

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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A U.S. COPERNICUS STAMP IN 1973

By BELMONT FARIES

The following article appeared in the SUNDAY STAR, Washington, D.C., on February 13th, 1972. Mr. Faries, who is a Staff Writer for the STAR, is also Editor of the SPA JOURNAL.

The first commemorative to be issued in 1973, as announced by the U.S. Postal Service, will honor Nicolaus Copernicus, the Polish astronomer who proved that the earth was not the center of the universe but revolved about the sun.

Copernicus (Mikołaj Kopernik) was born on February 19, 1473 at Torun on the Vistula where his father was a merchant of some standing. He studied canon law and mathematics and observed the heavens with the naked eye to prove his calculations of the celestial motions. His six-part book "On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres," which he saw only shortly before his death in Frombork May 24, 1543, laid the foundations for modern astronomy.

The request for the United States stamp for the 500th anniversary of his birth came from the Polish National Alliance, the Polonus Philatelic Society of



Nicolaus Copernicus

Chicago and a leading Polish-American philatelist, Myron E. Steczynski.

A 5,000-frame international philatelic exhibition, POLSKA 73, is planned by the Polish Philatelic Federation in the halls of the Poznan International Fair in August, 1973, and Poland, which has issued 26 of some 40 stamps honoring Copernicus, can be expected to add to the list.

Philatelic Recollections From The First Years of World War I – 1914-1918

By St. Żółkiewski

(Translated by Chester W. Makowski)

Dr. Jan Dudzinski, one of the foremost Polish philatelists of the older generation, tortured and killed by the Nazis at Oświęcim on July 12, 1941, in his article titled "Austriackie Poczty Okupacyjne w Dawnym Królestwie Kongresowym od 1914 do 1918" (Austrian Occupation Post in the Former Congressional Kingdom from 1914 to 1918), writes about the following activity of postal authorities in the first phase of the occupation by the Austro-Hungarian Armies within the boundary of the Kingdom of Poland also known as the Congressional Kingdom.

In the history of the post under Austrian occupation in the Southern part of the Congressional Kingdom, it is necessary to show two phases: prior to the Battle of Krasnik, September 14, 1914 and after this defeat. The defeat at Kasnik caused the reverse of the (c.i.k.) Austrian Army and further struggle with the Russian Army, this time already on the terrain of Old Galicia, which was gradually taken by the Russians, coming to Cracow and Limanowa. Finally the Battle at Gorlice pulled after it Army movements in the opposite direction, Central Galicia was freed, and also part of Eastern Galicia, and the Austrian Armies again occupied the entire Southern Congressional Kingdom.

A characteristic feature differing the first from the second phase is that, in the first phase existed occupied civil posts, and in the second phase, military

posts. In the first phase, when the Legions, together with the Austrian Army, occupied only a border strip of the Kingdom, it was decided to establish postal service in the occupied territory which would, as a first assignment, service the military, not excluding the possibility that the civilian population could use the post, which would have the privilege of sending regular and registered correspondence and also money orders. After an understanding of the Military authorities and the Austrian Postal Inspector in Cracow, the initiation and organization of such a post was consigned to the Commissioner of the Inspectorate, Mr. Henry Heilmann, who appointed the following directors:

Simon Zaczek on Sept. 2, 1914 in Olkusz,

Valentie Forsys on Sept 6, 1914 in Miechów,

Joseph Mueller on Sept. 8, 1914 in Wolbrom.

Postal offices created in places exposed, like in the given instance, were called 'erarialnymi', and differed from the regular in that maintenance could not be administered by civilians, that is postmasters and dispatchers, but only officials. In view of the obligation in war time, the newly created offices sent all collected material to Cracow, where it was censored and then sent to the given addressees.

Postal markers were prepared hurriedly, and in the meantime, temporary ones with double ring



Illustration 1

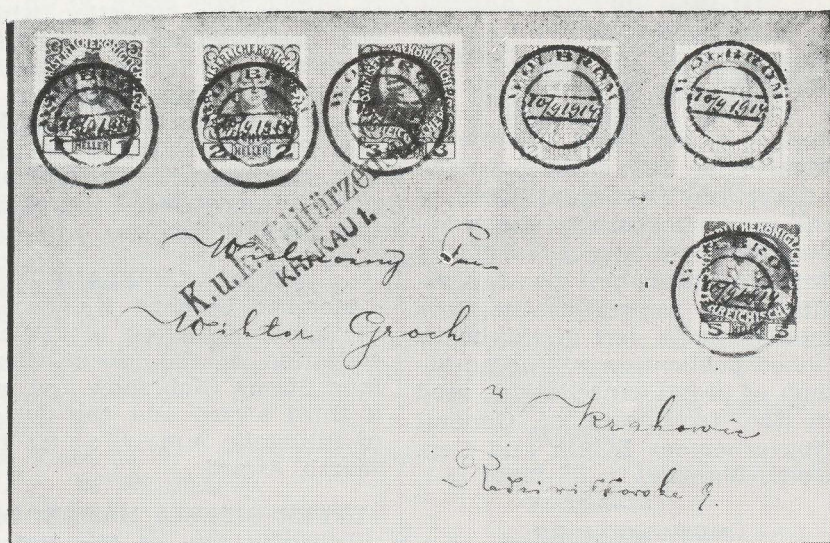


Illustration 2

and a cross bar without dates (which were written in by hand on the cross bar) were furnished to the new offices (see Illustrations 1 and 2). The actual metal killers, in the form of a double ring and cross bar with dates, came after September 14, 1914. At the time after the Battle of Krasnik, the directors of these three post offices, received circular telegrams recommending their disbanding and evacuation to Cracow. There was not time at bureaus situated further from the border line, like Wolbrom and Miechów, to bring the cancellers into use. Only in Olkusz, which was located nearest to the border, and separated from the Russian Army by tunnel, intended to be blown up in an emergency, evacuation was carried out a day later and here for a short time, the metal canceller was utilized.

In their program published for the year 1972, the Polish Alliance of Philatelists planned to re-edit the article of Dr. John Dudzinski. From the progress made we expect that this publication will appear in the first months of 1972. This will encompass the history of the organization of the postal network in the territory of the Congressional Kingdom occupied by the Austro-Hungarian as well as the German Army. A part of this mentioned publication will be an album of postal cancellations used in the territories of General Gouvernement Lublin and Gen. Gouv. Warsaw.

NEW MEMBER

John Drzewicki
729 Oxford St.
Sarnia, Ontario
Canada

THANKS TO THE UNION OF POLISH PHILATELISTS IN GREAT BRITAIN

POLPEX 1972 honored the Polish Philatelic Movement throughout the world as its theme. Among the most active philatelic clubs of the many found in countries other than Poland is the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain. Besides the publishing of their "Komunikat Filatelistyczny" and "Biuletyn Filatelistyczny" their exhibition, POLPHILEX is presented annually, and is one of high caliber.

Polonus enjoys a close relationship with this British group. At the last POLPEX Czesław Słania served as its Honorary Chairman. The British group had put together a wonderful collection of the engraver-artist's stamps of Sweden, Denmark, Greenland and Iceland, plus special art engravings. Because of our relationship, they loaned us the collection which was presented as the honorary exhibit at our last show.

Polonus wishes to express its appreciation to the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, and especially to their president, Colonel Jan Z. Berek, for this friendly gesture.

FROM CLEVELAND

Member Leonard Zeller of Cleveland exhibited his Poland collection at the recent Cleveland Stamp Club show and won a third award and the Society of Philatelic Americans Research Award.

UPPER SILESIA HANDBOOK

In this issue of the Buletin appears the final segment of the lengthy "Handbook of Upper Silesia" by Dr. Rayal De Ragan, and edited by D. Meinung.

One printing set the plates facing the same direction while the other inverted one of the plates creating a tete-beche combination separated by a white tab.

Three plates were used for each value and can be differentiated by the border numbering as follows:

Plate I — 25 fen: 2-50F, 5M, 7-50F, 10M, 12-50F, etc.

1 Mk.: 5M, 10M, 15M, etc.

2 Mk.: 10M, 20M, 30M, etc.

Plate II — 25 fen: M.2-50, M.5, M.7-50, M.10, etc.

1 Mk.: M.5., M.10., M.15., M.20., etc.

2 Mk.: M.10., M.20., M.30., etc.

Plate III — 25 fen: 2M.50, 5M., 7M.50, etc. and in sheets of 100 stamps.

1 Mk.: In sheets of 100 stamps only.

2 Mk.: In sheets of 100 stamps only.

All of these same plates were used at both printing houses.

Overprint

600,000 stamps of each denomination received the overprint. Of these 39,600 copies of the 25 fen, 38,500 copies of the 1 Mk. and 29,100 copies of the 2 Mk. stamps were not sold. All of the overprinting was done at the Zawadzki Printing House at Vilna.

Three plates were used and can be characterized by the following:

Plate I —

a. Field 27 - N ŚLAŠK instead of NA ŚLAŠK.

b. Field 31 - Space between 2 and Mk. 10½ instead of 12 mm.

c. Field 78 - Space between N and A 1½ instead of 00½ mm.

d. Field 59 - NA ŚLAŠ instead of NA ŚLAŠK.

e. Field 58 - NA ŚLA instead of NA ŚLAŠK.

f. Field 60 - NA LA instead of NA ŚLAŠK.

g. Field 60 - NA LAŠK instead of NA ŚLAŠK.

h. Field 23 - Thin N in NA,

i. Field 17 and 63 - Thin A in NA.

k. Field 44 - Thin K in ŚLAŠK.

l. Field 27 and 60 - Broken letter A.

m. Printed space between 2 and Mk.

The first sheets printed (the red 25 fen value) do not have the errors a. through g. The later printings show errors a. through c. and the final stamps printed include also errors d. through g.

This plate contained 100 stamps.

Plate II — This consisted of two plates of 50 stamps used to overprint the 1 and 2 Mk. sheets which were printed in normal position.

Plate III — This also consisted of two plates of 50 stamps but was used to overprint the 1 and 2 Mk. sheets which were printed tete-beche. As part of the earlier plate was used but inverted the following errors occurred again:

d. Field 40 - ŚLAŠ instead of ŚLAŠK.

g. Field 30 - LAŠK instead of ŚLAŠK.

n. Letter N in NA lower by ½ mm

o. Field 9 - A ŚLAŠK instead of NA ŚLAŠK.

p. Field 48 - ŚLAŠK missing.

Imperforate																Errors															
Value	Color	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m	n	o	p															
25 fen	red	*	*	*																											
25 fen	dark green	*	*	*					*	*	*	*	*	*																	
1 Mk.	blue							*						*	*																
1 Mk.	dk. brown													*																	
2 Mk.	violet				*			*						*		*															
2 Mk.	orange													*	*																
25 fen	red	*	*	*	*																										
25 fen	dark green	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*																	
1 Mk.	blue							*						*																	
1 Mk.	dk. brown													*																	
2 Mk.	violet				*									*		*															
2 Mk.	orange													*	*																

Perforated 11½																
25 fen	red	*	*	*	*											
25 fen	dark green	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
1 Mk.	blue							*						*		
1 Mk.	dk. brown													*		
2 Mk.	violet				*									*		*
2 Mk.	orange													*	*	

Errors

The 25 fen red and 2 Mk. violet are known with double overprint. Other errors are printers waste.

All stamps of the 1 and 2 Mk. values in both colors, perforated and imperforate, occur tete-

beche.

Validity

These stamps were in circulation until June, 1922, when Central Lithuania was annexed by the Republic of Poland.

— FINIS —



DR. KAMIENSKI'S LECTURE AT THE FEBRUARY 11th MEETING

Once again it was **Polonus's** distinct pleasure to have Canadian member, Dr. Miet Kamiński, give an informative lecture which was illustrated by some really superb color slides. His subject — *Kraków Overprints*. No stranger to our members, this was the Doctor's third such presentation.

Those who braved the snow and cold were well rewarded. The Doctor knows his subject well and proved this by more than adequately illustrating his subject with not only colored slides but with mock-ups of the lino-type slugs used to apply some of the overprints.

He began the talk by briefly describing the political and historical background which led to the issuance of these stamps. He stated that it was a pity that so few collectors had any real knowledge of these issues. He cited Volume One of *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe* as the best source of authentic information for the average collector, with about 25 pages devoted to the subject. Supplementing the written data a collector would also need a 10 power magnifying glass, good light source, and some genuine stamps to use for comparison. With patience and study the average collector could acquire a good working knowledge of the issue.

In all, ten different printers forms were used to produce the issue and Dr. Kamiński showed numerous examples of stamps and varieties to illustrate each form. Many forgeries and fakes, in used, mint and on cover were shown. Forged examples of Z. Mikulski's expertizing mark were

also shown. Dr. Kamiński also stated that the following should be regarded with suspicion: late printing, second printing, Form V, the signatures of Berest and Muller (the latter, a crowned eagle design) as much of this material has proven to be not genuine. A further caution was as to material offered "as is". In short, don't buy unless you're sure.

From all of us who had the privilege to be there, we send our best wishes and congratulations to Dr. Kamiński for another superb presentation.

— T. J. Gobby

IN OUR MAIL BOX

334 E. 9th St.
N.Y.C., N.Y.
3/28/72

Dear Mr. Schafer:

I want to thank you for the good old Polish hospitality expressed by yourself and all the other members of **Polonus** I met at the Polpex. When I think that you never knew me before the trip to Chicago, you really didn't treat me as a stranger, but rather as an old friend.

Also, I want to thank you and all concerned for allowing my exhibit to be displayed and judged. During my entire stay in Chicago, yourself, and others never had the attitude that I was the immature newcomer, but rather, as the equal who needed help to get started.

"Bóg Zapłać!"

Very sincerely,
Joe Uszkowski

DECEASED

Prof. Dr. Med. Z. Kukulski
Kraków, Poland

RESIGNED

John R. Holloway

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, April 28, 1972 —

Program Meeting with Chester Makowski as speaker. An active philatelist, Mr. Makowski has exhibited at many international shows and received major awards.

All attending this meeting will receive free a copy of a special Poland's Millenium edition of Extension Magazine from August, 1966.

Meeting gets under way at 8 p.m. at the St. James Clubroom.

Friday, May 12th, 1972 —

Business Meeting.

Friday, May 26th, 1972 —

Special Meeting at COMPEX opening at La Salle Hotel. Meeting room to be announced.

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.

NEW MEMBERS

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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 \$4.00 —

NEW ISSUES

Royal Castle in Warsaw

On October 14, 1971 a 60 gr. stamp was issued showing the Royal Castle before its destruction. Printed in sheets of fifty on chalky paper by multicolor rotogravure by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by K. Śliwa.

Polish Air Force of 1939

Continuing with the series of stamps commemorating the martyrdom and struggle of the Polish Nation during 1939-45, the Polish Post issued a set of three stamps picturing airplanes on October 14, 1971:

90 gr.—Chaser "P-11 C" constructed by engineer Z. Puławski. 3,000,000 issued.

1.50 zł.—PZL 23 A "Karaś" light bomber, constructed by S. Prauss. 3,000,000 issued.

3.40 zł.—PZL 37 B "Łoś" fighter plane, constructed by J. Dąbrowski. 2,000,000 issued.

Rotogravure printed in sheets of fifty on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by J. Brodowski.

NEW MEMBER

Larry Tibbetts, Jr.
25785 Evergreen St.
Hayward, Ca. 94544