

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 225

September-October, 1964

A Snuffbox For The Nose, or a Nose For The Snuffbox

This article appeared recently in a daily Warsaw newspaper "Życie Warszawy." It portrays the feelings of an average collector in Poland, regarding the many "speculative" issues.

* * *

Our country regards philately as a cultural hobby and in many cases as an antidote for any kind of sickness.

The official State distributor of stamps of Poland, Państwowe Przedsiębiorstwo Filatelistyczne "PPF Ruch" is forgetting however its cultural mission and is trying its utmost to collect the highest possible prices for philatelic material it distributes.

It is an established fact that the stamps of Poland can be purchased much easier and above all, cheaper, in Moscow, Prague or Budapest than in the shops of the P.P.F. Ruch.

Recently the specially issued F.I.P. and F.I.S. souvenir sheets brought great disappointment and much bitter feelings to the collectors in Poland. They were unable to purchase these items at nominal or face value prices.

Instead they had to pay several hundred zloty for each souvenir sheet, a price far, far above face value.

These fantastic prices were established by "P.P.F. Ruch" and supposedly sanctioned by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

(Editor's Note: The same fantastic prices were asked from collectors abroad.)

The Ministry received many protests and complaints from collectors in Poland where according to the statistics, there are over 100,000 members in the Polish Philatelic Association.

The Ministry, under this pressure, made a solemn promise, that no more such "speculative" or "high priced" items will ever be issued.

Unfortunately not even a year passed from the "solemn promise" when the same Ministry of Posts, hand in hand with "P.P.F. Ruch", broke their given promises not only to 100,000 its own collectors in Poland but to collectors of Polish stamps all over the world.

To commemorate the International Fencing Games in Gdańsk, four stamps in a special souvenir sheet form, were issued in addition to the regular set. The limited printing was 65,000 sheets with a face value for 4 stamps in the sheet of only 3.70 zł.

The Ministry did not issue them however, for regular postage use, but by a special decree of the Ministry this was to be an extraordinary philatelic event. And such an event it was too! These special Fencing sheets were never available at any Post Office in Poland.

There were rumors that a very small number of these sheets were given to the participants of the games and that a large number was sent abroad for sale to obtain the so called "hard cash."

The rest of the issue, it was promised by the Ministry (again!), would be distributed to collectors in Poland, and sold by the "P.P.F. Ruch" at face value.

Although 6 months has passed from the date of issue, there is no sign of the Fencing sheets and once again, the promise of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs is broken.

But! Rumors are going around that the "P.P.F. Ruch" has set the selling price of the sheet at 400 zł. — What a terrific difference from 3.70 zł. face.

Such unusual dealings will most certainly not help to promote such a cultural and healthy hobby as philately.

Just the opposite, it will hurt and discourage. A large number of people who regard stamp collecting strictly as a hobby, will not only get discouraged, but they will drop stamp collecting entirely.

In conclusion: No one should think about today only, but should look forward to tomorrow.

Lets adopt the more practical and more ethical business rule, which says: "Let's earn little, but more often -- instead of a lot at once and nothing tomorrow."

POLPEX 1965 DATES SET

At the September 25th meeting, the members voted to hold POLPEX 1965 on March 5, 6 & 7, 1965. At the following meeting, October 9th, another decision was made: The Theme of the Polpex will be Copernicus and Space.

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Carl M. Hirschman, 347	A. J. Pulnarowicz, 576	Edward Yanek, 688

The above listed members of the Society have been dropped from the Membership List for non-payment of dues. If your name is on the above list, this is the last copy of the Bulletin that you will receive, unless you immediately remit your unpaid dues to Lester Jankowski, Treasurer, 10 South LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60603.

U.S. STAMP TO FETE SOKOLS

Postmaster General John A. Gronowski announced a new stamp will be issued in 1965 to commemorate the centennial of the first Sokol educational and physical fitness organization in the U.S.A.

The Sokol program combines gymnastics and educational and cultural activities. Sokol has a national membership of more than 250,000, most of whom are of Polish, Slovak and Yugoslav descent.

NEW MEMBERS

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RAILWAY EXPEDYCJA MARKS

by M. A. Bojanowicz and S. J. Capes

The literal meaning of "Expedycja" or "Ekspedycja" is forwarding, implying handling and dispatch, and it is used in this connection for the forwarding of post and the markings there-to. The facts indicate that the handling and forwarding of mail took place either in a special office at the respective station, or, by members of the public posting mail directly into the trains or into post boxes at the station. Special postal carriages were put into service on each route, or alternatively, normal carriage compartments were specially allocated for postal use, each individual carriage probably being supplied with its own cancelling device.

Postal Carriages

We learn from contemporary postal instructions that mail could be sent by railway in one of the following three ways:

- In specially reserved compartments in normal coaches.
- In compartments specially intended for postal use, this type of compartment being eventually included in proper mail coaches also.
- Transported sporadically in exceptional cases in passenger trains.

Initially the "Expedycja Poetz w Wagonie" (handled and forwarded by postal carriage), hereafter referred to as the E.P.W. was the only postmark used for prepaid mail addressed abroad and handed in directly to the carriages for delivery (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

At first this type of cancellation was without carriage identifying number, but did show date and month. Later the date was omitted and carriage numbers substituted.

Figures in crayon denoted amount paid in cash to cover the postal charge.

Gradually the practice of accepting letters on internal railway routes was extended and in these cases the letters had to be franked with stamps which were cancelled in accordance with general procedure. As letters were accepted during the journey the traveling post offices were issued with cancellers which showed the number of the postal carriage instead of the normal town mark, numbers 1 to 8 being used to and from Warsaw (Fig. 3).

Known covers showing these types of cancellations always have the town

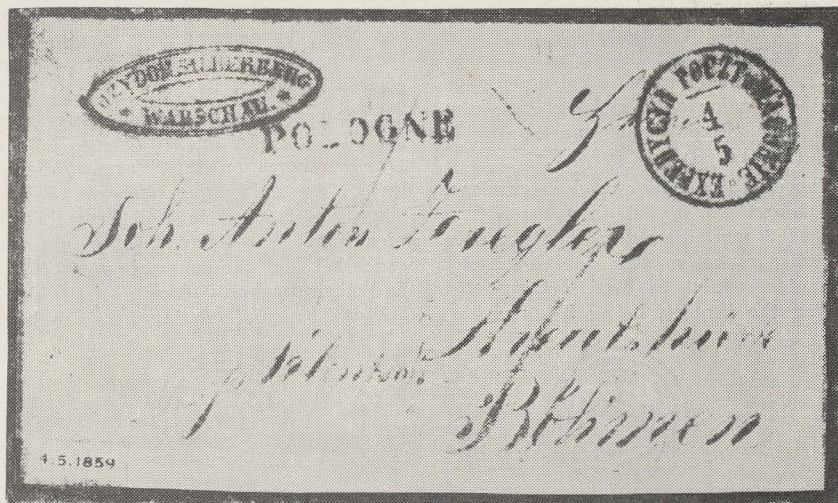


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

of posting entered in manuscript (Fig. 5) together with the date (Częstochowa, Zawiercie, Dąbrowa and others). At the same time another canceller was in use for the stamps, this being of the mute variety (Fig. 4) consisting of six rings in concentric form with a solid center, the size of which varies according to the carriage in which it was used. Exceptional cases may be found where the stamp is cancelled with the numeral type canceller and the letter back stamped with the E.P.W. mark.

This dumb canceller was also sometimes used to cancel again those stamps which, according to Russian procedure were cancelled by pen stroke.

Both of the cancellers used in carriages may be found struck in black (Fig. 5a) although Polish postal regulations required that the indication of a letter's origin was to be in red. It may well be that the carriage postal clerk, for the sake of convenience, used one color only although we have seen the "Expedycja" mark also in red (E.P.W. 8). (Fig. 4a).

The dumb canceller used in carriages No. 1 and No. 2 had, in the center, a dot of 3 mm. diameter. Carriages No. 3 used a canceller with a dot of 2 mm. diameter, whilst that of Carriage No. 4 was the largest, being 3½ mm.

As shown in the illustration (Fig. 3) the E.P.W. numbers 1, 2, 3 and 8 each show a different type of ornament below the figure and in each case the word "Ekspedycja" starts at the bottom left. Numbers 2 and 4 are identical, with a dot below the figure, but in the case of No. 5 and No. 6 the ornament is at the top and the word "Expedycja" starts at the top right side, the word here being spelled "Exp" instead of "Eks". Additionally the ornaments differ and are placed at the top. Number 7 is similar to No. 6 but the spelling is again "Eks". These are all illustrated at Fig 3.

The cancellers "Expedycja" "4" and "2" show considerably more wear and tear in their later period of life than is the case with the others, which may indicate that they were put to greater use. No. 4 became so worn in fact, that the outer ring did not register completely (Fig. 5a).

The mute cancellations were used only in conjunction with Nos. 1 to 4 (for carriages on the Warsaw/Vienna line). The only cover known of Carriage No. 5, used in 1867 from Waganiec (312) to Warsaw, (Fig. 6) was cancelled at the normal post office and then probably handed individually to the postal carriage. In the book

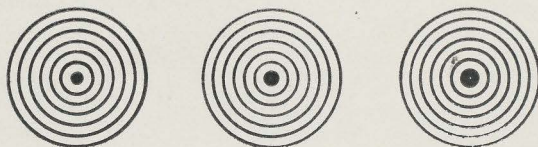


Fig. 4

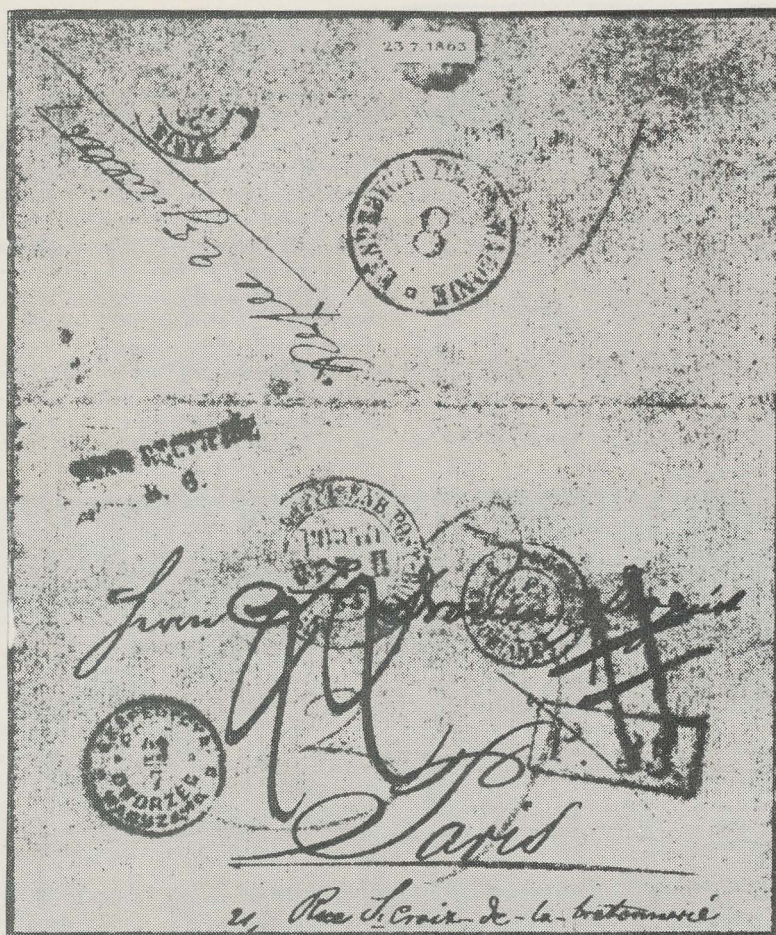


Fig. 4a

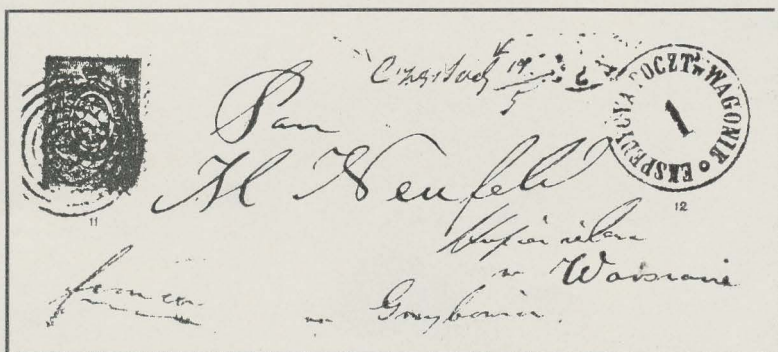


Fig. 5

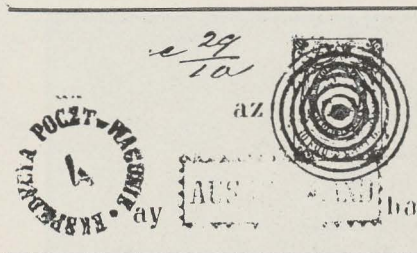


Fig. 5a

of Polanski and Rachmanow (German edition, page 64) mention is made that Mail Coach No. 5 used a cancelling stamp with the letters "D.B.", small letters, with dots after each letter. The above mentioned cover is not so cancelled.

Carriages No. 6, 7 and 8 were not supplied with a mute mark, but received instead a canceller showing D.B (no point after B) for Carriage No. 6., larger "D.B." with periods after D & B for carriage No. 7 (Fig. 7a) and a very large lettered "DB" without periods for Carriage No. 8 (Fig. 7b). Numbers 5 to 8 were used on the Warsaw - Bydgoszcz line. An examination of a number of cancellations has revealed that both black and red inks were used for the "D.B." cancel, although red was contrary to regulations. It is also of interest that the E.P.W. mark is almost always in black and seldom in red, which is according to the regulations.

(To be continued)

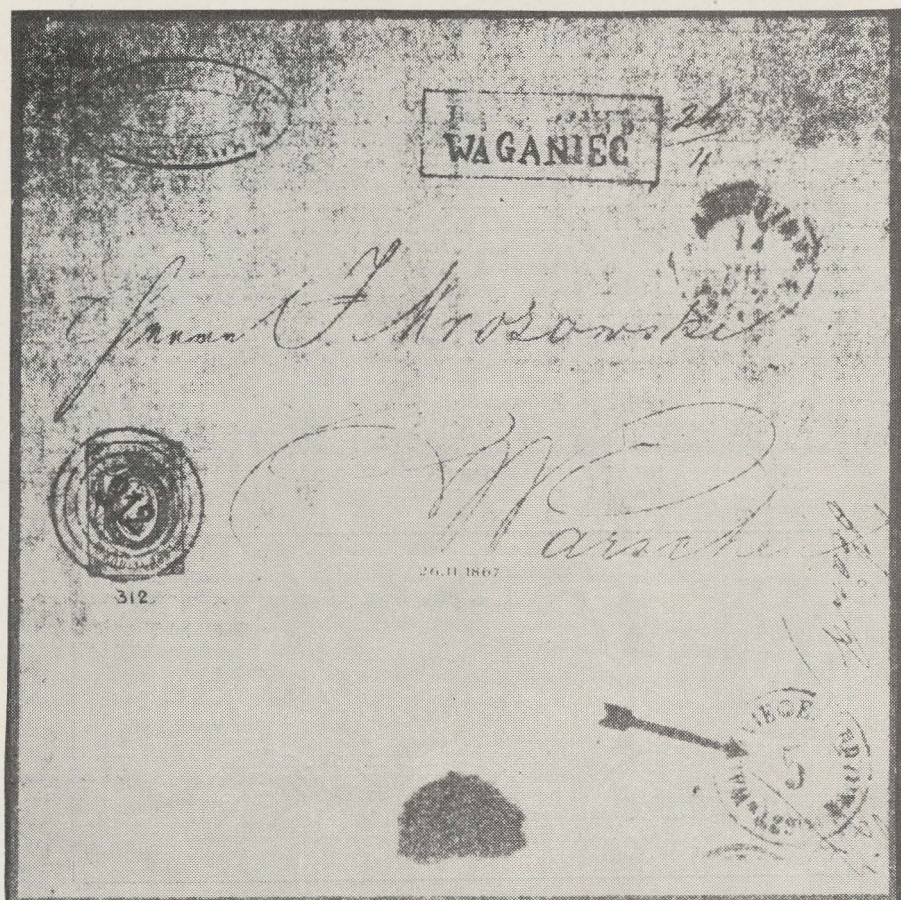


Fig. 6

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

To commemorate Poland's achievements on the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Polish Peoples Republic celebrated July 22nd, a set of 12 stamps were issued — all of 60 gr. value:

Green, orange and blue — a stylized oak of the Piast dynasty.

Orange, black and gold — a symbol of alliance of workers and peasants, one half of a cog wheel connected with a wheat ear.

Green, black and white — a symbol of industry, a silhouette of a factory and a cog wheel.

Green, black and white — a symbol of agriculture, a wheat ear and a tractor.

A symbol of art and culture, popular cuttings, an actor's mask, a painter's brush and a pen.

A symbol of earning, a book and a model of an atom.

Shipyard in Gdańsk.

Mettalurgical Works at Nowa Huta. Cement factory at Chelm.

Power station at Turoszow.

Plock Petro-chemical complex plant.

Sulphur mine at Tarnobrzeg.

Amount issued: 5 million of the first two values; all others 6 million.

* * *

A commemorative stamp of 2.50 zł. face was issued Sept. 7th to commemorate the 15th International Astronautic Congress to be held in Warsaw from Sept. 7 to 12. Sparkling stars on a silhouette of the Warsaw emblem are in purple and black. Offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 20. Size 31.25 x 43 mm. Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk. 1½ million issued.

* * *

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of Poland on Sept. 1st, Stefan Malecki designed four commemoratives to be released in October:

40 gr. the Cross Virtuti Militari by which the Polish Post in Gdańsk was rewarded for their heroic defense.

40 gr. Monument to be erected on the Westerplatte (Gdańsk) to honor its defenders.

60 gr. Bydgoszcz Nike monument to be erected in the Bydgoszcz Old Market to honor the martyrdom and struggle of the people.

60 gr. Picture by S. Zoltowski showing Polish soldiers forging the Odra river towards victory.

—Ruch, Filatelista

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 23, 1964 —

Chicago Philatelic Society Nite. Members of C.P.S. invited to attend this program meeting at which their member Samuel Ray, will speak on "The Art of Mounting Stamps for Exhibition Purposes." Mr. Ray is an expert in this field and considered to be a national authority.

Beeba to follow. Ladies invited.

Friday, November 13, 1964 —

Business Meeting.

Friday, November 27th, 1964 —

Program Meeting.

A PHILATELIC LIBRARY IN THE POLISH MUSEUM

Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz is compiling a philatelic library which he eventually will present to the Polish Museum in Chicago, where it will be available to everyone. He appeals to our members that have philatelic literature pertaining to Poland stamps, to donate such material for this cause. Send it to Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, 1530 N. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622. Donors will be acknowledged in the Bulletin.

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

POLISH AMERICAN DAY COVER COVER FROM N.Y. WORLD'S FAIR

Polish American Day of New Jersey was observed at the New Jersey Pavilion of the New York World's Fair. An attractive red cacheted topical cover featuring the Unisphere was appropriately issued and cancelled at the Fair's post office September 12.

Franked with either the World's Fair or New Jersey commemorative stamps a few of the cacheted covers may be obtained for 20c each, plus a large stamped, addressed return envelope, from World's Fair Polish Day Cachet, 274-L Davidson Ave., Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861.

Proceeds derived from the sale of these covers will be used to defray expenses of the Boy Scout participation in the Polish American Day tableau presentation at the Fair.

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