

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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February, 1974

POLPEX 74 WITOS SOUVENIR SHEETS

Our biggest event of the year POLPEX 74 is almost here. On March 9-10 the newly decorated St. James Auditorium on Mango and Fullerton in Chicago, will house this stamp and coin exhibition which will honor the Polish statesman and patriot

Wincenty Witos.

Two souvenir sheets will be issued for the occasion. One sheet shows a drawing by W. Gawron of Wincenty Witos on the background of a Polish eagle. The bar of music above Witos is a folk song "Bartoszu Bartoszu" which originated among the peasants during the insurrection led by Kosciuszko in 1794. The song was very popular among Poles at the time of the war with the Bolsheviks after World War I. A postage stamp of 1921 is above the music and shows a sower working in the field with his sword placed in the ground signifying that the fighting is over. The rainbow overhead signifies that there are better days ahead.

The other sheet will show the commemorative medallion sponsored by the Witos Centenary Celebration Committee in the U.S. and struck for the 100th anniversary of Witos' birth. A set of two sheets with a descriptive folder are available for 50c plus 10c postage from J.P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago, Ill. 60634.

Two different cacheted post cards franked with the U.S. 8c Copernicus commemorative will be cancelled with a special Pol-

POLPEX 74
MARCH 9-10 CHICAGO, U.S.A.

pex cancellation. The pair of cards are available for 75c plus postage from Mr. Rux.

Co-chairmen Joseph Migala and Walenty Poniecki report that delivery on the special commemorative medallion which is being struck on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Witos has been promised for March 1st.

They plan to hold the traditional Beeba and presentation of awards at St. James Auditorium on Saturday evening at 9:30 p.m. and will feature tasty Polish delicacies on the menu.

Don't miss the largest exhibition of Poland's stamps in America, POLPEX 74, to be held the second week-end in March at St. James in Chicago.

NEW COPERNICUS TOPICAL K-LINE ALBUM PAGES

Member George Kobyłka announces that K-Line is publishing album pages for all stamps of the world issued to honor the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas Copernicus (see ad on back page). Pages are 8½ x 11 and will fit a standard 3-ring binder. He plans to have them printed in time for POLPEX 74.

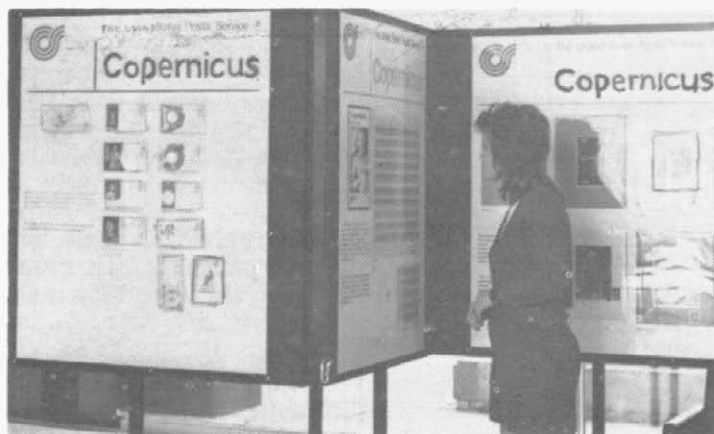
BULLETIN AD RATES

Full page ad.....25.00

Half page ad.....15.00

Quarter page ad...10.00

Send copy for ad with your check to the editor.



"POLSKA 73" — The Copernicus exhibits which were displayed by the U.S. Postal Service at the international philatelic exhibition "Polska 73" in Poznan, Poland, were also on display in the representative hall of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. Walter Zachariasiewicz represented the USPS at the Poznan exhibition.

The unique "Moon Letter" and aesthetic Copernicus Souvenir Card issued by the USPS to commemorate this event contributed greatly to the success of the American participation. A limited number of these cards is still available. Those wishing to obtain them should write to: "Souvenir Card", Philatelic Sales Unit, Washington, D.C. 20036, enclosing \$1.00 per card, plus a 50c handling charge per order. (Cut courtesy POL-AM JOURNAL. Reprinted from their Jan. edition.)

Postage Due Overprints of January 1921 and their Forgeries

By STANLEY and ERIC KRONENBERG

At the beginning of the inflation which followed World War I in Poland, the stamps of the "Polish Liquidation Committee" set issued in February 1919 were overprinted into postage due stamps of new denominations and were issued in January 1921. The numbers of overprinted stamps were reported as follows:

Scott No.	Ruch No.	Denomination	Number Overprinted
J35	D32	6 mk/15 hal.	270,000
J36	D33	6 mk/25 hal.	160,000
J37	D34	20 mk/10 hal.	42,000
J38	D35	20 mk/50 hal.	60,000
J39	D36	35 mk/75 hal.	26,000

The number of 35 mk/70 hal. has also been reported as being 8,000 (Ref. 1). Only the first two denominations have seen postal use. 20 mk/50 hal. were reported to have been very rarely used while 20 mk/10 hal. and 35 mk/70 hal. were not used at all; according to some reports (Ref. 2) all were sold by the postal authorities to stamp dealers in Vienna.

Overprints of all denominations were repeatedly forged, but so far only the most common type of forgery has been partially described (Ref. 3). Examining a large stock of this issue gave us the opportunity not only to observe the originals but also to find several different types of forgeries. Most of them are easy to recognize as such but some are quite tricky.

Genuine Overprints

The overprinting was done by means of typographic form of 10x10 in which only the numbers were exchanged to obtain the 6, 20, and 35 denominations while the "Mk." and "doplata" remained the same except that the "Mk." for 20 and 35 mk denominations is shifted to the right of its position on the 6 mk. This can be seen from the repetition of the same small details in the lettering at fixed positions in the sheets which are the same for all denominations (Fig. 1. and 2.). These recurring deviations make accurate plating possible in many cases and have been described and illustrated in Ref. 4. Together with additional ones they are shown here for "Mk." and "doplata" in the plating tables. The numerals "6", "20", and "35" also show numerous types but since they apply only to individual denominations they are not reproduced here. The bottoms of the numerals are usually not aligned with the bottom of "Mk." The magnitude of the shift and whether it is up or down in respect to "Mk" are the same for each individual position in different sheets of a given overprint denomination and therefore can be useful in plating. They differ however, for an individual position in the sheet among the three overprint denominations. The possibility that more than one printing was done is mentioned in Ref. 4. This appears to be incorrect. We observed



Figure 1
Pos. 69, 70 for 6, 20, 35 Mk.



Figure 2

Pos. 70 on 6, 20, 35 Mk.

that some of the deviations mentioned in Ref. 4 documenting the possibility of a second printing do occur on standard sheets but only occasionally. They may have been caused by accidents to the printing form while the printing was in progress. According to our findings the variety of the overprint with black-gray ink described in Ref. 4 is a forgery (Type II).

Characteristic dimensions of the genuine overprint which apply to all denominations are:

1. length of "doplata" (without the bottom hook of "a"):
18.6-18.7 mm except in positions 18, 32, 37, 42, 79, 87, 97, 98, where it measures 18.5 mm.
2. height measured vertically from top of "M" to the bottom of "I": 13.5-13.6 mm except in positions 38 and 47 where it is 13.7 mm.
3. height of "I": 4.3-4.4 mm except in the position 69; 4.6 mm.
4. height of "M": 3.2-3.3 mm.
5. height of "O": 2.65-2.7 mm except in the position 84: 2.8 mm.
6. width of "Mk." without the serifs of "M." 6.6-6.7 mm with the following exceptions: pos. 12, 16, 21, 23, 24, 26, 31, 32, 65, 77, 92: 6.5 mm. Pos. 5: 6.8 mm and pos. 66: 5.6 mm (period missing after "Mk").
7. width of "M" without its serifs: 2.85-2.9 mm.

The ink of the overprints is intensive black and appears dull even if the light is incident under a grazing angle. The printing was done accurately and the letters have well defined shapes. Under magnification their borderlines appear in most cases as sharp and straight lines. Aside from the numerous deviations shown in the plating tables the basic cut of each letter is the same throughout the sheet. Some genuine stamps show a clear mirror image of the overprint on the reverse. All genuine overprints can be clearly recognized as printed typographically. The overprinted stamps were issued, like the basic stamps, without gum.

Forgeries

Forged overprints were printed typographically, but on some types this cannot be too easily recognized. They were made either on genuine or on forged basic stamps. All were printed with forms covering large blocks as is evident from the existence of blocks of 6 or 8 of most types. Therefore, the forgeries of each type show persistently occurring discrepancies among each other. It seems that the forging was not done in full sheets because those fixed deviations occur too frequently for one and the same type of forgery. Most forged overprints show deviations from the dimensions of the genuine overprints but in some (particularly in some positions of forgery Type IV) the dimensions are well reproduced. According to our estimate about 30% of the first four denominations and about 90% of the 35 mk/70 hal. in collections and in dealers' stocks may be forgeries.

(To be continued)

NEW ISSUES

Motor Industry

On December 28th, 1973, six stamps were issued publicizing the Polish motor industry.

- 50 gr.—Jelcz-Berliet Bus
10,000,000 issued
- 90 gr.—Jelcz 316 Truck,
5,000,000 issued
- 1.00 zł.—Polish Fiat 126P,
15,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zł.—Polish Fiat 125P,
30,000,000 issued
- 4.00 zł.—Nysa M-521 Wagon,
5,000,000 issued
- 4.50 zł.—Star 660 Truck, 870,000
issued.

On the occasion of the breaking of the international record by the Polish Fiat 125P an additional overprint will be placed on the 1.50 zł. value showing the following results:

- 25,000 km. —183,081 km/h
- 25,000 miles—138,186 km/h
- 50,000 km. —138,270 km/h

Rotogravure printed on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps by PWPW in Warsaw. Designed by T. Konarski and J. Wysocki

* * *

Polish Scientists

Polish scientists of the 19th and 20th century are featured on a set of 8 stamps issued November 30, 1973:

- 1.00 zł.—Henryk Arctowski, explorer, geographer, geophysicist, 6,000,000 issued.
- 1.00 zł.—Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, explorer, 6,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł.—Benedykt Tadeusz Dybowski, zoologist, doctor of medicine, 6,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł.—Stefan Szolc-Rogozinski, explorer, 6,000,000 issued.
- 2.00 zł.—Bronisław Malinowski, ethnologist, anthropo-

POLAND UP TO DATE

NEW ISSUES

	MINT	USED	FDC
Human Environment(8)	\$1.40	.65	1.90
Motorcycling(1)	.12	.08	.40
Stamp Day 1973 — Kopernik ..(1)	.40	.20	—
300th Military Anniversary(4)	.35	.20	.75
200th Education Anniversary(2)	.20	.10	.40
Polish Scientists(8)	1.50	.70	1.95
25th PZPR Anniversary — Flag ..(1)	.12	.08	.40
Motor Transport(6)	.85	.40	1.20
Plants 1974(6)	.95	.45	1.35

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Complete Year 1970(65)	\$8.90	4.00	14.90
Complete Year 1971(92)	11.50	4.75	23.50
Complete Year 1972(90)	13.95	7.50	23.50
Complete Year 1973(64)	15.50	9.90	24.50

From #1 all Polish issues in stock

25c handling per order — N.Y. Residents plus Sales Tax

Complete Price List 50c. RUCH Catalogue \$3.00

W. KOLAKOWSKI CO.

P.O. BOX 394

GREAT NECK, N.Y. 11022

- logist, sociologist,
6,000,000 issued.
- 270 zł.—Stefan Drzewiecki,
scientist and inventor,
3,000,000 issued.
- 3.00 zł.—Edward Adolf Stras-
burger, botanist, cyto-
logist, 870,000 issued.
- 8.00 zł.—Ignacy Domeyko, mi-
neralogist, geologist,
870,000 issued.

Rotogravure printed in multi-
colors on chalky paper in sheets
of 35 stamps by PWPW in War-
saw. Designed by Tadeusz Mi-
chaluk.

—RUCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 22, 1974:

Last meeting before POLPEX.

Friday, March 8, 1974:

Mounting Party at St. James
Auditorium.

Saturday & Sunday, March 9-10:
POLPEX 74!

K-LINE PAGES FOR POLAND



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dollar or more and be a POL-
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the success that it deserves to
be. Just mail your name and a
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is printed in the Polpex program
Catalog.

—Chester J. Mikucki
Patron Chairman

NEW MEMBER

Stella Bunda
5246 S. Marshfield Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60609

CORRECTION

In the December issue of our
Bulletin we stated that Dr. Jozef
Kudewicz received a Vermeil
medal at INDIPEX. It turns out
to be a Large Silver that he won,
and not a vermeil. Congratula-
tions just the same Doc!



RAY BARTZ

Detroit, Mich.

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Alexandria, Neb.