

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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JOHN PAUL II SENDS BLESSING FOR POLPEX 89

Fred Szebel, Chairman of our Golden Jubilee POLPEX 89, received a papal blessing from the Vatican on the Society's 50th birthday for a successful exhibition. The Honorary Committee of POLPEX 89 includes the Primate of Poland, Cardinal J. Glemp, prominent Poles and Americans of Polish descent, friends of Polonus and Polish philatelic societies of Australia, Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany and Poland.

In conjunction with the Polpex we are planning a convention of Polonus members from the U.S.A., Canada and abroad. Mr. Dabrowski and A. Roszkowski are coming from England and many others are expected from different countries in Europe. Shown will be the best collections of Poland from the pre-stamp period thru present day issues in 200 large frames (16 or 12 pages per frame).



Czeslaw Slania, the master engraver from Sweden, is preparing a surprise for Polonus as promised at CAPEX 87 in Canada. Entry Chairman, Art Walinski, will have entry applications ready in early fall and will contact invited exhibitors.

Polpex Chairman, Fred Szebel, was fortunate enough to secure the cooperation of professional dealer, Bob Weisz to take over as Bourse Chairman and promised to get at least forty noted dealers for our bourse.

Make plans to take an active part in our Golden Jubilee exhibition and meet with friends from all over the country and abroad.

—Fred Szebel, Polpex Chairman

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The list of financial sponsors of our Golden Jubilee POLPEX 89 is growing but we need at least forty members to respond in order to cover the expenses of POLPEX 89. We ask for your donation of \$100.00 or more. Make check payable to: POLONUS - POLPEX 89 and send it to: Fred Szebel, 1615 East Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

— NEW MEMBERS —

Wojciech Kruczkowski #1351
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57 Walker Drive
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2726 Fifth Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76110

ALOYSIUS A. MAZEWSKI PASSES ON

ALOYSIUS A. MAZEWSKI, the Chicagoan known to be the most influential Polish leader in the United States, died apparently after suffering a heart attack in August of 1988. He was 72.

He was president of both the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress. He had been an adviser to and friend of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter & Ronald Reagan, and served as liaison between the United States and Poland on many occasions. In 1970, Nixon chose Mr. Mazewski as a special delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. A Polish patriot, but born in Chicago, he first visited Poland in 1981. He had served as a link between the United States and Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and organized food drives during two major crises, the 1980 food shortage in Poland and contamination of food there after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in the Soviet Union. His voice was influential within the Polish community in local and national elections.



Photo taken during Polpex 83 Banquet at the Palmer House, Chicago.

Mr. Mazewski was a Polonus member since 1946 and collected the stamps of Poland. He was an Honorary member of Polonus. He always attended Polpex Exhibitions and never refused when asked to be a speaker at our Polpex Banquets in 1973, 1976, 1979 and 1983. Just a week before his untimely passing, he agreed again to be main speaker at our Golden Jubilee Polpex 89 reception. We will miss him.

—Fred Szebel

POLAND PERSPECTIVE

By JOSEPH BIENIECKI

In the May 9th issue of LINN'S the "TRENDS" listing of Poland reported that prices for Poland have turned downward. We don't know where Linn's is getting their information but in our 40 odd years of experience we cannot disagree more.

We wrote to Linn's on May 9th voicing our disagreement and on the 11th we had a reply from a Mr. M. F. Schreiber that their listing represented average prices based on published retail lists, auction results and advertising. Linn's again wrote at a later date that they felt their listing was correct.

We have a published list, and I am sure they had a copy. They also have Burkiewicz's list which has been published in Linn's and I am sure they could get lists from Kolakowski, Wasserman and Cherrystone. We also have been running ads in Linn's for some years. None of these lists

to my knowledge have been reducing prices. We also have been filling want lists for many other dealers as well as collectors.

There are many issues which we have been trying to buy for the past 40 or more years. They are on every dealer want list and no one has any stock. Not in the U.S., Poland, England, Austria or Germany, where there are well known dealers with stocks of Poland.

As we wrote Linn's, there have been two world wars during which many collections and stocks of stamps have been totally destroyed. The number of collectors has grown considerably. The membership list of Polonus has grown far beyond the original group of collectors in the Chicago area.

Linn's list shows lower prices on issues which we don't have in stock and which we would be happy to buy at the retail prices they list. However Linn's did not advise us what dealers could offer Poland at the prices they were listing.

To start with, try buying a fine to very fine copy of Poland #1 at Linn's listing! Cheaper copies may be found but many will have some damage and should be carefully examined. In the early days of stamp collecting many stamps were peeled from covers, resulting in thins and tears. Also Poland #1 was a victim of double use by mailers to save the cost of postage. Fine to very fine undamaged copies will sell for over catalog.

The Krakow overprints with proper expertization are bound to increase in value. There simply are not enough to go around. Try to buy the 25h and the 10 kronen. Or even the 15 heller. Maybe Linn's has a stock? Maybe they even have them mint never hinged? Try to find J-2.

A low value set like 93/108 catalogs \$7.30 and Linn's lists it at \$7.00 mint never hinged. Our price is \$5.00 plus 20% but we can't find anyone anywhere who can supply us. 140/148 is another example. It is on many want lists. Maybe Linn's knows of a supplier who might even have mint never hinged sets, well centered in blocks of four. They have the set priced with a minus sign meaning a drop in value.

We could list many more sets but for us that would only make it much more difficult to buy the sets we need for stock. It should also be noted that stamps of many european countries have become scarcer and will continue to grow scarcer. Years ago there were many dealers lists, both wholesale and retail offering every stamp of a particular country. This was in the postwar II period when many collections and dealer lots were sold in the U.S. to get needed dollar exchange. These stamps have long ago been absorbed by the market.

Our latest information from Poland is that many scarce sets are up from 50 to more than 100%. Their valuations are based on Michel. In our opinion, the Linn's listing is most inaccurate.

WARSAW POSTMARKS

in the 18th, 19th and in the beginning of the 20th Century

By JERZY DOBRZENIECKI

(CONCLUSION)

In 1847, in order to make the letter carriers' work more efficient and to verify their efficiency, supplemental postmarks, the so called "godzinniks" (—time marks), were introduced by the Warsaw post office. They were struck on the backs of the envelopes, in red ink and indicated the time of day and the hour when the mail was handed over to the letter carrier for delivery.

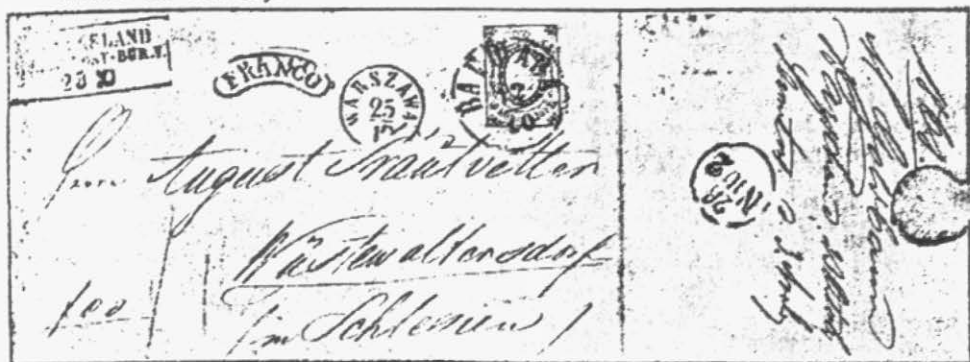


FIG. 26a

Mail delivered in the morning was marked with the circular postmarks of varying diameters, cut by a horizontal line (Fig. 27-30). The hour appeared in the upper segment, sometimes with the decimal fraction indicating minutes, and in the lower segment a capital "R" (—an abbreviation) for "rano" (—in the morning). The afternoon mail carried square postmarks of various sizes, also subdivided horizontally and having, above the line, the hour, and below, capital "P" (—an abbreviation) for "po południu" (—in the afternoon).

After the final loss of autonomy by the Polish Post, in the (eighteen) eighties, the Russian Post in Warsaw also used circular "godzinniks" (—time marks) struck usually in black ink on the back of the envelopes, and divided in half, with an hour indicated above the line and below, the time of day in Cyrillic lettering in Russian: —an abbreviation for "in the morning," —an abbreviation for "in the afternoon" and —an abbreviation for "in the evening." One also comes across double ring "godzinniks" (—time marks) 20 mm. in diameter with two rings approximately 1 mm. apart and not cut by the horizontal line. In the center (of these) at the top, the hour, and below it, the time of day in Russian, abbreviated or written in full. (Fig. 31-33).

In 1875, a new type of (combined) date-and-time, single ring postmarks were introduced. They had the Cyrillic inscription Warsaw at the

INTERES RZADOWY

FIG. 23

Interes Rządowy.

FIG. 24

INTERES RZADOWY
 02 RZĄDU GUBERN. WARSZ.
 ОТЪ ВАРШ: ГУБ: ПРАВ.

FIG. 25

3
P

FIG. 28

P.
9½

FIG. 29

3
R

FIG. 30

9 ч.
УТР

FIG. 31

11 ч.
ДНЯ

FIG. 32

8 ч.
ВЕЧ.

FIG. 33

ВАРШАВА
 5
 9 ч. XII
 ДОСТАВКА

FIG. 34

1

FIG. 35

1

FIG. 37

BW

FIG. 38

ЭКСПЕДИЦИЯ
 ПОЧТ.
 ДВОРЦА
 ВАРШАВА

FIG. 39

ЭКСПЕДИЦИЯ ПОЧТ. ВЪНЪШНЕ
1

FIG. 40

ВАРШАВА . 25 . СОСЛОВИЧЬ
 15.7.14

FIG. 41-b

ВАРШАВА
 21
 МАЯ
 1873
 ПРОСТ. КОР. ПОСЛАНОК

FIG. 42

ВАРШАВА
 22
 МАЯ
 1873
 ПРОСТ. КОР. УСТАВЕТЬ

FIG. 43

ВАРШАВА
 11.
 НОЯ.
 1883
 КОР. ПОСЛАНОК
 ВЫДАННОСТЬ

FIG. 44

ВАРШАВА
 6
 АВГ.
 1876
 ЭКСПЕД.

FIG. 45

ВАРШАВА
 5
 МАЯ
 1881
 ЭКСПЕДИЦИЯ

FIG. 46

ВАРШАВА
 10
 НОЯ.
 1891
 ГОРОД. ПОЧТ. ОТА.

FIG. 47

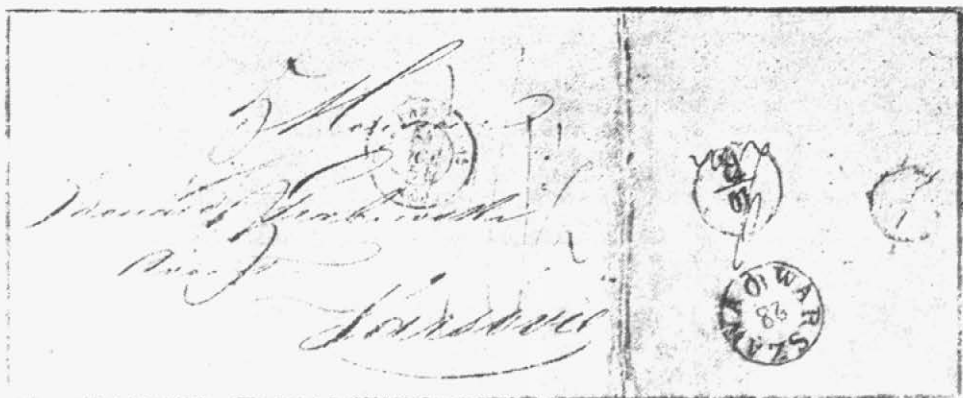


FIG. 27

top, separated by four-dot-diamond ornaments from an inscription: W DOSTAWKU (—for delivery) at the bottom, and in the middle a date, day and month, and next to it, on the left, an hour and on the right, the time of day. This black ink date-and-time postmark was applied to the back of the envelope (Fig. 34).

Simultaneously with the introduction of the Russian stamps in the Kingdom of Poland, new, special, cancel postmarks comprising four concentric rings and a post office number in the middle, were also introduced. The Warsaw post office was assigned No. 1 postmark. In addition to the circular cancel postmarks, there were other numbered cancel postmarks used in Warsaw. They consisted of four concentric squares with the numeral "1" in the center, of serif and sans-serif type and rarer, six concentric squares cancel postmark with number "1" in the middle, also of serif and sans-serif type.

Independent of these cancel postmarks, after 1865, a cancel postmark comprising four concentric octagons with numeral "1" in the center was introduced and used probably on money letters. This cancel postmark



FIG. 36

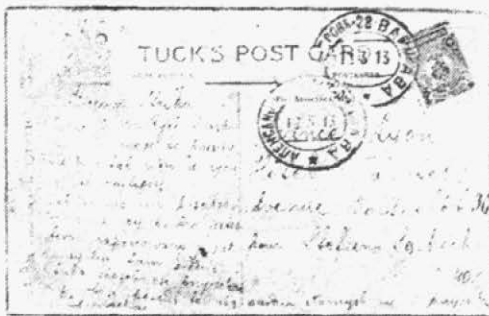


FIG. 41-a

was continued to be used after the withdrawal of Polish stamps from circulation (Fig. 35-37).

In the (eighteen) sixties, in Warsaw, there were two post offices operating at the existing railway stations: the left bank Warsaw Station and the right bank Praga Station.

Stamps on the letters sent from these two stations were cancelled by two different four-ring cancel postmarks. In Warsaw, with capital letters "BW" in the middle which probably stood for Bydgoszcz or Berlin-Warsaw, and beside it an impression of another circular postmark with inscription: EKSPEDYCYA POCZT: DWORZEC WARSZAWA (—Mail Dispatch: Warsaw Station), and in the middle, a date — day and month. In Praga (—a large Warsaw suburb on the right bank of the river Vistula), a four-ring cancel postmark had the letters "DP" in the middle which stood for DWORZEC PRAGA (Praga Station), and the supplementary circular postmark struck next to it, which had an inscription: EKSPEDYCYA POCZT: DWORZEC PRAGA (—Mail Dispatch: Praga Station) with the date in the center (Fig. 38 and 39).

In 1851, as the railway lines and the dispatch of mail by rail were being established, the mail coaches were introduced, in which mail transported by rail was stamped with cancel postmarks consisting of six concentric rings and a large dot in the middle. Next to it, a supplementary circular postmark was struck with a semi-circular inscription EKSPEDYCYA POCZT W WAGONIE (—Mail Dispatch in the Mail Coach) and the number of the coach in the center of the postmark. (Fig. 40).

In addition, four-ring cancel postmarks with letters "DB" — Droga Bydgoska (—Bydgoszcz Line), "DT" Droga Terespolska (—Terespol Line), and "DW" Droga Wiedenska (—Vienna Line), in the middle, also were used.

The above mail coach postmarks were in use up to the first years of the seventh decade of the 19th century. In the later period, correspondence dispatched via mail coach was marked with an oval, two ring date stamp with two horizontal cross-bars. Between the two rings, the name of the station of origin, the number of the mail coach and the name of the station of designation, were given. In between the two horizontal bars — the date. (Fig. 41a and 41b).

At the time of the loss of autonomy by the Post of the Kingdom of Poland, Warsaw became a provincial capital of the Russian Empire and the Polish Post was transformed into a branch of the Russian postal system. From 1871, post offices in Warsaw began to use Russian date stamps of every distinctive appearance. During the first period of the (eighteen) seventies, there was only one post office in Warsaw, located at Krakowskie Przedmiescie on the corner of Trembacka Street and two mail dispatch offices at the railway stations in Warsaw and Praga. They all used different date stamps to mark incoming and outgoing mail.

In 1871, a 25 mm. diameter, single ring date stamp was in use. In

its upper part, there is an inscription: WARSAW (in Russian), separated by the large dots from an inscription EKSP. PR. PROST. KOR and POSYLOK (—an abbreviation for dispatch office accepting ordinary letters and parcels). In the middle, in three lines: day, month (verbally, but abbreviated), and the year.

Another date stamp of the same size and appearance has, in its lower part, an inscription: EKSPED. WYD. PR. KOR. and POSYLOK (—an abbreviation for: dispatch office delivering ordinary letters and parcels). In addition, there appeared a double ring date stamp, 27 mm. in diameter, with an inscription: EKSP. PR. PROST. KOR. and ESTAFET (—an abbreviation for the dispatch office accepting ordinary and express letters). Independently of these, one comes across a double ring date stamp with an inscription: EKSP. PRIEMA and WYWACZI INOSTR. KORR. (—dispatch office accepting & delivering foreign mail). All these date stamps are known to have been used in the early (eighteen) eighties but already in 1876, a single ring date stamp came into use — it had an inscription: Warsaw at the top, three-line-date in the middle and at the bottom: number and EKSP. or EKSPED. (—dispatch office). (Fig. 42-50).

In the first years of the 20th century, there appear date stamps with two horizontal crossbars or "bridge" as well as "broken bridge". There is a great variety of these postmarks which thus far was not yet studied and classified and therefore does not lend itself to description. I am presenting the illustrations of some of them. (Fig 51-54).

An octagonal date stamp crossed by two horizontal bars and struck in red ink was used to mark money letters (Fig. 55).

A post office operating at the Vienna Station during the first years of the 20th century used a double ring, oval date stamp crossed by two horizontal lines with code letter on the right and an inscription: WIENSK. WOKZ. (—an abbreviation for Vienna Station). (Fig. 56).

In 1900, the so called fire grate cancellers modelled on Austrian postmarks were introduced. They were in the shape of irregular rectangles consisting of horizontal lines of differing length and broken by inscriptions: at the top: WARSAW, in the middle either a number of the post office or the date, and the bottom: a number or designation of the post office (Fig. 57 and 58).

In cases of incorrect pre-payment of postage, an oval double ring, supplementary postmark was used, which had an inscription: DOPLATIT (—postage due) at the top, at the bottom: WARSAW and on the sides, a post office number.

In the middle of the postmark a blank space where the amount of postage due was written in manuscript. (Fig. 59).

At the outbreak of the First World War, in order to maintain secrecy of the disposition of military units, the soldiers who used civilian posts, the so called "mute" postmarks were introduced in Warsaw. They comprised six concentric rings with large dots in the middle and were used to cancel

stamps on the outgoing mail. (Fig. 60).

The above brief study does not cover the whole of the subject matter of postmarks used in Warsaw, up to the moment of departure of the Russians. It is an attempt at putting together the information related to this period with the aim of making it easier for the younger, less advanced philatelists to have a clearer view and to get better acquainted with this interesting period of the postal history of Warsaw.



FIG. 48



FIG. 49



FIG. 50



FIG. 51



FIG. 52



FIG. 53



FIG. 54



FIG. 55



FIG. 56



FIG. 57



FIG. 58



FIG. 59



FIG. 60

WARNING FOR COLLECTORS OF P.O.W. ISSUES

By STANLEY KING

Arrest in Poland of a skillful forger of stamps and postal markings of the Polish prisoner of war camps at Woldenberg, Gross Born, Neubrandenburg and Murnau is reported in the Feb. 16-29 issue of *Filatelista*. According to the report by Zbigniew Stasiłowicz of Koszalin on page 1 of the bimonthly periodical of the Polish Union of Philatelists, the forger was arrested in Słupsk by regional Interior Ministry officials, who confiscated a considerable quantity of forged philatelic items as well as his tools of trade.

Seized were 23 linoleum-cut cliches, complete set of 23 postage stamps produced from those cliches, 3 postal cards, 3 covers, 13 linoleum-cut cancelers and date stamps, as well as imitations of small hand-stamps of E. Krawczyk, M. Ways and J. Ryblewski, who are recognized experts in Polish philately but not of POW camp issues.

Some of the forger's creations were described as dangerously deceiving because he is an artist and he used only old prewar papers of various types arduously collected from printers' waste and blank portions of pages of old books or sheet music.

Following is a list of the stamps seized from the forger as well as the cliches for their production (catalog numbers according to "Katalog Specjalizowany Znaków Pocztowych Ziemi Polskich 1985"):

Camp II C Woldenberg: JW 1-5, Widow; 6, Postal Carrier; 15, Infantry Attack; 16, Forge; 17, Torch.

Camp II E Neubrandenburg: JN 1, Chapel; 2, Common Room; 4, Mermaid; 8, Access to the Sea; 9, Caritas.

Camp II D Gross Born: JG 1, Dove; 9-11, Ocean Day; 12-14, Olympic Year; 16, Soldier's Day; DI Postage Due.

Camp VII A Murnau: JM 4, Posthorn; 11, Horse Racing; 16, White Eagle.

Also seized were two-ring daters:

1. "Woldenberg 11.7.42. Oflag II C."
2. "Gross Born 14.VI.44 OB. OF. II D" with identification markings above and below the bridge: "U/C".
3. "OFLAG II E. 2.11.1944. NEUBRANDENBURG."

In addition, according to Stasiłowicz, authorities seized two date stamps for Gross Born: a circular "Wystawa Filatelistyczna Dzień 4, 12-15, VIII.1944 Ob. II D," and a two-line "POCZTA — OBOZU II D"; as well as a three-line canceler with an eagle for use on Murnau stamps, nos. 5-8, with the text reading "Polski Osr. Wojsk. Murnau". There also were linoleum-cuts reading: "14-30 czerwca 1944" and "Dni Morza" as well as the word "POCZTÓWKA" in five different dimensions.

Stasiłowicz reports that all stamps, postal cards and entires that he examined (including texts that also were faked) bore falsified warranty

stamps "J. Ryblewski" on the reverse in the lower right corner. Other such "warranty" stamps were not found on other items, although the forger had at his disposition stamps carrying the names "KRAWCZYK" and "M. WAYS" that were two to three times as large as their genuine stamps.

In a letter to the editor in the Jan. 16-31 issue of *Filatelista*, p. 34, Ways who is chairman of the Experts' Committee of the Polish Union of Philatelists, decried the appearance of fake POW camp emissions bearing forgeries of his warranty stamp and signature. He noted that the forged stamp was 1.8 mm. in length and 19 mm. in height, whereas his genuine stamp measures 1x9.5 mm. The fake handstamps occasionally are accompanied by a penciled signature that could be read as "Mayf", he declared.

Ways stressed that he is not a qualified expert on POW camp mail and has never signed such philatelic items.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Mr. Szebel,

In my opinion, the most important thing a philatelist could do today, is not to necessarily win several gold medals for himself, but to attract more people to his hobby. One sure way to do this, is to ensure that the exhibit which he enters into an exhibition, is not only geared towards the judges, but also appeals to the public at large. Following this point of view, I should like to donate an "extremely valuable" icon as a prize for the best exhibit to the public eye in POLPEX 1989.

I enclosed a letter to my bank requesting a transfer of my donation to Golden Jubilee Polpex 89. Z pozdrowieniami,
A. A. Roszkowski
1 Cae Braenar
Holyhead, Gwynedd LL 65 2PN
Great Britain

NEW ISSUES

XXIV Olympic Games — Seoul 88

On the occasion of the participation of the Polish team in the Olympics a set of six commemoratives was issued in August, 1988.

15 zloty — Triple jump
20 zl — Wrestling
20 zl — Canoeing
25 zl — Judo
40 zl — Shooting
55 zl — Swimming

An emblem of the Polish Olympic Committee is shown on all values. There will also be a souvenir sheet in this series showing Alpinist Jerzy Kukuczka, holder of the International Olympic Silver Medal for his achievements in ascending the Himalaya Peaks. Face value of the imperforate sheet will be 70 zl. + 10 zl. Design by Jacek Konarzewski. Multicolor rotogravure printed.

—ARS Polona

FROM YOUR EDITOR

The previous two editions of the *Polonus Bulletin* were edited by Fred Szebel as yours truly was laid up in a hospital with complications caused by Hemochromatosis. Being indisposed for four weeks, I am now back in the print shop. With this issue of the *Bulletin*, I resumed my duties and hope to continue as editor.

—Chester Schafer

BRING A NEW MEMBER
TO THE NEXT MEETING!

IN MEMORIAM — THEOPHIL SKOTNICKI

Polish philately lost a great collector and promoter when Theophil Skotnicki of Grand Island, in New York, died August 5th, 1988. Theo was proud of his collection. He attended stamp club meetings and seldom, if ever, missed one. He helped with stamp shows and other philatelic events.

He was an active member of the Adam Plewacki Post Stamp Society since its beginning in 1957. He was also active in the Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo for many years. As a member of Polonus, he attended our shows on many occasions. Participating in the activities of the POW Study Group, he aided the Polish Cadets Stamp Club of Buffalo, by giving members a lift to meetings. Visiting Poland, he made friends with many collectors there. He was unselfish and willing to do more than his share at philatelic events.

During World War II he was on active duty with the U.S. Army as a medical technician. Upon his discharge, he joined the Adam Plewacki Post 799, American Legion.

LARGE SELECTION OF PRE-WWII POSTAL HISTORY MATERIAL ON FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Pilsudski Legions, Polish-Soviet War, Military Mail 1921-39, Civilian Mail, WWII, Gen. Gouv., POW & Concentration Camps, Post WWII Early Censorships, and Picture Postcards: Historical, Legions, Patriotic, Military and Views from Vilno, Lwow and Surrounding Areas.

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J. KUBICKI

P.O. BOX 41365
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Theo was a valuable member of Polonus and the many societies he belonged to. His passing will be felt deeply.
—Roman Strzelecki

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IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to Mr. Joseph Bie-niecki & Mr. Wally Pawlowski for sending us donations of philatelic material. We sort and package these into little packets which are then given free of charge to young people interested in stamp collecting.

If other members would like to add their support in our encouragement of young philatelists, please send philatelic material to Walenty Poniecki 6020 N. Mason, Chicago IL 60646. You will receive a personal acknowledgement as well as mention in the Polonus Bulletin.

—Walenty Poniecki, Treasurer

30th ANNIVERSARY OF UNION OF POLISH PHILATELISTS

In May, to mark the 30th Anniversary of The Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, an exhibition was held in London. This was a success, and attracted a substantial number of people. A large silver medal was awarded to A. A. Roszkowski for his exhibit: The Kingdom of Poland, (144 selected sheets from a much larger collection). Previously, a gold medal was awarded by The Union of Polish Philatelists to the world famous collection of "Th. Poulie v.h. Noor-dende froc" Holland.

The Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain is an organization concerned with widening the philatelic knowledge of its members, and promoting Polish language and culture.



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY A.P.S. Affiliate #119

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