

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue 218

January, 1964

HOW ABOUT BEING A POLPEX PATRON?

With February just around the corner, Polonus is preparing for its 25th Anniversary Celebration — POLPEX 1964 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 28th, 29th and March 1st, at the Andrew House, 2441 W. Division Street, Chicago, U.S.A.

The Entry Chairman reports brisk action in receiving out of town entry applications. If you have not as yet sent in your entry, please do so immediately.

Do not be left out as a Patron in our 25th Anniversary Polpex Program Catalog. This colorful and impressive booklet will contain a history of Polonus, an up to date membership list, philatelic articles, etc. Help us to make this 25th Anniversary booklet the best one ever by having your name printed in it as a Patron. It costs only \$1.00. Send your dollar to Stanley Kucharz, 4324 So. Spauldisg Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60632.

The most outstanding event during the 25th Anniversary Celebration will



Polpex 1964 Souvenir Sheet

be the Jubilee Banquet on Saturday, February 29th, 10 p.m. at the Andrew House. Besides the promise of an elaborate and tasty Polish dinner, a program will be held at which the honorary members will be presented, the 25-year members honored, Polpex award presentations made, and a general reunion of members will be held. Every loyal member should be present at this Polonus family gathering. Tickets are only \$3.50 per person and may be obtained from Stanley Kucharz, 4324 S. Spaulding Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60632. Tickets must be purchased before February 15th as the caterer requires advance notice as to the amount of diners to be served.

POLONUS' 25th BIRTHDAY!

Next month our society will be 25 years old. On this occasion the February issue of the "Polonus Bulletin" will be a special 25th Anniversary Edition. We are asking you for congratulatory letters and would like to publish them in this special edition. Please send your congratulations and comments to the editor: Chester A. Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

A tradition with every Polpex is the issuing of an appropriate souvenir sheet. The design this year is that of Myron Steczynski. It was selected as best by the judges in the design contest held recently. Two sheets make up a set: one printed in red and blue, the other in maroon and grey. Accompanying the sheets is a folder with a special write-up by Myron Steczynski on the history and achievements of Polonus. The pair, complete with descriptive folder is available at 25c plus postage from Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

This year we will have three opening day covers. As you know, the Post Office Department honored us with a special Polonus 25th Anniversary Polpex cancellation to be used during our show. Since the Post Office will have its own postal station right on the Polpex premises, it is planned to have three different opening day covers, each with a different cachet, cancelled on three different dates. A set of three covers and a pair of souvenir sheets complete with folder are priced at \$1.00 plus 10c postage and may be obtained from Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 No. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

Orders for souvenir sheets received prior to our Polpex opening date will be held up till February 28th so that they can be mailed at our Polpex postal station and the special Polpex cancellation applied to the envelope.

Please help us in any way you can. This is our 25th Anniversary Celebration. If this is to be the biggest and best Polpex ever — we need everyone's support!

APPLICANTS PENDING

Maria A. Garczynski
1705 North Albany
Chicago, Ill. 60647
Henry Pieniążek
1931 West Potomac Ave.
Chicago, Illinois
Albert J. Rehmann
145 Maple Street
Hammonton, New Jersey

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W. Czarnowski
Ul. Lwowska, Nr. 2, m. 15
Warszawa, Poland

"THE SCOUT FIELD POST IN THE WARSAW UPRISING"

The award winning work of Thaddeus Gryzewski, "The Scout Field Post in the Warsaw Uprising" was reprinted in booklet form by the Polonus Philatelic Society. Originally this lengthy article appeared in monthly installments in the "Polonus Bulletin" from January, 1960 through April, 1961. After re-editing and a few changes, the article now appears in 48-page booklet form.

Especially colorful is the History of the "Szare Szeregi", the grey ranks of Scouts who voluntarily working under constant fire and bombardment of the enemy, operated a successful postal service up to the moment of surrender.

This work is as complete as the author could make it. Besides the history which is illustrated with actual photos there is a two-page map showing positions occupied by the Polish Underground Army in Warsaw.

All the known postal emmissions are listed. Illustrations of 37 different types of postal markings are shown plus four pages of charts listing these markers. Postal cards are described with 9 different types illustrated. A detailed study of the postage stamps issued is made with countless illustrations, and some three pages are devoted to forgeries, reprints and varieties.

Because of the limited printing of only 500 copies we offer this booklet for sale first to our members. If there are any copies left they will be offered for sale at the Polpex. The booklet is priced at \$1.00 plus 10c postage and is available from Roman Strzelecki, 1439 North Bell Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60622.

POLONUS PINS NOW AVAILABLE!

Beautiful enameled pins, in three colors, with the official Polonus emblem, have been made up as per the wishes of our members.

Be proud of your Polonus membership! Wear the Polonus pin to philatelic shows and gatherings. Get your pin for \$1.00 plus 5c postage from Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

Research In Polish "Ancient City Halls" Issue Brings To Light Earlier Unknown Facts

By Edward Nowak, Sr.

(Reprinted from LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS of Dec. 9, 1963)

It would be unthinkable if any loyal philatelist, especially if versed in more than just the English language, would shirk his duty to share new results in research in stamps of any country. This article is the effect of research in philatelic facts gathered in books written by prominent stamp experts—but mostly in the Polish tongue. Sharing this knowledge with English-speaking philatelic brethren is this writer's sense of duty and service.

The "Ancient City Hall Issue" of Poland came into being on orders from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, dated March 5, 1958. The issue was placed for first day of sale March 29, 1958.

The stamp denominations in this issue are 20 groszy in green ink, 40 gr. in red-brown color, a blue 60 gr., the red-brown 2.10 zł., and the 2.50 zł. highest value for overseas prepayment of mail was printed in violet ink.

The 20 gr. depicts the ancient City Hall in Biecz; 30 gr. the City Hall in Wrocław; Tarnów old City Hall is on the 60 gr.; while the 2.10 zł. honors the City Hall in Gdańsk. The Town Hall in Zamoście is seen on the 2.50 zł.

Seldom cited in Scott's Catalogue and other English-language stamp registers are the measurements of the pictures themselves. The informative but little known writings—due to language barrier—by such eminent specialists as Thaddeus Hampel of Łódź, Zbigniew Mikulski of Warsaw, and W. Rachmanow of New York who state:

"The 20 gr. stamp picture measures 22 x 27 millimeters; the 40 gr., 21.5 x 27 mm.; 60 gr., 27.5 x 21 mm.; while the 2.10 and 2.50 zł. are 21.5 x 26.5 mm.

The project was the labor of Poland's artist S. Gospodarek. The engraving was accomplished by Miss B. Szymanska who completed the 20 gr., 40 gr. and the 2.10 zł. adhesive. E. Tirdszek engraved the 60 gr. and the 2.50 zloty stamps.

All engraving was on steel, and the issue was printed on rotary system machines in the State Printing Offices in Warsaw.

The steel cylinders were of the two-section variety. All cylinders left the imprints of the accounting figures on the left or right margins; the imprint of the section and the registry number can also be located there.

The serial number of the cylinders on the Polish stamps responds to our American Plate numbers. The above information can be found under the first adhesive.

The 60 gr. stamp showed the serial of the cylinder above the tenth adhesive in the sheet of 100.

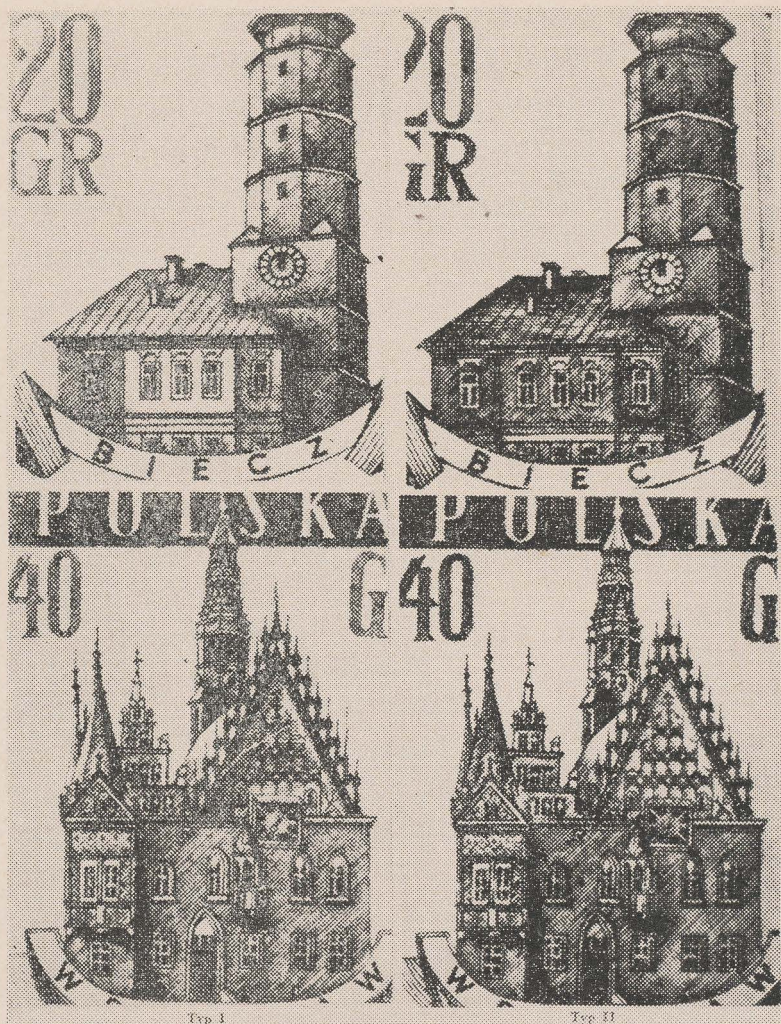
The issue, according to records in the Postal Minister, was printed on white paper containing no wood pulp. The perforations were accomplished on the "Goebel" and "Wifag" machines. They bear perforations of 11½, 11¾, 12½, 12¾.

The most important information gained through study and research is that of the 20 and 40 groszy denominations are known to exist in two different drawings. The Polish experts separate them into Types 1 and 2.

The Type 1 is drawn with thin shading lines—the Type 2 differs in that the shading lines are heavy and dark. The 20 gr. of Type 1 shows that the center of the frontal wall of the City Hall building and the lower part of the roof are shaded very lightly.

Type 1 also shows that the lower part of the tower clock and the left triangle above the clock itself are almost minus shading.

The shading of the tower was accomplished by a different style of lines. The Type 2 picture is composed of darker, heavier lines making the whole picture remarkably easy to differentiate when placing the two types side by side.



At the top are both types of the 20 grosz value of the stamps discussed, with the 40 gr. below. In each row the Type I variety is at the left.

(Cut courtesy of LINN'S)

The differing characteristics in the 40 gr. are that the type shows the 40 gr. completed with light strokes; Type 2 has heavy handed lines. The difference is outstanding.

The second tower, from the right, and the lightning arrester on the Hall's roof differ in height in Types 1 and 2.

The triangle above the entrance to the Hall in Type 1 is almost completely unshaded, while Type 2 is almost

totally covered by heavy shading lines. This difference in shading is also easy to recognize.

The right side of the topmost part of the Hall is almost wholly darkened by shading lines in Type 1; in Type 2 this space is nearly clear of the lines.

An important discovery was also made in a 20 groszy of the Type 1 variety — but of unknown printing die sector — in that the adhesive shows

a horizontal line in the letter "R" in "GR." which is almost an imitation of a comma.

Some of the 20 groszy stamps of Type 1 were printed on a "Goebel" machine, but after the cylinder in that machine was dismantled for the purpose of recutting the matrices, it was placed instead, for duty in the "Wifag" machine.

This change-over and recutting created Type 2 designs, recognizable by the letter "Z" without a cross bar in the "Zl". This lack of the oblique line on letter "l" changes the pronunciation of the letter in the Polish language.

According to news gathered from "Filatelista", official organ of the Polish Federation, another roller printing the 20 gr. stamps produced a limited volume of copies in which the letter "L" in "Zl" was set up mistakenly in capital "L" in place of a small letter "l".

The offending matrix was removed and replaced soon after discovery. Nevertheless a few copies found their way to a philatelic market; the balance was placed for posterity in Postal Museum in Wroclaw.

The two types of printing Machines, each produced two "sectors" of adhesives at a stroke. When cut they formed sheets of 100 stamps. The color, especially of the 20 gr. stamps, varies greatly, but this does not produce any difference in value.

The paper for the issue was white, smooth, of medium thickness or thin-

ner grade, gummed before printing. Some on which the 40 gr. was printed shows a faint ribbing. Gum used was of clear or yellowish tint with varying luster.

The records in the Polish Postal Ministry disclosed little known, but interesting facts which may be of value to collectors who like to delve deeply into philatelic history. In this instance, the time it took to print the issue, from the first printing to a date when the last repeat printing was delivered to post offices:

20 gr., from April 2, 1958 to June 6, 1959.

40 gr., from May 7, 1958 to July 24, 1959.

60 gr., from May 3, 1958 to November 18, 1959.

2.10 zloty, from February 26, 1958 to February 29, 1959.

2.50 zloty, from March 19, 1958 to March 30, 1958.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, Vol. 11, Warsaw 1960.

Information from Polish Ministry of Posts, 1959.

Articles by Zbigniew Mikulski & Dr. J. Tislowitz.

Remarks on Polish Stamp Issues, by Jan Starynski.

— POLAND —

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STAMPS OF THE WARSAW LOCAL POST – 1915

By I. Braunstein

Reprinted from The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately — Nos. 62-63

Every collector knows this issue, which came out during the German occupation of Poland (War of 1914-18). But no-one, until now, could establish the official status of these stamps and their classification is still full of confusion and contradictions. At the same time, many issues of these stamps were counterfeited, either completely or by means of false overprints on genuine stamps.

The lack of documentation often discourages collectors, which in these cases just fill the empty spaces in the album; but when such collections get into the hands of specialists, most of the stamps run the risk of being rejected either because they are forgeries or because they are found to belong to other issues.

After studying these stamps in all details and using various documents pertaining to this period, we are going to try to bring a little clearness into these issues and make a logical classification of these stamps.

I. HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE.

During World War I, German troops occupied Poland. The Field Post followed the army closely and assumed the forwarding of the mail to the large cities, but because it was so overloaded it could not service the needs of non-military persons. Therefore, occupation authorities appointed from the inhabitants of the City of Warsaw the so called "KOMITET OBYWATELSKI MIASTA WARSZAWY (K.O.M.W.)", which was entrusted with the duties of receiving letters, etc. from the German Field Post and delivering them to their destination. In order to cover the costs of this service, the aforementioned Committee was authorized to issue local stamps, which circulated in Warsaw and surrounding areas, within a 30 km. radius. All letters were to be prepaid both with Occupation stamps and with the stamps issued by the Committee, whereby, at first, the receivers of the letters paid for the latter charge.



At the end of October 1915, German authorities allowed the sale of these stamps at the offices of the Committee and thus the local rate started to be paid by the senders. Considering the previous statement, it appears that these stamps are to be considered as "postage due stamps" during the first period from September 23 to the end of October 1915, and as "postage stamps" from the end of the first period to the date of their withdrawal from circulation, on October 1, 1916.

From the first days of its existence, the Committee endeavored to restore normal postal service within the country and therefore many of its decisions were made a little too hastily. The Committee originally intended to apply the following rates: 5 gr. for ordinary letter or postcard, 10 gr. for heavier letters and 20 gr. for special delivery. The Committee did not accept registered letters and the addressee received a notification to report at the German Field Post Office, where such letters were handed out to him. As far as the rates for sending newspapers and printed matter are concerned, they were entirely forgotten.

The monetary unit of Poland, which was part of Russia before German Occupation was the ruble, which was divided into 100 kopeks. The exchange from Russian to Polish currency was made at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ kop. for 1 gr., whereby $\frac{1}{2}$ kop. existed in theory, but not in practice, and was not in circulation. Therefore, from the first days of the Local Post, the Committee saw that it was impossible for any one to pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ kop. for a 5 gr. stamp, and

with the permission from the German authorities a new rate of 6 gr. for a letter up to 25 grams in weight was established and a rate of 2 gr. for printed matter was introduced.

Because, the first issue did not include 2 gr. stamps, newspapers, etc. were prepaid with diagonally cut halves of 5 or 6 gr. stamps, for which the buyer paid only 2 groshen.

Without waiting for German authorization, the Committee printed 2000 of the two stamps, namely 5 gr. dark green on cream background and 10 gr. dark brown on buff. The aforementioned two stamps must be considered as prepared but not issued, since the German authorities prohibited this issue from being printed without their authorization. A few months later a negligible quantity of the previously mentioned stamps slipped out unnoticed, and were sold overpaid "6 gr."

(To be continued)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lech Parczewski

Przegródka Poczтова 13

Wyszów koło Warszawy
Poland

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

Horse breeding in Government owned studs is one of rapidly developing and well managed branches of national economies in Poland, Arab horses, and particularly some specimens like "Comet" and "Witez II" are known all the world over and have been met with a high appreciation on the part of connoisseurs.



As a tribute to the achievements of the Polish horse breeding, the Polish Post has prepared a ten-stamp set, representing some types of horses, such as: 20 gr. - Arab stallion "Comet"; 30 gr. - tarpans; 40 gr. - a horse from Sokolka; 50 gr. - Arab mares with foals; 60 gr. - horses from Mazowsze region; 90 gr. - Sport horses; 1.55 zł. - the famous Arab stallion "Witez II";

USS PULASKI NUCLEAR SUB COVER

Beautifully cacheted in 2 colors depicting the polaris firing nuclear submarine SSB(N)633 and its namesake Casimir Pulaski.

This cover was issued February 1st, to commemorate the launching of this great ship at Groton, Connecticut.

Participating in the christening ceremonies was Mrs. John A. Gronouski, wife of the Postmaster General.

All covers mailed directly to you unaddressed.

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Cover prices are: With single stamp — 30c, with block of 4 — 55c, with plate block — \$1.05, with Pulaski stamp (1931 issue) — 55c.

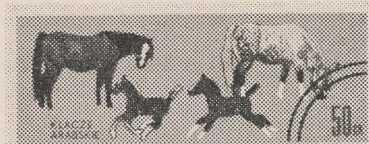
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2.50 zł. - the head of an arab horse;
4 zł. - half-bred horses; 6.50 zł. - the
head of an Arab horse.



They were designed by Ludwik Maciag, printed by Polychrome rotogravure. Sizes as follows:

20, 30 and 40 gr. are triangular with 48 mm. sides.

50, 90 gr. 4 zł., - 79 x 31.25 mm.

60 gr., 1.55 zł., 2.50 zł., and 6.50 zł. are 31.25 x 43 mm.

Printed on chalky paper.

Quantities to be issued:

20, 30, 50 and 90 gr. — 5,000,000

40 and 60 gr. — 6,000,000

1.55 zł. — 4,000,000

2.50 zł. — 2,000,000

4 zł. — 1,500,000

6.50 zł. — 950,000

First Day of Issue was December 31, 1963.

Printed at the State Printing Works of Securities, Warsaw. —"Ruch"

(Cuts courtesy "Linn's Weekly Stamp News")

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Jan. 24, 1964 — ELECTIONS

This is the most important meeting of the year, the election of officers for our 25th Anniversary Year. Every member in the Chicago area should take part in the election.

After the election there will be a lecture by member Walter C. Scholl, a pioneer balloonist collector of balloon items and historian of ballooning history. His topic: "Polish Balloon Covers."

Friday, February 14, 1964 —

INSTALLATION

At this meeting the new administration will be sworn in. As this is the last meeting before POLPEX, final preparations will be discussed.

Thursday, February 27, 1964 —

MOUNTING NITE

We meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Andrew House, 2441 W. Division St. to set up POLPEX 1964. Chicagoland members who will exhibit must mount their own collections or have someone do it for them. Other members who will not exhibit are asked to be present and help

TID BITS

Congratulations to Josef Bendkowski on his recent marriage. Joe gives the orders in his family. He is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the U.S. Army and his wife is a Major in the WACS.

* * *

Get Well wishes are extended to Rev. David Balla of Oak Park, Ill., to Mr. and Mrs. Zdzislaw Wagrowski of Chicago and M. Kalawski of Worcester, Mass. — all hospital patients.