

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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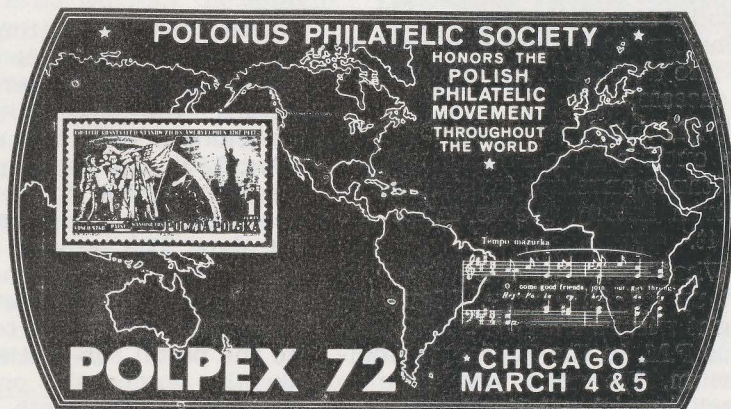
POLPEX 1972 IS HERE!

With less than three weeks till the first day of Spring, the annual exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society, POLPEX-1972, will be presented to the Chicago-Land Metropolitan area. Featuring exhibits from Canada, England, Poland and the U.S.A., Polpex will be held in the St. James Auditorium, 2424 North Mango Avenue (Fullerton & Mango), on March 4-5, 1972. Hours of the show are 10:00 to 10:00 on the 4th, and 10:00 to 6:00 on the 5th. (Official opening day ceremonies and the ribbon cutting will take place at 12:00 noon on the 4th.)

The traditional BEEBA, highlight of each Polpex, will be held at 10:00 P.M. on the 4th in the

exhibition hall. This year's Beeba is under the capable leadership and guidance of Messrs. Walenty Poniecki and Stanley Dobrzycki. Each year's Beeba sees many members and philatelic acquaintances renewing their long standing friendships over a table of traditional Polish foods. Presentation of awards will be made during the Beeba.

Souvenir sheets, incorporating the theme "The Polish Philatelic Movement throughout the World" have been issued and printed in multi-color. A set of cacheted envelopes, utilizing the same theme, appropriately franked, and cancelled with the special POLPEX can-



cancellation have also been issued. They are available by mail from J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago, Ill. 60634. The prices are 50c plus postage, and 75c plus postage for the souvenir sheets and cacheted envelopes respectively.

For those of you who collect mint U.S.A., you will have the opportunity of buying same at the best of prices — face value! The USPS will have a postal sub-station and special POLPEX canceller at the show.

As we go to press, Entries Chairman, Fred Szebel, reports that exhibits are running much ahead of last year's show. This is most gratifying and we should see some especially fine material, including the special composite exhibit featuring the personal work of Honorary Chairman, Czeslaw Slania.

Bourse Chairman, Roman Rejnowski, reports another consecutive sellout of dealer tables. Roman has assured us that whatever your collecting interest, one of the dealers should be able to satisfy your needs. Something for everyone's philatelic taste.

A special program catalog will also be issued. Your ad and contribution as patron will help to ensure that POLPEX 1972 will be a success.

With this issue of the Bulletin we enclose a self-addressed remittance envelope for your ad or patron listing. Please make use of it.

What remains? Only the final set-up of the show. Mounting night will be held on March 3rd, 6:00 P.M. in the St. James Auditorium. We need your help to pitch in and put it all together. Bring along some clean rags

and cleaner (Windex, etc.), your collection (if you're exhibiting), and of course, yourself!! Then on March 4th and 5th we'll see you there with your family and friends.

I'll be there, will you?

—T. J. Gobby

Executive Chairman

U.S. POST OFFICE AT POLPEX

POLPEX-1972 will have its own U.S. Post Office and Special Cancellation during both days of its show. Arrangements were finalized with the help of Chicago Postmaster, the Hon. Henry McGee, and Mr. Joseph Truffant of the Chicago Post Office.

Mr. Truffant, and his staff, will have a plentiful stock of current and recent US commemoratives. He also hopes to have the recently issued US albums for collectors, as well as special US space mini-albums.

The US postal sub-station has proven to be one of the most popular features at the annual POLPEX where collectors, especially US and plate block collectors, have been able to add material to their holdings with an investment of only face value.

There have been times when Polonus was in danger of losing this much desired service, including the special POLPEX cancellation, because of low sales. Last year we appealed to the membership to defer their purchases of US stamps until the show. The response was terrific, and last year was one of the best for the postal unit. Once more we ask you to patronize the postal sub-station. You'll like the service, the prices, and you'll be helping both POLPEX and Polonus. See you there!

AUCTION SALE OF DR. KOZAKIEWICZ NO. ONES

BY DR. MIET A. KAMIEŃSKI

One of the outstanding auctions of the decade was the sale of Dr. Leon Kozakiewicz's tremendous collection of Poland No. 1, on December 13, 1971. I was fortunate to be present at the sale. Truly great Polish collections do not come on the market very often. The last big sales being the Domański and Stęczyński auctions.

This sale was unique in several respects. It consisted solely of one stamp — Poland No. 1, the property of one collector. It included the largest known multiple, the gutter block of six, in superb mint condition. This must be the most rare single item in Polish philately.

The auction was conducted by the Mercury Stamp Co. in their New York offices. The collection was divided into 484 lots, contained in five loose leaf albums for easy viewing. The lots consisted of one item each; that is, a single stamp, a multiple or a cover. Each lot was in a transparent envelope, hinged by the flap so the reverse of the stamp could be viewed by merely flipping the envelope over. I thought the catalogue descriptions were detailed and accurate.

Only lot No. 1, the block of six, showed an estimated valuation, \$15,000 — \$20,000. Herbert Bloch pointed out that it was impossible to determine the relative value of cancellations and varieties. One method of determining value is scarcity. Who is to say that cancellation No. 18 is more rare or more valuable than No. 264? Incidentally someone paid \$260 for the cover with No. 18 cancellation, while the

cover with the Mława No. 264 cost only \$60.

I understand that mail and telephone bids had been received for every lot. The bidding started in every case, with one from the "book", that is a mail or telephone offer. There were less than a dozen floor bidders present. Among whom were Daniel Bohm, Jr. from St. Louis; Jan Haniewicz, Brooklyn; Jerzy Kucharski, New York and Dr. J. J. Biały.

The proceedings started just after two o'clock and it was all over by 4:30 P.M. A great collection had been dismembered and scattered. I felt a touch of sadness that in just over two hours the work of many years of painstaking searching and collecting had been distributed to many individuals on several continents. However, other collections now have been enriched by the acquisitions from this sale.

Something of a pattern soon became apparent from the floor bidding. One man was obviously filling "holes" in his number cancellation collection. Another was buying covers and rare items. The bidding was spirited and and very few lots went unchallenged from the floor or the "book". The lowest opening bid was \$8.00 for lot No. 483, it sold to the floor for \$9.00. I list some of the opening and final bids. These examples have been chosen to illustrate the widest spread:

Lot No.	Open	Sold
75	\$200.00	\$675.00
115	160.00	450.00
146	75.00	210.00
149	175.00	260.00

Lot No.	Open	Sold
241	\$80.00	\$180.00
261	32.50	110.00
275	25.00	60.00
289	85.00	135.00
297	100.00	160.00
408	80.00	150.00
420	25.00	180.00
424	50.00	140.00
436	80.00	160.00

There were 48 lots in mint condition. Of these, only 16 were described as having "full original gum." The covers numbered 140, a truly amazing number to be found in one collection, many had stamps with major varieties.

Ruch Catalog lists eleven color shades due to the several printings of this stamp over a five year period. All of these were found many times over in this sale. There were a number of stamps where the blue had a decided "greenish" tint. This shade is not listed in Ruch, but is mentioned in "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe Vol. 1".

The collection had a large number of multiples and these are rare. There were at least 8 pairs on piece, also 5 such covers. The pairs on cover sold for \$95.00 to \$160.00. The vertical pair on cover Lot 297, lightly cancelled with No. 176, started at \$100.00 and sold to the floor for \$160.00 — a very beautiful item! There were three strips of three. The vertical strip of three with cancellation 102 sold to the floor for \$260.00. While the cover with horizontal strip of three, Warsaw I cancel reached \$310.00. A vertical strip of four, lot 69, went to the book for \$675.00. No block of four appeared at the sale.

All the major varieties were in abundance. Twelve copies of the blue oval! One had to be withdrawn as it was repaired and

not so specified in the catalog. There were several examples of each of the three blue oval cliché types. These sold in the \$50.00 range. The five covers with blue oval variety sold from \$85.00 to \$450.00, the latter being one of a horizontal pair.

Ruch lists six major plate flaw variations. Varieties Nos. 1, 2 and 3 also appeared on covers which sold for \$135.00, \$100.00 and \$105.00 respectively. Unlisted varieties were also in good supply. Just to mention a few: "Kop:10" with two dots after the 10 sold to the floor for \$42.50, while the thin "K" went to the book for \$50.00. The broken "P" brought \$32.50 from the floor bidder.

There was no imperforate copy and no forgery. However, there were at least six covers where the stamp had been fraudulently re-used. These sold for about \$115.00 each with one fetching \$170.00.

In spite of the most careful inspection and write-up, there were bound to be a few items that differed from the catalog description. These were withdrawn from mail bidding and sold to the floor subject to the new description. About 15 lots had to be withdrawn completely for re-examination. The sale realized a total of \$34,596.00.

NEW RATES ON BULLETIN ADS

One inch ad.....	\$3.00
Quarter page ad....	10.00
Half page ad.....	15.00
Full page ad.....	25.00

The new rates were voted in by member at the February 11 meeting.

In this issue of the *Bulletin* we continue with another segment of the lengthy "**Handbook of Upper Silesia**" by Dr. Rayal De Ragan, edited by D. Meinung.

Overprint Types

Face Value	Overprint Value	Stamp Color	Overp't Color	Type					
				I	IA	II	III	IV	V
1 Mk.	7 Pfg.	orange	black	*	*	*			
1 Mk.	7 Pfg.	blue	black						*
1.50 Mk.	10.5 Pfg.	green	black	*					
2 Mk.	14 Pfg.	olive green	black	*					
3 Mk.	21 Pfg.	red violet	black					*	*
3 Mk.	21 Pfg.	light blue	red	*		*	*		
6 Mk.	42 Pfg.	rose	black					*	*
10 Mk.	70 Pfg.	red	black					*	*
20 Mk.	140 Pfg.	grey green	black					*	*

Quantity

There is no data available regarding the actual number of these stamps printed but they must have been very high as they were used for propaganda on the mail of many German firms with the silent consent of the British and Italian delegation to the Inter Allied Commission, and the letters on which they appeared were very numerous.

Original letters with these stamps, canceled by postmarks, are rare for the philatelist.

Validity

These stamps had no postal validity but were used only as propaganda labels.

GERMAN FORGERIES OF CURRENT POLISH STAMPS

In addition to the propaganda forgeries there were also large quantities of forged current Polish postage due stamps of German origin. These were distributed to the post offices in the eastern part of Upper Silesia incorporated to the Republic Poland and were a source of very serious financial losses to the new Polish State. They had been excellently executed and could be detected only by very careful

examination. They differ from the genuine stamps, aside from minor details, by a slightly lighter shade and by perforation 11 rather than 11½.



Postage Due Forgeries

2 f	red orange	P22	J13
4 f	red orange	P23	J14
5 f	red orange	P24	J15
10 f	red orange	P25	J16
20 f	red orange	P26	J17
30 f	red orange	P27	J18
50 f	red orange	P28	J19
100 f	red orange	P29	J20
200 f	red orange	P30	J21
2 h	dark blue	P13	J22

<i>Face Value</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Catalog No. Michel Scott</i>	
4 h	dark blue	P14	J23
5 h	dark blue	P15	J24
10 h	dark blue	P16	J25
20 h	dark blue	P17	J26
30 h	dark blue	P18	J27
50 h	dark blue	P19	J28
100 h	dark blue	P20	J29
500 h	dark blue	P21	J30

Thin Laid Paper

20 h	dark blue	P17A	J31
100 h	dark blue	P20A	J32
200 h	dark blue	P31	J33
500 h	dark blue	P21A	J34

**CENTRAL LITHUANIA
SEMI-POSTAL ISSUE**

Current stamps of Central Lithuania in face values of 25 fen, 1 Mk. and 2 Mk. were, in March 1921, overprinted in red with the propaganda overprint "NA ŚLĄSK" and surtax "2 Mk." meaning "For Silesia + 2 Mk." These were intended to provide a fund to assist the plebiscite in Upper Silesia.

They were originally planned with the overprint "WILNO NA ŚLĄSK" (Vilna for Upper Silesia) but due to reaction from political source the word 'Wilno' was removed. Overprinting was by typography.

Central Lithuania Semi-Postal Issue

<i>Face Value</i>	<i>Stamp Color</i>	<i>Overprint Color</i>	<i>Catalog Number Michel Scott</i>	
25 fen	red	green	23A	B1
25 fen	dark green	red	26A	B2
1 Mk.	blue	red	24A	B3
1 Mk.	dark brown	red	27A	B4
2 Mk.	violet	red	25A	B5
2 Mk.	orange	red	28A	B6
25 fen	red	green	23B	B1
25 fen	dark green	red	26B	B2
1 Mk.	blue	red	24B	B3
1 Mk.	dark brown	red	27B	B4
2 Mk.	violet	red	25B	B5
2 Mk.	orange	red	28B	B6

Sheets

The basic stamp used was the regular issue of Central Lithuania showing a coat of arms. Two different printings were made of this stamp. The first printing prepared by the Chominski Printing House at Vilna, was the 25 fen red, the 1 Mk. blue and the 2 Mk. violet. The second printing, including the 25 fen dark green, the 1 Mk. dark brn.

and the 2 Mk. orange, were prepared by the Zawadzki Printing House, also in Vilna.

The 25 fen sheets were printed from plates of 50 stamps each, 10 stamps wide and 5 stamps vertically. The 1 and 2 Mk. sheets were also printed from plates of 50 but were 5 stamps wide and 10 stamps high. In each case two plates of 50 combined to print each sheet.

(To be continued)

FIRST COPERNICUS STAMP DESIGNS

BY MYRON E. STECZYNSKI

The very first time that the person of Copernicus was included in the design of postage stamps was in 1917 when the Germans were occupying Poland during World War I.

In order to gain confidence of the people in the overture that the Germans were ready to establish a free Poland with its own king, the occupation authorities prompted The Warsaw Art Society to conduct a contest for the selection of designs suitable for stamps to be used in a proposed Kingdom of Poland, where each design would be typically Polish and bear the caption **KRÓLESTWO POLSKIE** (Kingdom of Poland). The subject and ideas naturally could not have impaired German prestige, so allegorical designs, the Polish eagle, and recognized landmarks prevailed.

From one to several designs were submitted by thirty two artists and in 1918 were included in a different color (blue, brown or green), each against a straw-colored tint block, in the respective booklets. Entirely apart from this, all the designs were printed in black only, for distribution to German consulates throughout the world.

M. BYSTYDZIEŃSKI entered 4 designs with the 60 fenig showing a likeness of Copernicus most likely being a modified fragment from Matejko's painting as used on the large 20 gr. brown stamp shown on page 20 and the 1 ruble Russian stamp shown on page 34 of the magazine "Promień".

Another design submitted in this same contest was entered by



ANTONI DZIERŻBICKI. It depicted the Copernicus monument in front of the Staszic Palace in Warsaw. It is the same monument as shown on the cover of the magazine "PROMIEN", likewise described at the top of page 21 as well as featured on the POLPEX 1965 Souvenir Sheet shown on page 29 of "Promień."



Thus these two designs were submitted (but never used) six years before an actual stamp of Copernicus was issued by Poland in 1923.

THANK YOU!

In spite of the increase in dues, the membership has responded favorably and dues are coming in very well. The treasurer thanks you for this and reminds those who have not yet responded that Polonus dues as of 1972 are \$4.00. Send payment to treasurer Al Rybarski, 2435 First Ave., River Grove, Ill. 60171.

COPERNICUS BOOK LAUDED

Ernest A. Kehr, stamp editor of the *Chicago Daily News*, devoted over half of his February 5th column in praise of the Autumn, 1971 issue of **PROMIEN**, compiled and authored by our member and past president, Myron E. Steczynski. Mr. Kehr had this to say: "It is a reference work which not only ordinary stamp collectors will enjoy reading, but also which Polish specialists will need." Kehr went on: "If for no other reason, this book stands out as a dramatic piece of evidence that postage stamps are exceptional instruments with which collectors can become intimately familiar with the pageant of civilization".

Polonus members should be well familiar with this book by now. It was mailed out to our paid members in the past few weeks. Myron put in many hours on this book, and it truly is a labor of love which has been well received by collector and non-collector. The response has been very good. While Myron sincerely appreciates the praise, he would welcome any critical comment and suggestions for improvement which could be incorporated in the proposed, enlarged edition which would be printed in multi-color. So if you have something to say, pass it on, write to Myron or the Secretary, and it will be passed on.

Those of you who wish additional copies (the supply is rapidly dwindling) can write to Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 North Overhill Ave., Norridge, Illinois 60656. But please, a donation to cover expense of postage and handling would be sincerely appreciated.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Thomas J. Gobby, Secretary
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634
Al Rybarski, Treasurer
2435 First Av., River Grove, Ill. 60171
Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, Ill. 60622
Lester Jankowski, Publications Chrm.
7303 Kildare, Lincolnwood, Ill. 60666

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 —

REINOWSKI HONORED

In the January 23rd Chicago Sun-Times stamp column, editor Charles Hahn singled out one of the founding members of Polonus, and perhaps one of our most active and energetic members, Roman Reinowski, for special mention. Mr. Hahn wrote about the inauguration of a new stamp bourse in the NW suburbs, and he cited Roman as the founder of the first, and longest, successfully running, stamp bourse in the Chicago metropolitan area. That bourse, the Cicero Berwyn Stamp Bourse is going as strong as ever. Roman's energies and devotion to philately, especially Polish Philately, are legendary. Our hats are off to you, and we congratulate you, Roman Reinowski. Our best wishes to you for many more years of continued success. Sto lat!

—T.J.G.

APPLICANTS PENDING

David N. Saelzer
15 Waltham Ave.
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086
Joseph G. Kuzawinski
2667 Foxhill Drive
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

RESIGNED

Jan R. Kowalski