember that just as the pioneer work of Marie Skłodowska-Curie on the X-ray, started the present atomic age, so the work of Lukaszewicz on distillation of crude oil, gave birth to the entire oil industry and this in turn to the motor industry, as well as chemicals, and started an epoch of distillation of raw chemicals. The Fifth Convention of Pharmacists held in Posen brought over 2500 participants, with a large foreign delegation from 36 countries, and showed the initiative of Polish contribution in Pharmaceuticals

in the service of mankind for the past five years. Altogether over 320 subjects were presented.

Besides the stamp issued by the Polish Post there was also a special commemorative cancellation at Poznan 9. Also a commemorative post card without stamp, and a commemorative envelope were issued.

● Philatelic Literature Review ●

"POLSKIE ZNAKI POCZTOWE TOM I"

Much has been written to "tie in" sales, "illegitimate issues," etc., be that as it may — what we want to do here is to review the book involved.

The format is somewhat like the old Ikaros, however, the contents are limited to issues up to 1939 — excluding Postal Stationery and Locals.

The first 92 pages are devoted to stampless covers and prestamp cancellations. Some 16 or 17 pages are devoted to overprints on the Germania type stamp, a very detailed study. The Krakows are very well covered for general information as is the Gniezno issue.

The remainder of the regular issues are well described.

This book is without question the finest of the specialized handbooks I have seen—and certainly should be in every serious collector's library.

Whether the books will be available less the miniature sheets, frankly, I do not know. The plan is that the sheets are given as a premium with the subscription for the purchase of all four books — as I understand it.

There seems to be some discussion in Poland and elsewhere that the sheets may not be listed. Having been a party to having the B. I. E., Cultural and Roosevelt sheets deleted from Scott's, I must admit that omitting the sheets had little to do with preventing this sale.

One of the most sought after philatelic items in Poland right now are the B. I. E. and Roosevelt sheets.

Being a collector of Poland I try to collect everything, tainted or not. Each of you will have to decide for yourself... But the book is outstanding.

—J. J. D.

POLPEX 1961 TO BE HELD MARCH 3rd, 4th & 5th, at the POLISH MUSEUM — CHICAGO

BEG YOUR PARDON

In our listing of POLSKA 60 Award Winners printed in the Oct.-Nov. BULLETIN, we left out the names of two POLONUS Members who exhibited and also received awards:

Silver Medal

J. J. Domar, Berwyn, Ill.
Warsaw Locals

Diploma

Roman Nowakowski, France

Letters of the Grand Army from
Poland to France

FINAL NOTICE ON 1960 DUES!

The Treasurer informs us that he will soon close the books for 1960. If you are still delinquent in paying your membership dues for 1960 please do so now! Failure to do so will result in eliminating your name from the Membership List which will be published shortly. Send your \$2.50 to J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago 34, Ill.

STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED

Give your old stamp catalogs, albums, magazines, and your duplicates to — Stamps For The Wounded. Send your material to Barney J. Fialkowski, 2952 No. Avers Ave., Chicago 18, Ill.

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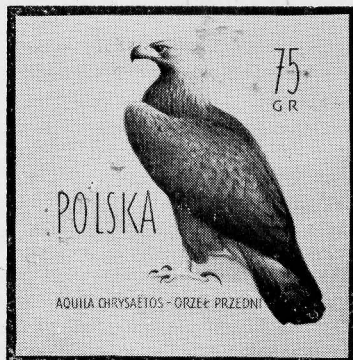
Roman H. Strzelecki
1439 N. Bell Ave.
Chicago 22, Ill.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

A new set of 12 stamps, perforated, multicolored, depicting "Birds under Preservation in Poland" were released on November 24th, 1960.

- 10 gr.—Otis Tarda—drop
- 20 gr.—Corvus corax—kruk
- 30 gr.—Phalacrocorax carbo — kormoran
- 40 gr.—Cicoria Nigra—bocian czarny
- 50 gr.—Bubo bubo—puchacz
- 60 gr.—Haliaeetus albicilla—bielik
- 75 gr.—Aquila chrysaetos—orzeł przedni
- 90 gr.—Circus gallicus — krótkoszypon
- 2.50 zł.—Monticola saxatilis — drożdż skalny
- 4.00 zł.—Alcedo atthis — zimorodek
- 5.60 zł.—Tichodroma — bomurnik
- 6.50 zł.—Coracias garrulus—kraska



On all stamps of the set there are pictures of the represented birds, respective face values, the name of the birds in Latin and Polish and inscription "Polska".

Dimensions: 40.5 x 40.5 mm., printed in multicolored rotogravure 4 and 5 colors) on coated paper without watermarks.

Each value was printed in sheets of 20 stamps.

The stamps are designed by artist Jerzy Desselberger and are printed by Państwowa Wytwórnia Papierów Wartościowych, Warszawa (The State Printing Office, Warsaw).

* * * *

Another new set of 18 stamps, perforated "Old Historical Towns of Poland" was released in two parts in

November and December 1960.

All the stamps represent views (fragments) of old towns of Poland, denominations and inscription "Polska".

Dimensions: 31.25 x 25.5 mm., printed in steel-plate engraving.

The stamps are designed by artist Witold Chomiez and are printed by Państwowa Wytwórnia Papierów Wartościowych (State Printing Office) in Warsaw.

First part issued November 15, 1960.

- 5 gr.—Gniezno — brown
- 10 gr.—Kraków — green
- 20 gr.—Warszawa — dark brown
- 40 gr.—Poznań — red
- 50 gr.—Płock — violet
- 60 gr.—Kalisz—cherry red
- 80 gr.—Frombork — blue
- 95 gr.—Puck — olive
- 1.00 zł.—Słupsk — orange, background light violet.

Second part issued on December 15, 1960.

- 1.15 zł.—Gdańsk — background light-orange
- 1.35 zł.—Wrocław, — amaranth, background light-green
- 1.50 zł.—Szczecin — brown, background green-blue
- 1.55 zł.—Opole — cherry red, background chamoix
- 2.00 zł.—Kołobrzeg — deep blue, background violet-red
- 2.10 zł.—Legnica — dark-brown, background yellow
- 2.50 zł.—Katowice — violet, background light-green
- 3.10 zł.—Łódź — red, background light-blue
- 5.60 zł.—Wałbrzych — dark-green, background light-green.

—ARS Polona.

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

The meeting of Saturday No. 26th, 1960, proved an outstanding one in the history of the Society to date as the display was provided by none other than our member Mr. M. A. Bojanowicz, fresh from his triumph at Warsaw, which no doubt, had been fully reported elsewhere in your journal. One is hard put to it to do justice in speaking of this display—whether to admire most the beautiful presentation, each page being

a work of art; the magnificent array of No. 1s here collected in their hundreds where we struggle along with our half dozens; or the display of scholarship and research. We just sat and boggled! This collection has recently been greatly re-organized with the accent now on the stamp in all its variety—and what a variety—rather than on the cancellations. Mr. Bojanowicz made it quite clear, in his erudite talk, delivered in a most charming and informative manner, that he considers that previous study has been too biased in favor of cancellations and gave ample proof in support of his opinions, during the afternoon, by showing over

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 political. The 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 —

300 examples of plate varieties as against the catalogue listing of a mere handful. Each variety was illustrated with an enlarged photograph. The display of double oral frame varieties took the breath away. During his talk Mr. Bojanowicz put forward a number of new theories deduced from his careful study of the immense collection he has formed. These ideas must find their way into print at the earliest opportunity and will doubtless lead to a revision of the methods of study applied to the so-called 'lone adhesive'.

This most distinguished philatelist ended by making an appeal for closer co-operation from all those interested in the period of No. 1 in order to make the second 100 years of study of this stamp more productive than the first. In the expression of thanks which followed, particular mention was made of the speakers willingness to share, in a most unselfish way, his great knowledge of his subject. This, surely, is half the battle where research is concerned.

A wonderful afternoon, providing a real lesson in the art of philatelic deduction and true research.

— S. J. Capes