

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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OUR FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Polonus celebrates its 45th Anniversary this year at POLPEX 84 on March 31st and April 1st at the Polish Veterans (SWAP) Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago.

The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission will be free.

Special cacheted covers were printed, one for each of the two days of the show. These are available at \$1.00 each plus postage. Souvenir sheets of our previous Polpex show in 1981 were overprinted POLPEX 84 and will be issued for this year's event. A set of two sheets with descriptive folder are \$1 plus postage.

Souvenir Show Cards from the 1981 show were also overprinted and issued. These POLPEX 84 souvenir Show Cards are priced at \$1.50 unused; and \$2.00 cancelled plus postage. A program catalog will

also be published for POLPEX 84, and the price of this item is \$1 plus postage. All of the Polpex items

total up to \$7.50. As a special package deal for all above listed items, Polonus is charging only \$6, plus postage. Available from John Bartczak, 10428 South Avenue "O", Chicago, IL 60617.

A panel of judges will a-

ward medals in five categories, with the grand award going to the best exhibit from all categories.

In addition, a gold literature award will be given to the author of the best article that appeared in the *Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society* during 1983.

Because the exhibition is being held at the Polish Veterans Building, there is room for but 112 frames. A twenty dealer bourse will operate along with a US postal station using a special Polpex cancellation. Mem-

Theme:
SUMMER
OLYMPICS
IN
LOS
ANGELES



bers are reminded to make purchases at the postal station as they must sell a certain quota if we are to continue having them at future Polpex shows. Attending members are also asked to partake in the Beeba Buffet Dinner, Saturday night at 7:00 PM as this will be the official 45th anniversary get-together along with the award presentations.

Last year's POLPEX was held

downtown and the expenses were enormous. We're running this year's show on a smaller scale but we still need your support and participation to make it a financial success and make up for last year's poor effort.

Chicagoland members are requested to come out on Friday night at 7:00 PM to help put up the show. Let's make our 45th Anniversary POLPEX 84 a great event!

GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY



One of the more interesting yet neglected aspects of Polish philately are the City Post issues. Most of these stamps were issued during the occupations of the First World War. The best known are the issues of the city of Warsa, but over a dozen other town had a local post. The usual function of these posts was to transport the mail from the post office, usually a military post office, to the local address, for a set fee. A city post existed in the city of Zarki during the Austrian occupation. Genuine stamps of the three issued sets are difficult to find, as are philatelic

letters with these issues. But genuine commercial mail with these stamps are rarities. Shown here is an example of a registered letter sent from Kraków on October 8, 1918, to Zarki. The letter arrived at the Austrian fieldpost office on the 12th, and was handed over to the local post. The 12 heller of the first issue, the value designated for the local delivery of registered letters, was applied and tied to the letter with the cachet 'ZARKI - KROL. POLSKIE.' This was the third day that the local post office was in use, and it lasted less than a month.

"WEICHSEL" ON THE RIVER DONAU

21 October:
 Capt. J. Kuderewicz
 General d. Weichsel
 5 Feldpost 505

Feldpostbrief.



An
 Frau Helene Jannemann



Velbert a/c
 Sontun. ex. b

Vistula on the Danube, sounds very strange, but it is a fact. In 1916 during World War I, there was attached to the Austro-Hungarian Donauflotille (flotilla on the River Danube) a unit of German motorboats. One of the motorboats, surprisingly, was named Weichsel or Vistula. The mail from this small boat is extremely rare.

Enclosed is a photograph of a Field Postal Letter with the German Field Postmark — K.D. Feldpost, dated 20 January, 1918. In the lower portion of the letter is a round purple cachet with the legend — KAISERLICH DEUTSCHE MOTORBOOT-FLOTILLE a. (an) d. (der) DONAU/BRIEFSTEMPEL / PANZERBOOT WEICHSEL.

It is handwritten by the sender, D. (Deutsche) FELDPOST 505. According to Viceadmiral O!af R. Wulff this boat was taking part in the fight on the Romanian front.

—Jozef Kuderewicz, M.D.

POLAPEX 84

POLAPEX 84, the annual stamp exhibition of the Poland Philatelic Club of Milwaukee, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 5-6, 1984, at Hart Park in Wauwatosa, a western suburb of Milwaukee. Hours will be Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. The Hart Park location is a new one for the exhibition and is located 2 blocks south of West State Street & North 72nd Street in the City of Wauwatosa. Dealers interested in participating in the twenty dealer bourse should write Erik Martini, Box 1266, Milwaukee, WI 53201, for further information.

NEW MEMBER

Christine Sombret
 Ecole Anatole

Mazingarbe, France 62670

We welcome the President of the Philatelic Society in France, Christine Sombret, who was just voted in as a new Polonus member.

Types of Censorship Handstamps on Mail and Telegrams of the Recent Martial Law Period in Poland

By JOE MICHAUD

Enough censored material is presently available to at least make a good beginning at categorizing the many censorship handstamps used during the martial law period (13.12.81 - 30.12.82) in Poland. The first article on this subject to appear in the United States was that of Thomas Hobby (American Philatelist, Apr. 1982). At that time only 3 distinctive types of handstamp and one oddity had been identified. Since then a large variety of markings have been reported and I'm sure there are many more to come. This is a field with a great deal of potential for the cover collector and postal historian. Whether one wishes to make a general study of the period or specialize in any of several possible areas, this is a field which one can still enter at a modest cost.

Initially I worked with a very simple method by which each new handstamp that came to my attention was given the next higher number, e.g. Type I, Type II, etc.. This soon proved to be unsatisfactory. A system for categorizing handstamps has to have some internal logic as well as be open-ended. After a period of experimentation I have decided upon the following system which includes, so far, 7 categories:

1. 'Censored' handstamps used on all mail and telegrams except that of militia prisoners and detainees.
2. 'Not Censored' handstamps used during the early period of censorship.
3. Censor Office Circular Numbered handstamps.
4. 'MILITIA' Militia Numbered handstamps.
5. 'Censored' handstamps from detainment facilities.
6. Military handstamps.
7. Censor numbers found on telegrams.

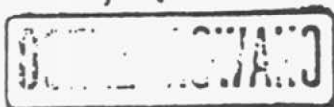
Thus the first arabic numeral refers to a particular category of handstamp as described above. If new categories of usage are identified they can easily be added. The category number is followed by a capital letter indicating the type. This is followed by the arabic numeral 1 if it is either the first or only type to be identified for that category; e.g. 1A1 for the most common handstamp 'CCENZURCOWANC'. Subtypes are indicated by assigning the next higher arabic numeral following the letter; e.g. 1A1, 1A2, 1A3, etc.. I found that some handstamps, such as the boxless 'CCENZUPOWANC', were probably oddities rather than discrete types. These I categorized by adding a lower case letter to the 3 preceding characters (see 1A1a, 1B1a, etc.). I will now describe and categorize all the

handstamps of which I am aware to date. Illustrations of all handstamps in a particular category will be given at the head of that category.

1. 'Censored' handstamps



Type 1A1



Type 1B1



Type 1C1



Type 1D1

Figure 1

1A1

The box measures 16mm by 54mm. The lettering measures 10mm by 49mm. This handstamp occurs on all types of mail, incoming, outgoing and domestic. It occurs in black and various shades of blue, red and green. After the introduction of category 3 handstamps it did not occur alone on incoming and domestic mail.

1A1a

This is the boxless 1A1 reported by Gobby. All originals and photocopies of 'boxless' censor handstamps that occur as well with a frame, I have found to contain traces of a frame. I suspect these boxless varieties are the result of a badly worn frame or a case of the frame having been cut away. (See also 1B1a and 1C1a.)

1B1

This type has the same measurements as 1A1 except that the corners of the frame are rounded.

1B1a

This is another oddity; a boxless variety of 1B1. In the example I have there is the faint trace of a curve in the lower left hand corner and a few specks of ink in other places where the frame might have been.

1C1

The box measures 10mm by 61.5mm. The lettering measures 4mm by 52mm. This stamp is found alone on telegrams and in conjunction with category 3 handstamps on cover. This stamp is much scarcer on cover than 1A1. It occurs most commonly in carmine and violet and is found only on incoming and domestic mail. CCENZUROWANO means CENSORED.

1C1a

Same as 1C1 with a few specks of ink where the frame would have been.

1C1

This handstamp has the same measurements as 1C1 except that the corners are rounded. So far this has only been seen on telegrams.

2. 'Not Censored' handstamps



Type 2A1



Type 2B1



Type 2C1

Figure 2



Type 2D1, reduced

2A1

The box measures 23.8mm by 54.6mm. The lettering measures 9.5mm by 25.5mm (top line) and 4mm by 46.2mm (bottom line). This stamp occurs alone on incoming and outgoing mail. It has not been reported on domestic mail. It occurs most commonly in magenta, carmine and violet. It seems to have gone out of use in February 1982.

NIE CENZUROWANO means NOT CENSORED

2B1

The box measures 24mm by 50mm. The lettering measures 10mm by 41.5mm (top line) and 5.5mm by 45.2mm (bottom line). This handstamp has been reported in black and shades of blue, red and green. It was used from the beginning of censorship but was discontinued after the first few weeks. The latest date I have seen is 9.1.82. It was used alone on outgoing and incoming mail and in conjunction with category 3 & 4 handstamps on domestic mail. This handstamp is most commonly found on official mail. WOLNE OD CENZURY means FREE OF CENSORSHIP.

2C1

The box measures 24mm by 44mm. The lettering measures 6mm by

35mm (top line) and 3.5mm by 31mm (bottom line). This handstamp is found in carmine and violet on telegrams. The few examples reported on cover may be favor strikes.

2D1

This handstamp was reported by Binder in Sammlerdienst. Unfortunately, no measurements were given and we have only a reduced illustration of a fair copy. This was found on a letter from Switzerland to Legnica. BEZ CENZURY means WITHOUT CENSORSHIP.

3. Censor Office Numbered handstamps



Type 3A1



Type 3A2



Type 3A2a



Type 3B1

Figure 3

This category of handstamps is never used alone as it only indicates the number of the censorship station. Numbers run from 001 to 999. This stamp is generally found with 1A1 and less frequently with 1C1. It has been reported with 2B1. It occurs in black and various shades of red, green and blue. Upon examination it is noticeable that in some stamps the decorative stars between the two rings are closer to the inner ring than in others. This produces 2 subtypes: 3A1 and 3A2.

3A1

The outer circle measures 29.5mm and the inner measures 18mm in diameter. The lettering is 2.5mm high. From the inside of the inner ring to the outer point of the star there is a measurement of 2mm or less. Most of the numbers from 001 to 250 are of this type.

3A2

Measurements are as above except for the distance from the inside of the inner ring to the outer point of the star which is 2.5 to 3mm. Most numbers from 250 to 999 are of this type.

3A2a

This is an oddity. The inner ring of this example of #940 is missing. #940 normally occurs with inner ring intact.

3B1

The outer circle measures 33.5mm and the inner 19mm in diameter. The lettering is 3.5mm high. Only one cover of this type

has been reported so far. It is struck in black and appears cruder to the eye than 3A1 or 3A2. The censor number is 957. Does anyone have a 957 to report of the normal type?

4. 'KWMO' - Militia handstamps



Type 4A1



Type 4B1



Type 4C1



Type 4C2



Type 4E1



Type 4E1



Type 4F1



Type 4G1



Type 4H1a

Figure 4

During the first week of censorship mail was censored by the militia at militia headquarters and received a circular militia handstamp as well as 1A1 or 2B1. 'KWMO' stands for: Komenda Wojewódzka Milicji Obywatelskiej (People's Police County Command or Headquarters). KWMO handstamps are quite scarce having been used for such a short period before they were replaced by the Censor Office Numbered handstamps (3A1, 3A2, etc.). Distinction between the various types have to do with a) style of writing the KWMO phrase at the upper half of the circle, b) style of writing the town name at the

lower half of the circle, and c) style of writing the information in the center. Different major types receive a new capital letter, subtypes receive an additional arabic numeral and oddities or errors are indicated by adding an additional lower case letter in the fourth position. KWMO handstamps have been reported in black and various shades of red and blue. On all handstamps of this category reported so far the outer circle measures 29mm and the inner 17mm in diameter. Capital letters measure 3mm in height.

4A1

KWMO initials only; town name in upper and lower case; 3-line, center: Do (For)/ pakietow (packages)/ 2-digit number

4B1

KWMO initials only; town name in upper case; center same as 4A1.

4C1

KOMENDA WOJEWODZKA MO all in caps; town name in upper and lower case; center same as 4A1

4C2

Same as 4C1 except for different type face. Letters are narrower, more square and without serifs.

4D1

Komenda Wojewodzka MO in upper and lower case; town name in upper and lower case; center same as 4A1.

4E1

Same as 4D1 except that center is empty.

4F1

Komenda Stoleczna MO in upper and lower case; town name in upper and lower case; center same as 4A1. Note that Stoleczna (Capitol) replaces Wojewodzka (County).

4G1

Printing in outer ring reads: Komenda Milicji Oby. Woj. Olsztynskiego (Headquarters People's Police County of Olsztyn) in upper and lower case; center same as 4A1.

4H1a

KOMENDA MO in caps; town name: Woj. Kieleckiego in upper and lower case; center same as 4A1. Note that 'w' in 'pakietow' is an inverted 'm'.

5. Detainment Facility handstamps

CENZUROWANO

Type 5A1

CENZUROWANO
Sąd P. Zielen Góra
dnia _____

Type 5C1

OCENZUROWANO

dnia 5.1.82.
Sędzia

CENZUROWANO

Sędzia Sądu
Warszawskiego O
w Warszawie

Type 5C2

Type 5D1

Figure 5

The following handstamps were used in prisons and detainment camps which held Solidarity members during and in some cases after martial law. Given that 50 detainment camps were set up (one for each wojewod and one for the city of Warsaw) and that only a few such handstamps have been reported so far, there is a lot more to be learned in this area. Some stamps in this category were used before, during and after the martial law period. Szebel reports a handstamp similar to 5D1 in use in 1966 at the SB (Security Forces) headquarters on Padowiecki St. in Warsaw. Type 5A1 was found on a cover dated 29.4.83. Thus many of these handstamps were used during martial law but are not specifically martial law handstamps.

Since I had so few covers to work with from this category, and not knowing how many types and subtypes would eventually come to light, I decided to categorize the major types by the number of lines of print the handstamp consisted of. Thus 5A1 is a 1-line handstamp, 5B a 2-line category and so forth. As yet no 2-line handstamp has been reported.

5A1

Boxless, 1-line stamp. The lettering measures 4.5mm by 45mm. Found on mail in and out of detainment facility at Zielona Góra. Handstamp reads:

CENZUROWANO

CENSORED

5A2

Boxless, 1-line in upper and lower case. Reported by Binder in Sammlerdienst (a German philatelic periodical). No measurements were provided. Found on a letter from a detainment facility in Bydgoszcz, 30.4.82. Handstamp reads:

Cenzurowano

Censored

5C1

Boxless, 3-line stamp. Top line is all caps with 3mm lettering. Next 2 lines are in caps and lower case. Caps measure 2.5mm and lower case 1.5mm. Found on local cover to detainment facility in Zielona Gora. Handstamp reads:

CENZUROWANO
Sad Rej. Zielona Gora
dnia _____

CENSORED
Regional Court Zielona Gora
date _____

5C2

Boxless, 3-line handstamp. Lettering in first line, all caps, measures 3mm by 53mm. Next 2 lines in upper and lower case. Caps measure 2.3mm and lower case measures 1.5mm. Reported by Szebel. Used at detainment facility in Warsaw-Bialoleka during martial law. Handstamp reads:

CENZUROWANO
dnia _____ 19____
Sedzia

CENSORED
date _____ 19____
Judge

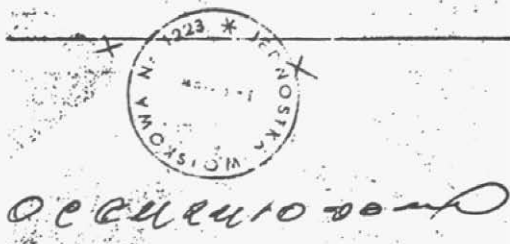
5D1

Boxless, 4-line handstamp. Top line is all caps with 3.3mm lettering. Next 3 lines in caps and lower case. Caps measure 2.2mm and lower case 1.5mm. Found on mail forwarded to Warsaw from detainment facility in Bialystok. Handstamp reads:

CENZUROWANO
Sedzia Sadu
Warszawskiego CW
w Warszawie

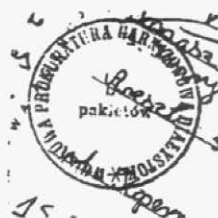
CENSORED
Judge Court
of Warsaw Militia
in Warsaw

6. Military Handstamps



Type 6A1

Figure 6



Type 6B1

As with detainment facility handstamps, these military handstamps may have been in use before martial law. So far only 2 handstamps in this category have been reported.

6A1

Circle measures 29mm in diameter. Lettering is in 2mm caps. The lettering reads: JEDNOSTKA WOJSKOWA (MILITARY UNIT) Nr 1223. In the center, similar to KNMC handstamps, are the words Do / pakietow in 1.5mm caps and 1mm lower case. Only 2 covers have been reported with this marking, both addressed to Koszalin. Both carried this stamp on the back flap, one with 'ocenzurowano' and the other with 'cenzor' in manuscript.

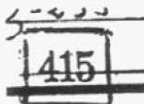
6B1

Circle measures 29mm in diameter. Lettering is in 2mm caps. Lettering reads: WOJSKOWA PROKURATURA GARNIZONOWA BIALYSTOK (MILITARY PROSECUTOR OF THE BIALYSTOK GARRISON). In the center are the words: Do / pakietow. This was found on mail addressed to an inmate of the detainment facility (Areszt Sledczy) in Bialystok during martial law.

7. Telegram Censor Numbers

A rectangular handstamp with the number 273 inside. Above the stamp are three small, faint marks.

Type 7A1

A rectangular handstamp with the number 415 inside. Above the stamp are three small, faint marks.

Type 7B1

Figure 7

Along with various censorship handstamps (1A1, 3A1, 1C1, 1F1) two different types of numbers are found on telegrams. Whether these numbers represent individual censors or censor offices is not known. Frequently more than one number is found on a single telegram.

7A1

Boxless series of 3 numerals. The numerals measure 8.5mm by 11mm. So far only numbers between 270 and 296 have been reported.

7B1

Box measures 14mm by 16mm. The numbers measure 5.5mm by 10mm. So far only numbers between 300 and 415 have been reported.

I would like to conclude with a request for assistance. If you have any covers with markings not reported in this article please send me photocopies for which I will gladly reimburse you. If you have any corrections or additional information on Polish martial law please contact: Joe Michaud, 1425 Laurel St., Iowa City, Ia., 52240..

RECENT FORGERIES OF POLAND #1

By DR. M. A. KAMIENSKI and DR. S. KRONENBERG

At a Toronto stamp show in October, 1983, a dealer offered me 11 Poland No. 1 stamps. He claimed they had just been brought over from Poland. He had already sold three to collectors from the U.S.A. These are beautiful, fresh coloured and lightly cancelled; seven are on pieces. There are slight differences in the color shades of individual stamps, this is consistent with genuine No. 1's. One stamp, on piece, has the guarantee of M. PERZYŃSKI while another has the double guarantee of A. ŁASZKIEWICZ and M. PERZYŃSKI.

Five of the eleven stamps are of the blue oval, Type I. Another stamp is cancelled with "DW". Other cancellations are Nos. 1 and 102 (Zwierzyniec). The "pieces" to which some of the stamps are affixed, appear to be thin, buff or white CARD. The stamps themselves are printed on a thick, cream or gray colored paper of blotting paper texture. Five of the stamps have a white flaw at 4:30 o'clock in the outer blue frame. All stamps are perforated 12 x 12.

M. A. Bojanowicz (The Kingdom of Poland. The Royal Philatelic Society of London 1979. p. 43-45, 141) states that only 1% of genuine Poland No. 1's are of type I blue oval. He also says "DW" cancellation is unknown on Poland No. 1 because it did not come into use until late 1865.

Either I had made a rare unknown find, or was faced with clever and dangerous forgeries. I was able to convince the dealer that the stamps were very suspect. If I had seen the stamps as individual items, not as a wholesale lot of eleven, I would have been fooled.

I sent the stamps to Dr. Stanley

Kronenberg and his opinion follows.

—M. A. Kamiński



Red and blue typographic printing plates were obtained for these forgeries by photographic transfer and then were retouched with the result that the details of the design are well reproduced and the overall size of the design is the same as in the originals. Main characteristics which distinguish these forgeries from genuine stamps are:

1. The blue part is in several shades of ultramarine which never occur in genuine Poland No. 1.
2. The red part is in unusual rose shades which also never occur in genuine Poland No. 1.
3. The paper is usually very thick and of recent manufacture; it is either white or grayish. Genuine stamps were printed on several types of paper but none exist on these papers.
4. The lines of the lettering in: "ZA ŁÓT KOP: 10." are thinner than in the originals. There are small differences in the shading of the

drapery and in the details of the crown which are the result of a slight overetching of the printing plate. In these forgeries the border lines of the blue design are more sharply defined than in any genuine stamp.

5. About 50% of these forgeries are of the rare "blue oval" variety.
6. All these forgeries are cancelled with forged black four ring cancellations: '1', '102', or 'DW'; Other forged cancellations may exist. Genuine cancellations are imprinted with oil base inks which after a long time often show translucent yellowish edges. These forged cancellations are made with a modern stamp pad ink. They occur either off paper or tied to small pieces of covers. The very thick paper of these cover pieces is of recent manufacture.
7. Some bear on the reverse forged impressions of expertization marks of M. Perzyński or A. Łaskiewicz. In one observed case both marks were imprinted simultaneously using the same stamp pad as is evident from the intensity, shade and color of the impressions.

The above information about these totally worthless forgeries is given here to protect fellow philatelists. At this time these fakes can be easily distinguished from genuine stamps and do not present a serious problem. However it is possible that the forgers may in the future improve their techniques by a more careful choice of papers and inks. Collectors would then face more serious problems should such improved forgeries reach the philatelic market. Thus, WATCH OUT!

—S. Kronenberg

NOTE:

These forgeries were earlier identified and well described in the Polish philatelic literature:

1. Schmutz L. & Berbeka J. — *Falszerstwo Pierwszego Polskiego Znaczką. Filatelista*, Nr. 10, (648), May 16-31, 1983, p. 325.
2. Lech Popielewski, Marian Wasy — *Nowe Falszerstwo Pierwszego Znaczką Polskiego. Historyczno Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny*, Nr. 2, (84), April-June, 1983, p. 55-56.

NEW ISSUES

Women's Folk Costumes

A set of six, two each of 5 zł and 6 zł, a 25 zł and 38 zł, rotogravure printed showing headpieces of women's folk costumes of several regions of Poland. Issued December, 1983. Size 31.25 x 43 mm.; design by W. Swierzy. Quantities: 5 zł Biskupiec, 6 million; 5 zł Rozbark, 6 million; 6 zł Warmia-Mazury, 8 million; 6 zł Cieszyn, 6 million; 25 zł Kurpie, 4 million; 38 zł Lubusk 1.5 million.

* * *

1984 Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo

Value: 5 zł, 6 zł, 15 zł, 16 zł, 17 zł and 31 zł. Printing: rotogravure. Size: 43 x 31.25 mm. Design: J. Brodowski. 4 FDC's. The last two stamps were also issued in a block with an extra charge for the Polish Olympic Committee. Issued Feb. 84.

* * *

40th Anniversary of the National People's Council

(Dec. 31, 1943). The stamp depicts a reproduction of a poster by W. Zakrzewski, J. Królikowski, issued on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of this event. Issued December, 1983. Value: 6 zł, printing rotogravure; size 31.25 x 43 mm. Design Z. Stasik. Quantity 5 million; 1 FDC (env.)

40th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino

The stamp depicts the Monte Cassino Memorial Cross (numbered), awarded only to the participants of the Battle of Monte Cassino and the ruins of the Benedictine Monastery destroyed during the second World War in February, 1944. Value: 15 zł, printing: rotogravure, size: 31.25 x 43 mm. Designed by S. Matecki, Quantity: 5 million. To be issued in May, 1984.

* * *

People's Army

(Jan. 1, 1944). The stamp depicts the People's Army, General Bem Brigade's Badge. Issued Dec. 1983. Value: 5 zł, Offset printing, Size: 43 x 31.25 mm. Design: W. Surowiecki. Quantity: 6 million; 1 FDC.

* * *

Wincenty Witos

(1874-1945). Peasants' movement activist since 1895, statesman and publicist. Chief spokesman for the union of the peasants' movements and co-founder (1931) and the president of the Peasants' Party. Value: 6 zł, printing offset, size: 31.25 x 39.5 mm., design: S. Matecki, quantity: 10 million, 1 FDC (env.) Issued in March, 1984. —ARS Polona

DID YOU KNOW?

During the reign of Zygmunt August in 1558, Poland was included into the European mail system. First to be united with the foreign service was Krakow from Venice thru Vienna. Then the postal system of Poland joined Krakow to Wilno thru Warsaw. The Postal System of the Polish Kingdom was a regal industry. Up until this time, the service between Poland and beyond the borders was maintained by certain banking establishments and business concerns, foreign and Polish.

ST. CASIMIR'S 500th ANNIV.

The year 1984 is the 500th Anniversary of St. Casimir, a popular saint among the Poles. Plans are being made by the Vatican to issue a commemorative stamp for the occasion.

St. Casimir is also the patron saint of all Lithuanians. The Chicago Lithuanian Philatelic Society will hold its XX LITHPEX philatelic exhibition October 20-21, 1984 at the Lithuanian Youth Center, 5420 S. Claremont Avenue, Chicago. Their theme will be the 500th Anniversary of St. Casimir.

POLONICA COVER

A cover honoring the 600th anniversary of Our Lady of Czestochowa is available from the Polish Philatelic Society, c/o Jerome Mazurek, 612 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14212. The covers are \$1 each (plus SASE) and carry the USPS special cancel from the group's September show.

WHO WAS FIRST?

Who was the first to collect stamps? The first stamps were issued in May, 1840 in England and shortly after that, countries throughout the world imitated England and began producing and issuing stamps. A Postal card with a stamp imprinted on it appeared in Austria, October 1, 1909. The first stamps in Poland were introduced by Austria on June 1, 1850 for Krakow and Rzeszow territories. Poland at that time was occupied by Austria.

Most likely the first stamp collector was a lady in England who in 1841 collected 16,000 stamps.

The first stamp catalog was issued in England and the word philately was first used by a Frenchman, M. Herpin in 1865.

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BE A POLPEX PATRON OR WELL WISHER

We need Polpex Patrons and Well Wishers to help defray the costs of our exhibition. To be a Patron requires a donation of \$5 or more. To be a Well Wisher requires a donation of \$2. We'll publish your name in the Bulletin.

With this Bulletin we enclose a self addressed remittance envelope for your convenience.

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1984:

Regular Meeting at Polish American Congress building starting 7:30 PM. Last meeting before Polpex. Tom Gobby to speak on Postal History of 1919-1924.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29th, 1984:

Frame repair night. A much needed washing of frames required before the exhibition. Old mats will have to be replaced. Please give us a hand. Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30th, 1984:

Mounting Nite. Help is needed to mount the exhibits in frames and to set up easels. Your help will be appreciated. Starting 7:00 p.m.

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 \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer
P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

TIPS FOR STAMP BUYERS

Don't get carried away with the spirited bidding when you attend floor auctions. Wild bidding against wild bidding can drive the price of a stamp or cover up through the roof.

I once saw a pretty cover in an auction with an estimated selling price of \$100. When I received the prices realized in the mail, I saw that the cover sold for \$5000. I wrote the company and asked if the report was in error. No! That was the winning bid.

My opinion is not infallible, but I believe that there are other similar covers around and available for a lot less than \$5,000. Not every bidder, even on an expensive item, makes the right decision.

A safe deposit box in a bank or Savings & Loan is essential for collecting very valuable postage stamps. The biggest mistake of all is to sink hard-earned money in choice stamps and covers, only to let them rest in a desk drawer where a burglar can get his hands on them.

Buy only what you can afford. There is more than one stamp or cover in this world. If you can't afford it, don't buy it. Otherwise, you will feel guilty about your hobby; and may even be forced to sell some of your prized possessions to finance expensive impulsive philatelic purchases. —Barry Krause