

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Associate Editors

J. J. Domar

Lester Jankowski

Edited by

Chester A. Schafer
2144 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 22, Illinois

Associate Editors

Al Rybarski

Chester Mikucki

Dr. S. M. Mioduszewski, Chairman Membership Committee
1176 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

We're Being Robbed!

Myron E. Steczynski

Polonus was founded better than seven years ago to promote Polish philately and to help its members build up their collections. During the first two years of its existence, we had direct contact with the Philatelic Bureau at Warsaw where Mr. Citurus furnished us with first day covers at a little over face and with mint stamps at face. This arrangement was interrupted by the war, but we still got our first day covers and mint issues from the government in London advantageously.

When the Germans issued their stamps for the General Government, these were available throughout America at a little over face. Then we ourselves became involved in the war and the stamps issued by Germany were declared contraband. Some of us felt, that as specialists of Poland, we must continue to acquire every new adhesive issued in or for Poland, so we found ourselves paying several times face because of the supposed difficulty in handling the rare stuff. Now we know only too well how we were duped. But after all, that was one of the gambles of the war.

Now the war is ended. We won and Poland is restored. The new country has already had many stamp issues—some regular and some commemorative. It would seem that we should have been able to restore our philatelic relations with a friendly Poland and to get the stamps somewhere

near face. Instead of a friendly relationship which should permit an advantageous philatelic exchange, ALL new Polish issues are priced here from say 40 to 80 times their face value.

The value of the Polish zloty is below one cent. Besides information from commercial sources, this fact is also borne out by the amount of postage on letters from Poland. No new issues whatever are available anywhere near face. Therefore, something is radically wrong and should be corrected promptly. The matter should be brought to the attention of the Polish government. It is evident that this government, either by itself, or under pressure, does not see the philatelic picture as we see it.

Above all, we presume that the stamps pass through the postoffice windows at face. If they don't we don't want them because they are not then issued and distributed primarily for postal purposes. If on the other hand, the stamps are distributed at face value, who and where inflates the prices, to say 50 times their face? And finally, why should Polonus members pay this tremendous penalty, especially when there is the danger of the prices falling way down, once the immediate need is satisfied.

Whatever are the quantities of these recent issues, we can be quite sure that they are not all small. We also know that unexpected risks do

not enter into the present situation. There is no war to destroy supplies, no submarines to sink the transports, no apparent enemy to prevent the stamps from coming here.

In other words, plenty of these stamps exist and the prices should be reasonable. As we know, prices are controlled by the law of supply and demand. Other factors such as number issued, appearance and history, as well as general economic conditions enter only indirectly as they bear on supply and demand.

Above all, collectors everywhere, whether members of Polonus or not, should not buy these stamps at the sky-high prices. We should tell the dealers that the prices are outrageous and that we will not be robbed. It is not the dealer's fault to be sure, but it is he who must refuse to promote the stamps at these prices, and it is only through him that the news can get back realistically to the source where the prices are being inflated.

Prices of the new Polish stamps
MUST COME DOWN.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month—8:00 p.m. 1062 N. Ashland Av., Chicago.

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- 181 Zielinski, Norbert, 1626 N. Artesian Ave., Chicago 47, Ill. (EPP & US)

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

Air.—Airmails
Blks.—Blocks
Can.—Canada
Col.—Colonies
Cze.—Czechoslovakia
Dz.—Danzig
EPP—Everything Philatelically Poland
Fr.—France
G.B.—Great Britain
Ger.—Germany
P.—Poland
US—United States
V.C.—Vatican City

JACK RUX IS SICK

The Treasurer complains that he is ill because many members have not yet paid their 1946 dues. Please help him get well by sending in your \$1.50 immediately. Make your remittance payable to J. P. Rux, 6136 Addison St., Chicago 34, Illinois.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMM.

The Auditing Committee examined our Society's financial books of the Treasurer and those of the Publications Committee for the year 1945, and found the records correct and the cash on hand.

Chester J. Mikucki
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