

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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COUNTING DOWN TO POLPEX 73

Since the conception of POLPEX 73 in early March, 1973, quiet, steady efforts have been made in preparation for the largest philatelic exhibition ever sponsored by the Polonus Philatelic Society. Executive Chairman, Alfred Szebel, has been putting together numerous loose ends and planning, in great detail, the many facets which will go together to make POLPEX 73 a truly memorable and significant event.

The details for the site, first ever in the downtown Chicago area, have been ironed out. Chairman Szebel is now staffing the many committees that will be necessary to make the show a success. The need is very much evident — we will need the unparalleled cooperation of the entire membership. Each of you, in your own way, will be called upon to make POLPEX 73 a success. Never before in our 33 year history has it been so necessary for all of us to band together as a Society, and as a group dedicated to the promotion of Poland's history and culture through philately as now. It is not a supreme sacrifice, but rather a call to all of you to lend your support. Never before has such an opportunity



1000 mk indigo and 5000 mk rose stamps were issued in 1923 on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the birth of Mikolaj Kopernik.

presented itself. This is an event that demands participation — either directly in terms of working on the committees, exhibiting, etc., or indirectly, and probably most importantly, financially.

POLPEX 73 is no small undertaking. It has been launched with the most ambitious and optimistic hope. Never before has our Society put together such a show of projected scope.

The appeals shall come — especially financial. A show of this magnitude does not come to being simply because of ambition and hope. It comes about because of you.

(Continued on last page)

A U.S.A. POLISH COMMEMORATIVE

By THOMAS J. GOBBY

On July 4, 1972 the USA will issue a special 4 stamp set commemorating American colonial crafts: glassmaking, silver smithing, wig and hat making.

The official Chicago Post Office Information Release: 4-1-27: L/72 states:

"Glass was first blown in Jamestown in 1608 and is regarded as the first colonial craft."

An interesting statement! How many of our members are aware of the fact that the first glassmakers in Jamestown, Virginia were Polish? This nation's first factory, was a "glass house"

doubt in anyone's mind that this stamp honors Polish craftsmen and settlers. It is not a dubious and somewhat uncertain claim, but a definite provable claim. This is a stamp to be placed in Polonica collections.



Drawn by V. Gawron

Illustration of the Poles at Jamestown in 1608

My sincerest thanks to Mr. George Jezioranski, one who knows his history, his country and his heritage, who pointed out this most important fact.

NEW MEMBERS

Peter Romaskiewicz
2535 W. Medill
Chicago, Ill. 60647
Ronald G. Hampton
650 Kennedy Road
Lexington, Ky. 40505

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are requested to notify us promptly. Mail us the notice with your new address to: Polonus Bulletin, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

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One inch ad. \$3.00
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Send copy for ad with your check to the editor.



Drawn by V. Gawron

and it came into being because of the efforts of Polish settlers and craftsmen who had come to this country: Zbigniew Stefanski, Jan Bogdan, Jan Mata, Stanislaw Sadowski and Michal Nowicki. Not only these, but other Poles as well, helped in establishing the infant colony and its industry. These facts are well documented in: "Jamestown, Pioneers from Poland" published by The Polish American Congress in 1958. Amply documented, there should be no

Forgeries of Kraków Local Postage Due Ovpts.

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG

Following World War I in the part of Southern Poland which was previously under Austrian rule, a shortage of postage due stamps resulted in the overprinting of regular postage stamps into postage dues by individual Post Offices. So far 161 different, local overprint types have been listed. The situation was exploited by forgers and speculators and so a very difficult philatelic area was created which still requires lots of challenging research to become better understood.

Four of the post offices in Kraków, the main city in southern Poland, issued seven types of overprints. These overprints are among the most common of the local postage dues and therefore it appears strange that just these overprints were more frequently forged than other, more valuable types. They are rather inexpensive stamps and therefore not too much concern is given to their authenticity with the result that a large percentage of these overprints in collections and in dealers' stocks are forgeries. To facilitate their recognition a description and photographs of genuine overprints and of some of the forgeries is presented here. The numbering of types used is the same as in the literature concerning these stamps: Ref. 1, 2,

TYPE 61, Kraków I, Issue I.

The genuine overprint is shown in Fig. 1. It is made by means of a metal stamp with black ink. The dimensions are 19 mm x 18.5 mm, length of "Porto" — 14 mm. Its "P" has a dot in the center of its loop



Figure 1

and a white spot close to the top of its straight line. This white spot is missing in all forgeries (fig. 2, 3, 4).



Figure 2



Figure 3

The forgery shown in fig. 2 has a more pronounced exten-

sion to the left on top of "r", the stars are of a different shape and the details of the wavy line differ from the genuine overprint. The overall dimensions and the ink of this forgery resemble closely those of the genuine stamps. This forgery is noted in ref. 1, p. 706 and in ref. 2, p. 143.

Fig. 3 shows a forged overprint which measures 20 mm x 19.3 mm. The cut of its lettering, stars and wavy line all are quite different. The ink of the overprint is sooty black.

A still different forgery whose overall dimensions and the lettering in "Porto" resemble the genuine one is shown in fig. 4.



Figure 4

The ink of the overprint is violet gray. The star below "Porto" is distinctly misshaped.

TYPE 62, Kraków 1, Issue II.

Black, green or red overprints made typographically in full sheets of 100. Dimensions of the square are 13.5 mm x 12.6 mm (fig. 5). The 79th stamp of the sheet shows the error "potro".

The forged overprint (fig. 6) has the same outside dimensions as the genuine and is also made typographically. Its main distinguishing characteristics are: differently cut letters "R" and both "O". The o's are circles in the genuine overprints and are elongated in the forgeries.



Figure 5



Figure 6

The forged overprints exist in the same colors as the genuine.

TYPE 65, Kraków 11, (Dębniaki), Issue II.

It is a violet overprint in the shape of a triangle whose lines consist of 34 square dots. Inside, in the upper part of this triangle is a star with 6 points. Below the star is the inscription "PORTO". The height and the width of the overprint are 17 mm (see fig. 7).



Figure 7

There is a forgery reported in ref. 1, p. 706 and in ref. 2, p. 144 which can be distinguished by a differently shaped and larger star but I have not come across it.

A very common forgery which has not been listed can be recognized by a triangle which is slanted to the left (fig. 8). This is caused by the fact that the left side of the triangle consists of 12 square dots and the right side of 13. The star is positioned higher than in the genuine overprints.



Figure 8

Fig. 9 shows a curiosity. The overprint on this stamp looks like a caricature of the type 65 overprint but differs from it so significantly that one could think it represents an entirely different, unlisted, overprint type. This can not be the case because the overprint is made on a stamp with fenigi denomi-



Figure 9

nation issued for areas of Poland where Fenigi and Marki currency was in use and where no local postage due overprints were made.

I have not been able to recognize forgeries among the remaining Kraków overprint types issued: types 63, 64, 66 and 67.

REFERENCES:

1. "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", Edited by A. Laszkiewicz and Z. Mikułski Warszawa 1962, Vol. III.
2. "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", A. Laszkiewicz, 'Ikaros', Białystok 1935.
3. "Illustrated Catalogue of Polish Stamps — RUCH", Warszawa (All Issues)

SWEDEN'S CURIE STAMP



Among the three new issues of Sweden showing portraits of Noble prize winners issued on December 10, 1971 was a commemorative honoring Madam Skłodowska-Curie. In 1911 she received the Noble prize in Chemistry. In 1903 she shared this prize in Physics with her husband Pierre Curie and H. A. Becquerel.

EXHIBIT IN POLPEX 73! SEND IN YOUR PRELIMINARY ENTRY FORM NOW!

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Forgeries of Polish Stamps *Falszerstwo Znaczków Polskich*

By Maciej Perzynski

"RUCH" Warsaw, 1971

The issuing agency "Ruch" in Warsaw declared a new position in regards to the popularization of Polish Philately. This is the work of Maciej Perzynski titled "FORGERIES OF POLISH STAMPS". It consists of two parts. In the first part — next to the history of the forgery — the author denotes the types, that is: forgeries to the detriment of the Post Office, forgeries to the detriment of the collector, forgeries tied to war actions (propaganda), fantasy issues, and next, repairs of stamps, reprints, overprints and proofs. He tells how to detect the ways of recognizing repaired stamps and also how to detect and beware of forgeries. He names experts, recognized by the Organization of Polish Philatelists qualified to examine and authenticate the genuineness of all Polish stamps.

Part two is dedicated to all forgeries of Polish Stamps to 1970. The work is beautifully illustrated.

* * *

Postal and Non-Postal Markings and Cancellations

Pieczęcie i stemple pocztowe i nie pocztowe

By Alexander Sękowski

Warsaw Philatelic Organization of Polish Philately, 1970

In topical philately there is a growing number of collectors of postal markings and cancellations, which takes on added importance. They form an integral part of each topical collection.

Cancellations are not like one another. This is why the author

notes that to have philatelic value it is necessary to recognize only those cancellations and markings which were officially used by the post. Other markings, although attractive to collectors, do not have philatelic value.

In his work Sękowski gives an interesting sketch of historical postal markings and cancellations from the time of their appearance on correspondence. This part is well illustrated by the author with photos of the original correspondence, explaining each object and the purpose for which it was used.

It appears that in this work, among the markings and cancellations, we find a series of rarities which are difficult to obtain today.

* * *

25 Years of Mechanical and Commemorative Cancellations in the Opole Region

Stemple mechaniczne i okolicznościowe Opolszczyzny w 25-lecie

By Marian Kościelniak

Wrocław, 1970

(The above entitled work appeared in the "Wrocław Philatelic News".)

At the outset of the work Marian Kościelniak sketches the general characteristic of commemorative cancellations, as well as the reason for use, such as propaganda, reminder of historical events, as well as actual unusual matters. After this characteristic there follows a listing of commemorative markings of the Opole Region to 1969, and there are 141 different types listed. Next to each drawing of the cancellation appear its measurements, place and date of use as well as the purpose,

which caused the issuance of the given cancellation. The cataloging is concluded with a chronological listing of the cancellations.

—H

Translated from the Polish
by C. W. Makowski

NEW ISSUES

The 6th Congress of the Polish United Worker's Party

A set of 8 commemoratives, each of 60 gr value, were issued in two pieces on December 6th, 1971. The first piece includes a stamp with a reproduction of the party poster by W. Zakrzewski, a tab with the inscription "The 6th Congress of the PZPR" along with a second stamp with a reproduction of the "With the Party" poster by T. Żołnierkiewicz. The second piece consists of a sheet of 6 stamps printed in such a way that they form a map of Poland on which are symbols of different branches of industry: a ship being built, a modern corn combine, a hoist mining tower and profiles of metallurgical casting, a home being built, a Polish auto—the Fiat 125 P, and a chemical combine. Printed by rotogravure on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. The first piece was printed in sheets of 30 stamps plus 15 tabs; designed by Stefan Małecki; total quantity issued: 4,500,000. The second piece was printed in sheets of 36 stamps (6x6); designed by Jerzy Walter Brzoza; total quantity issued: 5,400,000.

* * *

30th Anniversary of the Polish Worker's Party

A 60 gr value showing a figure of the fighting worker from a sculpture by J. Jarnuszkiewicz, was issued January 5th, 1972 on the 30th anniversary of the es-

tablishment of the party. Printed by rotogravure and steel engraving on common paper in sheets of 48 by PWPW at Warsaw. Designed by J. W. Brzoza. Quantity printed: 6,000,000.

* * *

The XI Winter Olympics

To commemorate the XI Winter Olympic Games at Sapporo 1972, four stamps and a miniature sheet were issued January 12th 1972.

40 gr. — sledding - 8,000,000
issued.

60 gr. — ski slalom - 8,000,000
issued.

1.65 zł. — biathlon - 4,000,000
issued.

2.50 zł. — ski jump - 1,300,000
issued.

10 + 5 zł. — ski race - 8,500
issued.

Rotogravure printed on chalky paper in sheets of 50 by PWPW at Warsaw. Designed by Helena Matuszewska.

TORPHILEX ANNOUNCED

On the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus a TORPHILEX stamp exhibition will be held in Torun, Poland. A special medal will be struck, special cancellations will be used, and special post cards will be issued. For more information write to I. Głowczyński, ul. Sienkiewicza, 6m., Bydgoszcz, Poland.

THANK YOU!

In spite of the increase in dues, the membership has responded favorably and dues payments are coming in very well. The treasurer thanks you for this and reminds those remaining who have not yet responded that Polonus dues as of 1972 are \$4.00. Send check or money order to treasurer Al Rybarski, 2435 First Ave., River Grove, Ill. 60171.

COUNTING DOWN TO POLPEX

(Continued from first page)

Unlike previous years, we ask for preliminary entries for exhibition. The opportunity is presented to you. Seize it! The satisfaction of exhibiting at such a show cannot be realized, unless you — our member decide here and now — to exhibit! There is much excellent material which you, our members have, that literally cries out for public display, exhibit, and competition. Don't let George do it! You do it! It takes but only a little of your effort and time. Why delay? Why miss such a stellar opportunity? Why deny your fellow collectors the privilege of seeing your collections? In all sincerity, please think about it — it only takes your initiative and determination to do it.

The message? **EXHIBIT!!!!**

How? Fill out the enclosed preliminary entry form — return it — Simple!!!

Entries Chairman:

Thomas J. Gobby

5713 West Warwick Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 14, 1972 —

Program Meeting at the Bagatela Club Hall, 1122 Milwaukee Ave. starting at 8:00 p.m. Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz will speak on Poland's pre-philatelic covers. Doc Kozy has the largest known collection of this material including many historical and rare items.

Friday, July 28, 1972 —

No meeting on second Friday during summer months.

Sunday, August 6, 1972 —

Polonus Picnic at Powers Lake, Wisconsin.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Thomas J. Gobby, Secretary
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

Al Rybarski, Treasurer
2435 First Av., River Grove, Ill. 60171

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, Ill. 60622

Lester Jankowski, Publications Chrm.
7303 Kildare, Lincolnwood, Ill. 60466

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 \$4.00 —

Friday, August 11, 1972 —

Regular Meeting at St. James Clubroom starting at 8:00 p.m.

POLONUS PICNIC AUGUST 6th

Sunday, August 6th is the day set aside for the Annual Polonus Picnic to be held at Dr. L. Kozakiewicz's Aquilla Lodge in Powers Lake, Wisconsin. As we did last year, we will host the Austin Philatelic Club at the picnic. Pack a lunch and bring the whole family. The sandy beach and clear water of Powers Lake are excellent for bathing. There are outdoor stoves for cookouts. Come as early as 9:00 a.m. and stay as late 9:00 p.m.

To get to Powers Lake, Wisconsin from Chicago take US 12 to Richmond, Ill. After passing Richmond, on the curve take Trunk "P" directly to Acquilla Lodge.

There will be no postal cards sent to members this year — this is your only reminder. So mark this date on your calendar: Sunday, August 6th, 1972.

POLONUS JOINS IFSC

Polonus is now a member of the Illinois Federation of Stamp Clubs.