BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

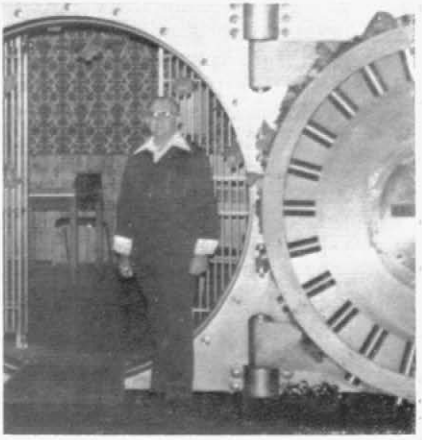
Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chgo.

Issue No. 345 Price 50c August-September, 1976

POLPEX 77 DATES ANNOUNCED: MARCH 19-20

Edward Link announced that agreement was reached with the Polish Veterans Building officials at 6005 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago and that POLPEX 77 would be held on March 19th and 20th, 1977. Mr. Link was appointed Polpex Chairman by President Alfred Szebel and lost no time in making plans. Committees are now being formed and will be announced in next month's Bulletin.

An exhibition of some 120 to 140 frames is planned with a bourse of some 17 dealers. The main hall of the former Irving Bank building will be used for the exhibition with some dealers in the main hall and other dealers in our regular meeting room on the lower level. The balcony will be utilized for the beeba. Two additional meeting rooms on the ground floor will be used: one will serve as the U.S. Postal Station and the other as a hospitality room.



Polpex Chairman Edward Link stands at entrance to what formerly was the bank vault and now will serve as our hospitality room at POLPEX 77. The Polish Army veterans call this their "Submarine Room".

IN MEMORIAM

LESTER JANKOWSKI

It is with extreme sorrow that we are informing our members that Polonus lost its first president, the Honorable Lester Jankowski, a lawyer by profession and until his retirement a few years ago, a judge in the courts of Chicago. Lester has been in failing health recently. He died on September 14th.

Lester was a most eloquent speaker with a tried and forceful style. He was especially impressive year after year when administering the oath to our newly elected boards, instructing each

(Continued on last page)

Gross Born Stamp No. 1C (Pigeon)
The Only Reprint Among POW Postal Issues

By M. M. KALAWSKI

Edited by James Mazepa

This stamp is an official reprint made by the Postal Management of the Polish POW Camp Gross Born. Eighty-two pieces were issued.

Rather unusual circumstances under which this reprint was issued are narrated according to information received from former members of the Gross Born Postal Management.

In Gross Born—as well as in the Woldenberg Camp — the postal workers were placed on payrolls only in order to disguise and hide the postal profits from German camp authorities. Actually these workers turned over their salaries to the community fund ("Fundusz Społeczny"). Thus all the postal employees were without renumeration for their enormous work. The leaders of the camp decided that as a symbolic payment, all would receive, regardless of work performed, a general collection of camp stamps to be given to them at the moment of the liquidation of the Camp Post.

The Postal Management bought in the German canteen 85 portfolios for the purpose of making these individual collections for future distribution. In the process, someone accidentaly tipped over a tin of kerosene used for cleaning of the wooden stamp dies and a considerable amount of stamps were stained beyond use as the kerosene was saturated with printing ink. The majority of the damaged stamps were still on sale at the post office so these sets were replenished from the post office



stock. Unfortunately, not all of the soiled stamps could be replaced in this way because the Pigeon stamps were no longer available at the post office.

The initial solution was to buy the 82 missing copies from camp inmates but this project was soon discarded as not only being too costly, but impossible as no one among the camp philatelists was willing to sell his stamps. In the midst of this dilemna the postmaster proposed to reprint 82 copies of the missing Pigeon stamps. The wooden die at that time had not yet been invalidated. Contrary to the common practice in Gross Born that after the scheduled amount of stamps had been printed, the wooden die would be subsequently invalidated, the Pigeon die was left intact as it has been anticipated that this stamp would be printed annually on the anniversary of the establishment of the Camp Post in a different color each year. The postmaster's plan at first was met with much criticism by other members of the Postal Management. The opposition was so great in fact that one of them struck the die intentionally against the metal edge of an ink pad so as to damage the die.

Finally, after much discussion, it was decided to reprint the 82 missing copies of Pigeon stamps with the damaged die. These reprints are described in the Gross Born stamp catalog as: PIGEON No. 1C, sage-green, on greyish paper, showing a distinct white flame-shaped spot on the left wing of the pigeon. Some philatelists consider this particular Pigeon stamp as the third edition of the Pigeon issue. Taking into consideration the reason for which this stamp was printed and above all the fact that it was not intended to be put into postal circulation, I consider it as an official reprint.

After the reprinting was completed, the initial plans of issuing the Pigeon stamp annually were disregarded and consequently the wooden die was invalidated by carving a diagonal groove running through the design of the die.

In conclusion may I add that while doing research on the Pigeon stamp, I came across two Pigeon postcards (GB PC No. 2E), black on greyish bristol paper, showing the same flame-shaped white spot as seen on the Pigeon stamp No. 1C. In spite of numerous correspondence with former members of the Camp Postal Management, no explanation to the origin of these two postcards could be found. I had at my disposal over 200 Pigeon postcards and the fact that among them I found only two postcards showing identical damage of the die impression as on Pigeon stamp No. 1C, causes me to assume that during the reprinting of the stamp, a few copies of postcards were also made. The disclosure of these two postcards — one of them being postally used—is a puzzle not only to me but also to some of the former members of the GB Camp Postal Management.

The whole matter of reprinting was kept secret. Only five members of the Postal Management were aware of this operation. Despite this sworn secrecy, the reprinting became public and resulted in considerable upset among camp philatelists.

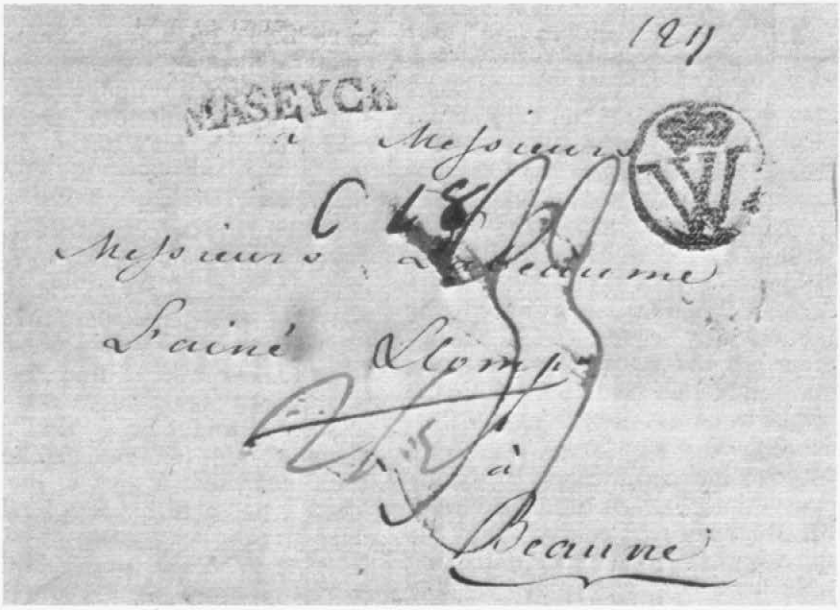
NEW FEATURE: MY FAVORITE COVER

Every collector has a favorite cover in his collection. The reason why this particular cover is the favorite will differ among collectors. For one it may be the first cover ever purchased, for another it might be a "find" in a dealer's bin, for yet another it could represent a part of the collector's personal history. Perhaps it is a cover with great historical interest or of no particular historical moment. The cover may have stamps which are rare or unique, or the most common of issues. But what the cover has is that special SOMETHING that makes it special to this collector.

Which is your favorite cover — that one which you would never think of giving up? Beginning with this issue of the Bulletin, Polonus members will describe their favorite cover and tell why it holds a special place for them. YOU have such a cover in your collection, would you share with your fellow philatelists the how and the why and the what and the where of your cover. Value is not important, historical period is not important, what is important is why it is special to you. Send the information and a picture of the cover (or send the cover, it will be returned to you by registered mail) to: Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.

Please don't delay, we are depending on you to make this feature a success!

JAMES MAZEPA'S FAVORITE COVER



Prestamp cover with Type II of the Warsaw Crown postmark in 1785.

About ten years ago I became fascinated with the postal history of Poland and began to collect prestamp letters. Various examples found their way into my collection (at the unheard of price of $1.00 or $2.00 each) yet my hope from the beginning was to possess examples of the famous Warsaw Crowns, those elusive first postmarks of Warsaw during the period of the Independent Kingdom. Unfortunately, I was in the middle of my graduate studies and my pocketbook could not manage my desire to have them. After all, each one represented about two weeks' food for my family.

So I began to collect auction catalogues which pictured those items which I could not at the time afford but would eventually like to acquire. A friend gave me a Robson Lowe (London) catalogue of February 19, 1958 which contained the famous Goss Collection of Imperial Russia and Poland. Pictured here was a most perfect example of the type II Crown, the finest I had seen. Perhaps one day I, too, would have such a fine specimen.

Several years passed and I finally had my first opportunity to bid on a Crown on auction. I was very excited at the prospect of finally obtaining this prized postmark, but my excitement became disappointment when I discovered I lost the cover by one bid! However, just a few weeks later in an obscure Detroit auction another Crown appeared. As I looked at the catalogue I could scarcely believe what I saw — it was the very cover that was in the Goss collection. Determined

not to lose this time, I decided to place a telephone bid on the day of the auction. I nervously dialed the number and to my surprise I discovered the auction was already in progress. I had forgotten that Detroit was an hour ahead of Chicago time! My call arrived just 10 lots before "my" cover was to be sold, so by my error I was able to bid by phone against a floor bidder 300 miles away. I do not believe I was ever so excited as when the auctioneer announce "Sold to the Phone!"

This beautiful example of the type II Crown mark is on a folded letter 112 mm. x 83 mm., which was dispatched from Warsaw on August 17, 1785. Ruch in P.Z.P. gives the dates of use from 1783 to 1787. The letter bears the letter docket number "124" in the customary upper right corner; this being a method of letter control similar to present registry numbers. The letter traveled across Prussia to the town of MASEYCK which was the border receiving station on the Belgian-Dutch border for mail going overland to France. The other marks on the face of the letter are French and Prussian accountancy marks. On August 31, the letter reached its destination of Beaume for a transit of 14 days. It is addressed to a Monsieur Labaume and contains information about business matters. The letter also bears on the reverse the offset of still another Crown mark from the letter placed beneath it.

My favorite cover is a story of a philatelic dream-come-true. I believe this happens to all collectors at one time or another. But I have often thought what might have happened if I placed that phone call just five minutes later!

—James Mazepa, ACSW

Forgery of the Blackprint: Sport on Stamps Exhibition, Wrocław, 1963

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG

Exhibition catalogues of the International Sport on Stamps Exhibition which was held at Wrocław in Poland in October, 1963 contained souvenir sheets printed by the Polish Printing Office (PWPW). These souvenir sheets consist of 2 x 2 stamps of 1.35 zł. denomination (Scott No. 958, Ruch No. 1054) showing a fragment of the city of



ORIGINAL



FORGERY

Wrocław. They are printed from original steel engraved dies in black; the background tint was omitted. On top and bottom are appropriate inscriptions. Each souvenir sheet has imprinted vertically on its right margin an individual 6 digit serial number between 000001 and 008500.

These souvenir sheets and stamps had officially no postal validity, nevertheless, they exist cancelled and were used to prepay postage on genuine letters.

I observed a forgery of this souvenir sheet. It can be distinguished easily from the original because it is printed with a flat printing process (instead of steel engraving) on a poorer quality gray paper instead of on a regular white paper. (Both original and forgery are ungummed and imperforated). Other distinguishing characteristics are as follows:

	Genuine	Forgery
Details of design (see photographs)	Very clear and sharp.	Unsharp but the details of the original are correctly reproduced. Apparently the die was made by photographic transfer.
Overall Dimensions	95.5 mm x 98 mm	95 mm x 97 mm
Distance between 'W' of 'Wrocław' and the first stamp.	9.6 mm	10.6 mm
Distance between the second 'W' of 'PWPW' of the 3rd stamp and 'D' of 'Czarnodruk'.	11.9 mm	11.3 mm
Serial Number	Imprinted typographically by a separate operation in a different ink.	Printed simultaneously with the rest of the souvenir sheet. On the one described here it is: 'No. 002863'. It may likely be the same on other such forgeries.
Printing ink	Intense black, glossy.	Brown black, semiglossy

Some details were retouched on the plate from which the forgery was made: e.g. in the southeast corner of the second stamp the left window above the horse has square top edges in the original, but has diagonal corner lines in the forgery (see arrows in the photographs). Numerous other retouchings can be identified.

NEW MEMBER

Hon. Thaddeus J. Dulski
50 Peace Street
Buffalo, N.Y. 14211

WELCOME!

Polonus welcomes into the fold former Congressman from New York, the Hon. Thaddeus J. Dulski.

List of Polish Philatelic Societies of Special Interest

Olimpijczycy (Olympic Topicals)
00-950 Warszawa, skr. poczt. 104
Organized 1962. 32 members
Fabian Bura, President
Praha CSR, Vaslavske nem 19
Polski Osr. Kulturalny

●

Dzień Znaczka (Stamps on stamps
00-952 Warszawa 40, skr. pocz. 52
Org. 1960; 115 members
Włodzimierz Goszczyński, Pres.

●

Marynistów (Ship topical)
ul. Lelewela 17, 80-442 Gdańsk
Wreszcz
Org. 1960; 124 members
Stanisław Szmoń, Pres.
81-381 Gdynia, ul. Bema 27 a/47

●

Polonica, 60-967 Poznań 9
skr. poczt. 253
Org. 1964; 104 members
Dr. Mieczysław Lipiński, Pres.
ul. Truskawiecka 13
60-476 Poznań 29

●

Cracoviana, 31-007 Kraków 2
ul. Wislna 8
Org. 1969; 40 members
mgr Andrzej Lipski, Pres.

●

Copernicana, ul. Rataja 58 m 6
10-259 Olsztyn
Org. 1970; 122 members
Stefan Brzozowski, Pres.
ul. Grunwaldzka 6

●

Ikar/Lotnicze (Airmail)
ul. Bankowa 29, 40-007 Katowice
Org. 1968; 35 members

●

Esperanto, 30-960 Kraków
skr. poczt. 756
Org. 1970; 100 members

●

Bibliofil (Philatelic Literature)
skr. poczt. 325, 90-950 Łódź 1
Org. 1972; 45 members
inż Czesław Danowski, Pres.

●

Varsaviana (Warsaw)
skr. poczt. 104, 00-950 Warszawa 1
Org. 1973; 26 members
Jerzy Dobrzeniecki, Prezes

Zdrowie (Red Cross)
skr. poczt. 325, 90-950 Łódź
Org. 1966; 54 members
Lesław Zabilski, Pres.
skr. 349
90-050 Łódź

●

Militaria, skr. poczt. 39
00-911 Warszawa 62
Org. 1972; 80 members
Aleksander Harna, Pres.
02 327 Warszawa 22
ul. Kopińska 36a m. 48

●

Francotyp (Postal Meter)
skr. 11, 90-982 Łódź 58
Org. 1971; 56 members
Ireneusz Kołaciński, Pres.
skr. 11, 90-982 Łódź 58

●

Folklor i Etnografia (Folklore
and Lanscapes), skr. poczt. 104
00-950 Warszawa 1
Org. 1974; 40 members

●

Druh (Scouting)
01-673 Warszawa
ul. Podleśna 48 m. 37
Org. 1971; 560 members
Ryszard Jakubowski, Pres.

NEW MEMBERS

Jerzy Hauptmann
6526 N.W. Melody Lane
Parkville, MO 64152

Joseph F. Seliga
15 Windswept Dr.
Trenton, N.J. 08690

Ron Negus
"Hellas" Shelley Rd. Hutton
Brentwood, Essex
England

Michael V. Cieplechowicz
817 Chestnut Ave.
Trenton, N.J. 08611

IN MEMORIAM

BERTHA KOBYLKA
Died May 20, 1976

STANLEY J. FALCON
Died July 31, 1976

LESTER JANKOWSKI

(Continued from first page)

officer one by one about the specific duties of their office and about the obligations that are expected of them in their respective trusts. As president, he was thorough in his conduct of the Society's affairs and earned the loyalty of others to help him in his many undertakings.



Lester Jankowski (center) holds ribbon at Polpex 66 opening ceremony with Bishop Rubin (left) and Roman Strzelecki (right)

Polonus was fortunate indeed to have Lester at its helm during the formative years when our foundations were being laid on a firm and productive basis. P o l o n u s grew into a strong organization largely as a result of the course on which it was set by such men as Lester Jankowski.

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his wife Mildred and to his three sisters.

POLCAPEX 76

The Polish Philatelic Society of Canada will hold a philatelic and numismatic exhibition P O L C A - PEX 76 on October 16-17 at Holy Rosary Hall, 650 Richards St. in Vancouver, B.C.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, Ill. 60622
James Mazepa, Secretary
Al Rybarski, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82, River Grove, Ill. 60171

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 $5.00 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 24, 1976:

Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Regular meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Program to follow. Roman Strzelecki will speak on Poland Postal Cards.

Friday, October 8, 1976:

We meet at the Chicago Philatelic Society a n n u a l Exhibition. Meeting will start at 8:00 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room on the 8th floor of the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, 505 N. Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING OF JUNE 11, 1976
at Polish Veterans Home

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by the President, Al Szebel with 13 members and 2 guests in attendance. Acceptance of the minutes was postponed until published in the Bulletin. Treasurer's report: As of this date we have deposited in Liberty Savings two certificates in the amounts of $3,000.00 and $1,133.51. In addition there is in the passbook account $2,096.29. Further financial information will be given at the next meeting. Motion to accept by Mr. Schafer, seconded by Mr. Link, carried.

Old Business: none.

New Business: The President announced that Mr. Ed Link has accepted the Chairmanship for POLPEX-77.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Makowski, seconded by Mr. Bor, carried.

Then followed a most interesting talk by Mr. Fred Blau on INTERPHIL with many interesting sidelights and behind the scenes information. A BEEBA followed for a fitting finish to a delightful evening.

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING OF JUNE 25, 1976
at Polish Veterans Home

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by the President with 20 members and one guest in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer reported a check book balance and cash-on-hand balance to total $3,110.54. Mr. Strzelecki moved, seconded by Mr. Wolosewicz, to accept the report, motion carried. New Members: Edward Phillips, Pueblo, Colorado; Anthony Gruszczynski, Wilmington, Delaware; and Timothy Chmielewski, Vienna, Virginia. Motion to accept into membership was carried.

Old Business: The President requested that the secretary summarize the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of June 11th: 1.) We have 33 Bronze POLPEX-76 medals remaining. 2.) Ed Link will be POLPEX-77 Chairman. 3.) New medals will have to be cast for our next show — we have no more left. 4.) The Board will meet at Mr. Makowski's home to discuss the by-laws. 5.) The Board decided not to have a POLONUS sponsored Rocket flight in the next year. 6.) Mr. Mazepa is beginning to work on editing the translated copy of the article on the I Corps by Gryzewski. 7.) The President requested that the speakers for Fall-Winter, 1976, be prepared by the time the August Bulletin is ready. 8.) Next meeting is July 8th.

New Business: Mr. Szebel regretfully announced the death of the great Polish Philatelist, Thadeus Gryzewski on May 28. We are also saddened by the recent stroke and hospitalization of Dr. Kozakiewicz who remains in serious condition. Mr. Szebel then reported on STAMPEX-76 held in Toronto, Canada. In general the show was attractive and exciting, and two of our Chicagoland members received medals, Mr. Mazepa, Small Gold; and Mr. Szebel, Bronze. The La-

Salle Hotel will close July 1 and Polonus has the dubious honor of having the last Philatelic show in this grand hotel. The COMPEX show slated for the LaSalle Hotel in August has been transfered to the Palmer House for the same dates. The membership then welcomed our member from Scottsdale, Arizona, Mr. Thomas Tenczar. Mr. Tenczar presented a copy of his monograph "Checklist of Polish Town Cancels of the Stamps of the Austrian Empire 1850-1883" to the Polonus Society.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Strzelecki, seconded by Mr. Wolosewicz, carried. Mr. Schafer then introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Joe Janecka. Mr. Janecka presented a most informative slide show (Mr. Strzelecki, who attempted to manage the projector, has agreed to accept lessons and do a better job next time) on the Air Mails of Czechoslovakia. Beautiful pictures of treasures from Joe's collection were viewed by all. He began with an explanation of the basic stamps that were overprinted and went on in great detail to trace the development of the stamp with actual essays, proofs, varieties, covers, and ending with his study of the forgeries. Thanks, Joe, for the information, your wit and your wisdom!

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING
August 27, 1976 — COMPEX Meeting at the Palmer House

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Szebel, at 8:20 p.m. with 19 members in attendance. The minutes were read and approved with Mr. Steczynski moving for the motion and Mr. Link seconding. The treasurer's report is omitted due to the absence of the treasurer.

The following new members were proposed: Jerzy Hauptman of Parkville, Mo.; Thaddeus Dulski, Buffalo, N.Y.; Joseph Seliga, Trenton, New Jersey; and Ron Negus, Brentwood, Essex, England. Mr. Kucharz moved, seconded by Mr. Strzelecki, that they be accepted into membership.

Mr. Szebel then called upon Mr. Link, POLPEX 77 Chairman, to give an updated report. Mr. Link announced that the following chairmen have been named: Entries, Mr. Strzelecki; Sales, Mr. Bor; Publicity, Mr. Mazepa and Mr. Schafer; Exhibits and set-up, Mr. Bartczak; Ads and Patrons, Mr. Bor. The Bourse will have about 17 dealers, 12 upstairs and 5 downstairs. The five downstairs will be from the Northwest bourses which are usually set-up downstairs in the hall.

Correspondence was read from Mrs. Kozakiewicz thanking some members for their help. A letter from Mr. McEvan offering for sale his collection of Polish material was read to the members and interested members were to make a personal contact with him.

Mr. Makowski moved, seconded by Mr. Bartczak, to adjourn the meeting and the members dispersed to view the exhibits of the COMPEX show.

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary