

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Issue No. 47

October 1946

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LARKING COLLECTION BOUGHT BY MYRON STECZYNSKI FOR \$12,000

by Clement A. Pulaski

In Polish philately, the mere mention of Colonel Larking, is synonymous with something huge, an unseen but impelling power. Many of us often wondered how and why an Englishman became so profoundly interested in the postal issues of Poland. Those of us familiar with the handbook IKAROS were amazed to observe the numberless references to his writings. Who was Colonel Larking?

This question was on the minds of many collectors. His frequent writings in the GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, and other philatelic journals, proved that he was a student of Poland postal issues. The intense research he conducted is reflected in the large field he covered, for virtually every known phase of Polish philately with its complex specialization, was embraced with completeness. The articles he penned are a dependable reference from the very early stampless era up to the time he was compelled to abandon his studies due to failing health.

The Colonel's interest probably was conceived while serving on a diplomatic mission in Poland. He became very fond of the country, its people and its history. While sojourning in Poland he amassed huge quantities of philatelic material; later devoting much of his leisurely life to study, research, and writing about the postal

issues of the country he learned to love so much.

Colonel Larking passed away two years ago. We can only imagine him as a magnanimous and meticulous person, for he was not inclined to become engaged in fanfare and showmanship. He was profoundly fond of his hobby and devoted a lifetime to the arduous and painstaking task of precise mounting arrangement and accurate classification. His death was followed by the expected cycle of conjecture. What disposition would be made of this immense collection? Who would attempt to acquire it? What amount of cash would be involved?

Myron Steczynski, our noted scientist, began negotiation with Mrs. Larking nearly two years ago for the acquisition of this monumental collection. For a time it appeared that the venture would collapse, but finally, through the representation of H. R. Harmer, this valuable property changed hands on March 26, 1946. Myron (as he is known to most of us) deserves compliments for his fortitude to carry on relations in spite of numerous obstacles which had to be eliminated categorically before the deal was closed.

During a recent visit to Chicago, we had the pleasure of viewing this mammoth collection. It is housed in seven-



Colonel Larking

ty-two volumes. It is truly spectacular, stupendous. For the benefit of scores of collectors who undoubtedly would welcome the information, it is hoped that the new owner, or one of our members, will someday soon undertake the task of presenting a detailed description of what the albums contain.

However, this opportunity cannot be passed up without at least brief mention of some of the gems which form the foundation of the collection. An outstanding item is a perfect copy of Poland #1 imperforate. There is but one other copy known to be in existence. There are pages and pages of the Krakow Issues, including all rarities, complete settings and varieties, highlighted by strips of ten of all values of the much coveted but rarely seen "thin Z" variety. There are scores of blocks, covers, errors, varieties, rarities, locals, provisionals, proofs, essays, color trials, complete sheets—everything.

The intrinsic value of the collection, with its historical and scientific worth, exceeds by far the \$12 000 paid by the new owner. It is truly without parallel in Polish philately. Henceforth, it shall rightfully be referred to, and known as, the Steczynski collection. But what about the new owner?

Myron Steczynski is an unpretentious modest chap. An aged old adage advises that "If you want anything done right, give it to a busy man." In addition to the large field of engineering in which he is engaged, plus time devoted to his scientific researches, mechanical creations and inventions, Myron never relinquished his boyhood hobby of stamp collecting. It is remarkable that with his busy schedule he was able to assemble one of the most extensive collections of Poland. After this is crystalized with the former Larking property, the Steczynski collection will be the greatest reference library in the whole world, dealing with the philatelic history of Poland. Congratulations!

ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

It has been the practice in Polonus to devote the first meeting of each month to business, and the second to but a bit of business—and a program. At the latter sessions, some phase in Polish philately is lectured on, and illustrated with collections of members. The following dates, lecturers and topics have been scheduled and arranged by Myron Steczynski, Chairman of Program and Entertainment:

Oct. 25, 1946, Bert Powell—Postage Dues of Poland.

Nov. 22, 1946, Chester Schafer—Central Lithuania.

Dec. 27, 1946—Christmas Party.

Jan. 24, 1947, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz—Polish Municipal Issues.

Feb. 28, 1947—POLPEX.

Mar. 27, Jack Domar—Poles Honored On Foreign Stamps.

April, 1947, Dr. M. E. Uznanski—Plebiscite Issues of Poland.

May, 1947, J. Gapinski & F. Wolosewick—Krakow Issues.

June, 1947, C. Mikucki — Cancellations and Slogans.

July & Aug., 1947, Dr. Kalinowski—Historical Background of Polish Stamps.

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

S. Michalak #200 (9/23/46)

N. J. Zielinski #181 (9/13/46)

PROVISIONAL LOCAL STAMPS, 1944-1945



Upon the ending of the German occupation, some postoffices, because of the lack of definite Polish issues, overprinted remainders of General Gouvernement stamps in Polish. These overprints exist in very small quantities as, it is explained, the "Deutsche Post Osten" in that period supplied the postoffices with little stocks of stamps.

Upon the approval of the City National Council at Zamosc, on July 25, 1944, the Hitler Portraits and the Castles issues were overprinted with a Polish Eagle and the inscription "Pocztą Polską, Zamosc, 25 gr., 1.75 zł." at the Sejmik printery at Zamosc. The surtax of 1.75 zloty was for a fund to build a new postoffice building. These stamps are rarely found on covers, and were used till August 15, 1944.

In the city of Niezabitow on August 3, 1944, the Hitler Portraits, Coat of Arms, and the third Official issues were overprinted and used till October 22, 1944.

At Wawolnica on August 27, 1944, Hitler Portraits, Coat of Arms, and the third Official issues were overprinted and used till February 3, 1945. The reason they stayed in circulation

so long was because of the small quantity of the National Heroes issue put out by the Lublin Government.

At Lezajsk on August 2, 1944, the Hitler Portraits and Castles issues were overprinted. The opening of this postoffice and the overprinting of the stamps were effected by the order of the Polish commander of the city. The stamps were used on mail in Lezajsk, and later at Niskie, Przeworskie, Rudnik, and Zolynia. With the help of the Polish Fieldpost, letters with these stamps were delivered to Lwow and Lukow. All remainders of the Lezajsk overprints were presented to the Postal Directory at Rzeszow.

At Rudnik n. Sanem the Hitler Portraits and Castles issues were overprinted.

At Brwinow on January 23, 1945, the Historical Buildings, Hitler Portraits, and Castles issues were overprinted. The stamps were printed upon the action of the city postoffice, and were used locally here and at Lesna Fodkowa. Because in the final months of the German occupation, postoffices had small supplies of stamps, earlier General Gouvernement issues had to be overprinted. These earlier issues



Cuts courtesy PHILATELY

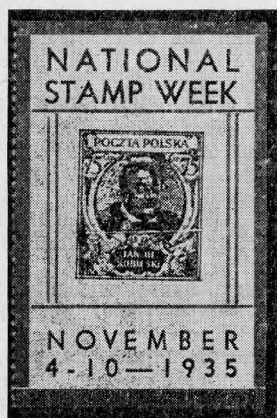
had to be purchased from private persons. Then, persons who wanted to send letters brought their own stamps along which were overprinted at the postoffice.

At Konskie on February 13, 1945, Hitler Portraits were overprinted. The validity of these issues is questioned as at this time there were Polish definite issues in circulation.

—Translated from Tadeusz Gryzewski's KATALOG ZNACZKOW POCTOWYCH POLSKICH, Lodz.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC WEEK 1935 POLISH POSTER STAMP

By Bert Powell



A poster stamp of Polish significance, which many Polonus members are always glad to add to their collections, consists of an item issued in this country in 1935. It commemorated the National Philatelic Week of that year, which was held from November 4th to November 10th inclusive.

Polish collectors are interested because the poster stamp in question, reproduces a Polish stamp, Scotts type A55, which portrays a likeness of King Jan III Sobieski, one of the most colorful rulers in Poland's turbulent history. The king will be remembered as the military genius, whose Polish army defeated the Turkish hordes at Vienna who were under the leadership of Kara Mustafa. The battle took place September 12, 1683 and the decisive defeat administered the Turkish hosts saved Christianity for Europe, a historical fact which now seems to

be conveniently overlooked by the very nations which Poland helped.

The poster stamp is one of a strip of five, the other four also containing likenesses of stamps but from other countries. The reproductions of the stamps are in black on white paper, but each stamp is surrounded with a colored border or margin. The various colors of the borders are as follows: red, yellow and green, thus resulting in three differently colored border labels to the series. The series was printed in a horizontal format, five labels to each sheet-strip.

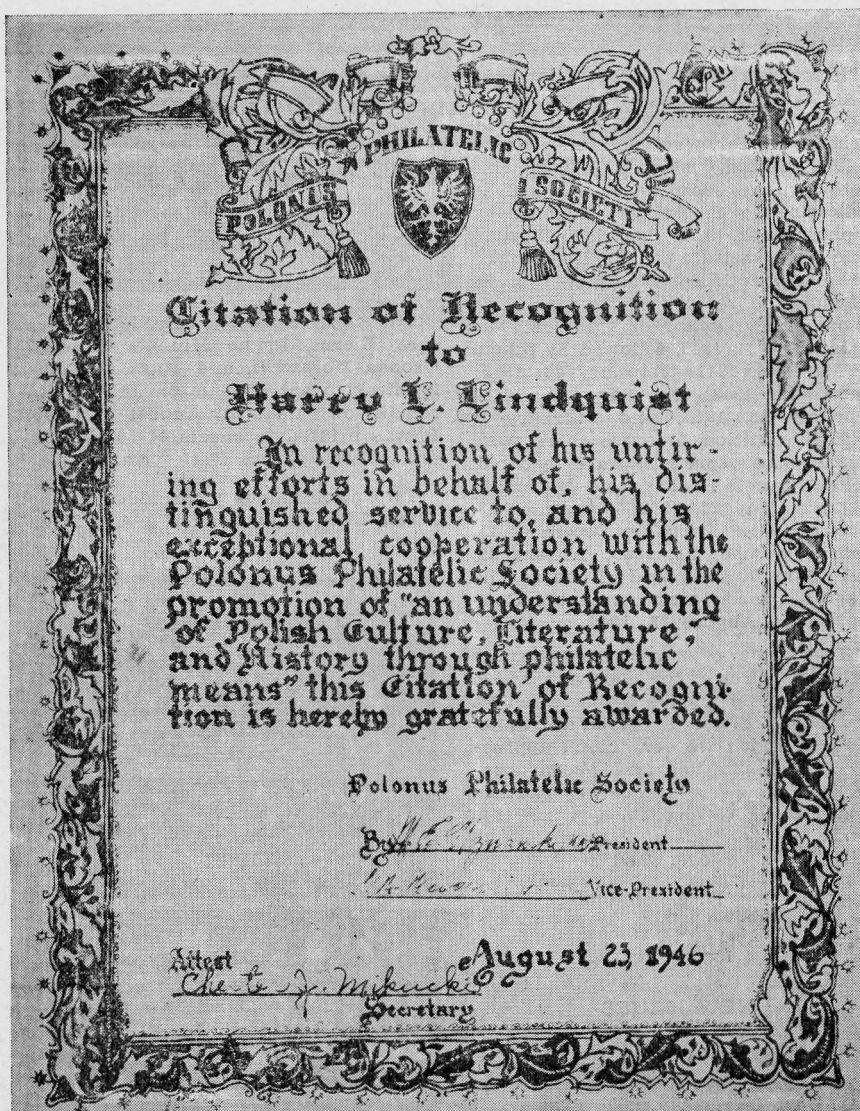
These unique sheet-strips were originated, designed, printed and perforated by George Linn himself, the genial and progressive publisher of Linn's Weekly Stamp News. They represented his contribution to the first National Philatelic Week which is now an annual affair under the sponsorship of the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs of Chicago. However, the event is now known as the International Philatelic Week and is celebrated by the Chicago clubs with special philatelic events during the entire week.

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INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC WEEK SEALS

November 4-11 has been declared International Philatelic Week by the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs. Special seals have been printed for this occasion, and have a "Philately Makes Friends" design as their theme. They sell at 100 for 25c and may be obtained from J. P. Rux, 6136 Addison St., Chicago 34, Illinois.

A Stamp Sales Department will soon be active in Polonus, specializing in the stamps of Poland. Stamps will be obtained from members who want to dispose of their duplicates. A list of stamps for sale will appear in the BULLETIN. Mrs. Leonard Katz will have charge of this department. Watch for further announcement in the November BULLETIN.



At the August 23rd Beebe which was held at Polish Falcon's Hall in conjunction with the A. P. S.-C. P. S. Convention, Polonus presented Harry L. Lindquist, publisher of STAMPS, with a scroll. Following is Mr. Lindquist's story which we hereby reprint from STAMPS:

"The writer was very much surprised and honored by being presented with one of the handsomest portfolios he had ever seen. It was illuminated and engrossed on parchment in gold

and colors, an expression of appreciation from the Polonus Philatelic Society.

"The citation reads as follows:

"Citation of Recognition to Harry L. Lindquist—In recognition of his untiring efforts in behalf of, his distinguished service to, and his exceptional cooperation with the Polonus Philatelic Society in the promotion of an understanding of Polish Culture, Literature, and History through philatelic means, this Citation of Recognition is

hereby gratefully awarded — Polonus Philatelic Society.'

"It is difficult to visualize this beautiful book without actually seeing it, and we understand that it took the artist, J. Domar, who has been a friend of long standing, nearly a year to complete it. The book starts off with a dedication to the writer, followed by a photograph, and then the Citation which is illustrated. This is followed by nine beautifully illuminated pages showing the seals and cachets which Polonus has sponsored. The first was in January 24, 1940, followed by others on March 6, 1941; February 26, 1942; March 12, 1943; February 25, 1944; February 22, 1945; and February 9, 1946. In addition to these there were several other special events featured, including their Beebas, held November 14, 1941; May 22, 1942; November 13, 1942; a Junior Party on December 11, 1942; November 12, 1943; August 11, 1944; June 7, 1945; and of course, the one held in connection with the Convention on August 23, 1946.

"The last two pages were taken up with signatures of the members, which included many friends we have known for years. It was a splendid tribute, and one which we very much appreciated. The citation and accompanying material were bound in beautiful hand-tooled leather, lined with silk, making a permanent souvenir which will always be cherished."

H. L. Lindquist

NEW ISSUES



This 3 zł. plus 7 zł. was issued July 21, 1946, to commemorate the Maritime holiday of 1946. The surtax was for the benefit of the Maritime League. 160,000 sheets were printed of fifty stamps each. The design shows a map with the coastline of the Baltic Sea.



The 3 zł. showing President Bolesław Bierut, Prime Minister Edward Osobka-Morawski, and Marshal Rola-Zymirski, went on sale on July 22, to remain on sale until August 22, 1946. It was printed in sheets of 50 stamps, and 280,000 sheets were printed.

Two more values were added to the Airmail set, a 15 zł. blue and a 25 zł. green.



Shown here is an imperf block of four, of a new commemorative showing the ruins of a castle in the city of Bedzin. The color is gray and black, the value 5 zł., and the first day of issue, September 2, 1946.

A new 3 zł. plus 12 zł. Gdansk Commemorative has appeared. It was issued in tribute to the deceased postal employees of the city of Gdansk.

—Reprinted with permission from STAMPS.

A LETTER FROM A SOLDIER IN GERMANY

Darmstadt, Germany

Polonus Philatelic Society

Dear Members

Just a line or two in one of my spare moments while at a QM school in the southern part of Germany, as there are two points I'd like to call attention to those who may be interested in them.

First of all I'd like to mention that in this locality there is a large Displaced Persons Camp of some 2000 people, entire families perhaps, and about 90% Poles. Naturally, being of Polish descent, I spend a good deal of my spare time at this place, in hope of picking up a few items that may be added to my collection, or such information as may be helpful to collectors back home. As yet I haven't come across any real philatelists in the crowd, as conditions did not allow them time to even think of such a hobby, as survival of life in the past six years had been more important. However, this does not discourage my publicizing our own Polonus club and our hobby—and whenever the occasion warrants, I show a copy of our BULLETIN around, in hopes of recruiting and rekindling the spirit of collecting.

The first reaction of these Poles is to comment on the lack of the "crown" on the Polish Eagle, and the cry of "Communist" is heard and the question as to what kind of Poles are we back there seems to capture the limelight—which at times has me feeling as though I was a "Red" myself.

One of the more interested parties has been kind enough to give me a picture of the true Polish "standard" as it is today, and I'm sending this along, so that if interest is keen enough and our mistakes rectified, we no longer will be criticised on this subject.

Next point I would like to bring up is the article in the BULLETIN of July-August 1946, with reference to the 10 plus 10 zloty Occupation issue of German-Poland which is apt to cause a bit of speculation on the part of collectors not possessing this issue. While it may be fairly scarce back in the States, I have it from a good authority, that there are from 75,000 to 150,000 (if not more) in the hands of a dealer in Silesia, which when released, would cause a drop

such as seen as a result of flooding the market with the one and two million mark issue not so long ago. My friend had been trying to buy the entire lot of these stamps from this dealer, but the export of stamps from country to country in large quantities is rigidly controlled to avoid speculation and black-market activities.

Incidentally, for the information of those who were led to believe that the one and two million mark inflation issues did come from Norway as stated when these stamps first appeared back home the story is that when the Germans first occupied Poland, the plates from these were seized and the stamps were thus "reprinted" in large quantities and circulated throughout Europe. They were introduced into the U. S. A. by a New York dealer, Mr., who purchased quite a number of these from a friend of mine in Berlin, as well as some of the other issues that were sold at such high prices.

Here's hoping some of this information may be useful to some of the members.

Sincerely,

Corp. Larry C. Zieler

MINUTES of the Board of Directors Meeting Held October 9, 1946, at 1530 N. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by the President, Dr. Uznanski, at 9:20 p.m., with the following present: Dr. Uznanski, Mr. Kloskowski, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Dymar, Mr. Rux, Mr. Reinowski, Mr. Steczynski, Mr. Kucharz, Mr. and Mrs. Katz, and Mr. Mikucki.

One of the first things on the agenda was the sales circuit. There was a discussion in which most of the present members took part. A decision was made whereas a printed sheet of the stamps of Poland for sale, would be included in the mailing of the BULLETIN. This list would be improved to permit also other countries being on the offer. This was made into a motion by Mr. Steczynski and seconded by Mr. A. Kloskowski.

The matter of Chipec was brought up. The Board of Directors is in favor of cooperating but the delegates were instructed not to make any financial commitments in undersigning the show.

The question of the Beeba during International Philatelic Week will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

The Board of Directors decided to have a Publication Committee, which will be selected at the next yearly election. A suggestion was made to have pictures of each individual member to appear in the different issues of the BULLETIN.

A discussion was held to improve our meetings. The administration will try to streamline the meetings.

The question of a philatelic home at the present time is not advisable due to the financial situation of the Society, and instability of real estate. This was made in a motion by Mr. Rux, and seconded by Mr. Kloskowski.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 p.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Kloskowski and seconded by Mr. Rux.

C. J. Mikucki, Secretary

to lift the curtain of mystery by directing numerous inquiries to reliable correspondents, requesting a clarification for what seems to be an unreal state of affairs. The replies are almost identical. It is pointed out that most commemoratives and semi-postals are withdrawn from circulation in about two weeks after the first day of sale. But within that period, other obstacles prevent normal purchases. Reports further reveal that despite the short postal life of such issues, the stamps are sold only in the larger cities, and not more than a single copy per person. Sometimes one is compelled to stand in a waiting line a full day before a single stamp can be purchased at the face amount. After withdrawal the stamps can be purchased at the Central Philatelic Bureau in Warsaw, but (here is the rub) many times over face is charged. Anyhow—so they say. HO! HUM!

HO! HUM!

by Clement A. Pulaski

Some of the letters now coming in from Poland, are from correspondents with whom contact was severed seven long years ago. One is genuinely thrilled with the infrequent arrival of messages starting: "I survived the war..the latest one comes from Franciszek Koprowski, publisher, editor, writer. Mr. Koprowski will be remembered by many as the publisher of "LACZNIK FILATELISTYCZNY" a popular pre-war monthly. A new publication is in the immediate offing. His address is: ul. Matejki 1, Slawno, Poland.

* * *

Philatelic societies are beginning to resume their functions throughout Poland. No doubt there are many such revived activities, but definite mention can now be made of societies in Katowice, Krakow, and Warszawa. Those desiring membership information should write to your associate editor.

* * *

Newly issued commemorative stamps are arriving with prices fantastically high. In this connection, conditions appear to be chaotic. An effort was made

BEG YOUR PARDON

In the September BULLETIN page 3 column 2, we erroneously refer to Mr. Stephen G. Rich as being a "dealer." Mr. Stephen G. Rich is not a dealer, and we humbly apologize for printing this statement.

NEW MEMBERS

- 300 Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Av., Jamaica 3, N. Y. (Poland)
- 301 Walter G. Strait, Fox River Grove, Illinois (Early U. S. and Poland)
- 307 Stanley Buch, 5958 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago 39, Illinois (Poland & U. S.)

Can anyone supply us with information about Polish Precancels?

We need more articles on Polish philately for future publication. If you have studied some phase of Poland collecting we invite you to send in your write-up. There are many phases which we have not yet covered, and your article, if it be long or short, is probably exactly what we want.