

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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COPERNICANA FEATURED AT POLPEX 74

Four entries of Copernicana topical material from collectors in four different countries will be competing at POLPEX 74 on March 9-10 at St. James Auditorium, 2424 N. Mango Ave., near Fullerton Ave. in Chicago.



NICOLAUS
COPERNICUS
1473-1493



Great Men In Polish History



WINCENTY
WITOS
1874-1974



Copernicana entries have been received from Józef Burkowski of France, J. Winstanley of Canada, W.Z.J. Nowicki of England, and G. C. Kobyłka of the U.S.

In the Poland section there will be exhibits of the Gniezno issue, Galicia Postal District, History of Polish Fieldpost, World War II Occupation, Polish Folklore, Woldenberg P.O.W. Camp mail and others.

In the foreign section viewers will see Ukraina, France, Czechoslovakia and Canada.

This year there is a Numismatic section and competing in this class will be exhibits of medallions of Poland's Millennium and of Kosciuszko.

Top award winners in each class will receive a special Witos medallion struck for the 100th anniversary of Witos's birth. Presentation of Awards will take place Saturday at 9:00 p.m. during the Beeba. Our newest member, radio announcer George Migala, will act as master of ceremonies.

The Polish American Numismatic Association will hold a meeting at the Polpex Sunday, March 10th at 3:00 p.m.

A special Polpex cancellation will be used by the U.S. Postal Service sub-station during the show and we have been assured that they will have an ample supply of 8¢ Copernicus and all the latest commemoratives. Po-

lonus will issue a pair of souvenir sheets for POLPEX 74 with a descriptive folder; available for 50¢ plus postage from J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago, Ill. 60634. Two different cacheted post cards franked with the U.S. 8¢ Copernicus commemorative will be postmarked with the special Polpex cancellation; available for 75¢ plus postage for the pair from Mr. Rux.

The hours of the exhibition are Saturday, March 9th from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, March 10th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

See you there!

THE POLONUS LIBRARY

This year has seen a revival of interest in our Polonus library. For the last five years the contents of our library had been stored at the Polish Museum of America Library in the Polish Roman Catholic Union building in Chicago. The bulk of the library was the property of Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz who donated the material to Polonus. It was his wish that the material be housed at the Polish Museum library and that it be available to anyone interested in Polish philately. Until now, no attempt had been made to properly catalog the Polonus material.

Back in 1964, Polonus donated the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Polish Museum with the intention that their library would some day have a philatelic section known as the Polonus Library.

With the interest now shown by our new library committee, our goal is now in sight.

At the beginning of the year, John Bartczak was elected as Librarian which is the position of a regular officer in the Polonus administration. He formed a committee consisting of Tom

Gobby and Bill Jusack. They undertook the job of cataloging the material stored on the shelves at the Polish Museum Library. With the guidance of Rev. Donald Bilinski, the curator of the Polish Museum, the cataloging is now in progress.

At the February 22nd Polonus meeting, Librarian John Bartczak reported on the progress of their project. He said that the library needs the following publications to complete their sets: Issue 187 of *FILATELISTA*, 1963, No. 16.

Issue 318 of *FILATELISTA*, 1969, No. 3.

The complete issues of *FILATELISTA* for the years 1971, 72 and 73.

Issues No. 22 and 30 of the *POLISH PHILATELIC REVIEW*, published in Great Britain.

If you have these publications and are willing to donate or sell them, please contact John Bartczak, 10428 Avenue "O", Chicago, Illinois 60617.

According to Mr. Bartczak, upon the completion of the committee's project of cataloging the library, a list will be published and distributed to the members.

NEW MEMBERS

George Migala
5356 W. Belmont Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60641

G. O. Zedlitz
4707 Kentfield Rd.
Stockton, Cal. 95207

On the next four pages of this issue of the Bulletin we continue with the second installment of the article "Postage Due Overprints of January 1921 and Their Forgeries" by Stanley and Eric Kronenberg.

FORGERY TYPE I

Forged overprints on forged stamps.

We have seen the denominations 20 mk/10 hal., 20 mk/50 hal., and 35 mk/70 hal. forged in this way (Fig. 3). The basic stamps are printed typographically (instead of lithographically) and deviate from the genuine in design details in colors, and in paper. The letters of the overprints are reproduced well except for a common characteristic: the bottom of the left leg of the "M", which in genuine stamps ends with a solid triangle pointing to the left, resembles on these forgeries an inverted "T". The overprint shows major deviations in dimensions. We have seen them only cancelled "TARNOBRZEG" with the date 3. III. 22. This type of forgery is rather rare.



Figure 3

FORGERY TYPE II (Fig. 4)

The ink on this type of forgery is dark gray and slightly glossy (it resembles graphite). The dimensions vary slightly among dif-



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

ferent positions but are close to those of genuine overprints. The serif on the bottom of the left leg of "M" is either misshapen or missing. The same applies to the serifs on top of the "d" and "t". All the stamps we have seen are cancelled, often with "Kraków, 2. IX. 21".

FORGERY TYPE III (Fig. 5)

The ink is intensive black and dull but not quite as dull as on the genuine overprint. In light incident under a grazing angle a weak gloss appears while the genuine overprint shows no reflection. The printing is typographic but contrary to genuine overprints, difficult to recognize as such. Most overprints appear to be printed lithographically because the pressure applied in printing was light and the indentation in the paper is visible only occasionally on fragments of the overprints. The dimensions vary for different positions but mostly resemble those of the genuine overprint within their variations. Most positions show differences in the shape of the serifs of "M", "d" and "t" but for some positions these details are rather well imitated. Therefore this type of forgery may be in some instances quite difficult to recognize. These forgeries exist mint or cancelled "LESKO" with different and sometimes impossible dates (e.g. 24. II. 4937). They also exist with cancellations of Poznań, Tarnobrzeg and Grudziądz.

FORGERY TYPE IV (Fig. 6)

This forgery is the most common one and is easy to spot because the ink is intense glossy black. The printing is clearly typographic. Under magnification the edges of the letters often form jagged lines. In some positions the length of "dopłata" exceeds 19 mm; in others it is close to the genuine. Other dimensions agree roughly with those of the genuine overprint. The serifs of "M", "d", and "t" are sometimes distorted or missing but in some positions resemble the genuine shapes closely and therefore should not be considered a criterion for expertizing. All denominations were forged in this type and all exist mint or cancelled, usually with the cancel "TARNOBRZEG" with different dates. The same cancellation appears often on stamps with genuine overprints.

SUMMARY

Genuine overprints of any denomination of this issue can be characterized as follows:

Ink — intense black and very dull,
dimensions — within the limits given in the text,
lettering — precise cut, sharp and even borderlines.

The shape of the serifs of "M", "K", "P" and "t" must be close to those shown e.g., in Fig 1. except for some positions which are shown in the plating tables.

Stamps which do not satisfy all the above criteria are forgeries.

The authors are indebted to Mr. Joseph Bieniecki of Granite City, Illinois for his contributions to this article.

(To be continued)

FUTURE PROGRAM MEETINGS

Among the duties of our Vice-President, Alfred Szebel, is the task of lining up speakers for our program meetings. Thus far this season he has gotten such speakers as "Bud" Hennig who spoke on 'Danzig'; Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz who spoke on "Pre-Philatelic Mail of Danzig"; Milton Kohn who spoke on "Concentration Camp Mail"; and Dr. J. Matejka who spoke on "Czechoslovakia Die Proofs." All of the above gave excellent talks and showed us extraordinary material. Upon the conclusion of each talk a Beeba was held.

For the future Mr. Szebel is planning a change.

With the coming of the American Bicentennial in 1976 Polonus will again have to run its Polpex on a large scale, just as it did in the Copernican Year. To assure the success of this venture we must have the support of other societies.

At future program meetings, Mr. Szebel plans to have guest speakers from different societies and at the same time inviting their members to attend.

Our first such attempt will be

held on Friday, April 26th when we will have a 'P.A.N.A. Night.' Mr. Lou Koncza of the Polish American Numismatic Association has been invited to speak and give a slide presentation on Copernicus. Along with Mr. Koncza, all the other members of P.A.N.A. will be invited to attend. The time: 8:00 p.m.; the place: John Beyzym Memorial House, 6965 W. Belmont Ave. A Beeba will also be held that night.

OUR SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBER

An active philatelist is member Paul Keller of 7 Vredenburg Circus, Rosebank, Cape 7700, So. Africa. His collection of 'Letters From Poland' was awarded a silver gilt medal at POLPHIL 73 in Melbourne, a silver bronze at POLSKA 73, and it will be shown at JERUSALEM 73 in March-April, and again in October at the exhibition in Pretoria.

STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED

John Bor reminds us that your old stamp catalogs, albums, magazines and especially your duplicates are sought after by veterans confined to hospitals. Send them to John Bor, 1810 W. Richmond St., Chicago, Ill. 60647.

Polonus & Copernicus Rocket Flight Covers

On February 19, 1973—the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus—two rockets, "Polonus" and "Copernicus", carried mail during an experimental missile rocket flight conducted by the Reaction Research Society of California. Covers have special attached cachet.

Set of 2 covers — \$3.50

Copernicus Monument Dedication Covers

Cancelled October 14, 1973 on the unveiling of the Copernicus statue at Adler Planetarium, Chicago. With special printed cachet.

35¢ per cover — 3 for \$1.00

(Include return postage)

Order from: J. P. RUX, 6136 Addison St., Chicago, Ill. 60634

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, March 8, 1974:

Mounting Party at St. James Auditorium, 2424 N. Mango Ave. from 7:00 p.m. until the exhibition is up.

Saturday, March 9, 1974:

Official opening ceremony for POLPEX 74 at 12:00 noon. Dignitaries will be present and photos will be taken.

Beeba Party at 9 p.m. There will be a splendid buffet of Polish foods. Tickets are \$3.00, available from J. P. Rux at the Polonus table. Presentation of Awards at the Beeba.

Sunday, March 10, 1974:

Show and bourse open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 1974:

Program meeting at 6965 W. Belmont Avenue. Guest speaker: Grand Award Winner at POLPEX 74 (if he's from the Chicago area).

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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 \$4.00 —

PLEWACKI POST STAMP AND COIN SHOW

The United Nations Postal Agency will participate in the Plewacki Post Stamp & Coin Exhibition April 5-6-7, at the Plewacki Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, N.Y.

The special UN Show Cachet will be available. It will be applied to all show covers if so requested, 35¢ each or 3 for \$1.00. Collectors desiring the Alpex UN Cachet on United Nations postal stationery may send their items for servicing with a remittance of 10¢ per item with a self-addressed stamped envelope for their return. Order from Mr. Francis C. Modzelewski, 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

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