

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue #80

December 1949

FLASH!! LARKING ARTICLES TO BE REPRINTED

Announcement is herewith made that beginning with the January 1950 issue of the BULLETIN of the Polonus Philatelic Society the series of articles written by the late Col. R. N. W. Larking, C. B. E., F. R. P. S. L., entitled "POLAND, The Postal Issues During and After the Great War," which appeared in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly from October 1929 to August 1932, will be reprinted.

Each issue of the BULLETIN will contain a four page insert of the ar-

ticles written by Col. Larking as they originally appeared monthly in the Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

It is our purpose to stimulate collectors to study the stamps of Poland and have them send in their comments, corrections, or additions to the editor. These comments should contain information not disclosed by Col. Larking. If enough collectors send in their comments, additions, and corrections, it is planned to publish this information in a series of notes from time to time.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

"I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time."

—Charles Dickens

The Spirit of Christmas should be in the hearts and souls of all of us. With the future of the Polonus Philatelic Society looking brighter because of the more responsive interest and participation in the activities of our Society displayed during the last year by the members—each to the best of his capabilities and talents—it gives the officers, the Editorial Staff, and myself great joy and thankfulness for this cooperation which we received.

In this Spirit we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz,
President

the Polonus Philatelic Society will remain a memorable one to the members who attended. This 250th meeting fell on Armistice Day and very appropriately the meeting started out when everyone stood for a moment in silence in honor of our first secretary, Corporal Felix H. Pientka. He was killed in action in the Sicilian Campaign of World War II.

Member Pientka's body had just been brought home the week previously, from overseas for burial here. The Funeral Mass was held November 5, 1949, at the Ascension of Our Lord Church, Evanston, Illinois. Interment was at St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Niles, Illinois.

The following members journeyed to the wake at the Alten Mortuary in Evanston: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Domar, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Makowski, Lester Jankowski, Bert Powell, Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz, Myron Steczynski, Adam Kloskowski, Chester Mikucki, and John Wendt.

With this ceremony over, the meeting continued with a short report by

OUR 250th MEETING

The November 11, 1949, meeting of

the Treasurer, and then was hastily adjourned. Lester Jankowski stepped up and acted as master of ceremonies. He introduced all the past presidents who all told of the highlights of their administrations.

Lester, being the first President and holding office for two years, told of the early history of the Society and did this in an educational manner.

Henry Choynacki, the second President, was not present. Business keeping him away, he sent a letter of regret and sent his best wishes. Lester read the letter.

Jack Domar, the third President, told of the birth of the Polonus BULLETIN; of the largest stamp auction the Society ever held; of the many trips to different stamp shows in different cities; and of the bourse table Polonus had at a National Convention.

Myron Steczynski who was the fourth President told how he helped make Chicago a first day city for the sale of the Poland stamp of the Overrun Nations series. Polonus made all the arrangements for the first day ceremonies held here in Chicago.

Dr. M. E. Uznanski was the fifth President and held office for two years. He said those were the two darkest years in Polonus but he looked at the brighter side. During his term the Larking Memorial Trophy was established.

Adam Kloskowski, the sixth President, told of his work with the Junior group, and of the Juniors who went to war and are now members of Polonus.

Chester Mikucki was the seventh President. He is the Founder of Polonus. He told how he placed an ad in a Polish newspaper, addressing it to the collectors of the stamps of Poland, and of the great response it brought. Thus was the Society born. He spoke of his illness which took him to a hospital. He remained as President through all the months he spent at the hospital and took the gavel upon his return. He urged the Society to remember Stamps for the Wounded and to act in publishing a Handbook.

Dr. Leon Kozakiewicz, the originator of the Beeba, then gave a short talk. The concluding speaker Bert Powell, reviewed some of the earlier days at Polonus, after which Lester yelled, "Soup's on!"

The Beeba got under way when an

abundant supply of foods was placed on the tables. Doc Kozy donated the Polish sausage, Lester brought the Bigos, Reinowski contributed the herring and about fifteen other members donated foods filling the tables to capacity.

Among the guests at this 250th meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Czarnik of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elmer Zinsmeister, Alfred Diamond, Mrs. H. Hopps, Vera Jeter, Kenneth Esmus, Ben Kosiek, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Burke, Marie E. Yandel, Robert Siwe, and others.

Mrs. Czarnik of Buenos Aires, a native Argentinian, as a selected guest, was presented with a first day cover of the Poland Stamp of the Overrun Nations series by Myron Steczynski as a souvenir of the 250th meeting.

Stamps for the Wounded



Let's do a little for those who did a lot. Any duplicates, unwanted albums, literature, supplies, would be greatly appreciated. Chicago members please bring material to meetings. Out of town members please send material to Barney Fialkowski, 2633 N. Emmett St., Chicago 47, Ill.

At the last two meetings donations to Stamps for the Wounded were made by Chester Mikucki, Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, and Chester Makowski.

NEW MEMBER

Roman W. Siwe #397
1819 N. Linder Ave.
Chicago, Illinois.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lucian Bielecki
6037 Naples St.
Detroit 11, Michigan

Myron E. Steczynski



The above illustration of this set of labels appeared in Polonus Bulletin No. 10 of May, 1943 and again in No. 15 of November, 1943. I have asked the editor to run the same cut for the third time in order that the members could take a good look at these Polish rulers and heroes of medieval Poland and to examine their collections for possible additional information on the uses to which these labels were put.

As mentioned in the May, 1943 issue of Polonus Bulletin, the labels bear the date 1917, and the caption "Na Biednych" (For the Poor). The original values are from 5 to 100 with no notation as to currency. Five of the original values were variously surcharged from 50 fen. to 50 MK., and at the same time overprinted in the four corners with the initials O. K. O. P.

After getting unconfirmed reports that the stamps were issued in 1917 by a charitable organization in Zarki and later surcharged for the town of Kosja, there is included in the Larking collection a small portfolio with the eight labels of the original set and with the following imprint on the cover:

NA BIEDNE DZIECI (For Poor Children)

WYDAWNICTWO: Obywatelskiej Komisji Ofiarnosci Publicznej (Publishers: Citizens Committee for Public Contributions)

SKLAD GLOWNY: Towarzystwo Przyjaciol Politechniki Warszawskiej

(Headquarters: Society of Friends of Warsaw Polytechnic)

Ul. Czackiego 3, m. 23 (3 Czacki St., Apt. 23)

The above captions explain the meaning of the overprint O. K. O. P. and establish Warsaw as the city of issue.

Among imperforate proofs and other Larking holdings are seven covers, all quite different from each other, all postally used. None of them are dated close to 1917, the year included boldly in the design of the stamp, and none of them are used on covers without the surcharge and without the overprinted corner letters O. K. O. P. It should be remembered that in 1917 the First World War was in full swing and Poland was occupied by the Germans. It was not until the summer of 1922, long after the war that I find these labels on postally used covers.

In each and every case, the surcharged labels are affixed in the upper right-hand corner of the cover, and the additional regular postage stamps are affixed on the lower part of the cover to clear the address. The labels have a postal obliteration which is also used on the current postage stamps. The total value of the surcharged labels on each cover varies from 50 fen. to 50 MK., while the value of the regular stamps varies from 2 MK. to 25 MK. There seems to be no consistent relationship between the

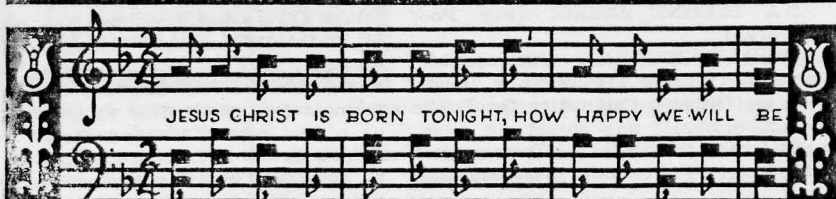
values of the labels and of the stamps. The total value of stamps and labels on any one cover runs from 7 to 52 Mk.

One cover is from Grodno and is dated June 27, 1922. Another cover is from Warsaw and is dated July 18, 1922. The other five covers are from Warsaw dated July 19, 1922. The question arises in my mind that these stamps might have been used as provisionals during an emergency, and

if so, this use would form a very odd phase of philately where charity labels were raised to the status of full postage stamps.

If any of our readers, especially those in Poland, have additional information that would clarify the above points, it should be included in the *Polonus Bulletin* and I may persuade the editor to run the cut for the fourth time.

WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT!



POLISH CHRISTMAS

In the fatherland, or in an adopted country, dear to every Polish man and woman is the memory of the beautiful carols on Christmas Eve. The memory is as bright as reality—the young boys going from village to village, from house to house, carrying a golden star—singing gaily, happily—one boy disguised as a bear, one as a Jew, one as a Highlander, one as St. Joseph. What merriment! What beautiful music! And here come other boys with the monster "Turon." In the market square at Cracow, always the artificial wood of Christmas trees and the many stalls—full of spangles, "Angel's Hair" too, and silver, gold and colored glass balls. There, under the monument of Mickiewicz—the puppet shows! And then the clear bugle call from St. Mary's tower, singing out that "Jesus Christ Is Born Tonight"—that the angels too are rejoicing and singing "Gloria in Excelsis."

Jesus Christ is born tonight,

how happy we will be,

All the angels sing in heaven
merrily as we:

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

In the stable the ox and donkey

humbly bend their knees,

They know that true God and Savior
has been born today.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Reprinted from the International
Harvester Employee Magazine of Dec.
1947. Cuts courtesy Hollywood Press.

A COLLECTOR'S COMMENTS

"I believe I am the youngest stamp collector in Polonus as you can see from my picture. I'm two years and eight months old. There must be something in stamp collecting, and I'm aiming to find out what it is. I know a little now but I guess I have a lot to learn yet. The trouble is that everybody says I'm too young.

"Every time I go to daddy's hobby room he watches me and says 'don't touch this' or 'don't touch that.' How am I gonna learn?

"The other day daddy was looking at some covers, so I asked him if I could see too. He showed them to me but wouldn't let me handle them. So when he put them down I picked them up myself and walked away. Daddy



then gets up and chases me. I just wanted to study them.

"He gave me an old stamp album with some stamps in it for keeps. I have nice stamps in my collection. Some are cut around like teeth and some are cut straight.

"Some Polonus members saw my album. Daddy says he'll give me more when I grow up. I think I'm pretty grown up already because Daddy says I always take away his good stamps or covers and run away with them, so there—I know what's good!

"Every time Daddy goes to a Polonus meeting I want to go too. Daddy says when I grow up more he'll take me down to join the Juniors. I intend to go to the next Polpex. I'm going to put my foot down this time so he's got to take me.

"With the holidays coming I want to wish all the Polonus members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And don't forget to buy Christmas Seals."

Chester Mikucki Jr.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

John Ogrodný

3119 W. Pershing Rd.

Chicago 32, Ill.

Rev. Antoni Buchcik

Techny, Illinois

John T. Patalon

789 Sycamore

Buffalo 12, N. Y.

Ludwik Zurawicz

321 S. Bunker Hill Ave.

Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Rev. Dennis Blizniak

71 Maple St.

Holyoke, Mass.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

Following are illustrations of the new airmail series released on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union:



The 6 zł. violet-grey shows a stage coach. Background is a map of the world.



The 30 zł. light blue shows a ship on the map background.



The 80 zł. light green shows a plane on the map background.

More information on this series may be found in last month's column.

80-6



A 5 zł. brown charity label for the Rebuilding of Warsaw Fund. Shown is the coat of arms "Syrena" of the city.

The P. K. W. N. series of three stamps, 10 zł., 15 zł., and 35 zł., discussed in our last month's column, is to be reprinted but this time by another printing process. The first issue was offset printed, a bimetallic offset, not as good as steel engraving but much better than normal offset. These stamps were line perforated. The second issue is to be recess printed from steel engravings and will be frame perforated.

New Postage Due stamps with a design of an eagle on an ornamented escutcheon are scheduled for the future. Their designer is Kleczewski and their engraver—Lukaszewski. The values and colors are not yet fixed; they will be decided in accordance with postal tariffs and public demand.

There is nothing as yet known about the Mickiewicz-Pushkin stamp and the Trade-Union of Postal Workers series. On the first stamp the drawing was not yet supplied by the Slav Committee who is the sponsor of this stamp. On the Postal Workers series the original designs will be changed. Instead of postal work we are to see some scenes of Trade Union life.

On August 15th, by order of the General Postmaster of August 4th, all the old postal cards (with the exception of the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska one) were again released with an overprint in black; 10 zł. and a bar over the previous price of the card. The old postal cards were withdrawn from circulation January 31, 1949.

PRZEGLĄD FILATELISTYCZNY

Our active Colonel O. H. Schrader is at it again. He took a 3rd award at the Chicago Philatelic Society show with his Match and Medicine Stamps, and also a 2nd award at Ravenswood for his Corea.

Thaddeus Andrew Bonaventure Kosciuszko

by J. P. Rux

Kosciuszko's family history dates back to about the year 1500. This family then was considered of medium wealth being of the higher cultured class in Lithuanian-Russia. Not until the 17th Century did the Kosciuszko family consider itself of Polish nationality.

On February 12, 1746, Thaddeus was born in Minsk Prov. West Russia, of a noble family, Louis Thaddeus and Tekla (Ratomski) Kosciuszko. He had one brother and two sisters. Because the parents could not afford private tutorship, it therefore became necessary for the mother to give the children the elementary training of reading and writing. Thaddeus was a very apt pupil. At twelve he lost his father and soon thereafter he left home for a school of the Jesuits. At the age of 19 he entered a Cadet Military School at Warsaw. Having finished his schooling with high honors Thaddeus, under oath of honor to himself and country, was equipped with a uniform, sword and rifle.

During this school term a convincing talk, heard by the King, concerning indifferent policies taken against cadets, made Thaddeus a favorite with the king. Because of Thaddeus' talent, super-efforts and iron bound "stick-to-it-iveness," he was selected for numerous advanced positions and leadership among the cadets during his school term. Immediately after his final examinations he was appointed captain of a division at 200 (zlotys) per year. This did not last long, as he was one of four recommended to the King for further military training. In 1770 he left Warsaw and Poland for foreign countries, viz., France, Germany and Italy, where he studied military engineering and architecture. After five years he returned a great military engineer.

At that time his native country was in a demoralized state having been to a large degree parted by its enemies and neighbors without gun fire or protest. Thaddeus arrived at home where conditions were also in ruins. Having more or less straightened out the entanglement of the family estate, he was for a time unoccupied. It is during this time that he had fallen in love with Louise Sosnowski, but no marriage materialized between the two



On the 150th anniversary of the Adoption of the Constitution of the United States, Poland issued a 1 zl. commemorative in 1938. The design shows Kosciuszko, Thomas Paine and George Washington with an American flag under a rainbow, and the Statue of Liberty in the background.

(Cut courtesy Linn's Weekly Stamp News)

because of opposition from the girl's parents. An elopement was planned, but this was frustrated as were many other attempts. Louise finally married another man who financed the matter with his parents-in-law. Kosciuszko never entered matrimony.

After a 16-month stay in Poland, since leaving France, he again left for foreign fields. Having become acquainted with the up-to-date conditions in the United States, at that time, Thaddeus borrowed sufficient money from his friend Commandant at the Cadet School, Prince Adam Czartoryski, and left France at the age of about thirty in June, 1776, for United States to help Washington and the American cause. After a two-month journey, he set foot on American soil. Louise's loss was America's gain.

On Kosciuszko's arrival Washington asked, "What do you seek here?" "I come to fight as a volunteer for American independence." "What can you do?" "Try me. I am ready to do anything."

Without waiting for either commission or pay, he gave his knowledge and skill to the urgent fortifying of Philadelphia against an expected attack from the Delaware River.

In 1777, he planned the fortifications, the camps, and the forts on the plain of Saratoga with such ingenuity that General Burgoyne could neither dislodge the Americans nor extricate

himself. The result was the signing of the nation saving treaty of alliance with France. In December, 1777, Thaddeus met for the first and last time, Casimir Pulaski at Trenton. We know that Casimir Pulaski, a Revolutionary war hero, was wounded at Savannah in 1779 which was the cause of his death.

Making West Point, the Gibraltar of the new world, was Kosciuszko's next triumph. Besides fortifying it, he was the originator of the plan for the great Military School which now crowns those majestic heights. It was organized in 1802.

In 1780, his, services began in the South where next to Washington he was of great value to Nathaniel Greene. After the war Greene wrote: "Col. Kosciuszko belonged to the number of my most useful and dearest comrades in arms. I can liken to nothing his zeal in the public service, and in the solution of important problems nothing could have been more helpful than his judgement, vigilance, and diligence. He was fearless of every danger. He never manifested desires or claims for himself, and never let any opportunity pass of calling attention and recommending the merits of others."

In December, 1782, Thaddeus was the first to enter the city of Charleston after the battle there.

After the happy ending of the Revolutionary Wars, Thaddeus Kosciuszko was rewarded by Congress on October 13, 1783, with the title of Brig. General. Having lived at West Point he sailed for his native country in July, 1784, never ceasing to be a loyal Pole. He was voted a grant of land, pension and retirement by Congress. He had been admitted to American citizenship and gladly would have been welcomed had he wished to reside in the United States. (An act, one of few cases in the United States history's recording, which is considered outstanding in honoring an individual.)

He volunteered as a private, retired a Brig. General in less than eight years.

He retired to Poland, to fight for his own country's independence, without success. He defeated the Russians at Racławice but was himself defeated in Poland at the battle of Dubienka at Maciejowice July 17, 1792 by the Russians and allied enemies. After this followed the second partition of

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chester W. Makowski, Chmn.
2315 W. Cortez St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
2144 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 22, Ill.

Associate Editors this issue

Chester Mikucki
John Wendt
Lester Jankowski

Poland to Russia and Prussia in 1793. Thaddeus lay in prison for two years until Emperor Paul ordered his release, but his spirit was broken.

The Czar of Russia offered his sabre. Kosciuszko replied, "I have no need of a sword since I have no longer a country."

(continued next month)

TID BITS

Two of our members gave talks at Lithuania Philatelic Society program meetings recently. Col. Schrader spoke on Early U. S. and Lester Jankowski lectured on Precancelled Austrian Newspaper Tax Stamps and Newspaper Wrappers.

MEMBERS MART

Poland Roosevelts—single set \$1.25, souvenir sheet \$2.50.

General Government complete mint or used, 168 values \$8.00.

What else do you need?

Joseph Bieniecki, 2509 East 23rd St.
Granite City, Illinois, U. S. A.

YOU MAY SECURE

back numbers of the monthly magazine "Polish Philatelic Review" also known as PRZEGLAD FILATELISTYCZNY. This magazine is published by the Philatelic Society of Lodz and is printed in both the Polish and English languages.

I have available 25 Vols. of #1 and II, which can be had at \$4.00 for both Vols. postpaid by insured mail. All copies of the Review for the North and South Americas are mailed from my address, thereby making sure no copies are lost in the mails from Poland.

Frank B. Jancowski
3588 Frederick Street
Detroit 11, Michigan