

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 76 HONORS U.S. BICENTENNIAL



POLPEX 76, a National Stamp and Coin Exhibition commemorating the American Revolution Bicentennial, will be held March 19-21 at La Salle Hotel in downtown Chicago. Executive chairman of this event is Alfred Szebel, the same man who headed Polpex 73 honoring Copernicus.

American pioneers from Poland who participated in our Nation's birth, and other Poles who contributed to the freedom and development of the U.S. will be the theme of this coming show.

Planned to be the finest and largest ever of the Polonus Phi-

latelic Society, POLPEX 76 will display 500 frames of philatelic and numismatic collections in the court of honor and the competitive classes. Collectors from the U.S. and abroad will be invited to exhibit. The Polish American Numismatic Association will contribute numismatic material for the numismatic section.

The U.S., U.N., and Canadian postal services will be invited to set up their booths and a 60 dealer bourse will operate on the premises. A public auction, special exhibits and other activities are being planned.



Medallion to be struck in Poland by Polonus. Designed by artist Edw. Gorol.

Negotiations have been completed for the striking of 200 commemorative medallions for POLPEX 76. The design is unique among the many Bicentennial medallions. It will be presented to all exhibitors in addition to the regular and special awards offered at POLPEX 76. Financial sponsors of the exhibition who contribute \$50.00 or more will receive this medallion in gilded form. Serial number and name of donor will be engraved on the medallion.

Don't miss this opportunity. A deposit of \$25.00 or more will reserve for you this rare 1976 Bicentennial medallion and insure the success of the American Revolution Bicentennial POLPEX 76. Make checks payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society — and mail to: Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

MEMBERS MART

WANTED: Information on the L.O.P.P. seals found in the Sanabria Catalog. B. Janczowski, 18 Lynch Terr., Enfield Conn. 06082.

POLONICA CANADIANA

Cancellations sponsored by the Gzowski Polish Philatelic Society of Toronto for the Canadian STAMPEX-75 exhibition honoring the Philately of Poland, Copernicus celebrations and a few other Polish-Canadian events, are available from the Secretary: Mike Lubinski, 8 Attercliff Court, Rexdale, Ont. Canada, M9V 1H 7.

BOJANOWICZ HONORED

This year's winner of the British Philatelic Congress Medal is Mirosław A. Bojanowicz of Wembley, Middlesex, England. He has traveled widely on philatelic affairs and has never lost an opportunity to further the cause of philately. He is the first British Vice-Chairman of the Association of International Philatelic Experts and is a specialist in European classics with emphasis on Poland of which he built up the world's finest collection.

The Academie De Philatelie De Belgique nominated M. A. Bojanowicz, RDP, as their "Member Correspondant Etranger" (Foreign correspondent).

POLAND'S FIRST AIR MAILS 1944-1956

By THADDEUS GRYZEWSKI

Considering the amount of destruction left behind by the retreating German troops, the Polish Civil Administration started work by organizing aerial links between more important towns in the liberated area.

In August 1944, a Civil Air Unit attached to the Polish Air Force H.Q., began to operate two regular air lines on routes Lublin - Rzeszów - Przemyśl, and five lines exclusively for mail transport, linking district towns with capitals of provinces.

No first airmails are recorded and it is safe to say that the initial mails carried were of official character. It is doubtful if in the chaos then prevailing these flights were publicly announced at all. If, however, someone knew by chance of any forthcoming flight and tried to send a letter by air it is more than certain he would never have had his mail carried by the required flight. The then obligatory, inefficient censorship would take care of that. According to reports from known philatelists no special markings were used on that mail.

On March 6th, 1945, "Monitor Polski" announced that the Polish Air Lines "LOT" had been organized. In the same month three branches of the Company were opened in Lublin, Kraków and Rzeszów. On March 30th, the first regular circuit air service began to operate joining Warsaw - Łódź - Kraków - Rzeszów - Lublin - Warsaw.

In April '45, four new branches of the Company were opened in Poznań, Katowice, Olsztyn (Allenstein) and Gdańsk, and on April 13th, a second regular circuit service started on route:

Warsaw - Łódź - Poznań - Katowice - Łódź - Warsaw.

Further development of the service (first flights) is given here in chronological order, and the data are taken from J. Osinski's "Transport Lotniczy"/Warsaw 1954/.

- 1945 Apr. 18—Warsaw-Olsztyn-Gdańsk
- 30—Warsaw-Białystok
- May 5—Warsaw-Kraków
- 7—Warsaw-Kielce
- 14—Warsaw-Gdańsk
(This was additional, direct service).
- Jun. 18—Wrocław added to the circuit line
(Wrocław branch opened on Apr. 28)
- Aug. 1—Due to technical difficulties all services closed down till Feb., 1946.
- 1946 Mar. 11—Change from the circuit to direct lines linking Warsaw with Kraków, Katowice, Gdańsk, Wrocław and Poznań.
- Apr. 15—Warsaw - Poznań-Szczecin. (Szczecin branch opened on Sept. 8th, 1945.
- May 11—Warsaw-Berlin
- July 4—Warsaw-Paris
- 9—Warsaw-Stockholm
- Aug. 7—Warsaw-Prague
- 1947 Oct. 8—Warsaw-Budapest-
- 1948 May 24—Warsaw-Bucharest-Belgrade.
- Oct. 12—Warsaw-Copenhagen
- 1949 Jun. 25—Warsaw-Bruxelles (SABENA)
- 1950 Apr. 16—Kraków-Łódź-Poznań

1951 Jun. 1—Szczecin-Gdańsk
15—Warsaw-Rzeszów

Some of these services were of ephemeric character and none of them was truly regular. Unfortunately, from our point of view, no philatelic souvenirs are known — probably nobody knew much about these flights. It is said that on the Warsaw-Copenhagen a special cachet was used. But as much as I tried, I have never seen it. Airmails of that period are found mostly with an open or framed cachet "Par Avion" of various sizes as all the major post offices had them made locally. Introduced later air labels resemble the pre-war type. Size and wording of these labels were changed twice.

Additional information regarding first flights we find in F. Muller's "Catalogue des Aero-grammes du Monde Entier" (Paris 1950). Majority of these were probably experimental, trial or special flights and in Poland among collectors they are completely unknown, which, bearing in mind that we know so little about history of our own P.P.L. "LOT", is perhaps not surprising.

1945 July 18—Warsaw-Visby-Stockholm (ABA)

Oct. 4—London-Gdańsk

1946 May ?—Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow (AERO-FLOT)

Aug. 8—Warsaw-Prague-Zurich (in conjunction with SWISSAIR).

1947 Apr. 24—Warsaw-Paris (in conjunction with AIR FRANCE)

July 10—Gdańsk-Łódź-Katowice

10—Katowice-Łódź-Warsaw

15—Gdańsk-Szczecin

Oct. 11—Warsaw-Bucharest (in conjunction with TARS (Roumania)).

1948 Apr. 18—Gdańsk-Bydgoszcz-Warsaw
18—Poznań-Wrocław-Katowice
18—Warsaw-Gdańsk-Stockholm

1949 Jan. 1—Warsaw-Sofia-Istanbul

Apr. 18—Warsaw-Berlin-Paris.

From the collection of your Editor come two further data:—

1948 May 11—Amsterdam (KLM) with cachet "2nd Special Flight"

1953 Oct. 1—London-Warsaw (BEA) Introduction of unscheduled mail from Britain to Poland.

The 1952-55 period remains a tabula rasa and till now no information is available.

The first Polish post-war air cachet is to be found on mail carried by East Germany's "Luft-hansa" plane on the first Berlin-Warsaw flight, on April 4th, 1956. About 10,000 letters were dispatched from Warsaw. The cachet was applied both to Warsaw and Berlin mail, and is fairly well known. What is not known, however, is the fact that Warsaw 1 post office, collecting center for the Warsaw-Berlin mail, absent-mindedly accepted letters until the evening, whilst the plane left for Berlin in the afternoon. After intervention by the Min. of Communications, the commemorative cachet was applied to this large additional mail, which was then directed to Berlin by rail. The originally flown covers bear Berlin N.W.7, Luftpoststelle, postmark, dated 4.2.56.

On October 15th, 1956, "SABENA" Airlines inaugurated Brussel-Warsaw service, with the return flight on the next day. In both cases a commemorative cachet was applied to the mail in Warsaw. Because the flight was announced too late in the press, very few letters were dispatched from Warsaw. "SABENA" carried a certain number of letters both ways. RUCH philatelic agency trifled with the occasion by having subsequent covers hastily cancelled to order with the original cachet. These, not backstamped, are of no value to aerophilatelists whatsoever.

On November 4th, 1956, two "KLM" planes carrying a Polish Olympic team to Melbourne, also took 20,000 specially prepared covers, bearing a commemorative Olympic postmark. On arrival the mail received the Olympic Village, Victoria, Australia postmark, dated November 8 or 9. There are seven varieties of this depicting:

- a) Olympic Village
- b) Olympic Gate
- c) Torch bearer
- d) Cyclist and runner
- e) Cyclists
- f) Long jumper
- g) Javelin thrower

Connecting mail from Berlin is also known.

Let me say here also that the idea for this mail belongs to the author of this article.

This is a general outline of the progress of air services in post-war Poland till 1956, from the philatelic point of view. It has many gaps, many points need elucidation, and the writer would welcome any additional information or corrections which readers may be able to supply.

Reprinted from POLISH PHILATELIC REVIEW
of May-June, 1959, published in London, England.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Mr. Schafer!

Maybe these few words will interest some of our members.

In the time of preparations for Bicentennial celebrations — in the time when the Polish minority will once more bring forth the names of Polish ancestors fighting for U.S. independence — an outstanding book makes its appearance. "Flight Of Eagles" by R. Karolevitz and Ross Fenn, tells us of fighting for freedom but on Polish soil.

A "bunch" of Americans (not one of them of Polish ancestry) traveled to Poland to help her fight for independence in the Polish-Russian War of 1919-20. They were the air pilots who formed the famous "Kosciuszko Squadron". Their emblem (designed by an American) was 13 stars and stripes representing the original American Colonies, a red-velvet four-cornered cap ("rogatywka") and two scimitar like scythe blades. Some of these heroic volunteers gave their life for the cause and Poland erected a most beautiful monument for them at the cemetery in Lwow (destroyed by Russians).

From a philatelic point of view it is obvious that this squadron was attached to some military postal unit, and to find a letter or postcard from one of these volunteers would be a dream.

In any event, I recommend this book most warmly — what a dramatic story — what a treat to read — what an accumulation of data, photos and documents...

For those interested in "Flight Of Eagles" write: Brevet Press, Box 178, Sioux Falls, So. Dakota 57101.

To both authors — "Dziękujemy".

—Dr. Józef Kuderewicz

NEW ISSUES

Pablo Neruda 70th Anniversary

At the request of the Polish Committee of Solidarity with Chile, the Polish Post issued a 1.50 zł. commemorative on December 30, 1974 showing a portrait of Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) by the Ecuadorian painter Guayasamin. Issued on the 70th anniversary of the birth of this great Chilean poet and winner of the Nobel prize.

Offset printed on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 30 stamps. 6,000,000 were issued. Designed by Henryk Chyliński.

Warsaw Liberation 30th Anniversary

On January 17, 1975 a 1.50 zł. appeared to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Liberation of Warsaw from Nazi occupation. Pictured is the Nike monument with the Great Theatre of Opera and Ballet in the background. Rotogravure printed in multicolor by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 35 stamps. 6,000,000 were issued. Designed by H. Chyliński after a photo by P. Krassowski.

Oświęcim Concentration Camp Anniversary

Issued January 27, 1975 on the 30th anniversary of the Liberation of the concentration camp at Oświęcim. The 1.50 zł. stamp shows the striped cloth of the prisoners, broken barbed wire and the name of the camp "Aushwitz". Steel engraved and rotogravure printed by PWPW on common paper in sheets of 50 stamps. 8,000,000 were issued. Designed by Zbigniew Stasik.

Sixth Indoor European Athletic Meet

In March, 1975 the 6th Indoor European Athletic Championship meet was held in Katowice. A set

of four stamps and souvenir sheet were issued March 8, 1975 on the occasion.

- 1.00 zł.—women's hurdle race; 8,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zł.—pole vault; 8,000,000 issued
- 4.00 zł.—hop-step and jump; 1,000,000 issued
- 4.90 zł.—sprint; 900,000 issued
- 10. + 5.00 zł.—emblem of the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal; 900,000 issued

Steel engraved and rotogravure printed by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps. Designed by Waldemar Andrzejewski.

Warsaw Treaty Organization 20th Anniversary

On May 5, 1975 a 1.50 zł. adhesive will be issued on the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Cooperation signed by the European People's Democracies and the Soviet Union.

Rotogravure printed in multicolor by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps. 8,000,000 is to be the quantity. Designed by Witold Surowiecki.

—RUCH

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MEMBERS MART

WANTED: Covers, cancellations, in the Poznan area (Wielkopolska) 1918 to 1924, German and Polish. Also Prussian stampless same area needed. Will buy or trade for similar or other material. William R. Jusack, 12335 S. Parnell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60628.

WANTED: Pre-Stamped Warsaw covers with various postmarks, R.R. markings, H. & G. Warsaw used envelopes and material pertaining to Warsaw postal history. Will buy or trade for concentration camp mail, ghetto mail, Warsaw Uprising, Polish Field-post, "Groszy" overprints on covers, etc. Alfred Szabel, 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are asked to notify us immediately. Failure to do so is costing the Society unnecessary expense. Please mail the notice

of change to C. J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill, Norridge, Ill. 60656.

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1973 issues—62 stamps—1 s.s.	9.00	3.50	15.00
1974 issues—56 stamps—2 s.s.	9.00	3.25	15.00

B-128a Polska-73 Violet "entry" s.s. mint or used . . . 3.00

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Silver medal Soccer s.s. with tabs . . . mint 1.00—used .40

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or can be ordered.

BIENIECKI

BOX 100 — GRANITE CITY, ILL. 62040

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Friday, April 25, 1975:

No meeting. Most of the officers will be attending STAMPEX in Toronto, Canada.

Friday, May 9, 1975:

Polonus will visit with members of Midway Stamp Club at their meeting location at Airport Lounge Hall, 5719 S. Archer Ave. Program meeting starts at 8 p.m. Guest speaker, Werner E. Gruenbaum, will talk on the Postal History of the Royal Austrian-Hungarian Navy. Beeba follows.

Friday, May 23, 1975:

Polonus program meeting at COMPEX, La Salle Hotel. Time: 8 p.m. Guest speaker, Fred Blau, will tell us of his recent visit to ESPANA at Madrid.

Friday, June 13, 1975:

Program meeting. Roman Burkiewicz to talk on price trends of Poland stamps — at Weisz Stamps & Coins Hall.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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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 \$5.00

CONGRATULATIONS!

John Bartczak received First Place with his Galicia exhibit at Plewacki Stamp Club's ALPEX in Buffalo, N.Y.

Alfred Szebel was awarded a Silver Medal at ESPANA in Madrid, Spain for his Airmails.

Quite a few of our members will be exhibiting at STAMPEX in Toronto. Watch the next Bulletin for results.

— POLAND NEW ISSUES UP TO DATE —

(Scott Cat. No.)	MINT	USED	FDC
2072-73 Neruda & W-w Opera-house (2)	.20	.10	.60
2074-81 The Falcons (8)	1.50	.65	1.90
2082 Auschwitz Camp (1)	.10	.05	.30
2083-86 Athletic Championship (4)	.85	.40	1.25
B130 Montreal 1976—Olympics ss (1)	1.20	.75	1.45
●			
Complete Year 1972 (90)	13.95	7.50	23.50
Complete Year 1973 (64)	15.50	9.80	24.50
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