

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Polpex Honors Our Lady of Czestochowa

POLPEX-82 will commemorate the 600th Anniversary of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Monastery of Jasna Gora in which this famous Polish Icon is venerated. Special cacheted envelopes designed by Polonus artist Leon Kawecki will highlight the theme of the exhibition.

Honorary Chairman of POLPEX-82 is His Eminence Wladyslaw Cardinal Rubin of Rome, Italy, Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

The Exhibition will be held the week-end of February 27-28 in the Great Hall of the Polish Army Veteran's Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Road (at Austin) in Chicago. The hours of the exhibition will be Saturday from 10:00 to 7:00 and Sunday

from 10:00 to 5:00. Admission is free to all.

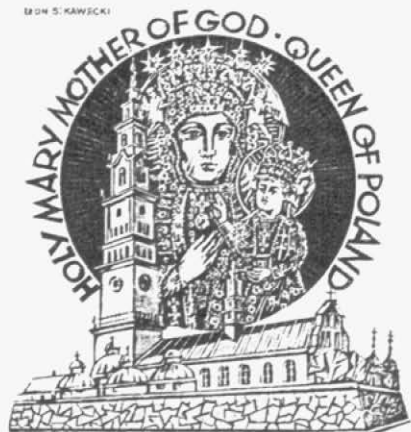
Polpex-82 will be the 43rd Annual Exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society. They will host the Polish-American Numismatic Association who will present exhibits of coins and medals which honor Our Lady of Czestochowa.

More than 150 frames will be in cren competition. All exhibits will be eligible for the Grand Award which will be presented to the exhibit judged Best in the Show. The Polonus Trophy will be awarded to the Best Polish Exhibit, and the Kozakiewicz Research Award will be given to the Polish exhibit which shows the most original research. Gold, silver and bronze Polonus medals as well as



POLPEX 82
HONORS THE
600 ANNIV
OF PATRON
QUEEN OF
POLAND &
GREAT SONS
OF POLAND
H. HOLINESS
JOHN PAUL II
CARDINAL PRI
MAS STEFAN
WYSZYNSKI

LEON S. KAWECKI



600 ANNIV. OF THE VIRGIN MARY OF CZESTOCHOWA HONORED AT POLPEX 82, CHICAGO, IL FEB. 27-28, 1982

LEON S. KAWECKI



600 ANNIV. OF THE QUEEN OF POLAND OF CZESTOCHOWA HONORED AT POLPEX 82, CHICAGO, IL FEB. 27-28, 1982

Two different cachets will adorn Polpex covers which will receive special cancel

other special awards will be given to other worthy exhibits. Judges for the exhibition will be Werner Gruenbaum, James Mazepa and Julius Kaposta.

More than twenty dealers including specialists in Poland, U.S., postal history, United Nations, and Space Topical material will attend. The U.S. Postal Service will have an exhibition station at Polpex-82 and will be selling current U.S. stamps and other philatelic material. Letters mailed at the exhibition will be postmarked

with the special cancellation.

A set of two cacheted envelopes will emphasize the theme of the show with a scene of the Jasna Gora (Bright Mountain) Monastery. The set of covers, once cancelled on each day of the exhibition, will sell for \$2.00. The set of two multi-colored souvenir sheets will sell for \$1.00 and the souvenir card will be \$1.50 or \$2.00 with the special exhibition cachet cancellation. The Show Program which will contain special articles on the theme of the exhibition as well as information about the exhibits and the Society is \$1.00. A special package of all the above is available for \$6.00 (a \$7.50 value) plus postage. All orders for individual items or the package should be sent to John Bartczak, 10428 Avenue "O", Chicago, IL 60617.

The Awards Banquet, the Polish Beeba celebration, will be held Saturday at 7:00 P.M. Tickets \$7.50 per person. Traditional Polish home made food will be served. All are welcomed to attend!

ROCPEX TAIPEI 81 WINNERS

At the recent Republic of China exhibition held at Taipei, member Alfred Szebel attended and served as Assistant Commissioner for the Midwest U.S. Participating and receiving awards were:

Large Silver (Vermeil):

John Bartczak, Galicia Pre-Stamp

James Mazepa, Poland Air Post to

Silver: 1939.

Alfred Szebel, Space

Alfred Szebel, German Field Post.

Bronze:

John Bartczak, Polish Pope

Winston Gruszczyk, Groszy Overprints.

Wally Pawlowski, POW Camp Woldenberg.

NEW MEMBER

Robert W. Johnson

Box 536 Broadbrook, CT 06016

DANGEROUS FORGERIES OF THE OVERPRINTS: WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA 1934 KATOWICE

By STANLEY KRONENBERG



An example of the elaborate overprint forgery (used stamp) compared with a genuine overprint (mint copy). The date of the cancellation on this forgery is 9 Nov. 1933.

Forgeries of Poland, Scott 280, 281, Michel 285, 268, or Ruch 264, 265 were described previously e.g. in *Polonus Bulletin*, April 1947. These and similar other primitive forgeries are easily identifiable by numerous deviations from the originals. Elaborate forgeries also exist, which are described here. These difficult to recognize forgeries are printed typographically with types which are indistinguishable from the originals, (see figure). Small deviations in dimensions exist but are within the range of variations found in genuine overprints and thus measurements and deviations in details of the overprints cannot be used as criteria in expertization. However, the inks of these overprints differ from originals and can be used to identify these forgeries:

RED OVERPRINTS (20 GR. STAMPS): Original ink is scarlet and shows a weak gloss; in forgeries it is brick red and dull.

BLACK OVERPRINTS (30 GR. STAMPS): Original ink is grayish-black and dull; in these forgeries it is black and shows a weak gloss.

In the originals both inks (red and black) show a grainy structure (visible under the microscope), while the inks are distributed in a spotty manner in these forgeries.

All these forgeries were made before World W. II on cancelled stamps. In cases where the overprint is placed over the cancellation or where the date of the cancellation is earlier than May 5, 1934 (the date of the issuance of the overprinted stamps), the identification of these elaborate forgeries is obvious. In all other cases a direct comparison of the suspected stamp with an overprint known for certain to be genuine is necessary.

I thank Mr. Joseph Bieniecki of Granite City, IL for giving me these forgeries for reference.

POLONUS LIBRARY DONORS

The following members made contributions to our library: W. Z. J. Nowicki of London, England; Gary A. Keins of California; Joseph Bieniecki of Granite City, Illinois; and Alfred Szebel of Des Plaines, Illinois. Dziękujemy!

"NIEWAŻNY" (Invalidated) POSTAL CARDS of 1939

By STANISŁAW ŻÓŁKIEWSKI

A correspondent of the late Professor A. Laskiewicz, Mr. Otto Tahl of Dusseldorf, Germany, recently sent me a photostat of a Polish post card (#78 Prof. I. Moseicki) with a very interesting rubber handstamp over the original imprinted stamp. The handstamp reads "NIEWAŻNY" or "invalidated" or "cancelled." He asked me to comment on this very interesting variety. (fig. 1).

Actually, it is not very easy to solve this mystery. To do this, it is necessary to know all the historical facts surrounding the war of September, 1939. A consequence of the German-Russian Non-Aggression Pact of August 23, 1939, was the invasion by the Red Army of the Northeast and Southeast parts of Poland. The Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement of September 28, 1939, established the political boundaries of the divided Polish state which left little of the sovereign Polish republic.

The Soviet Military authorities who occupied the Southeastern part



Figure 1.

of Poland, which was annexed to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, did not initially issue any order to invalidate Polish currency or postage stamps. These continued to be in circulation along side the newly introduced Russian currency and stamps for the early period of the occupation. The following postal rates were put in effect:

	in Polish currency	in Russian currency
Local rate for letters	30 groszy	15 kopeks
Inland rate for letters	25 groszy	30 kopeks
Foreign rate for letters	55 groszy	50 kopeks
Local rate for post-cards	10 groszy	10 kopeks
Inland rate for post-cards	15 groszy	20 kopeks
Foreign rate for post-cards	30 groszy	30 kopeks
Additional fee for registered mail ...	30 groszy	30 kopeks
Additional fee for express mail	45 groszy	80 kopeks

In circulation were Polish post cards which received Russian receiving marks such as the post office in Lwow (Lwiw) (fig. 2), and dispatch marks such as in Kalusz (fig. 3). Also during this provisional period, mixed frankings appeared, as in fig. 4 from the Lwow post office.

In October 1939, it was announced by the Soviet military authorities that an election would take place to the

so-called "National Assemblies", so that the Polish territories under the administration of the Soviets, could be annexed to the already existing Soviet Socialist Republics of the Ukraine and Byelorussia as well as that of Lithuania to the north. After this "election," the part of Poland annexed to the Ukrainian SSR invalidated all Polish postage stamps and postal cards. The post cards had their



П. Т.

Покутський Союз
коопр. з обм. відповідальності в Коломиї

Кооператива Інженерських Робіт

К. І. Р.

кооператива з відповідальністю у ділянці
Львів, Уейського 8. тел. 280-88.

КОЛОМІЯ

вул. Крашевського ч. 15.



Figure 4.

CZYTELNY I DOKŁADNY ADRES - PRZYSPIESZA DORĘCZENIE

KARTKA POCZTOWA

NADAWCA:

*Grigoriy Leon
Mieszkowski / Мещуковський /
режисер Новел. / режисер Новели /
Місхін - / разом з Володимиром /
Г. Г. Г. Г.*



*Maria Grelanka
Kielce*

*ul. Okrzei 40 / m. 8 /
Deutsche Post - Osten
/ Тернопіль /*

Figure 5.

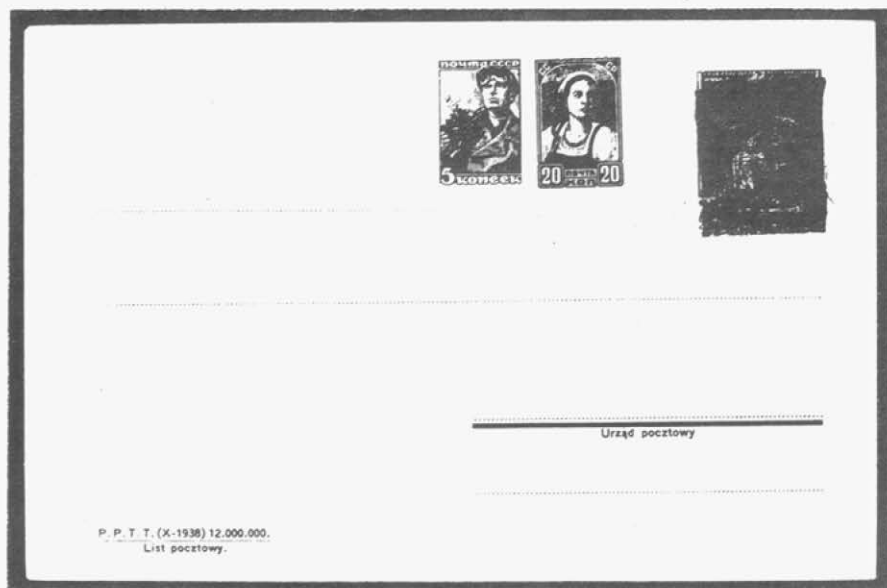


Figure 6.



Figure 7.

imprinted Polish stamp covered by Russian stamps (fig. 5), or had the Polish stamp obliterated with an inked

square (fig. 6 and 7) and Russian stamps added. The example shown in fig. 7 has unfortunately had the Rus-

[illegible][illegible]

sian stamp removed.

In the Eastern part of Poland called Polesie, which was annexed to the Byelorussian SSR, Polish currency and postage stamps were invalidated the first day the Red Army entered. It was here that Polish post cards were handstamped with the rubber device "NIEWAZNY". Fig. 8 shows this mark under the Russian stamp. It can be seen very clearly on the reply part of the post card in fig. 9. As the postal mark in figure 9 reads "Minsk", in all probability, this rubber handstamp was introduced by the postal authorities of the Byelorussian SSR.

NEW ISSUES

"Stary Teatr" 200th Anniversary

A set of four commemoratives were issued in September, 1981 on the 200th Anniversary of the Old Theatre in Cracow.

2 zł. - Helen Modrzejewska, eminent Polish actress; 6,000,000 issued.

2.50 zł. - Stanley Kozmian, politician, writer, manager and director; 6,000,000 issued.

6.50 zł. - Conrad Swinarski, stage manager, scenographer, and co-founder; 6,000,000 issued.

8.00 zł. - "Stary Teatr" building in Cracow & emblem; 1,500,000 issued.

The stamps were steel engraved and rotogravure printed in multicolor in sheets of 50 on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Jacek Brodowski.

European Bisons

Five multicolored perforated stamps of 6.50 zł. face value were printed

by rotogravure in sheets of 50, on chalky paper by the State Printing Works of Securities (PWPW) Warsaw in August of 1981. Six million of each stamp were printed. Designed by Karol Sliwka. The line of five stamps picture a herd of bison in their natural environment.

Workers Movement Anniversary

A set of four stamps was issued commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Polish Workers Movement.

.50 gr. - Bronislaw Wesolowski, a founder of the Democratic Party in the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania; 10,000,000 issued.

2.00 zł. - Malgorzata Fornalska, active member of Polish Communist Party and co-organizer of Polish Worker's Party; 6,000,000 issued.

2.50 zł. - Maria Koszutska, a Revolutionist of 1905-07, leading figure of Polish Socialist Party - the left wing, and of the Polish Communist Party; 6,000,000 issued.

6.50 zł. - Marcin Kasprzak, eminent figure of the 2nd Proletariat and Democratic Party of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania; 2,000,000 issued.

The stamps were multicolor printed in offset in sheets of 30 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Zbigniew Stasik. Issued in August, 1981. —ARS Polona

124 MILLION STAMPS SOLD

The U.S. Post Office sold over 124 million U.S. Commemorative stamps honoring Poland's Millennium of Christianity.



POLAND PERSPECTIVE

Getting through high school, with credits for military service in Germany during W.W. II, does not qualify me to be an economist, whatever that is. However, I think that we should try to relate today's stamp prices and catalog values, in relation to what the average person is earning, as compared to what we earned in the so called good old days, prior to World War II.

If a study were to be made, you would find that earnings today are from ten to twenty times what they were in 1940. I would also add that unemployment was also a problem in 1940 and welfare was not so visible.

I am sure that in 1940 the lowest catalog value, the Scott catalog listed was 2c. If we take inflation into account, I would think that today it should be at least 20c, while I note it is only 3c.

That now brings me to the valuation of stamps with a high catalog value, such as Poland #1, the Krakow overprints and other better issues. On the basis of today's earnings and catalog values, it is possible that many stamps of Poland are still a bargain, relative to their real scarcity. It is the same for good stampless covers, most of which can only be found when a collection is broken up. It should be no surprise that a cover that once could be had for 2-3 dollars, today will sell for 20-30 dollars.

The loaf of bread that we bought for 10c in 1944, today sells for around \$1.00 and our economists predict that with continued inflation, it will be \$9.00 in the next 10 years.

Those of you who have the new Ruch catalogs for 1981, Vol. I and II will find figures given for the quantities printed of Poland issues. You may be surprised to learn that many issues had printings of only 100,000 to 400,000 and that sets in the past years would have complete printings of a million or so. Such low printings

are rather quickly absorbed in the world market. Poland is a major country in this world of ours, even with all its problems. It is our belief the interest in the stamps of Poland will continue to grow and that the wise collector can still find many sleepers at today's prices, that are due for increases in value. Because of the present situation in Poland, we have heard nothing since prior to December, when censorship went into effect. Our last news from correspondents was that all catalog prices were invalid, basically due to the extreme inflation taking place.

—Joseph Bieniecki

REINOWSKI HONORED



At a joint First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club and Society for Czechoslovak Philately meeting held December 20th, a special Golden Eagle Award plaque was given to Roman Reinowski (right) for his efforts on behalf of Slavic philately in the United States. The presentation was made by Joseph J. Janecka, First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club President.

NEW MEMBERS

Donna Rudzinski
238 Redondo Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Tony Szafranski
2443 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116

A Major New Variety: 1978 Jankowski Space Stamp

By JAMES MAZEPA

On June 27, 1978, Poland issued a set of two miniature sheets to honor the first Polish cosmonaut, Major Mirosław Hermaszewski. The stamps were issued the day he and the Soviet Commander Piotr Klimuk were launched into orbit in the Soviet So-

miniature sheets with the portrait of Jankowski and had to redo the stamps to include the portrait of Hermaszewski. The Jankowski sheets were to be destroyed, but it is believed that one pad of 100 sets of sheets was liberated. The Jankowski and Hermaszewski sheets are identical with six stamps and two labels in each. Both have the broad blue border on the 1.50 zloty value and vertical silver strips in the border of the 6 zloty value. Only the portrait is different, and one must look closely to note the difference in design. The Hermaszewski stamps are listed as #2270-1 in Scott, #2563-4 in Michel and #2416-7 in Ruch.

The Ruch catalog makes mention for the first time in the 1981 edition of the Jankowski sheet and calls it a proof. However, since it is not in the design of the issued stamp it should not be called a proof. Nor can it be called an error since it was never regularly issued. Most properly the Jankowski stamps are essays and as such they are an important part of any collection of modern Poland as well as space and Copernicus topicals.



Jankowski stamp with label



Hermaszewski stamp with label

yuz 30. They docked with the Russian space laboratory Salyut 6 to perform various scientific experiments. Soyuz 30 landed July 5th and Major Hermaszewski was awarded the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star Hero of the Soviet Union Medal.

Actually, Major Hermaszewski was a last minute replacement for Cosmonaut Z. Jankowski who was originally chosen as the first Pole to fly in the Soyuz 30 ship. The Polish Post Office originally prepared the two



Jankowski stamp with label



Hermaszewski stamp with label

Most of the 100 sets of sheets (600 sets of stamps) have found their way to the United States and a few to Canada. They are virtually unknown in Europe at this time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 26th:

Polpex Set-up Nite. Bring along a screwdriver, pliers, glass cleaner, wiping cloths, razor blade, and a friend to help out.

Saturday, February 27th:

Show opens at 10 a.m. Postal station and bourse open for business. Official opening ceremony at Noon. Beeba at 8:00 p.m. followed by award presentations.

Sunday, February 28th:

Show opens at 10:00 a.m. Postal station and bourse in operation. Exhibits to be taken down at 5:30 p.m.

POLONUS CREATES LITERARY AWARD

At the January 13th board meeting, your officers established an Annual Polonus Literary Award to be given at Polpex time for the best philatelic article to have appeared in our Bulletin the previous year. The award is to be given whether your article be large or small. The first presentation of this award is to be made at POLPEX 83. So let's get busy and write those articles. Send your material to your Publications Chairman, James Mazepa, Box 1217, Oak Park, Illinois 60304.

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR POLISH INFLATION PERIOD

A period of Polish postal history about which little has appeared in the English language is the subject of an extensive research project by Polonus member Thomas Gobby. The period is the great Polish inflation which extended from 1918 to 1924. Tom is gathering material both for an exhibit (hopefully Polpex 83) and

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for a major article for the APS and Polonus. While he has been able to gather considerable data and information for the period, he still needs help, particularly for the final months of this period.

Here is what is needed:

1. Any article relating to the Polish inflation period (1918-1924) in the English, German or Polish language
2. Any publication which documents Polish domestic or foreign postal rates for the period of December 1, 1923 to May 1, 1924. Preferred would be documents or directives of the Polish post office, and readable xerox copies would be O.K.
3. Information from members who may have covers from the period December 1, 1923 to May 1, 1924. The information needed: amount of franking, date of cancellation, town from which sent, and city and country to which cover was sent. Also needed: whether or not the material was registered, special delivery, etc. Besides letters, information is needed for post cards (domestic and foreign), printed matter, official mail, and covers with postage due. In addition xerox copies of such material would be especially appreciated.

Please send any information or material to: Thomas Gobby, 5713 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, IL 60634.

DO YOUR SHARE TO MAKE POLPEX 82 A SUCCESS!