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 No. 178 February, 1960

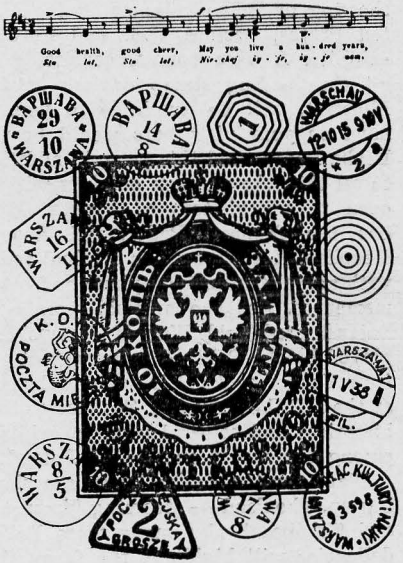
POLPEX 1960 — MARCH 4, 5 & 6

With our Polpex 1960 just around the corner, the work of the many Committees progresses rapidly. A lot of work has already been done but the biggest job remains to be done — that of the exhibition itself.

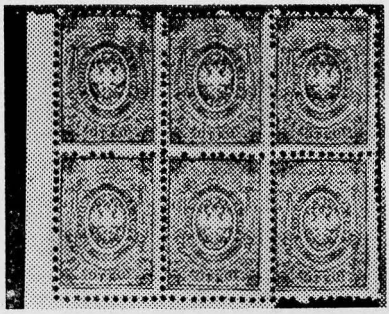
On Thursday evening, March 3rd, our traditional "Mounting Party" will be held at the P. R. C. U. Musum, 984 Milwaukee Ave., starting at 6:30 p.m. All Chicagoland members are urgently requested to attend. Dress informally, bring a screw driver. Pliers and a clean cloth for wiping glass would also come in handy. Master of Ceremonies John Skotnicki will direct the putting up of frames and easels.

As the amount of frames is limited to six per exhibit a large variety of material will be shown. Selected pages from the two most outstanding collections of Poland No. 1, those of Mr. V. Rachmanoff of New York and Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz of Chicago, will be featured. In addition, many other exhibits equally interesting will show the visitors to Polpex the many periods of history Poland went through since the issuance of the first postage stamp one hundred years ago.

Art Director Myron Steczynski outdid himself and produced a beautiful four-color souvenir sheet with Poland No. 1 reproduced in all its glory. Surrounding the stamp are some typical cancellations used in Warsaw during the hundred years since the stamp was issued. The bar of music at the top is



from the popular tune "Sto Lat Niech Żyje Nam". The souvenir sheets are issued in sets of two in English and in Polish with changes of colors. An accompanying folder gives a full explanation of the stamp and the souvenir sheets. A complete set of three pieces is priced at 25c plus postage and may be obtained from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.



The largest known multiple piece of Poland No. 1 is this mint block of six in possession of Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz.

We particularly wish to invite out-of-town members to attend our Polpex 1960. Here you can see the greatest showing of Poland stamps in the United States, besides U.S. and Foreign exhibits. A fine bourse, consisting of all the leading stamp dealers in the Midwest, will be available to you. A must on your visit here would be the Beeba Party. And this year, in addition to all this, the museum exhibits will be open to all visitors of Polpex 1960. See the famous "Paderewski Room", a replica of Paderewski's original room, with actual furnishings, piano and other mementos. See the original proofs of Poland pre-World War II stamps displayed by the Polish Government at the New York World's Fair and now housed at the P.R.C.U. museum. See many other historical and colorful museum exhibits among the finest outside of Poland.

Plans for the Beeba Party are shaping up. The food — steaming "kapusta" and "kiełbasa" plus many more Polish delicacies will highlight the feast. Our member No. 1, L. Jankowski, will conduct the Presentation of Awards. Some attractive door prizes will be given away. Because this year our Beeba will be held in the museum building cafeteria, and the hall is much larger than the one we have used in the past, we can accomodate a larger crowd. So — let's make a date. Bring your ladies. Let's all meet on Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 p.m. for the Beeba!

—R. H. Strzelecki

APPLICATION PENDING

Vicki Hale (Mrs. Paul)
Box 206
Brighton, Ill.

NEW MEMBERS

Roman Winiarski
17 St. Hubert's Road
Carnegie, Melbourne
Victoria, Australia

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Thomas M. Tenczar
Box 164
Scottsdale, Ariz.

G. Bobinski
1435 University Terrace, No. 723
Ann Arbor, Mich.

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 19 **Dec. 1959-Jan. 1960**

The Christmas meeting was a light-hearted affair with a "philatelic quiz" organized by the Packet Secretary—Mr. G. E. Mason and an auction at the conclusion of the meeting. The "quiz" was won by Mr. R. Wagner who immediately passed his prize to the runner up—Mr. Z. Bokiewicz. (One wonders what use he can possibly have for it)!! We had a similar action by Mrs. K. Horowicz who won last year's "quiz and it might be considered. if this sort of thing goes on, that we should award the prize to the runner-up. One thing it does show is the good will and friendly feeling among the members.

All members are looking forward to the chance of meeting some of our American friends who may be coming over for the London Exhibition this year. Arrangements are already in hand for smoothing the path as far as possible and it is to be hoped that there will be an opportunity for as many visitors as possible to attend at least one of our meetings which are held at the Polish Air Force Club, Collingham Gardens, Earts Court.

May we in London extend our good wishes for the New Year and hope that you can find the necessary dollars to cross the "herring pond."

—S. J. Capes

Did You Send In Your Dues For 1960? They Were Payable In January. Send $2.50 Immediately to the Treasurer: J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago 34, Ill.

The Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising

By Thaddeus Gryzewski

(Continued from previous month)

"Information in the Matter of Organizing a Postal Service.

"The Grey Ranks (Scouts) were authorized to organize and establish a Postal service for the civilian people after the example of the Field Post, served by Scouts in accordance with an Order of the Command of A.K. dated August 11, 1944.

"Because of this volunteer work of the Scouts, making such Postal Service possible, appreciation and strict adherence to the rules should be shown by the people who take advantage of this service.

"Regional Delegate of the Government (—) Ing. Stanisław Kulesza, — Warsaw, August 20, 1944".

These official notices appeared at a time when the Boy Scout Postal Service was already functioning at full-steam; however these documents santioned and legalized the Scout Post as an institution of Public Service, officially established, with all due rights.

The Main Boy Scout Post Office was located at Ul. Świętojańska No. 28 and functioned jointly with the Postal Station at "Śródmieście Północne" (North) under administration of Lt. Gorecki. Scoutmaster Kazimierz Grenda was in charge of "Śródmieście Południe (South) located at Ul. Wilcza No. 44; Scoutmaster Zbigniew Brydak was in charge of "Powisła" located in the Conservatory Building at Ul. Okolnik; Cipula (?) was in charge of the "Powisłe-Czerniakowska" located in the Mutual Insurance Building on Ul. Czerniakowska.

The entire Postal personnel, without inclusion of censors, consisted of from 1 to 3 people. The number of personnel was flexible, depending on the amount of incoming mail. and help was mobilized as needed to expedite the sorting and delivery of correspondence.

The first collection pick-up boxes were of wood or ordinary cardboard, and placed in the busiest parts of the



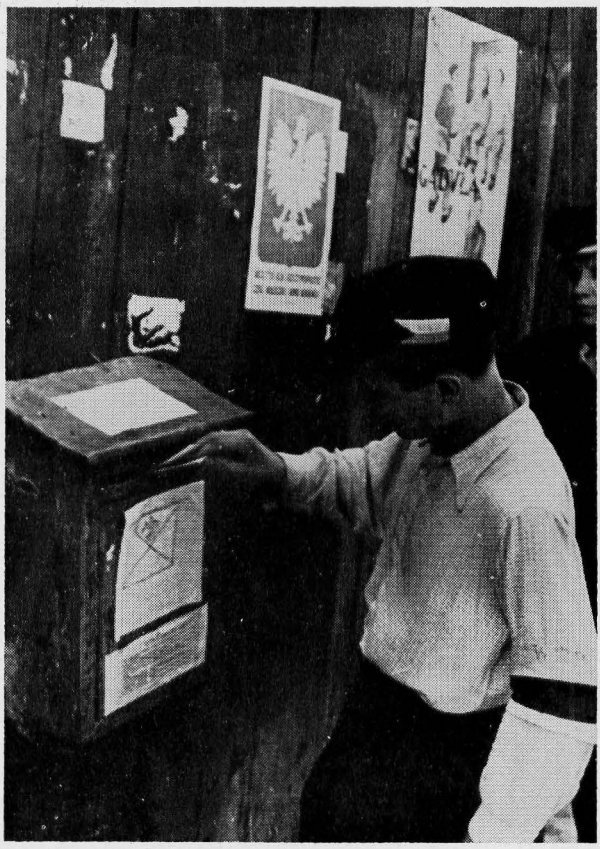
Former mail box of the Polish government with the scout symbol painted on the breast of the Polish eagle. Located on Gorski street (Center-North).

(Photo: Eug. Haneman)

city, usually near headquarters of Military Command Posts. Later use was made of the existing collection boxes, left by the Germans, but the wording "Deutsche Post Osten" was smeared and the hated Swastika blotted out. The Poles called the Swastika, "The Goose" because of resemblance to a goose in flight, in design.

As to collection pick-up mail boxes, the Boy Scout publication, Service Forces of AK "BĄDŹ GOTÓW" (Be Prepared) in No. 6 says as follows: "At the gate stand a group of people. They surround the mail box, an old honest red colored collection mail box for letters with the Polish Eagle, without any "Deutsches," "Posts," or "Ostens." There is however, a difference betwen an old-time collection box, that is prior to September 1939 and the present collection box. The present one has a Polish Eagle but on his breast there appears the Boy Scout Emblem, a green Fleur-de-lis, and at the side appears special instructions — instructions for users of this Postal Service."

The above mentioned instructions were typewritten and pasted or nailed to the collection mail boxes. These instructions arranged in paragraphs gave detailed conditions for sending correspondence. Letters had to be legibly written and limited to 25 words. They were to be deposited unsealed. The sender must give his address. The Military must designate their unit formation. The Postal service was free of any monetary charge. However, the Postal Administration appealed to the public in these instructions for a voluntary contribution of periodicals, magazines and books to be deposited alongside the collection mail boxes, intended for those wounded lying in hospitals.



Mail box set up by the Scouts on Tamka street (Powiśle). (Photo: Tad. Bukowski)

The collections of the mail was entrusted to the Boy Scouts who also served as letter carriers. Mail taken from collection boxes as well as that handed them by civilians or the Military, from the farthest points of the battle line, was delivered to the Postal Units, where the mail was given receiving marks.

In accordance with instructions for voluntary payment of this postal service in the form of books and periodicals, some units stamped the mail with "Prepaid."

Among the difficulties under which the Scout Postal Service was operating, was the important question of censorship. Detailed regulations were worked

out by the Postal Authorities, as a result of Communique No. 129 by the General Commander of the Home Army AK, appointing the Head Scoutmaster as Commander of Army Service Forces for the duration of open hostilities.

The duty of the censors was to read each incoming letter, and to black out all military information, suspicious marks and abbreviations. Questionable correspondence was to be destroyed or turned over to Military Security Division. Responsible censorship demanded responsible personnel, experienced persons in this work. The choice fell on the parents of the Boy Scouts. The first censor of the newly organized Postal service was Mrs. Aniela Urbanowicz, mother of Scoutmaster Jan "Rudy," head of troop unit "Szturmowe," next Mrs. Bytner, Mr. Witold Broniewski the father of the head of the "Grey Ranks," Zofia Marciniak, sister of the head of "Grey Ranks" also the father and mother of Scoutmaster Przemisław Gorecki.

The censors were located in quarters in Postal Units at Świętokrzyską and also at Ul. Wilczka. The Czerniakowska Postal Unit functioned within its own confines. Letters from Powiśle were censored at Śródmieście Północne. Censorship marks were shown by special markers and the signature of the censor.

After censorship, letters were sorted according to districts and then according to the streets. Letters addressed to the Military or other districts were sent to the Main Field Post, which then sent them on by special courriers to the Military Units or other districts. Letters addressed to the same district were distributed for delivery by carriers, who in the main had their own picked streets for delivery of correspondence.



Sorting mail at the Swiętokrzyskiej street postoffice.
(Photo: Tad. Bukowski)

Reports on the activity of each Postal Unit were made to the Main Field Post.

In addition to the Boy Scouts assigned to each Postal Unit, there were about ten boys used as carriers or runners, in age from 10 to 15 yrs. On these never-shaven youths ("szkraby") lay the weight of the highest moral responsibility and the hardest work. Day after day, not caring of the dangers lurking at every step, they would sneak among the ruins and barricades, often under the eye of the enemy. Obstacles and danger hounded them at every step but neither wounds nor death prevented them from

their memorable work. Conscious of their mission, they knew they carried important reports. They knew each mother, wife or sister was awaiting word of their loved ones. Having in their mail pouch good or bad news — each of these young Scouts knew that he had a Scout's duty to perform, which was to deliver the entrusted correspondence to its destination as soon as possible. Thanks to the generosity of this volunteer work of these youngsters—letter carriers, mailmen—under such difficult circumstances — the Postal Service functioned, and well.



Scout-mail carrier delivering mail at a building on Moniuszko street.

(Photo: Tad. Bukowski)

Boys with the red-white brassard on their arms and the letters "S.P." (Służba pomocnicza—Auxiliary Services) and the Scout Emblem were seen sneaking thru ruined homes, bent over while running, along the barricades, or dirty and smudged after coming out of the sanitary sewers, which were sometimes the only means of travel. These Boy Scout letter carriers performed miracles in the first phase of the Uprising. One of the hardest points to cross was the vicinity dividing Śródmieście Południowa from Śródmieście Północna, which was separated by the wide street known as "Aleje Jerozolimskie" (Jerusalem Street) which was under enemy control from East to West. Up to the time of the construction of a safe tunnel under this street — it was necessary to crawl across this unprotected street. Even the dark of night was not always a safeguard.

As for the heroism and bravery of these young Scout letter carriers sometimes carrying mail, sometimes reports, let me tell of one instance related to me by an eyewitness, Dr. Swiderski, who had an office at the corner of Aleje Jerozolimskie, tell the story. He was called to administer to a seriously wounded young Scout runner, who was shot while "jumping across" the Aleje. The dying boy seeing the doctor ready to give him first aid looked up and in a hardly audible voice said, "In my pocket is an important report, please take it out and send it on to its destination," and with these words the boy died. Before the tunnel was constructed by the Army Engineers, these clever Boy Scouts installed a pulley and rope and sent pouches of mail from one side to the other across the Aleje. The courage, initiative and cleverness of these boys was endless.

(Continued next month)

WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS . . .

By Roman H. Strzelecki

MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 1960

This meeting was mainly devoted to our annual Election of Officers for the year 1960. The attendance was 26 members and 3 visitors. Several items of correspondence were dealt with as well as the announcement of new issues.

Right after our regular business an Election Committee was chosen in order to conduct the election. J. P. Rux, Dr. Kozy and A. Kloskowski were chosen for the difficult job at this time. Without the aid of voting machines we proceeded with the task of selecting the officers. The customary long discussions pro and con followed. The Constitution had to be consulted. A few "I decline"s were made but additional nominations took care of that. All in all it was a good experience to witness this Election Night.

Final results of this most temperamentfull election were a follows:

President.....Roman H. Strzelecki
Vice President.....John Bor
Treasurer .....J. P. Rux
Secretary.....Roman J. Burkiewicz
Librarian ....Sebastian Styczynski
Director.....Lester Jonkowski
Director .....Roman Reinowski

After the election the newly elected officers threw a beer party for all members present.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 1960

The meeting got under way late because of the bad, icy road conditions. The rather small attendance of 20 was attributed to the bad weather. But we got at our business immediately with a most important item — Polpex 1960. The chairman R. Strzelecki reported progress in the work of all commitees with the exception of the Entries. But this happens every year. Polonus members, for some reason, must wait till the last minute with their entry applications. Not until our attorney Lester Jankowski made all realize that this is the time to come forward with the entries, did hands start raising and pledging of exhibits take place. Roman Burkiewicz, the Entry Chairman, was kept busy marking down the names and amounts of frames. There were enough promises from the members present to just about fill the exhibition hall. Thank you Mr. Jankowski!

Next the Central Federation Delegate John Bor made his report. He emphasized three important items: space for philatelic literature at the Chicago Public Library; a home for philatelists; and the voting power of the delegate. A motion was made for the delegate himself to put in writing the voting power he thinks he should require, and then present this on the floor of the next meeting for our approval.

A motion was made and seconded to exchange a full page ad with Compex to be printed in our Polpex Catalogue.

Our Paderewski Stamp Committee Chairman L. Jankowski made a report of the activities of his Committee. He displayed a huge file of duplicate copies of letters sent to many government officials asking for support of this stamp. This represented a tremendous amount of work As soon as the file will be properly recorded and included in the Archives of Polonus it will be available to members for reference. Our hearty and sincere thanks to Mr. Jankowski for doing a fine job!

Until now we still have no definite word as to the stamp being issued. Let's make every effort to get all possible signatures to Postmaster General Summerfield in Washington urging him to issue this stamp. Also, direct your letter to your respective Congressman in support of this stamp. If we fail to secure the stamp for this Nov. 6th we can still have one issued the following year as the Champions of Liberty series are not necessarily only issued on anniversaries.

At the end of our regular business we held the ceremony of Installing of Officers. In the past our first president Lester Jankowski did the swearing in, but since this year he himself had to be sworn in, our Adam Kloskowski took over the honors. Adam impressed on us the importance of the various officers' tasks and he duly and properly performed his function. The

new officers accepted their respective offices and with the new slate installed and no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned.

NEW ISSUES
By J. J. Domar

On Feb. 22nd, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Frederick Chopin, as well as to commemorate the Frederick Chopin Music Competition, which will be held at about the same time in Warsaw, a set of three stamps will be issued.

60 gr. value and the 1.50 złoty value will be printed in two and three colored offet.

2.50 złoty wil be steel plate engraved.

The design of the 60 groszy value represents the shape of a piano, with dates 1810-1960. The 1.50 zł. illustrates a sheet of music with the dates 1810-1960. The 2.50 zł. depicts a portrait of Fr. Chopin and dates 1810-1860.



(Cut courtesy Western Stamp Collector)

Each have in large letters across the bottom CHOPIN and in small letters across the top — POLSKA.

Designed by Stefan Malecki and printed by the P.W.P.W., Warsaw.

This will bs a limited issue: the 60 gr. and 1.50 zł. 1 million each and the 2.50 zł. — 300,000.

—ARS Polona

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— Annual Dues are $2.50 —

POLAND

Rockets perf and imperf FDC.. .65
Costumes perf and imperf FDC 2.00
Mushrooms FDC ..... .70
761/763 U.N. & imperf & S.S. FDC 6.00

M I N T

New Issues always at lowest prices. Service is slow but prices are low.

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No. 73 double overprint mint single 50.00
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No. 417 imperf pair mint... 18.00
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Twin Eagle Stamp Co.
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