

# BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

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## POLPEX 79 LOOKS VERY PROMISING

As we start the New Year, preparations for our largest exhibit ever are progressing at full speed.

Entry Chairman John S. Bobo reports that exhibit entry forms are still coming in and it appears that we have more entries than we can accommodate. In a few days screening of the entries will begin.

Our foreign commissioners did a wonderful job. Dr. Miet Kamieński supplied us with thirteen collections from Canada. W. Nowicki of England secured six exhibits, R. Jablonski of Australia four; and the Polish Philatelic Federation (P.Z.F.) five.

POLPEX 79 will be an exhibition international in scope. The material is of a great variety and there will be something for everyone to see. If you remember our greatest shows, POLPEX 73 and 76, this year's presentation will top all.

Member Leon Kawecki is doing a magnificent job on the art work. He spent countless hours on designs and his work is superb. His medallion design was just executed in clay and approved. The medallion will be struck by the reputable firm of Medallic Arts Company of Danbury, Conn. known for their high standards of production.



This rare and special commemorative medallion in gilded form is available to those who contribute \$50.00 or more to help cover the expenses of POLPEX 79. If you haven't already done so, make check payable to Polonus and send it to Roman H. Strze-

lecki, 1620 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.

Plan to spend the weekend of March 16-18 with other Polonus members at POLPEX 79 at Chicago's Palmer House.

—Alfred Szebel  
Executive Chairman

## POLPEX 79 PATRONS

### \$100.00 DONORS:

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Association of Polish Philatelists in Connecticut  
Poland Philatelic Society of Milwaukee, Wisc.

### POLPEX 79 PUBLICITY LABELS

which you received with your Polonus Bulletin last month are available at 40¢ per sheet or 3 for \$1.00 from: John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60647.

### BULLETIN AD RATES

Full Page ad ..... \$40.00  
Half Page ad ..... \$25.00  
Quarter Page ad ..... \$15.00

Excessive copy subject to extra charge.  
Extra charge also for illustrations and cuts. Send copy with check to Editor.  
Make check payable to Polonus Phil. Soc.

### DUES FOR 1979

As of January 1, 1979 Polonus dues are \$7.50. Foreign and Canadian members' payments must be in U.S. funds. Membership cards will be sent if you pay for two years. With one year's payment enclose stamped self-addressed envelope for membership card. Mail payment to Roman H. Strzelecki, Treasurer, 1620 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.

### Participate In POLPEX 79!

# Polish Internment Camps in Switzerland 1940-1945

By WINSTON GRUSZCZYK

The sudden collapse of France in June 1940 created a tragic situation for the Polish army which, together with the Allied Forces, was fighting against the Germans. The German army succeeded in cutting off the French and Polish forces' retreat route in the southern part of the Maginot Line. For the encircled soldiers, two choices remained: to surrender, or to attempt to reach the Swiss border and internment

postage free, I recently wrote to the documentation department of the Swiss Ministry of Posts to clarify this point. I have several cards in my collection that were sent abroad (with no stamps) from camps in Switzerland. This led me to believe that perhaps some postal clerks did not follow the rules. However, the answer I received acknowledged that both inland and foreign mail were indeed postage free, including parcel post up to five kilograms and money orders. Registration, special delivery, and air mail required postage, but soldiers were charged only for the additional service these methods required.

Outgoing mail had to be submitted to the Swiss postal clerk installed in each camp. All mail was censored by the military authority and stamped with a camp cancel. Earlier cancels did not name the camp, but most later period cancels included the town name. Also, several hospitals that cared for the interned used distinctive military hospital cancellations. The soldiers could write only about personal matters, and they were prohibited from using the civilian Swiss postal service.

I have in my collection several postcards mailed outside of the camps. Because the soldiers were treated very kindly, many were allowed to visit outside and to work on public installations. Indeed, some even attended Swiss higher education institutions on special permits issued by camp commanders.



Figure 1. Postal card sent to Ostland but returned by Germans as not allowed.

While the majority of the French units followed Marshal Petain's order to surrender, the Polish units crossed the border to Switzerland. The Swiss government opened several camps for interned soldiers, including postal facilities. The postal service, according to the Geneva Convention, is free to prisoners of war, as well as to interned persons. The Swiss government allowed each soldier to send, postage free, two letters and four postal cards each month.

Because writers in both the Polish and American philatelic press have mentioned that only mail within Switzerland was

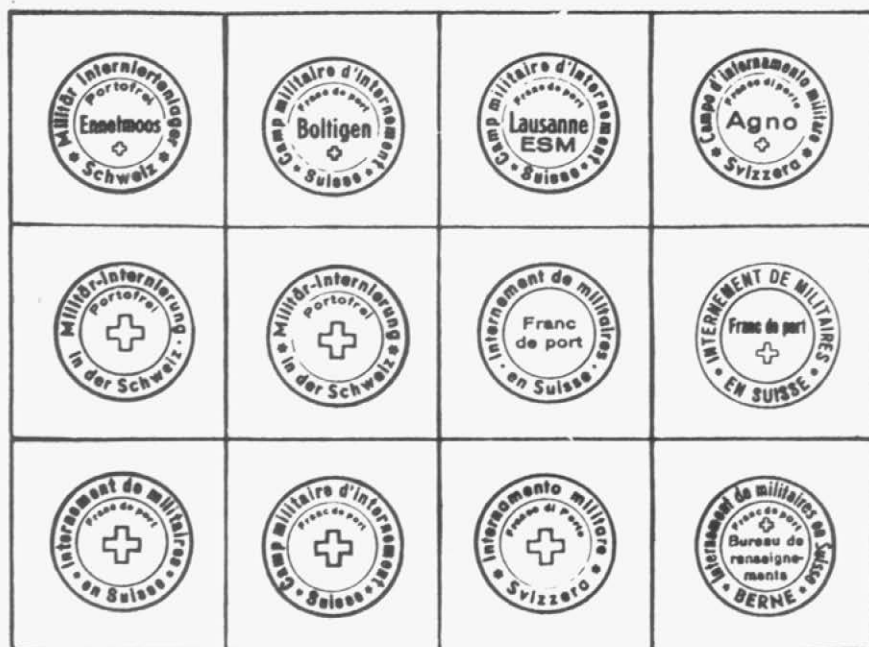


Figure 2. Exemples of camp cancels.

I was fortunate enough to assemble letters sent to camps in Switzerland from many countries of the world, and from both sides of the front line. The largest flow of camp mail occurred between families in German-occupied Poland. Each letter had to be delivered personally to a special window in one of a few main post offices. They were censored first by the Gestapo (German secret police), and later, after reaching Switzerland, by the Swiss censor who applied a special white censor label. A red rubberstamped "Feldpost - direktion" was also added.

Some mail was sent from England and carried British censor tapes with German censor tapes applied in transit between Portugal and Switzerland. Once the mail reached Switzerland, Swiss censor labels were attached also. Letters from Brazil or other So-

American countries have four different censor tapes — Brazil, the United States or Great Britain, Germany, and Switzerland. I find most interesting those postcards sent to the German-occupied part of Russia. Few reached their destination within the very short period of time



Figure 3. Examples of military hospitals

such mail was allowed. Most were returned to Switzerland.

The Swiss authorities did permit the commander of the Polish Interned Division to issue two special "postage" labels in miniature sheets of four and in



Figure 4. Postal card with imprinted stamp and additional "postage" label used in regular mail channel.

large sheets. The use was voluntary, and the money collected from the sale went toward a welfare fund. Also, postcards were issued and stamped with "Internment in Switzerland" in both French and Polish. Some stamps were collected as souvenirs on postcards cancelled in the camp with no postal usage. Other imprinted postcards or stamp labels were used as voluntary payment on genuine postal transmissions.

The war in Europe ended in May 1945. Many interned soldiers returned to Soviet-dominated Poland; others chose to remain in Switzerland as citizens of that country, or to settle in one of the many free countries of the western world. According to a statement issued by the Swiss Ministry of Posts, the camp postal service ceased to exist at the end of March, 1946.

Reprinted from **The American Philatelist**

#### NEW MEMBER

Earl A. Smigelski  
2695 Brownfield Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43227

## BOOK REVIEW

### Do Krainy Wschodzącego Słońca

("To The Land of The Rising Sun") by Bolesław Orliński. Publisher "Głos Polski", 1089 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ont. M6J-1H5, Canada. This soft covered, 94 page book, contains 12 photographs and one map. Price \$3.50, Polish text. It is a reprint of the original book, now 50 years out of print. Polonus members recall Major Orliński was honorary chairman of POLPEX 71. He resides in Toronto.

Lt. Orliński and Sgt. Kubiak flew from Paris in May, however, they crashed in Czechoslovakia. Finally they left Warsaw August 27, 1926 arriving in Tokyo September 5, returning September 25. They flew 12,906 miles across the vast wasteland of central Russia.

The book does not deal with philately as such, but it gives the background information on the flight which justified the L.O.P.P. 5 zł. label, Ruch No. 1-3 of 22. V. 1926 and the special cancellation No. 45, p. 897, P.Z.P. Vol. III. Covers from this flight command very high prices.

—Miet Kamiński

## NEW ISSUES

### Trees—Environment Protection

A set of six stamps was issued in September, 1978 in the Environment Protection series showing the most popular trees in Poland on a background of landscapes in different seasons of the year.

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 50 gr. - Maple tree     | - 10,000,000 |
| 1.00 zł. - Oak tree     | - 10,000,000 |
| 1.50 zł. - Populus alba | - 10,000,000 |
| 4.20 zł. - Pine tree    | - 4,000,000  |
| 4.50 zł. - Willow tree  | - 5,000,000  |
| 6.00 zł. - Birch tree   | - 1,000,000  |

Rotogravure printed in multi-color on chalky paper in sheets of 50 by VEB Wertpapierdruckerei der DDR GDR - Leipzig. Designed by Janusz Towpik.

## IN MEMORIAM — CHESTER MAKOWSKI

By DR. MIECZYSLAW A. LIPINSKI, Poznan, Poland

Chesetr W. Makowski, an honorary member of Polonus, passed away November 30th, 1978. In his time he served Polonus well. Joining up in 1947, he exhibited for the first time at a Polpex and received the Novice Award. Year by year his collecting improved until finally, he began to receive higher awards. He was among the first of Polonus members to exhibit at international shows where his Polish material won gold medals.

He was a neighbor of Dr. Leon Kozakiewicz, a "champion of Polonus". After much unfruitful persuasion, Doc Kozy mentioned to him: "Tomorrow we hold our Polonus meeting. If you fail to join us tomorrow you will become a stranger to me and I shall no longer recognize you on the street". This was the beginning of Chester's adventure with Polish philately.

As the information he desired was mostly printed in the Polish language, he took to learning Polish systematically by reading a lot of books about Poland. He not only read in English, but also in German and in Polish. Making rapid progress, his knowledge of Polish enabled him to translate Polish articles for the "Polonus Bulletin".

His collecting activities were devoted to the Kingdom of Poland, Poland No. 1; the World War II period of POW issues, Fieldposts, Concentration Camp, DP Camp mail, AK post and Warsaw uprising of 1944. Being a lawyer and possessing the means, he assembled magnificent collections.

Being in contact by mail with Chester for many years, I sent him many articles which he trans-



lated and which appeared in the "Polonus Bulletin". Upon my arrival in Chicago in late 1977, I visited Chester who favored me with a heartwarming reception. Two days later he was taken to the hospital to which he was confined for eleven months. Polonus lost a valuable member when the sickness resulted in his death.

His greatest contribution to Polonus was the translation of "The Scout Field Post in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944", a monumental work by Tadeusz Gryzewski. The article was published in installments as a four-page insert every month in our "Bulletin". Upon its completion, it was also published by Polonus in book form. Of all Polonus publications, this was most popular as to date, the edition is practically completely sold out.

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### Editor's Note:

Polonus members attended the wake of Chester Makowski on December 2nd. Rev. Felix Miliskiewicz held a prayer service for the deceased with our members.

# The Last (Unissued) Stamp of Pre World War II Poland

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG

Poland planned for the fall of 1939 a convention of Polish nationals living outside of Poland's borders. To commemorate this event the Polish Ministry of Posts and Tel. decided to issue a stamp and toward the end of 1938 announced a stamp design contest. The contest's jury selected the design of Wacław Boratyński. A plate was engraved in steel by M.R. Polak. World War II prevented the convention from taking place and thus this stamp was never issued.



The black proof of this proposed stamp is shown in the photograph. Its design (not including the names of the artists) measures 22.2 mm x 39.2 mm. It is imperforate and ungummed. These proofs must be very rare. This particular one with the date: "19/VI" hand writ-

ten with black ink on the bottom margin is the only one I know of. It was previously reproduced in "Przegląd Filatelistyczny" #20, of 20 June 1950 and in "Filatelista" 1968, p. 181. It is the last (unissued) Polish postage stamp before the outbreak of World War II.

The artist, Wacław Boratyński, was born on 28 August 1908 in Ryglice, near Tarnów, in Southern Poland. He attended school in Gostyń near Poznań and then studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków. He belonged to a group of artists called "Horned Heart" which was founded by S. Szukalski. Boratyński designed numerous Polish stamps among them the history set of 1938. At the beginning of World War II he volunteered to join the Polish Army, was wounded and died in Lwów on 25 September 1939.

## POLPEX 79 HOTEL RATES

Space arrangements have been made for those persons desiring overnight accommodations at the Palmer House Hotel, State & Madison St., downtown Chicago, during POLPEX 79 Stamp and Coin Exhibition, also hosting the Convention of Polish Philatelic Clubs of U.S.A. and Canada, on March 16-18, 1979.

The rates for accommodations at the Palmer House are:

|        |         |         |         |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Single | \$32.00 | \$34.00 | \$36.00 |
| Twin   | \$40.00 | \$42.00 | \$44.00 |

Reservations for the above may be made through: MATCO Travel, Inc., c/o Mrs. Wanda Szebel, 9041 Emerson Street, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016, Telephone: (312) 299-2580.

If reservations are required, kindly forward one night's deposit with your request.

## NEXT MEETING

**Friday, January 26, 1979:**

General Meeting at Veterans Hall at 8:00 p.m. Reports of various committees and Polpex business to be discussed.

## NEW ISSUES

### Praga 78 Philatelic Exhibition

A souvenir sheet with a 6 zł. value was issued in August, 1978 for PRAGA 78. Showing Jan Žižka of Trocnov, famous commander of the Czech army. This fragment is from the "Battle of Grunwald" painting by Jan Matejko. Multi-



color printed in rotogravure on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Krystyna Tarkowska. Quantity printed 1,200,000 sheets.

### Janusz Korczak

On the 100th anniversary of the birth of Janusz Korczak, a 1.50 zł. commemorative was issued in August, 1978. He was the founder of orphanages, wrote books for children, kept faith with the children to the last hour and went to death with them in Treblinka concentration camp in 1942. Offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 30 by

## 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 —

PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Tomasz Konarski. Amount issued: 6,000,000.

### Communications

A 1.50 zł. value was issued September 20, 1978 on the 20th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Organization of Cooperation in Communications of the Socialist Countries. Offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 20 by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Zbigniew Stasik. Total quantity: 6,000,000.

New Issue information courtesy of Roman Burkiwicz.

## PLEWACKI STAMP SHOW

Women on Stamps will be the theme for the 23rd annual stamp and coin exhibition sponsored by the Adam Plewacki Post Stamp Society at the American Legion Post 799 auditorium, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, N.Y., April 6-8.

Being made available for open competition are 120 frames. Coins, currency and medals will be exhibited along with stamps in open competition. Awards will be presented in all categories.

A prospectus is available from the show committee, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.