

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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WRITER EDWARD NOWAK, SR. PASSES ON

Polonus is saddened by the passing of Edward Nowak, Sr., author of countless articles on Polish philately. He died following a difficult operation for an aneurysm at the Veterans Administration in Boston, Mass. on February 5th, 1967.



Mr. Nowak was known throughout the philatelic world for his articles which appeared in many philatelic magazines and journals and for his collection of Poland stamps for which he received many awards.

He had been decorated by the Polish Government for his numerous efforts in writing about and giving lectures on the issues of that country. He had also

received recognitions of various kinds from stamp clubs and Polish organizations in the United States.

Mr. Nowak had a great interest in children especially where collecting was concerned. He visited schools in communities near Mattapan, Mass. giving talks to students and providing them now and again with material for their albums.

Fourteen remaining volumes of his Poland collection have been added to his collection at the Cardinal Spellman Museum, Regis College, Weston, Mass.

DR. RAYALL DE RAGAN WINS CONTEST FOR BEST ARTICLE

The W. Kolakowski Company of Great Neck, N.Y., who sponsor an annual contest for the best published article on Polish philately, have announced that the first prize of \$100.00 in cash for the twelve-month period ending October 30th, 1966, was won by our member in Poznan, Poland, Dr. M.A. Rayall de Ragan. Our informant advised that the article appeared in the December 1965 Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, Chicago, Illinois, and was on the subject of the 700th anniversary of Warsaw.

Five other persons received \$10.00 each in Polish stamps for their Polish articles published during the same period. They were Paul Torykian, of Rockville Centre, N.Y.; Wladyslaw Henrich, Warsaw, Poland; Jerry Kedzierski, Miami, Florida; Dr. M.A. Lipinski, Kowary, Poland; and SFC Roy E. Robinette, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

POLISH STAMPS PREPARED FOR SILESIA BUT NEVER USED TO FRANK MAIL

By EDWARD NOWAK, SR.

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(The author wishes to acknowledge with thanks the fine cooperation given him by the Polish Philatelic Federation, with headquarters in Warsaw, in obtaining needed facts for this article; and particularly the noted Polish philatelist, Prof. A. Laszkiewicz. This has enabled us to shape information on this hitherto unknown stamp issue with American collectors interested in the stamps of Poland).

Most of us can recall the rash of plebiscites which took place in Europe after the First World War, when the maps of several countries were changed to satisfy the demands of different national groups for return of their lands which had been brought under the subjugation of other countries. The Allies had met the problem by ordering plebiscites whereby the inhabitants of the disputed territories could express the popular will as to preferred sovereignty.

Strong propaganda was launched protesting the return to Poland of Cieszyn in Silesia, which had been occupied by Germany since the third partition of Poland in the 18th century. Poland retaliated by preparing a stamp issue

anticipating a plebiscite for that territory.

Poland's National Council voted to establish a special body to activate the special stamp issue intended for use in Silesia and regions where the plebiscite would be held. A general call was sent to Polish graphic artists in Krakow to submit their projected designs. From the many that were submitted the National Council chose the designs that are shown with this article.

Reserach has established that the designs were the work of the following artist-engravers, the majority of whom hailed from the city of Krakow: Bukowski, Czajkowski, Raszka, and Zarzycki.

With the exception of the 100, 200, and 500 marks denominations the measurements of the depicted stamps are 22.5 x 30 mms. The high value stamps measured 29 x 33 mms. These were intended for the regular prepayment of mail. The project also included news-



Stamps discussed in the accompanying article, prepared for use in Silesia, but never used to frank mail. From the archives of the National Philatelic Museum in Poznan, whose courtesy is gratefully acknowledged.

paper stamps, which measured 23 x 33 mms., and the values were 3 pfg. and 10 pfg. Also, postage due stamps measuring 44 x 24 mms., with values of 2, 4, 10, 20, 30, and 50 pfg.; and 10 and 500 marks.

The stamp issue did not go into use, but the original stamps shown with this article can be viewed at the Polish Philatelic Museum in Poznan.

Proofs of the stamps were printed by use of individual matrices. The inks used for production of the proofs were mostly black, but some were printed in a less somber color. The proofs can also be seen at the aforementioned Museum.

The records show that the paper used was a smooth white type with some discrepancies in surface finish. Also listed are a yellow-brown paper with chalky finish and a chalky white paper. A few copies were struck on thick grayish white paper. The genuineness of copies would be easily recognizable because of the convex style of printing.

The printed sheets consisted of 100 separate matrices, locked 10 x 10, with the accounting figures printed in the upper margins of each sheet. The intention had been that all of the stamps would be ungummed and imperforate.

The Plebiscite Commission, composed of Poles, Germans, and representatives of the Allies, concluded that a separate stamp issue should not be placed in circulation in the plebiscite area. That body also demanded that the stamps already in some post offices be overprinted "S.O. 1920." Some of the stamps, nevertheless, found their way to stamp markets, especially in the United States.

During the hectic period of Europe's reconstruction knowledge of the stamps was lost to the philatelic world, and because their history was not known, those which had gotten into philatelic hands were presumed to be spurious. According to philatelists in Poland the stamps are eagerly sought for, especially by advanced philatelists. Perhaps some of our readers may have "stored" some of them in shoe boxes believing them to be fakes, and for such possible collectors, this article may be a happy revelation.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Szanowna Redakcjo!

W związku z artykułem w numerze 245 'Polonus Bulletin' (Oktober 1967) p.t. "No Polpex in 1967?" pragnąłbym również na ten temat zabrać głos.

Propozycja Redaktora Biuletynu, moim zdaniem, jest ze wszelkich miar godna uwagi, i . . . rozwagi. Bezsprzecznie, połączenie uroczystości rocznych trzech związków, czy grup związkowych, wpłynie bardzo korzystnie na wagę i możliwości ekspozycyjne takiej połączonej wystawy, tym bardziej, że wszystkie trzy kraje mają bardzo wiele wspólnot.

Jeżeli chodzi o Polskę i Litwę, to nie trzeba tego zbyt niuansować. Historie tych obu krajów od roku 1386 aż po rok 1918 biegły tym samym nurtem. To dopiero konferencja pokojowa po Pierwszej Wojnie Światowej rozdzieliła drogi Polski i Litwy. Czy było to wynikiem jakiejś polityki z zewnątrz? Raczej to drugie. Pokonane militarysty Niemiec i Rosji wykorzystywały przy pomocy jakichś nacjonalizmów, czy też skutkiem swoich przysięg w łonie Komisji Alianckiej, dyktującej warunki pokojowe sytuację, zmierzającą do umniejszenia znaczenia nowo powstałych po I Wojnie Światowej państw niepodległych. Silna Polska w unii z Litwą, taka jak przed rozbiorami, stanowiła poważne zagrożenie pokonanych Niemiec. Dlatego na miejsce jednego silnego państwa stworzono szereg karłowatych państw nadbałtyckich, oraz Polskę, której korytarzowy dostęp do morza nie pozwalał na należyty rozwój.

W stosunkach Polsko-Czeskich sytuacja była podobna tyle, że sięgająca czasów jeszcze średniowiecznych.

Sam fakt przyjęcia chrześcijaństwa przez Polskę z Czech, świadczy wymownie o istnieniu już w początkach państwowości obu tych krajów żywych związków. Przecież nie oddaje się córki za żonę jakiemuś nieznanemu poganinowi. Skoro Mieszko był poganinem, a Dąbrówka chrześcijanką, a mimo to zawarło układ małżeński — musiały istnieć jakieś względy polityczne, czy dobre sąsiedzkie stosunki.

Wiemy z faktów historycznych, że związek tych 2-ech państw słowiańskich nie był po myśli Niemiec (Cesarstwa), i że podejmowano liczne próby przeszkodo-

dzenia temu związkowi (nie obeszło się przy tym bez oczerniania jednej strony przez drugą, i wzajemnie).

Wiemy też, że przed grożącym niebezpieczeństwem zalewu germańskiego zarówno Polska, jak i Czechy podejmowały próby wspólnej przeciwwagi. Bliższe studia nad Państwem Wielkomorawskim, jego zasięgiem i wpływem na kraje sąsiednie, a zwłaszcza prowadzone były intensywne prace archeologiczne w Krakowie, a zwłaszcza w Wislicy, potwierdzają istnienie bardzo silnych więzów pomiędzy Państwem Wiślan a Państwem Wielkomorawskim. Stosunki Polsko-czeskie isaniały w formie bardzo żywej i w wiekach późniejszych. Zgodnie z ówczesnymi prawami dziedziczenia Bolesław Chrobry był przez pewien czas władcą Czech. Na tej samej zasadzie najechał na Polskę książę Brzetysław, czy rościli sobie pretensje do tronu czeskiego Przemysław II, względnie Henryk Probus, jak również objęli tron krakowski królowie czescy Wacław II i Wacław III.

Bardzo żywe więzy łączyły obydwie te kraje, czasy pierwszych Jagiellonów, którzy w wyświegu o prymat w Czechach zdystansowali konkurujących z nimi Habsburgów. Tragiczna śmierć Ludwika II Jagiellończyka pod Mohaczem, w walce z Turkami wydała kraj ten na pastwę ekspansji habsburskiej, jako frontowego bastionu niemieczyzny pracującej na północ, na Polskę.

Wiele łączyło Polskę i Czechy, zwłaszcza wspólna obrona Słowiańszczyzny, przed zalewem germańskim. Dzieliły jedynie mało znaczące antagonizmy (jak zwykle między sąsiadami), modyfikowane i potęgowane przez germańskich sąsiadów, zarówno zachodnich (Hohenzollernów i Prusy), jak i południowych (Habsburgowie). Polityka kłócenia narodów słowiańskich osiągnęła swój najwyższy

szczyt w XIX wieku, wieku Wiosny Ludów, Rewolucji społecznych, które zachwiały posadami monarchii "arekatolickiego" cesarza. Najwyższy czas powrócić do polityki współistnienia ludów słowiańskich, w celu skonsolidowania swych sił wobec zakusów odradzających się ruchów rewizjonistycznych, skierowanych zarówno przeciwko Polsce, jak i Czechosłowacji.

Dlatego też projekt współpracy, jaką sugeruje Redaktor Biuletynu, jako jedna z form nawiązania bratniej, sąsiedzkiej współpracy powinna spotkać się z jak największym uznaniem i poparciem.

Zawsze szczerze oddany

Dr M.A. Lipiński; Poznań, Polska.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, March 10th, 1967

Regular Business Meeting.

Installation of Officers.

Friday, March 24th, 1967

Myron Steczynski will speak on his recent Poland trip and report on POLSKA 1000. Coffee and pączki will be served after the meeting.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear M. Rycaj:

The recent issue of the Bulletin was most interesting as it carried news of the results of POLSKA 1000. It was pleasing to see four Polonus members from the Chicago area honored with awards. I am happy to join this group as I also submitted an exhibit which was awarded a silver medal.

At the last meeting of the Wayne Stamp Society, yours truly was honored by being elected, unopposed, to the office of president for 1967.

Enclosed find a check for my dues for 1967. Much fortune and prosperity to the officers and members for the coming year.

Yours very truly,

Joseph M. Jakubecki
Detroit, Michigan

NEW MEMBER

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KOSCIUSZKO 150th ANNIVERSARY

Polonus always has a theme connected with its POLPEX shows and souvenir sheets.

October of 1967 carries an important date for us to consider. It was on the 15th of October in 1817 that Thaddeus Kosciuszko, revolutionary freedom fighter, philosopher and Colonel in the American Revolutionary Army, died in Switzerland.

IKAROS PUBLICATIONS

Several books published by the pre-war periodical IKAROS are still available. For information write (in Polish or English) to:

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ROMAN H. STRZELECKI, Secretary

1439 N. Bell Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60622

JOS. Z. RYCAJ, Treasurer

2817 W. Logan Blvd. Chicago, Ill. 60647

CHESTER A. SCHAFER, Editor

864 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60622

WALTER SZYMLEK, Publications Chairman

1562 Walters Ave. Northbrook, Ill. 60062

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

1967 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE!

Your membership dues in the Polonus Philatelic Society expired on January 31st, 1967.

As Polonus is a non-profit organization, there is but a small amount of money on deposit at the bank. Our main source of revenue is from dues. Money is needed to continue the publication of our Bulletin, for meeting hall rental, supplies and the other various expenses incurred by a society like ours.

Would you be so kind as to send in your \$2.50 promptly to Jos. Z. Rycaj, 2817 W. Logan Bl., Chicago, Ill. 60647.

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