BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Gdynia

by Lester Jankowski

Does anyone doubt the ultimate victory of the United Nations? Does anyone doubt that when this hour of victory comes, Poland will be restored as a nation? Poland will have earned her right to this restoration through the blood of her fighting women and men, not only on almost every front but even at home. In the light of the present tragedies enveloping the world, the seemingly insurmountable obstacles confronting everyone, it is difficult to evaluate the accomplishments of the past. But when the time comes, as come it must, a true evaluation of the accomplishments of Poland, demonstrating pride of race and accomplishment, will be necessary in order to find the proper niche for Poland in her place among the nations of Europe and the World.

Poland has developed some remarkable projects in the past, and one that stands out as a great engineering feat is the city and port of Gdynia. At the conclusion of the first World War, President Wilson had as one of his fourteen points, "a Free and Independent Poland with access to the sea." And while Poland had this access to the sea, she did nothing about building a port of her own, for she used the port of the Free City of Danzig until conditions there became untenable and restrictions on Poland's trade so trangling that a port of her own was the only solution. This decision was strengthened by the experience of the Poles in the Free City of Danzig at the time of the Russian revolution and invasion.



Although the world seemed at peace after the Armistice of 1918, fighting did not terminate for Poland. Indeed it was the beginning. Poland needed arms, ammunition and supplies, if she was to stop the Russian hordes. Supplies were shipped to Poland via Danzig, but difficulties there almost prevented the delivery. Fortunately, the Allied forces, still garrisoned in the city, came to the aid of Poland and with their assistance the supplies finally reached the embattled Polish troops resulting in the defeat of the Russians and driving them out of the Country.

The small fishing village of Gdynia on the Bay of Danzig, about twenty miles from the Free City of Danzig, with the long Hela peninsula offering a natural protection from the open sea and northeasterly winds, was chosen as Poland's own outlet to the sea. Plans were hurriedly laid in 192[illegible] and in 1935 the Port of Gdynia was almost completed.

The shipping facilities were the most modern known at the time and made Gdynia the most modern European port. The port facilities consisted of an outer harbor and basin and numerous inner basins dredged from land. Equipment for handling all kinds of cargoes cheaply, quickly and efficiently was installed, with the resultant cost of handling very low in comparison to other ports. To show the increasing acceptance and appreciation of Gdynia's modern facilities it should be noted that by 1935 this port stood fifth in volume of maritime commerce in Europe and in 1939, just prior to the present conflict, it was third. From 1933 to 1939 it was the leading Baltic port, leaving its neighboring city of Danzig far down the list.

The City of Gdynia received extremely careful consideration from those responsible for its development as a port. The plans for the City took into consideration that Gdynia would also develope into a resort city, a vacation spot where the Pole could come and relax. A population of 120,000 estimated for the city and provisions for municipal and business buildings, transportation, water, gas, sewage and electricity to adequately serve the residents were made. The residential section was located on the sloping hills back from the harbor, picturesquely overlooking the City.

The port of Gdynia is represented in philately by a stamp design, Scott's No. 309, 10 groszy, green, depicting the Maritime Terminal. It was issued in 1937. This stamp shows the harbor railway terminal with the Motor Vessel Batory, of the Gdynia-America Line, docked beside it. It was printed on a rotary press, in sheets of 100 stamps and is perforated 13x12½.

POLPEX 1944 SOUVENIR SHEETS

The souvenir sheet for POLPEX 1944 is a worthy companion to the sheets of other years, which depict the history and spirit of Poland by its stamps, its music, and suitable illustrations. The POLPEX 1944 sheet is a tribute to Poland's heroic airmen who fought so fiercely over London to stem the German tide.

The stamp on the sheet is Scott's 3K7 depicting Polish planes in Great Britain. At the very top is a bar of music from the "Song of Poland's Airmen." The key drawing shows a Polish plane in action. The descriptive



folder, which comes with each set of imperforate and perforate sheets carries this tribute to the intrepid fliers.

Nobody could say more about the decisive Air Battle of Britain in a volume than Churchill said in a sentence: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." But it is to be hoped that the world will never forget the part the Polish fliers played. They were the fewest of the few, but the R. A. F. was quick to call them the bravest of the brave.

In that fateful September of 1940, when Hitler's hordes were held back by a few airmen not afraid to die, the Polish fighters shot down 3 times the average of all the other squadrons, although their own losses were only 1/3 of the average. And by a strange coincidence with these ratios—the outstanding Polish unit was Squadron 303.

Until that moment, Europe's "bloodthirsty guttersnipe" had everything his own way, from the conquest of Poland to the collapse of France. But in that moment, his "wave of the future" was turned back, from the flood tide of apparent immediate victory, to the ebb tide of ultimate and inevitable defeat. That was the immeasurable accomplishment of a few dauntless youngsters in Spitfires and Hurricanes, who were overmatched, out-

numbered and outgunned, but never cverawed.

One of them became legendary. On the day when Britain's skies were darkest with German planes, he shot down his sixth Messerschmidt, then got a hulking Dornier bomber in his gunsight just as his guns gave out—all ammunition gone. So he whirled up over it and then crashed it head on, spending himself and his Hurricane in the hope that London might be spared what his own Warsaw had suffered.

This year the color theme is red, white and blue. Price of the souvenir sheets in sets (descriptive folder and an imperforate and perforate sheet) is fifteen cents (15c) a set, two for a quarter (25c) and ten cents (10c) for each additional set ordered. They may be obtained by writing to Seal Director, Adam Kloskowski, 2708 North Harding Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

#206 Henri Hayza, 5825 N. Maplewood Ave., Chicago 45, Illinois. (EPP and U. S.)

#207 George S. Bobo, 2121 N. Wolcott Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois.

#208 Mitchell W. Gawlowicz, 345 Tremont St., Braintree 84, Mass. (EPP and U. S.)

#209 Rev. A. Mazurkiewicz, 9 Eld Street, New Haven, Conn. (EPP and Gen.)

#210 Henry Pines, 4132 Sheridan Rd., Chicago 13, Illinois (P and U. S.)

#211 Adam P. Stefanowski, 12057 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood, Calif. (General)

POLPEX

In the past we have used many and various superlatives in describing POLPEX. The greatest, biggest, most stupendous, etc., etc., showing of Polish stamps.

This year we fall far short in our command of language to describe POLPEX 1944. We say simply "The Show of Shows." Why?

And ungramatically we answer BECAUSE words fail us in our attempt to describe what POLPEX 1944 will be. First, let us calmly and cooly try (we must not let our enthusiasm run away with us) to tell you where the show will be held and second, we must explain the kind of show it will be. So to work.

The Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum is the site of POLPEX 1944. Located at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Augusta Blvd., the P. R. C. U. Archives and Museum is near the heart of the Polish section on the Northwest side of Chicago. Elsewhere in this issue of the BULLETIN is given a more complete description of the Archives and Museum. Suffice it to say, that POLPEX 1944 will have a setting such as no stamp exhibit ever had, amid the quiet dignity and grandeur of relics of Poland's glorious history.

To keep pace with the setting, in spirit with the location, and in harmonious tune with the surroundings—and yet in sharp contrast—a stamp show of unmatched brilliance is planned.

Poland, from the period of her stampless covers to the latest issue of November 1, 1943, will be shown philatelically in a manner never before attempted by a stamp club. From the collections of the leading Poland specialists will come the exhibits, and only that portion of each collection best equipped to dramatically portray the period assigned to it will be used.

In other words, only the best, "the cream of the crop," "the ne plus ultra" (there we go). Seldom, if ever, has such an exhibition been planned.

Glass topped display tables and exhibition wall cases will be used, not the usual frames—a manner of presentation of exhibits unique in philatelic circles.

Collectors in Chicagoland will be offered an opportunity of seeing something different, the ideal—a complete Poland collection in all its ramifications—something so radically different, that in contemplating the effect, one wonders. No fear, of course, that visitors to the exhibition will not accept the innovation and be agreeably and pleasantly surprised, but a thought of the future intrudes for the moment and says, "Is Polonus going to have JUST a stamp show next year, or is Polonus again going to do something spectacular?"

We do not know what the answer is and neither does John Bobo, Director of POLPEX 1944. But come to POLPEX 1944. See the Stamps of Poland, her philatelic story!

Stanley Nowinski, son of our member Adam Nowinski recently received his Wings and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force.

POLPEX AUCTION

DATE: February 26, 1944
PLACE: P.R.C.U. Museum & Archives
984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
TIME: 8:30 P.M.

TERMS OF SALE

1. Terms of sale are STRICTLY CASH to the highest bidder. Lots will be cleared immediately after the sale.
2. Auction Manager reserves the right to reject bids or withdraw from sale any lot.
3. All stamps are sold as genuine unless otherwise noted, and all claims must be made within 10 days of receipt of lots.
4. All lots must be taken up immediately after sale in person, excepting mail bids, and in this case successful bidders will be notified of the amount secured for them and they must send remittance plus postage and registration fee immediately before lots are sent.

MAIL BIDDERS NOTE: Mail bids to Roman Reinowski, 1939 South Highland Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois. Please use LOT number and not catalog number when making up bid sheet.

Lots will be available for inspection at Polpex Exhibition.

Scott's 1944 catalog numbers are used, unless otherwise noted.
* means unused • means used

STAMPS OF POLAND

Lot No.			Cat. Value
		POLAND	
1.	•	#1 Used on piece, perfs touch on bottom, fine	9.00
2.	•	#1 Minute tear, perfs close on top and left, can. 242 G	9.00
3.		#1 on cover, Warsaw #1 black cancellation v.f.	
4.		#1 on cover, Sokolow red cancellation v.f.	
5.		#1 on cover, Warsaw #1 black canc., 1a variety v.f.	
6.		11-14 on registered cov. v.f.	
7.	*	15-26, including 21a, v.f. .	2.12
8.	•	15-26 on pieces	2.06
9.	*	17 full sheet of 100, plate number 2886-18 overprinted with Polish form I, with stamp prices at 500 zlotys and errors at 180 zlotys on pages 10 and 11 of Ikaros	
10.	*	31, 35, 38 and strip 3 of 40	1.30
11.	*	88 mint proof bright red, est	4.00
12.	*	154 full sheet of 100 v.f. ..	2.00
13.	*	170-190 and 275 very fine .	1.35
14.	•	213 very fine	1.00
15.	*	214 very fine	4.00
16.	*	246-248, 267 and B26-B27..	1.70
17.	*	253 and 255 superb	1.30
18.	*	263-266 very fine	1.85
19.	•	263-266 fine	1.32
20.	*	266 superb	1.25
21.	*	278 very fine	1.75
22.	*	292-293 in pairs, very fine	1.40
23.	*	305 superb	1.25
24.	*	306-307 very fine	4.50
25.	*	319 block of 4 very fine ..	3.00
26.	*	319 block of 4 very fine ..	3.00
27.	*	320-332 very fine	8.70
28.	*	322 block of 4 very fine ..	1.60
29.	*	322 Block of 4 very fine ..	1.60
30.	*	334 full sheet of 100	20.00
31.	*	335-338 very fine	1.15
32.	*	335-338 very fine	1.15
33.	*	335-38 blocks of 4 very fine	4.60
34.	*	335-38 blocks of 4 very fine	4.60
		Souvenir Sheets	
35.	*	314-316 very fine	3.50
36.	*	314-316 very fine	3.50
37.	*	333 very fine	1.00
38.	*	333 very fine	1.00
39.	•	333 very fine	1.00
40.	•	333 very fine	1.00
41.	•	335-338 on favor sheet with commemorative cancellat'n	
42.	*	B29-B30 very fine	4.00
43.	*	B29-B30 very fine	4.00
44.	•	B29-B30 very fine	4.00
45.	•	B29-B30 very fine	4.00
46.		B29 and B30 on separate covers, exh. canc. very fine	
47.	*	B31 very fine	3.50
48.	*	B31 very fine	3.50
49.	•	B31 superb	3.50
50.	•	B31 superb	3.50
51.		B31 on registered cover	
52.	*	B31 very fine	3.50
53.	*	B35 very fine	5.00
54.	*	B35 very fine	5.00
55.	•	B35 very fine	5.00
56.	•	B35 very fine	5.00
		Semi-Postals	
57.	*	B11-B14 very fine	2.65
58.	*	B32-B34 blocks 4 very fine	3.40
59.	*	B32-B34 blocks 4 very fine	3.40
		Air Mails	
60.	•	C10 Seven perf varieties and one inverted wmk., 8 stamps ...	
61.	*	306-308 (Sanabria) Gordon Bennett, 1939, change in color, very fine	30.00
62.	*	306-308 (Sanabria) Gordon Bennett, 1939, imperf. v.f.	25.00
		Officials	
63.	*	O19 full sheet of 150, bottom row with some adhering paper	30.00
		Port Gdansk	
64.		1K14, 1K15, 1K17, mint and 1K18 used	1.25
65.	*	1K33-1K36 blks 4 very fine	4.40
66.	*	1K33-1K36 blks 4 very fine	4.40
		Offices Abroad	
67.	*	3K1-3K8 very fine	2.00
68.	*	3K1-3K8 blocks 4 very fine	8.00
69.		3K1-3K8 First Day cover, registered, British Crown Censor Mark, Registry backstamps New York and Chicago..	
		Locals	
70.	*	Warsaw Local, 10 groszy, is printed on both sides, one side surcharged in black 2 gr. ..	
71.	•	Brzeziny, 10 values complete ...	
		German Occupation	
72.	*	354-379 very fine	10.12
73.	*	392 very fine	4.00
74.	*	392 block of 4 very fine .	16.00

Lot No.			Cat. Value
75.	*	393 very fine	1.00
76.	*	393 block of 4 very fine ...	4.00
77.	*	B43-B46 very fine	1.10
78.	*	J103-J106 very fine	1.32
		Upper Silesia	
79.		12 Miscellaneous covers ..	....
		Eastern Silesia	
80.	*	25 perf 13¾x11½ and 26 perf 13¾	....
		Central Lithuania	
81.	•	12-20 on one piece, v.f. ..	8.15
82.	•	12-20 on one piece, v.f. ..	8.15
83.	•	12-20 on pieces very fine .	8.15
84.	•	12-20 on pieces very fine .	8.15
85.	*	14 full sheet of 100 v. fine	35.00
86.	*	16 full sheet of 100 v. fine	30.00
		Miscellaneous Lots	
87.		Used 234, and C12, and un-156-162, unused B1-B10 ..	2.08
88.	*	232, 215, 216, 217, 219, 220, B1-B10, and C1, C2, C3, C5	2.11
89.	•	286, C12 and J94	1.73
90.	*	267, 308-311 and J83	1.03
91.	*	308-311, 312-313 and 317-18	1.63
92.	*	29 stamps 149 to 2K11	4.00
93.	•	142 stamps 145 to 1K14 ..	4.00
94.	*	13 essays, in color, showing winning designs in contest of 1917. Krolestwo Polskie. Est. value	4.00
95.		Miscellaneous Fieldpost 1 bels used in England and cancels. ...	
96.		Set of 4 cards, U. S. A. P. O. and Polish Fieldpost cancellation, Anniversary of Landing of American Troops in Great Britain each card with different Fieldpost label ..	....
		Miscellaneous Covers	
97.		303, B54, 321, and 332	2.23
98.		330 and 332 on cover (large)	2.00
99.		330 and 332 on cover (large)	2.00
100.		311, 331 and 332 on two covers (large)	2.54
101.		331 and 332 on cover (large)	2.50
102.		331 and 332 on cover (large)	2.50
103.		335, 337 and 338 on two covers (large)	3.80
104.		B32 Block of 6, B33 and B34 blocks of 4 on two covers .	3.60

POLONUS NOMINATES

At the meeting of the Society held on January 14, 1944, nominations for officers of the Society for the coming year were held. The following were nominated:

For President—Myron E. Steczynski
For Vice-President—John Bobo
For Secretary—J. J. Domar
For Treasurer—Thaddeus L. Stanczak
For Librarian and Historian—
Adam Kloskowski
For Members of the Board of Directors—Roman Reinowski, J. P. Rux

How about those snapshots the Secretary has been asking for. One year is a long time to wait. Send it in right away.

THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM*

The Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum was organized on October 15, 1935, for the purpose of collecting and preserving all materials pertaining to the history of Poles in the United States. On January 12, 1937, the first quarters of the Museum were officially dedicated and opened. Since that time new space had to be added. At the present the Museum occupies one and one half floors of the spacious P. R. C. U. Building.

The present war adds new importance to the work of the Archives and Museum. Before the war it was an institution which performed many functions, the publication of books telling the history of Poles in America, the store-house and show place of objects from a glorious history. But today all this changes. It has become, in the face of a devastated Poland a place of preservation of those symbols of Polish culture of which Poland is most proud. It is now the Czartoryski Museum, the treasure room of the Wawel, the Warsaw National Museum, the Sukiennice gallery of Krakow—it has become as sacred as that lovely reredos of Panna Maria—that marvelous altar stripped of the Wit Stwosz carvings—it is now the hope of all the Poles of the world. For one must be practical in all things. Hard realities are to be faced. We will probably never again see such collections of the medieval and renaissance world as the museums of Krakow, Warsaw and Lwow held.

Yet here is the hope. The Museum in Chicago holds for the New Poland an ever growing collection of the works of Polish culture. Second of course, and it is admitted freely, to the magnificent gems of the older country—yet by the very course of things as dear to the Polish heart as anything on earth. There are works of art by Poland's greatest artists, there are Stations of the Cross from that first Polish Church in America, pictures that all persons of Polish descent ought to see.

There are preserved the costumes of the country, there the patterns for embroidery and there are some very precious relics brought from Poland to America by returning visitors. Medals and coins struck off in Poland old

* Taken from "The Hope of All the Poles of the World" by Eric P. Kelly

and new, uniforms of armies, flags and pennants and the most gorgeous church decorations. There are all the books in Polish and English which constitute a literature so immense that few people in America have any sense of the size of it....

It is a very thrilling experience to enter this vast place, but now the emotions are increased an hundred fold by the realization that all this beauty is threatened, that its source which has been visible for so many hundred years will never be the same. It is a new age, and we all face new realities — hard, practical realities which we must meet in a hard, practical manner. Our emotions are useless unless translated into action, into doing, into maintaining.... It is for those of us who love Poland to rebuild it through the use of every faculty we possess. The Museum is such a practical, workable method—Poland will not have perished if those who love it work with all their might and count no sacrifice too great if they accomplish something, no matter how little....

The P. R. C. U. Archives and Museum collects anything which has any bearing on the history of the Poles in the United States.



Uniforms of old Polish-American societies



The Museum is full of relics of the past



A picturesque nook in the Museum



Medals and coins, uniforms, flags and pennants

THIS 'n THAT

Many Christmas cards were received by the Secretary and the Editor of the BULLETIN extending the greetings of the season to them and the other members of the Society. It was espercially nice to hear from our members in the service. Thanks a lot.

STAMPS for February 26, 1944 will be an all Polish number in commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of Polonus.