

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave.

Issue 143

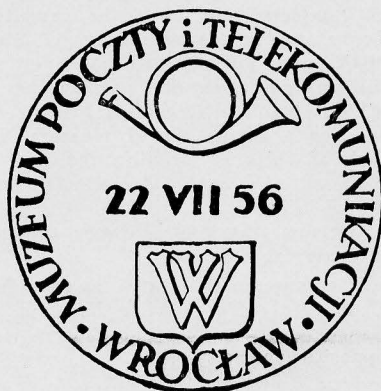
October 1956

Polish Postal Museum Opened At Wroclaw

by ALEKSANDER ŚNIEŻKO

Realizing the need for a postal museum, the Presidium of the Polish Government resolved to authorize the ministry of communication to open a museum of Posts and Communications at Wroclaw.

The general scope of activities of the museum would encompass the dissemination of knowledge in the sphere of posts, telegraphs, telephones and radios — through systematic and scientific collection, coordination and preservation of items and documents of interest and importance in history and development of posts and telecommunications in Poland and abroad, and making this material accessible to the general pu-



Design of the Wrocław museum seal.

PROF. MIKSTEIN DIES

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Prof. Stanisław Mikstein has passed on. His remains were laid at rest in Kraków on Oct. 3.

Member Leo Topolinski received word from Eug. Duba-Dubinski, President of the Bydgoszcz Philatelic Society in a letter addressed to our Society.

Prof. Mikstein was well known to Polonus members for his extensive study and writings especially on the Kraków Issues.

Polonus will pay tribute to this great philatelist and honor him at the Oct. 26 meeting. Mr. Victor Hermanowski, formerly of Poland, who knew Prof. Mikstein well, will give the Society members a better picture of what the professor contributed to Polish Philately.

blic in permanent display and exhibits.

The museum is subdivided into three categories: postal, telecommunication and philatelic. It contains a good reference library, with many rare books and in many languages, and valuable exhibits on postal history and philately which are the pride possession of the museum.

At present the material on hand is being catalogued, necessary equipment for display and preservation is being renovated or built — with the opening of the museum to the public this year — as a goal!

Displays at the museum will illustrate the process and technique of making postage stamps, the designs submitted in contests, both accepted and rejected, with other postal printings of historical significance. In the stamp collection are shown all previous stamps of Poland from No. 1 of 1860 to the present time.

Poland's Postal Museum history has already some tradition behind it. The original idea of such a museum was conceived as early as 1919, during the First Philatelic Exhibition at Warsaw by the minister of Posts at that time. A beginning was made at the main post office building in Warsaw (Pocztą Główną) where two rooms were allocated for storing material gathered from various District Postal Directorates throughout the country and gifts presented for this purpose by individuals. Finally in 1928 the museum was opened to the public.

Devastation by war of the Polish Capitol and subsequent plundering was so complete that even the inventory books and records were destroyed. Since 1945, postal authorities began anew the diligent gathering and preservation of all obtainable material of historic value for a future postal museum. For lack of suitable building facilities in Warsaw, the material collected was stored in boxes and trunks, until finally a decision was made to open the new museum at Wrocław.

The museum is located on the first floor of the Post Office building, ul. Krasynskiego and Aleje Słowackiego, opposite the city park.

Translated from FILATELISTA, Warsaw, August 1956, by Walter Szymlek.

MR. NOWAK MAKES PHILATELIC HEADLINES AGAIN!

Edward Nowak, Sr. was appointed philatelic editor of the "Quo Vadis" magazine which is printed in the Polish language.

Mr. Nowak's Poland Collection, donated to the Regis Stamp Museum, will be exhibited in the downstairs galleries of the National Philatelic Museum, Broad and Diamond Sts., Philadelphia, Pa. Sessions of the American Philatelic Congress will be held here Oct. 19, 20, 21, with other Polish stamps displayed. Sister M. Fidelma, curator of the Regis College Stamp Museum, is personally making a trip to Philadelphia to help set up the stamps for exhibit.

This is quite an honor to be bestowed on Edward Nowak, Sr. and Polonus is proud to have him as a member.

STAMP SHOW SCHEDULE FOR THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

Through the courtesy of the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs we print herewith the 1967-57 exhibit schedule:

Oct. 13 & 14...Roosevelt Phil. Society
Southmoor Hotel, 67th St. at Stony Island

Oct. 20 & 21...Lithuania Phil. Society (10th Anniv.), Knights of Lith. Youth Center, 2453 W. 47th St.

Oct. 27 & 28...Czechoslovak Phil. Soc. of N.A., Stefanik Hall, 2450 S. Pulaski Rd.

Nov. 2, 3, 4...Chicago Phil. Society (70th Anniv.), Congress Hotel

Nov. 3 & 4...Ogden Hill Stamp Club

Nov. 15 & 16...Hawthorne Stamp Club
Albright Gymnasium, Cermak Rd. at 50th Ave.

Nov. 17 & 18...Austin Philatelic Club (25th Anniv.) Keymen's Club, Terrace Room, 4721 W. Madison St.

Nov. 17 & 18...Suburban Stamp Club

Feb. 16 & 17...Ill. Fed. of Stamp Clubs with Fox Valley Stamp & Coin Club
Masonic Temple, 104 S. Lincoln Ave., Aurora, Ill.

March 1, 2, 3...Polonus Philatelic Soc. Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave.

March 15, 16, 17...American Stamp Dealers Assn., LaSalle Hotel

TID BITS

Congratulations to member Andre Frodel on his new business venture the "Brooks Stamp Exchange" in Brooks, Alberta, Canada. We understand he carries a nice stock of Poland.

* * *

Our thanks to John C. Crimlisk of England for his donation of covers to the Society. The covers were sold and money was turned over to the treasurer.

* * *

Anthony Banasiak reports that he is in possession of a 25 gr airmail blue (Scott C20) imperforate between.

* * *

Did you know that member Vincent Domanski, Jr. is Treasurer of the National Philatelic Museum at Philadelphia?

* * *

The Society wishes to extend to Stanley Falcon our most heartiest congratulations upon his election as Commander for 1956-57 of the Fourth District American Legion, Dept. of Illinois.

The Fifth Commemorative Issue of the Polish Republic

by MARJAN DUŃSKI

To commemorate the 82nd Anniversary of the January Insurrection which fell due on January 22, 1945, a new postage stamp was issued. Value 5 zł.; overprinted on the 25 groszy from the first Issue. In the Postal Bulletin "Dziennik Taryf" No. 2, 1945, page 20, pos. 10, we read:

Regulation.

The Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs, January 18, 1945—on the Issuance of a new postage stamp, value 5 zł.

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the January Insurrection a postage stamp will be issued of 5 zł. value.

The stamp has the likeness of Tra-gutt on a light-brown background. It features a rectangle framed with lines, in which on a lined groundwork the bust is placed.

Above the portrait overprinted is the value of 25 groszy to 5 zł. Below the rectangle is printed the date of the January Insurrection. Stamps are printed on paper without watermarks and ungummed.

The above regulation will take effect on January 22, 1945.

The Minister of Posts and
Telegraphs,

(—) Eng. T. Kapeliński

9.—1945 January 22, Commemorative Issue, on the 82nd anniversary of the January Insurrection.

New printing of stamp No. 1—with black typographical overprint. Printed by Pietrzykowski, Lublin. Perforation 11½. Ungummed.

9.—5 zł. on 25 gr. Lightbrown, with black overprint. Total Printed 60,000.

- a. Brown-red
- b. Brick-red
- c. Brown (Chocolate brown)
- d. Lilla-brown
- p. Brown-red—double overprint
- n. Same—Imperforate.
- r. Without overprint

The new printing of the 25 groszy stamp was made from the old cuts. The sheets are of 30 subjects, (5x6) with wide margins. Imperforates and without overprint are derived from printer's waste. Paper used for this Issue is either white or cream unwatermarked, mostly blank stock of the

Gen. Gov. "Deutsche Post Osten der Leiter der Distriktpostverwaltung Lublin"—with the letterhead preserved on the reverse side of the sheets, under the 26 and 27 stamp.

The printing ink was not uniform. The scale of shades is increased still more by the fact that it was not uniformly spread and distributed over the lithographic stone.

Sometime the printing came out shaded or drawn, in which case the stamp No. 26 received the most and stamp No. 5 the least inking. Also due to sporadic soiling of the lithographic stone during the process of printing, we find on some stamps of this Issue speckles, repeated on few sheets, which disappeared only after the stone was cleaned.

Such speckles could be found for instance on No. 9-b (brick-red) on stamp No. 5—at the top;

13—on the forehead

22—over the letter "C"

23—on the right ear;

24—in the right top corner;

26—on the letter "T"

And on stamp No. 9-d., two blots at the left top corner on stamp No. 16 and on stamp No. 26 a blot under the "sk."

On some sheets of 9-a a blot on the letter "G" (15th stamp) and many more.

The overprint was typographed and on some sheets a rectangular black speckle appears between stamps No. 7 and 8. Known are also some stamps of this Issue with shifted perforation.

Original used copies are very scarce.

This stamp was withdrawn from circulation 15 of May, 1945 by order of the Ministry of P. and T. of April 20, 1945. (Dziennik Taryf No. 2, 1945—page 24, pos. 20).

This article was translated from the Polish by Walter Szymlek.

APPLICANT PENDING

A. J. Pulnarowicz

P. O. Box 5446

Milwaukee Junction Station
Detroit 11, Mich.

The Westerplatte Stamp and 10th Anniversary of the Death of Major Henryk Sucharski

by JOSEPH A. BORKOWSKI

August 30th, 1956 marked the Tenth Anniversary of death of Major Henryk Sucharski.

If your memory serves you well, it will be recalled that Major Sucharski was the commanding officer of that heroic Battle of Westerplatte which was the first to bear the brunt of the German Wehrmacht when initiated the World War II.

Westerplatte is a peninsula which dog-like-leg projects itself from the Poland proper into the Baltic Sea then as if changing its intentions swerves seemingly to the Polish soil. It was this particular area that was allocated to Poland following the Versailles Peace Treaty and was to serve as Poland's ammunition storage dump. The force in charge of manning this was not to exceed at any time over 88 people but eventually it was increased to 210 soldiers.

When Hitler's intentions became obvious in the year of 1939, the Poles attempted at different times to reinforce the garrison but were only rebuffed by her allied powers, "that it only would give a good excuse to Hitler." There was only one consolation the garrison received from the Polish Commander Col. Hozowski who was then on the inspection tour, that "you are not alone and in course of time you will receive SIX divisions which will aid you in case of attack." Of course this was never to come as subsequent events moved fast and the Westerplatte garrison was left on its own.

The "Famous Visitors"

On Sept. 1, 1939 the battleship Schleswig-Holstein arrived on a "visit" and peacefully steamed up through the harbor channel to within a thousand feet of Westerplatte proper. This battleship was armed with two 28 centimeters, five of 150 mm variety and 14 heavier guns of different types. The decks were crowded with recent graduates of German Naval Academy who purportedly were returning after "a

cruise" for a "land visit."

The Visitors Greet the Poles

The Poles as a group were alerted. True enough at 4:00 A.M., the gates guarding the peninsula proper and the railroad leading into the Danzig territory were blown-up as the German marines streamed to enter the Polish bunkers. Simultaneously the guns of Schleswig-Holstein opened at point blank on the Polish barracks and threw shells unceasingly for 20 minutes.

As the Marines the cream of the German streamed towards the Polish positions coming within 350 feet, the Polish Garrison cut loose with a scything machine gun fire. They came on despite losses and the attacks lasted until 7:30 a.m. as the Poles still held their own and Nazis retreated totally perplexed.

The Visitors Invite Additional Company

Angered by their frustrations, all the guns of the Battleship teamed with shore guns from adjoining Neufahrwasser opened their "greetings" upon the Polish defenders of what was to be the "final resistance of stubborn Poles." The German wholesale bombardment to a certain degree succeeded—destroying the "only artillery gun" in their possession and which did its work with destructiveness while it was permitted to operate.

On September 2 and at 5 p.m., squadrons of airplanes appeared over the peninsula and in relays dropped incendiaries and at low levels discharged 500 pound bombs. In 30 minutes, forty-seven airplanes discharged approximately 30 tons of bombs on an area of 30 acres.

In all, there were 12 German major attacks on the Polish Positions and which were repulsed with terrific losses to the invaders. The final attack was launched by 500 recent marine graduates who dressed in their immaculate white formed a beautiful and awe inspiring spectacle as they moved for the "kill" only to be repulsed with a terrific slaughter to such extent that

the Germans asked for armistice to bury their dead.

However the final straw that had the telling effect on the Polish defenders came on September 6, when the Wehrmacht's "Pionielehr batalion" of Dessau especially brought in attacked the Polish positions with their typical Prussian fury only to meet with a repulse.

Although the attack was beaten off whatever reserve strength the Poles had was now completely exhausted.

Major Sucharski taking stock of the situation, especially with the news of Polish military disasters on all fronts and the obvious results in offering then analyzing his predicament viz: that of the original garrison of 210 men only 60 remained and all were completely exhausted. There was no food, no water, no medical care for the wounded and sick. And ammunition a complete nil.

So on Sept. 7, at 10:15 a.m. he assembled the heroic crew and after paying a tribute to the dead and expressing his appreciation to those alive, he decided to surrender.

General Eberhardt who commanded the German forces accepted the terms and permitted all Polish officers to retain their side-arms in tribute to the Polish valor.

Major Henryk Sucharski eventually reached Italy where he was appointed commander of the 6th Battalion of the Carpathian Riflemen. However after prolonged illness he died on August 30, 1946 at Naples Italy and was buried at Cassimassima.

The Westerplatte Stamp

The Polish Government in 1945 issued a special commemorative stamp honoring the Polish Army's stand under the command of Major Henryk Sucharski. The stamp printed in steel blue depicts a group of fighting Polish soldiers rallying around their company's flag with the battleship Schleswig-Holstein in the background. The stamp on the face has the inscription "Westerplatte 1. IX. 1939" with values of 1 zł. plus 9 zł. Polska. It is listed in Scott's catalog as B41 Sp12.

Reprinted from SOKÓŁ POLSKI — Aug. 30, 1956.

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THE STAMP THAT NEVER QUALIFIED

by CHESTER A. SCHAFER

Here you see illustrated a stamp that was never officially released. Why? — It was condemned because the eagle on the left had a crown and a Lithuanian knight at the right. The present officially Moscow approved Polish eagle does not have a crown.

The design of this stamp shows the Battle of Grunwald after a painting by Matejko. Witold, the Great Prince of Lithuania is the principal figure.

It was almost released. In fact some stamps slipped by the Polish post office and were used on covers mailed to a Chicago dealer Charles Cwiakala. Covers in Mr. Cwiakala's possession have this 90 groszy stamp plus other current stamps bringing the postage up to a total of 1.50 zloty, the correct amount for a registered airmail letter. He received a total of five covers with this stamp perforated and one cover



with an imperf. In his possession also are singles of this stamp in 14 different shades of grey, violet and brown.

From what information Mr. Cwiakala obtained we can tell you that a design contest was held and these apparently were proofs as they were printed on thin cardboard paper.

He also stated that the person who mailed them was caught and imprisoned for 18 months.

ON THE EARLIEST USE POLISH COVERS AND STAMPS

Very often after an article is published, members' interest is aroused about the particular subject of the article and additional and new information is submitted. Mr. V. Rachmanov submitted such information:

With great interest he read the article of Mr. Stephen Rich "Transition From Stampless Mailing To Stamps In The Kingdom of Poland" published in STAMPS 3/3/56 and in the POLONUS BULLETIN No. 139 of 5/56.

The dates of earliest use of covers and stamps are given. Mr. Rachmanov tells us of earlier dates as per information of material in his possession.

Mr. Bojanowicz of London sent him a cover of 5 kop. "St. Petersburg" used in Warsaw Feb. 4, 1858. These are cancelled before the numeral cancellation "1" in red and dated cancellation "Warszawa."

Russian stamps of 1858 were used in Poland no doubt on Jan. 2, 1858 because he has letters and covers from Jan. and Feb., 1858 cancelled by cross in pen and ink dated and stamped with town of origin, so the earliest

letter he has with Russia No. 1 was cancelled by Warsaw numeral "1" sent from Warsaw 13/25 of March 1858 — actually two days before the official date of numeral cancellers for all of Poland.

As to the stamp of Poland No. 1 it was no doubt issued on the 1st or 2nd of January, 1860* as Mr. Rachmanov has a cover sent from Warta dated the 9th of Jan., 1860 and received in Warsaw Jan. 11, 1860. The letter was written on Jan. 8, 1860 in Poddebice but as there was no postal agency so it received its date of Jan. 9, 1860 in the nearest postal agency of Warta. Thus we must recognize this letter as the earliest use of Poland No. 1.

*The 1st of January being New Years the post office was no doubt closed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Dr. Koza-kiewicz collection is a cover and letter dated 1/17/1860 from Plecka Dobrowa No. 218, to Warsaw, received on 1/18/1860, and another dated 2/20/1860 from Biala Nott to Kalischutz gub Micek. He has another cover from Radom No. 138, dated 3/13/1865 and received in Warsaw 3/15/1865—3 p.m.

TID BITS

Publisher of Album Pages Extraordinary George Kobylka has released a new album of Olympic Stamps. An album of this kind has been much sought by sports' stamp collectors. The pages have a simple, formal layout. Illustrations of the stamps appear with informative descriptions neatly set in small type. Cover page has an attractive design printed in two colors.

* * *

It has been brought up at a recent meeting that lately we have not devoted much of our meeting time to philatelic activities, that most of our meetings were given to administrative matters. Efforts are being made to have some philatelic program planned for every fourth Friday of the month. For the Oct. 26 meeting a talk by Victor Hermanowski is scheduled. His topic will be on the late Professor Mikstein.

* * *

It is possible that some member of Polonus will have a letter (especially pre-stamp covers) addressed to the "Hon. Wm. Frederick Wyndham" or the "Hon. Mrs. Wm. Frederick Wyndham." The descendants of Mrs. Wyndham, among them a Polish lady, want to trace any that may exist, and if possible obtain photographs of them or purchase the originals. Also, any letters to or from Smarzewski or Spytecki. Mr. John Crimlisk, 6 Murray St., Filey, Yorks, England has such a cover and is acting on behalf of the above.

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Janusz Bogusław Jablonski
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Manitoba, Canada

POLPEX 1956 FINANCIAL REPORT

Receipts

Treasury Advance	\$100.00
Ads	146.50
Entries and Insurance ...	109.73
Bourse	178.00
Patrons	59.50
Donations	2.50
Seals and Covers	289.86
Beeba	50.00
Total Receipts	\$936.09

Disbursements

Rent	\$ 75.00
Publicity and Postage ..	57.15
Supplies	1.25
Frame Glass	14.00
Printing	222.20
Cartage	19.80
Insurance	5.00
Janitor	5.00
Watch Service	35.00
Awards	97.97
Seals, Covers, Ribbons ..	90.28
Beeba	50.00
Advance to Treasury....	100.00
Total Disbursements	\$772.47
Net Profit	\$163.62
— J. P. Rux, Finance Comm.	

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NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

To celebrate Polish-Soviet Friendship Month two stamps were issued on Sept. 14: a 40 gr. value red and red-brown. The design pictured a dancing Polish-Soviet couple, dressed in regional costume. Printed by offset; designed by Slawa Gospodarek.



The 60 gr. yellow and red, shows an open book with colors of both the Polish and Soviet banners upon which thru the center is drawn a toothed

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Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. The views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

wheel to symbolize economic operation. It is offset printed; designed by S. Malecki.

On the 17th of September two stamps were issued to honor Ludwika Wawrzyńska—a very heroic school mistress who saved three children from a burning house only to perish herself. The values are: 40 gr. red-brown and 60 gr. dark-blue. Printed by rotogravure process. Designed by H. Przeczdzicka.

NEW ISSUES—NOT RELEASED

During the latter part of September two stamps 40 gr. and 60 gr. values are to be released to honor the 50th anniversary of the death of Father Dzierzon, the inventor of the modernized beehive.

— "Prasa i Książka"

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY ORGANIZED IN BOSTON

Efforts by Edward Nowak, Sr. and Walter Niemyski to form a Polish stamp club has resulted in the formation of the Polish Philatelic Society at Boston, Mass. August 16.

Walter Niemyski is president; Henry Kulik secretary; Francis Budryk, 99 Gore St., East Cambridge, Mass., treasurer. Edward Nowak, Sr. will serve as editor of publications.

POLONUS sends its sincerest best wishes!