

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 179

March, 1960

PADEREWSKI CHAMPION OF LIBERTY STAMP

Since our Polpex Show there have been several developments in our Drive for the Paderewski stamp in the Champion of Liberty series.

The Publicity Committee in its articles and write-ups before and at the time of the Show, played up the plea for a Paderewski stamp in the philatelic press and in the Polish newspapers. As a result, much correspondence and phone calls were received by our Polpex Director in regard to this matter. We sent out many of our Resolutions.

In the week following the Show the Polish Daily News carried a cartoon by their artist Krawiec, on the front page. Shown was the Paderewski stamp being proposed by the U.S. Congressmen of Polish descent. Underneath the cartoon was a notice that resolutions for the Paderewski stamp could be obtained from our Polpex Director Roman Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

The following week the Polish Daily Zgoda "Dziennik Związkowy" carried a first page story about the President of the Polish National Alliance, Chas. Rozmarek, appealing to Postmaster General Summerfield for such a stamp.

Both of these incidents were the result of events stirred up by the Polonus Philatelic Society.

At the time of our Bulletin going to press, we learned that the Polish Daily News "Dzienik Chicagowski" carried the story (dated March 29th) that Congressmen R. Pucinski of Chicago and C. Zablocki of Milwaukee reported that from

reliable sources in Washington D.C. they learned that the Paderewski stamp will be issued this Fall in the Champions of Liberty series.

As these are only rumors, we must not accept the story as fact until official word is released by the Post Office Department.

You must realize that the Stamp Advisory Committee has hundreds of names proposed for the Champions of Liberty series. The list has to be cut down drastically, as only two heroes are selected each year.

So let's not fall down on the job at this point. Do your part! Get more resolutions from Roman Strzelecki and gather up those signatures. Send more letters to the Postmaster General, Post Office Dept., Washington 25, D.C.

FOR CHICAGOLAND MEMBERS:

Meetings are now scheduled to start promptly at 8:30 p.m. This is the result of a new ruling made at the March 11th meeting. By this practice we intend to start meetings earlier and end them earlier.

At our April 8th meeting, Jack Domar will show some 50 color slides of photos that he took during Polpex 1960 at the P.R.C.U. Museum. Don't miss this meeting!

NEW MEMBER

Vicki Hale (Mrs. Paul)
Box 206
Brighton, Ill.



Master of Ceremonies Lester Jankowski presents Grand Award Winner Alfred Szczel with framed photo of trophy.



The Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz Research Award being presented to Dr. M. E. Uznanski.



Walter Szymlek receiving the American Topical Assoc. Award.

(Photos—Ann Mikucki)



Andrew J. Goszczycki received the Novice Award. This award is given to the best exhibit of exhibitors showing for the first time.



(Left to right) Zdz. Wagrowski of the Beeba Committee; M. C. Lester Jankowski, Director; Roman Strzelecki, President; John Bor (with apron he wore serving food at Beeba), Vice President; tall Roman Burkiewicz (part of head not shown), Secretary; Sebastian Styczynski, Librarian; and Roman Reinowski, Director.



Polpex Director Roman Strzelecki receives congratulations and Polonus Trophy for outstanding service to the Society.

HIGHLIGHTS OF POLPEX 1960

With March 4th, 5th and 6th, Polpex 1960 has come and gone, marking a great event in philately and Polonus history. With many these dates are already forgotten but, I'm sure, not by those who attended the Exhibition.

As usual this was the largest showing of Polish stamps in the U.S.A. An outstanding part of the Show was the Court of Honor which honored the Centennial of Poland No. 1. Some of the finest philatelic gems ever assembled were shown on these large slanted tables in the majestic Museum Hall. Singles, blocks, covers, varieties—classic material of the lone adhesive was shown by Messrs. V. Rachmanoff and Bert Powell and Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz. While this part of the Court of Honor presented only Poland No. 1, visitors were shown 1858-60 Polish stationery in Chester Makowski's exhibit also in the Court of Honor.

Polpex 1960 also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy J. Paderewski, with a special exhibit. Here Polonus was lucky enough to secure the world famous block of four of the 15 fen. Paderewski stamp of Poland, autographed by Paderewski himself. It was shown through the kindness of Mr. Paul Taubman of New York City, musical director of N.B.C., who personally offered us this exhibit for the Show. More details on this exhibit will follow in our Bulletin.

While predominately Poland was shown in the Exhibition, there were also stamps of other countries, an exhibit of articles and publicity on Polpex 1960 which appeared in the philatelic press and Polish newspapers, plus a showing of our souvenir seals and Bulletins.

The judges had a tough time deciding on the winners and the final results were as follows:

Grand Award: Alfred Szebel—Warsaw Uprising.

Dr. Kozakiewicz Research Award: Dr. M. E. Uznanski—Underground Post. President's Award: Chester Makowski—Polish History XIX Century.

First Award: Zdzislaw Wagrowski—Polish First Flights.

Second Award: Chester Schafer—Poland Mixed Franking.

Third Award: Bert Powell—Polish Postage Dues till 1939.

Best Locals: Chester Schafer—Lublin Issues.

Best Plebiscite: Bert Powell—Port Gdansk and Allenstein.

Best Fieldpost: Stanley Kucharz—Second Polish Corps Cancellations.

Best Offices Abroad: Myron Steczynski—Levant and Odessa.

Special Award: Chester Schafer—Central Lithuania.

Best Topical: Jens Olessen—Horses on Stamps.

Novice Award: Andrew J. Goszczycki—Scouts on Stamps.

American Topical Assoc. Award: Walter Szymlek—Development of Philately in Poland.

Gold Medals awarded to all Court of Honor Exhibits: V. Rachmanoff, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Bert Powell, Chester Makowski.

The Polonus Exhibits were accented by the other beautiful museum exhibits creating a romantic historical atmosphere. In many instances the stamp exhibits tied in with the Museum exhibits and created a great effect on the visitors. We were well pleased that the 1960 Polpex was held here, as the largest crowd ever to view a Polpex show attended.

A great deal of credit for the large attendance is due to our Publicity Committee. Bert Powell handled the philatelic magazines and Walter Szymlek covered the Polish press. Never before did the Polish press carry so many articles on our Polpex Show. Thanks to the Publicity Committee for a successful job.

Our program book had 44 pages—the largest in Polonus history. Here many thanks must be given our Program Chairman Stefan Kochański for a tremendous job on ads.

This year's most attractive seal was designed by Art Director M. E. Steczynski. It was highly successful. The four-colors of printing was another first for Polonus. Seal Director Adam Kloskowski reported the largest sale of

seals ever during the three days of our Show. Many thanks to Myron!

Roman Reinowski reported the bourse to be successful with all dealers leaving happy and satisfied.

The rather new President's Award donated by Hollywood Press of which member Chester Schafer is co-owner, was indeed unusual—a reproduction of Poland's No. 1 stamp in ceramic, hand painted and mounted on a plaque. The Second Award donated by Walter Szymlek was very timely. It consisted of a plaque with a huge Paderewski medal. Thanks a million to both Chester and Walter.

There were many others who helped towards the success of Polpex 1960, financially, materially and by lending a hand. Chester Makowski arranged the trophies and medals; Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz donated Polish sausage for the Beeba; Chester donated herrings and a beautiful lighter which was presented to the Polpex Chairman; Adam Kloskowski handled the opening day covers and the sale of seals; Lester Jankowski conducted the presentation of the awards; Zdzislaw Wagrowski and John Bor took care of the Beeba. These and many others not mentioned here earned a well deserved "Thanks".

—R. H. Strzelecki
Polpex Director

S O R R Y !

We regret that we left out the names of Richard Estka, Charles J. Sidlowski of Brooklyn, and Vincent Domanski, Jr. of Philadelphia from the Patron List in our Polpex Program Book. These members were very gracious with their donations to the Society and we are exceedingly grateful.

PLEWACKI POST STAMP SHOW

The Adam Plewacki Post Stamp Society of Buffalo, N.Y., will hold its 4th annual Stamp and Hobby Show, at its Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, April 8-9-10, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.. The theme of the Exhibition will be the Pony Express Centennial and the 100th Anniversary of Ignacy J. Paderewski. During the Exhibition a special U.S. Post Office will be open and cachet covers will be available.

Our member Dr. Matt Gajewski, is President of this stamp club and is also a Commissioner for Polska 60.

A pair of attractive souvenir seals was issued for the Show. Available at 25c per set plus postage, from Roman Burkiewicz, 2008 N. Western Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

SCOUT TOPICAL EXHIBITION

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Polish Scout Association, a special Philatelic Exhibition will be held May 7th and 8th at the P.R.C.U. Museum, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago.

The Exhibition will be comprised entirely of scout stamps of the world and relative philatelic matter from over 50 different countries, from Australia to Viet-Nam (South). This unique Exhibition will be devoted entirely to Scouts on Stamps. There will be 120 frames with close to 900 album pages.

A special section of the exhibition will be devoted to the Polish Scouts and will include commemorative scout cancellations from pre-war Poland, scout post cancellations of the Warsaw 1944 Uprising and other relative material issued after 1945 by Polish scouts in different countries of the world. Also, scout publications, periodicals, literature as well as documentary items of the Polish Scout Assoc. will be shown.

Still another section will feature American scout cachet covers with some early items as the Paul Sipel covers, and some recent items of the 50th anniversary of the B.S.A. Another section will include an outstanding exhibit of stamps issued by the various scouts in displaced persons camps in Germany 1945-1960. This was the local postal service in many cases organized and performed entirely by scouts of various nationalities including Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Russian.

A special commemorative souvenir sheet, made up of 4 adhesives depicting important phases of the Polish Scout Movement, will be issued.

— Andrew J. Goszczycki

APPLICANT PENDING

Mrs. Lidia Andrew (Mokrzycka)
931 No. Yale Ave.
Fullerton, California

The Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising

By Thaddeus Gryzewski

(Continued from previous month)

There was no task or obstacle too great for them, all problems were licked. There were instances where mail could not be delivered directly to certain homes because of the watchful enemy, which kept constant surveillance. In those instances pre-arranged hiding places were arranged, and the occupants took advantage of any favorable moment to capitalize on the German's carelessness, to pull the mail out of the pre-arranged hiding place.

The Boy Scouts had one ambition — to make their Postal Service the real and official Postal Service, with all the requisites of an authentic Post. During the first part of the Uprising they got busy making the necessary hand-stamps, which due to the general disorganization of City life created problems. The finding of an engraver was then impossible. But the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared" — was it for naught? The answer is no, for they ingeniously cut a potato in half, and with a scout knife, although somewhat

crudely and a bit deformed, they carved the Boy Scout emblem the "Fleur-de-lis" and "Poczta Harcerska" (Scout Mail). Made from such perishable material, the stamp lasted but a few days, but by then a stamp could be made of something more durable. The same was true of the stamps "Censura Harcerska" (Scout censorship) and "Opłata uiszczona" (pre-paid) were then later made by cutting the lettering in wood or linoleum.

Because of the scarcity of material to write on, for public use, the Postal Troop at Śródmieście Północne (City Center-North) printed special forms of Postal cards. Interested persons received them without cost.

Just how valuable and how much needed this initiative was and how popular the organized Boy Scout Postal Service really was is shown in the figures given by the publication, "Robotnik" of August 3rd, as follows:

"An average of 3000 to 6000 letters were sent daily, with a record of 10,000 pieces of mail on August 13th."



Scout mail carriers receive assignments at the Wilczej street post office.

(Photo: Tad. Bukowski)

THE FIELDPOST OF THE A.K.

According to information furnished by Major Tadeusz Dolega Kaminski (code name "Badacz") also the Quartermaster of the Warsaw Command, a plan was formulated at the time of conspiracy for the organization of a Fieldpost, in the event of a general Uprising throughout Poland (code name "Burza"). The scheme of organization was that the Warsaw Command was to be head of all Fieldpost mail and under authority of a Major (code name) "Embiez" (real name unknown). The Fieldpost was to become active in the third stage of the Uprising, that is after liberation of Warsaw from the Germans and taking over by the Warsaw Command. The duty of the head of the Field Post was the re-organization of postal communication between the people of Warsaw and other Liberated Sections, and also the Polish Army closing in after chasing the retreating enemy.

The well laid plans did not materialize because of the failure of operation "Burza", in view of the progress made in the Warsaw Uprising. The Warsaw Uprising result cancelled the projected scheme of an organized Fieldpost System throughout Poland. In view of the existing conditions it was necessary to improvise another organization, acquaint them with the situation, using persons recruited for this work.

In the tense days, when the matter of the Warsaw Uprising was already decided upon, all unit quartermasters on special assignments were informed of the necessity of organizing a Fieldpost active within the capital. The unsuccessful Military Action taken by the Poles which never reached the point of retaking the entire capital, complicated the plans of the quartermasters and found them doing regional work. In accordance with the plans before the actual Uprising, Major "Embiez," the proposed head of Field Postal Service, began to organize a Branch Fieldpost Sub-Station at Ul. Szpitalna No. 4. As to the activity of this Branch Sub-Station we have little information as the only organizer and worker, Major "Embiez" was killed during the bombing of the Main Post Office Building at Plac Napoleon. I

was only able to establish that correspondence sent through this Branch, originating here or deposited in the Collection Mail box at the gate of this building, was delivered to the homes of addressees by Boy Scouts, located in the same building, assigned as carriers.

Judging by the scarcity of correspondence bearing the handstamp of this Branch it is necessary to assume that the A.K. showed weak activity in this assignment. Censorship took place on the spot. To cancel letters, six different hand-stamps and daters were ordered for this Branch Sub-Station, however it must be explained, that they were centrally made after acceptance by "Biuro Informacji Powstania" (The Bureau of Information for the Uprising), with the idea in mind of distribution among other postoffices.

Of the proposed postal units by the Quartermaster Command, only the Mokotow Sub-station succeeded in moving correspondence to and from the Śródmieście Branch Sub-station.

Information Communique No. 11 issued by the Command of Mokotow on August 17th, carried the following notation: "The address for deposit of Fieldpost Mail has been changed and now reads,—"Tyniecka 26 m. 9".

This same information Communique in its order No. 13 of August 19th reads as follows: "At point Mokotow the Fieldpost for entire Warsaw was activated. Primarily it is for members of the AK but civilians may also deposit mail for other section of the Capital. Messages should be brief, not more than 25 words, placed in unsealed envelopes for censorship by the Military Forces. Letters should be placed at Punkt Werbunkowy, Ul. Krasieckiego 29."

From information gathered, there were two officers operating at the Mokotowski Sub-Station, who functioned as censors. Letters were not delivered to addressees; and there were no collection mail boxes. The type of handstamps used were similar to the type used at Ul. Szpitalna Branch, it is assumed these were sent by Śródmieście through B.I.P. and that only

Mokotowski Sub-Station was functioning according to the plan of instructions of the Fieldpost AK planned before the Uprising.

The transfer of mail from Mokotow and Śródmieście was by way of the sanitary canal.

In the beginning carrier "C" went along the route of Aleja Ujazdowska, Aleja Szucha at Plac Unja Lubelska and along Ul. Pułaski, with entrance to the canal at Ul. Szutra. This route was mainly in territory occupied by the enemy, who after some time awakened to the fact that all was not well. Then the Germans took control of this route and threw grenades, burning acids and even poison gas into the entrances and openings. These obstacles forced the authorities in charge of the sanitary canal routes, who had charge of the Warsaw canal system (taken from the City Hall), to find less hazardous routes. The choice fell on canal "M" crossing Sobieski Park whose exit was on Ul. Okrag in the Czerniakowski District. The canal extended under territory held mainly by the Poles, and travel time under fairly safe conditions was two hours. It was cut off from Śródmieście and also Stare Miasto on August 7. The Operation was known during the uprising by the code name "Starówka".

On the reason for scarcity of mail in that section, Lucjan Fajer wrote in the publication "Żołnierzu Starówki" as follows:

"Though the Scout Mail functioned at Śródmieście, it was not a reality at "Starówka". Conditions were not favorable. Finally no one had time to write, as all were under constant fire, constantly fighting. In Śródmieście the Post not only delivered mail but the daily news papers. In Śródmieście there was a whole staff of workers. At Stare Miasto, chief of liason was Lt. Ciotka, who established telephone service with Śródmieście" (with the help of a cable laid through the canal).

According to a Dr. Jerzy Świdorski

(Junior), in an article entitled "The Boy Scout Platoon of Liaison Battalion Gustaw (Stolica)", No. 45/514, along or through the canal route, with entrance at Ul. Daniłowicz and exit at Plac Napoleon, went courriers, carrying orders, carrying mail from the Main Fieldpost to addressees in Starówka, and also carrying letters to Śródmieście. Through this canal, averaging about 80 cm. in circumference, scouts were taken for the first time (about Aug. 22) by a girl liaison worker. The scouts, members of Battalion "Gustaw", who were assigned to this duty were: "Sokół" (Sławek P.), "Ciszkowski" (Marek), "Leonidas" (Łucek"), and Mirek Z. They became so familiar with this route that they traveled back and forth as if it was an avenue.

Although in the beginning of its existence, when the work was mainly carried out by military personnel, the system limped along badly, the initiators and directors of the BIP wanted it to have all the appearance of a real Polish postal service.

This was a display of patriotism, prestige and propaganda. In the final analysis one should not be surprised that after four years of hard prison, terror, destruction of all Polish governmental insignia, every resident of Warsaw wanted to show at each step of the way, the return to freedom.

This was shown by a spontaneous showing of the national flag at the door of each home, the placing of Polish shields at quarters of the newly created Polish civil authorities, the repainting of mail boxes, etc. Along these same lines the Fieldpost system sought to use Polish postage stamps. Since the creation of new definitive postage stamps took time, it was decided to overprint the existing occupation stamps, at first by hand which was found impractical. This was later delegated to a print shop on Ul. Szpitalna to lithograph overprints on a certain number of postage stamps of the General Government.

THE FIELDPOST

The temporary quiet, which lasted to about August 11th, in the section of Śródmieście North and South, made it possible to reorganize and re-establish the military and civilian bureaus.

Appointed by the Government for Emigration, the so called Government of the Nation had the duty to reorganize the whole civilian administration of Warsaw, and later possibly all of Poland. A number of Ministries were created and ministers of resources appointed. According to the publication "Robotnik No. 39" a Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs was created, subject to Minister "Traugutt" (Antoni Pajdak).

Possibly the Dept. of Posts was to take over and control the activity of the Warsaw Post and to furnish professional postal workers. The activity of this Postal sub-station was limited to a few professional postal workers. The head control was still in the hands of the Military which is verified by orders given by the Military Command of Warsaw.

In the Warsaw territory two postal institutions functioned: The Boy Scout Post and the Fieldpost A.K. The first showed great activity, which cannot be said of the second. It was decided to merge these two organizations, according to Chief Quartermaster already mentioned Major "Embicz", who got orders to unify the Postal service as "Fieldpost". In this work of reorganization, the Scout postal authorities took active part, being best qualified under the existing circumstances, with a few professional postal workers delegated by the Post Office Department. Of the latter only one is known, Szepiechowski, a pre-war postal employee of Warsaw Post Office No. 2. The entire activity of the Fieldpost was at the Main Fieldpost building. As to substation Mokotow, Scoutmaster Bolesław Szatyński was assigned to make it active; and he did so with the use of the sanitary canals.

In every region there was to be a functioning a Postal sub-station. The scheme of sub-stations was as follows:

1. Main Fieldpost, with headquarters as of August 20 in the Building of Directors of Post at Napoleon Place.

The one in charge was still Lt. P. Górecki, to which Major "Embicz" was assigned as delegate to the Warsaw Command.

2. Śródmieście North Sub-station, in the same location as the Main Fieldpost, with Lt. Górecki as head. This sub-station was active to September 6th.

3. Śródmieście South Sub-station located on Ul. Wileza No. 44, under control of Kazimierz Grenda; was active from September 7 to the date of capitulation under Leon Jankowski.

4. Powiśle Sub-station located in the Conservatory on Ul. Okólnik, under Zbigniew Brydak, active from August to September 2, the time of evacuation of Powiśle (dates shown are approximate.)

5. Czerniaków Sub-station located in Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych (Insurance Building) on Ul. Czerniakowska, under control of Scoutmaster Cipula(?), was active from August 10th to September 12th.

Besides the above mentioned Postal sub-stations, according to one of the Postal workers, there was an operating station at Post Office Warsaw 2, located at Ul. Żelazna corner of Aleje Jerozolimskie, but we have no further information regarding this sub-station. It must be assumed that if the place was established, that it was active for only a short time because there was heavy fighting over this building as it was one of the strongest bastions of the Uprising and of great strategic value.

The publication "Robotnik" of September 3, writing of the activity of the Fieldpost says, that in the liberated area there were 40 mail boxes installed and also eight postal sorting places. According to my calculations there were six places and eventually seven (if the Warsaw 2 sub-station is included). Where was No. 8? Perhaps only in the original plans.

Reorganization and modifications were made in the instructions and rules. Taking advantage of the Postal employees' experience, all rules were based on old Polish postal regulations with this difference, that is was necessary to adjust to existing situations and conditions.

(Continued next month)

WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS . . .

By Roman H. Strzelecki

MEETING OF MARCH 11, 1960

The meeting got rather a late start as a lot of business of the last Polpex had to be taken care of. Chester Schafer made a report on the publications committee activities during the Show. He informed us that in April a special issue of Linn's Weekly will be devoted to Polonus and he asked for articles and assistance.

The auditing committee made its report which was accepted. The librarian outlined a plan to index the library and proposed that we buy a special cabinet. Myron Steczynski, who will go to Poland for Polska 60, proposed to take with him some mementos for the Polish Philatelic Federation there. It was agreed to prepare certain material for an official presentation from the Polonus Philatelic Society. The press release for Polska 60 was discussed and particularly the amount of exhibits and personalities exhibiting. Three of our members were mentioned: Mr. Bojanowicz of London, Myron Steczynski of Chicago and D. Palmer of Chile.

Invitations were received for the American Stamp Dealers Show in Chicago on March 25, 26 and 27, and the Plewaacki Stamp Club Show in Buffalo in April.

A very delicate matter of an article that criticized Polonus members, which appeared in the Polish press in Chicago, was brought up. The President informed the meeting of the contents of this article. Lester Jankowski took a firm stand against the writer and stated that such members should come forward at the meeting with their criticism and not resort to publishing their beefs in other outside publications. Such articles run down the Society in the eyes of the public. He reminded us that it took twenty years to build the Society to what it is today and proposed drastic action for members who run it down. A committee was appointed, consisting of Lester Jankowski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz and Dr. M. E. Uznanski to investigate the matter.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to discussions on Polpex. The Chairman of the Show, Roman Strzelecki, expressed his thanks to the various committees and told us of the wonderful gesture by Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz—that of donating a large painting of I. J. Paderewski to the P.R.C.U. Museum.

The Chairman also informed members that souvenir sheets at 25c and program books at 50c each are available from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

With no other business at hand the meeting was adjourned.

POLSKA 60

Among the collections of Poland at Polska 60 will be those of M. Bojanowicz of England and M. E. Steczynski of U.S.A. Shown will be a great number of rarities of the first Polish stamp issued in 1860. Interest is also being aroused by the collections of Poland entered by Mr. R. Kleiner of Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. D. Palmer of Santiago de Chile, and J. Kołpak of Mińsk Mazowiecki, Poland.

The Executive Committee appeals to all who intend coming to Warsaw to make their intentions known not later than June 30, 1960. Notify the Executive Committee or the "Sports-Tourist" traveling office, Warszawa, ul. Polna 18/20 about the intended trip to Poland. Such notifications will greatly facilitate the obtaining of visas. Those who have already notified the Committee or the "Sports-Tourist" or are doing so now, may apply to the nearest Polish Consulate 14 days before their departure in order to get the visa. Those failing to send in their notifications, must take steps for a visa 6 weeks prior to the intended date of departure.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Thomas M. Tenczar
Box 304
Glenview, Ill.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 1960 DUES ! !

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Mr. Editor:

In the December issue of our Bulletin, on page 176-9 in the article about Mr. Nowak, there are two incorrect statements: first, the stamp of France depicting Kopernik was not issued in the year 1935, but 1957; second, Oflag IIC was never a concentration camp, but a prisoner of war camp for officers.

For readers of our Bulletin who are not familiar with this situation, when they read that a Nazi concentration camp had its own stamps, they will think that the life in such camps was not too bad when you could play "post office" and issue your own stamps.

There is a big difference between the POW Camp Woldenberg and the "KZ", as the concentration camps were named. Detention is detention, but the conditions under which they lived are not the same, except for the barbed wire around you. The POW Camp has no gas chambers, no slave labor. They were permitted to have a symphony orchestra, theatre, library, visits from the International Red Cross, etc. But this was never permitted in concentration camps. Why this misrepresentation of facts?

In our latest Bulletin, January 1960, No. 177 on page 9 is the article "Vatican Issues St. Casimir Stamps", there are some confusing dates. On the stamp is a date "1458-1958", but in the article you state that St. Casimir was born Oct. 3, 1568 as the son of "the great Casimir IV." There never was a king of Poland named Casimir IV. As far as I could find out, the Casimir which is honored on the Vatican stamps is the son of the Polish King Casimir II. Then again, how can a man be born in the year 1568, "be regent of Poland in the years 1481-83, die in 1484, and be canonized in 1522", and have all this happen to him before his birth? I am wondering only why the Vatican stamp has the date 1458 on it? Who is right — history, the Vatican or our Bulletin?

—Stefan Kochanski

* * *

Dear Mr. Kochanski:

Both the articles whose information you question, were reprinted from other

publications. Since they already appeared in print, we assumed that the information was correct. Evidently it was not.

We have never visited a POW Camp and are not historians on kings who bear the name of Casimir.

Please forgive us. — Editor

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 20

February 1960

An excellent display of Przedborz locals was given by Mr. Z. Bokiewicz at the meeting of Jan. 30, 1960. The material offered was of great interest, showing varieties by the score, blocks and covers. This very fine collection gave indication of much careful and concentrated work insofar that all stamps had been plated and the position of varieties successfully located. We had a very full description of the use served by these locals including the difficulties encountered at the time by both postal authorities and civilian population. The area was under the control of the Austrian army and the postal system under the jurisdiction of the Austrian F.P.O., a branch of which was located at Przedborz. The F.P.O. only took care of the military mail and did not handle civilian mail. All mail from Warsaw, Krakow, Lodz and Czestochowa was delivered to Konsk where it was checked and censored, only then being delivered to Przedborz.

Early in 1917 permission was given for a civilian postal service under immediate control of military postal authorities.

A special courier was provided between Konsk and Przedborz who handed over the mail to the town postmaster—it being his responsibility to deliver mail to the addressee. The stamps displayed at the meeting paid postage for this delivery and had no validity outside Przedborz. A most interesting and enlightening afternoon. We understand that Mr. Bokiewicz is at present engaged on the plating of proofs of this issue and would be grateful for copies of, or correspondence on this issue.

May we hope that this work is given more permanent form. —S. I. CAPES



NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

To commemorate the Centenary of the First Polish Postage Stamp, a set of five perforated stamps were issued on or about March 20, 1960.

40 gr.—shows the design of the first Polish stamp with a respective postmark.

60 gr.—reproduces the FIS stamp of 1939 with a commemorative postmark.

1.35 zł.—shows the P.K.W.N. stamp of 1945.

2.50 zł.—reproduces the stamp issued on "Stamp Day 1957".

The inscription "100 Lat Polskiego Znaczką Pocztownego" (100 years of Polish Postage Stamps) is part of the design on all of the stamps. Printed in multicolor rotogravure at the State Printing Office, Warsaw. Size of stamp is 40.5 x 54 mm. Designed by Alojzy Balcerzak.

Note: the values on the photographs have been changed to those described above.

* * *

An additional ten stamps are to be released about the middle of April and these are to be the second edition of the Polish Folk Costume series. They will be identical to the previous series in that both the male and female costume will be printed in alternate rows in sheets of 56 stamps. The values are:

40 gr.—Krakow district costumes.

2 zł.—Łowicz district costume.

3.10 zł.—Kujawy district costumes.

3.40 zł.—Lubelski district costumes.

6.50 zł.—Lubuski district costumes.

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They will also be released imperforate in limited quantities.

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A CURIOSITY — Indonesian First Day Cover with the Indonesian Youth Conference Set mailed to the U.S.A. It carries a POLISH Air Mail Label with the Polish word "Lotnicza". How did it get there? (Cut courtesy LINN'S WEEKLY)