

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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CHRISTMAS SEALS OF POLAND

by M. E. Uznanski, M. D.

This year as the Christmas season approaches, and the spirit of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" prevails in our land, the sharp contrast with the tragedy that has enveloped not only all of Poland, but all of Europe in its grip, strikes us and tempers our traditional joys and pleasures.

Our thoughts invariably stray to the innocent victims of indiscriminate bombings, of children who suffer and do not understand why; of children

who have been separated from their parents and who do not live in the security of their homes; of children looking for the surprise package that does not come; of children looking for a Christmas gift they will not receive. This year, Christmas in Poland will be dark and cold, there will be little significance to the message "Merry Christmas."

Immediately after the establishment of the Polish Government following the first World War, organized work



of a humanitarian nature began. At first, this work was done on a very small scale and was mostly local in nature, covering all phases of charitable obligations. Later, each small group began to assume special kinds of work. One of these groups took over the care of victims of Tuberculosis. As these organizations grew, the need for raising funds for their upkeep became greater. Various means and methods were devised, but the one which proved most successful was the Label or Seal.

The earliest label or seal sold in Poland to raise funds for a Tuberculosis Sanatorium was in the year 1920. This label consisted of a plain inscription in black lettering "Na Sanatorium dla Gruzlicznych" upon different colored panels, such as, Rose-red, Gray-brown, and Blue, without any value indicated. They were printed on plain white paper without gum, and the whole design measured 85x25 mm. It was imperforate.

About 1924, the Polish Government organized a nationwide organization known as the "Polski Związek Przeciwgruzliczy" (Polish Anti-Tuberculosis Society) under the protectorate of the President of Poland, with headquarters in Warsaw. The work of this national organization continued and greater efforts were made to battle the White Plague. It was not until 1926, that this society issued its first Anti-Tuberculosis seal. This seal is known as the first Christmas Seal of Poland.

1926

The design consists of an angel and a cherub holding a torch, enclosed in a circle upon a solid colored panel. The name of the Union or Alliance is printed within the white circle. The value is printed in each corner upon the solid pane in white. There is no Lorraine cross on these seals. The whole design is 19x24mm. The issue consists of two values, 10 groszy carmine and 20 groszy blue. Perforation is 12½. The seal is printed on white paper with a smooth gum.

1927

For the year 1927, no new issue was printed. The seals of 1926 which were unsold were used for this year.

1928

The design consists of a Guardian Angel leading a small child. Behind is the rising sun. The year 1928 is at the upper left corner and the value toward the lower left corner. This is the first seal which bears the Lor-

raine Cross. The whole design is upon a blue panel measuring 20x24mm. The name of the Alliance is printed in red above the upper border of the panel and below the lower border of the panel. This issue consists of only one value, printed on white paper with smooth gum and is perforated 12½.

1929

An old fashioned cradle with a babe whose arms are outstretched toward Heaven and the Lorraine Cross appear upon a solid blue panel. The value is in the upper left corner, while the Lorraine Cross is in the upper right corner, with the year 1929 just below it. The name of the Society is printed in blue below the lower border of the panel. The design measures 21x27mm., is printed on white paper with smooth gum and is perforated 11½.

1930-1931

The design of this seal consists of a large wing of an angel with a small child underneath it, indicating protection. The Lorraine Cross is in the upper left corner and the value in the lower left corner. The name of the Society is above the lower border in two lines. There are three values, 10 groszy gray and red, 20 groszy brown and red, and 1 zloty green and red. The design is printed on white paper with smooth gum and is perforated. Due to the shortage of the 10 groszy value, the 20 groszy was surcharged "10" in a black circle.

1931-1932

This design consists of six swallows in flight with one pierced by a large arrow, falling to the ground. The value is to the left upon a vertical dark panel. The Lorraine Cross is at the lower right. The date and name of the Society is above the lower frame in three lines. The issue has two values, 10 groszy blue and orange and 50 groszy violet and green. These seals were sold out and to replace the demand the 1 zloty 1930-1931 seal was overprinted 1931-32. Also the 10 groszy value of the 1930-1931 issue was overprinted "Rok—1931-32" in black double lined letters, covering a strip of 5 seals, one-two letters to each seal. An auto label similar to the 50 groszy design but without date, on transparent paper was also sold.

1932-1933

The design consists of a Lorraine Cross, bird and flower on a central octagon in solid colors, surrounded by scrolls. The value is in the upper part of the seal and the name of the So-

ciety in the lower part. The 10 groszy seal is the only one having a date. The issue consists of three values, 10 groszy blue and red on a yellowish background, 50 groszy violet and green and a 1 zloty brown and red on a cream colored background. This issue was sold out in a very short time. To continue the sale of the seals, the 1928 seal was overprinted 1932-33 in gold, the 1930-31 20 groszy and 1 zloty seals were overprinted 1932-33 in black.

1933-1934

The design consists of a Knight in armor killing a dragon with a spear. The Lorraine Cross is on the shield. The date is on the 10 groszy value only. The value appears in the upper right corner and the name of the Society in white upon a black panel below. There are three values, 10 groszy black, red on white, 20 groszy black red on yellowish background, and 50 groszy black, red on orange background.

1934

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Society, a special seal was issued. The design consists of a child with hands upraised, looking toward the Lorraine Cross in the Sun. The issue consisted of two values, 10 groszy, orange and black and 20 groszy, green and black. The value is on both sides of the child with the dates 1924-1934 just below. The name of the Society is below the dates printed in two lines.

1935-1936

The design of the seal for this year is a very odd one. It consists of a heavily robed figure holding a lamb with the Lorraine Cross in the lower center of the robe with the word "Chroni" (protects) in a three-quarter circle around the cross. The name of the Society is in the upper part of the seal, while the value is in the lower part. The date 1935 is to the left and 1936 is to the right of the figure. The issue consisted of three values, 10 groszy, black, red and blue, 20 groszy, black, red and green, and 50 groszy, black, red and violet.

1936-1937

The design portrays two hands forming a cup like receptacle holding a flame. The name of the Society is in the upper part of the seal. The value is in the lower left corner. The date 1936/7 is vertically along the left border above the hands, while the Lorraine Cross is to the right above the hands. The issue consists of two values, 10 groszy, black, red and brown

on a white background and 20 groszy, black, red and brown on a yellow background.

1938-1939

The design consists of a sword with a Lorraine Cross upon it, crushing the word "Gruzlica" (Tuberculosis). The name of the Society is printed at the top of the seal and the value is at the right. Only the 10 groszy seal has the date which is located above the value. The issue consists of two values, 10 groszy, black and orange and the 20 groszy, green and orange.

On September 1, 1939, the terrible plague of Naziism struck and overran Poland. This plague destroyed lives by fire, sword, bombing and starvation. It was reported the Germans destroyed all the stocks of the 1938-1939 seals. However the seals are printed one year in advance, to be released in November, and so some of the seals in some manner by an advance release reached the hands of a few collectors.

IN MEMORIAM FELIX PIENTKA

He died in the service of our country.

Forever enshrined in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Member No. 204. Joseph A. Kloskowski, 475 Commonwealth Ave., New Britain, Conn. (Poland, U. S. and Precancels)

Member No. 205. Rev. Paul Piechocki, 79 South Main Street, Middletown, Conn. (Poland and Precancels)

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Henry Pines, 4132 Sheridan Rd., Chicago, Illinois. (US and EPP)

Mitchell W. Galowicz, 226 Liberty St., Braintree 84, Mass. (US and EPP)

LIFE MEMBERS

4-LM 1. Chester Mikucki, 1844 No. Winchester Ave., Chicago, Ill.

1-LM 2. Lester Jankowski, 10 S. La Salle St., Chicago 3, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lt. J. Burghardt. AATB. Field Post Office. U. S. Navy #417 N. Y. C.

POLPEX CATALOG

For each Polpex, a very fine printed Program—or shall we properly say, Catalog, is issued. In order to pay for it, Ads are solicited. (They need not be Philatelic Ads—any kind will be

accepted). The prices are \$9.00 for a full page, \$5.00 for a half page, \$3.00 for a quarter page, and \$2.00 for a one-inch Ad. We also have a page where we list the names of Patrons at a \$1.00 per name, and another page where we list Good Fellows at 25 cents a name.

This being our Fifth Anniversary, it would be very fine to make this catalog the finest one that has been issued, BUT, WE CAN ONLY DO IT IF YOU HELP SECURE ADS—PATRONS—GOOD FELLOWS — ANYTHING—BUT PLEASE DO SOMETHING.

You know, we here will have our hands full putting on the Exhibition, so this is one way you can help. Send your Ads, Patrons or Goodfellows to J. J. DOMAR, 3715 Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.

POLPEX 1944

John Bobo has been appointed Director of POLPEX 1944 by Myron E. Steczynski, president of the Society. Bobo has also accepted the tremendously important task of being the Director of Publicity for the Show. Two big jobs in one person. It looks as if the labor shortage has hit Polonus. John Bobo is hard at work now making the plans for a successful stamp show. John realizes the importance of this POLPEX. It is the fifth anniversary show. It must be good. It will be good, if the temporary plans discussed by John and his committee work out. Watch for the complete expose of the plans of the POLPEX Director in the January issue of the BULLETIN.

POLPEX AUCTION

Even at this early date, Roman Reinowski, Auction manager, is enthusiastic at the response of members to his appeal for lots for the POLPEX auction. Roman has received some splendid material which assures bidders at the auction of choice items.

It has again been demonstrated that members of Polonus have the material Poland collectors can use, but Roman wants this POLPEX Auction to be outstanding. He reports he can use more choice lots. If you have any duplicate material now is the time to send it to Roman Reinowski, 1939 S. Highland Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois, so that it will reach him before January 7, 1944.

The market on the stamps of Poland is up at the present time. NOW

is the time to sell your duplicate material. Catalog of POLPEX Auction will be published in the January issue of the BULLETIN.

THIS 'N' THAT

At last, at last, at long last. Here is the judges' decision in the S. P. A. Branch Publications Contest. Why it should be such a secret, and more important an activity not worthy of mention in the SPA Journal is something we do not understand. Well anyway here it is:

Roosevelt Straight Edge...	84.60	points
Cleveland Stamp Club...	80.80	"
Chesapeake Crab	77.14	"
Polonus BULLETIN ...	71.14	"
Mound City Stamp Club...	65.52	"
Austin "Zepp"	58.84	"
Northeaster (Phila.) ...	49.56	"

Now no more mystery.

The Secretary received a postal card from Norbert Zielinski, informing him that Norbert is now in "Boot" training at Great Lakes. Norbert, you remember is the first of our Junior Members to graduate to the Seniors. His pleasing personality and the help on which we counted from him for POLPEX 1944 will be greatly missed. He is the 20th member of Polonus now in the Armed Forces.

Polonus Nominates! Once again members are reminded that the meeting at which nominations for officers for the coming year are made is the meeting of January 14, 1944. The Election will be held on January 28th. But to be elected to office, one must first be nominated.

The nominations are terribly important. Show your interest in the Society by attending the meeting Jan. 14, 1944.

The two new members, whose names are published in this issue of the BULLETIN, were proposed by Stephen G. Rich.

Letter from member PFC Elmer Kencz (somewhere in the Pacific). "Thanks for your letter of Oct. 7th. I have received my membership card. I am most happy to be a member of Polonus....I collected Poland since I was about 12 years old. Poland was a neighbor country—I myself came from Hungary shortly before the present war. I hope some of the fellows will write to me." How about it fellows. His address is in the October issue of the Bulletin.

Only two life members in Polonus at the present time. How about it—we could use many more.