BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 296 **Price 25c** **January 1972**

COUNTDOWN TO POLPEX 1972

The days are counting down to the big, annual presentation of the Polonus Philatelic Society — POLPEX 1972, which will be held in the St. James Auditorium, 2424 North Mango Avenue, Chicago on March 4th and 5th.

Some months ago the invitations went out. We have had replies and tentative commitments for exhibits from Canada, England, and Poland. The local response has lagged. So for those of you out there who may be reluctant, our request is simple — EXHIBIT!!! We welcome your material, we want to see your material. It's not too late. Contact Entries Chairman: Alfred Szebel, 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016. Do it now!

For those of you who will be in attendance, there will be a special treat in store for you at the Court of Honor Exhibit. We have completed arrangements with Colonel Jan Z. Berek of London to have a special composite exhibit, including items from Honorary Chairman Czesław Słania's collection, for public viewing. Some exquisite specimens will be on display. Don't miss it!!

The various committees for Polpex are also announced at this time. Probably the most important committe of all, the BEEBA — was finalized at the Polonus meeting of January 14, 1972. Walenty Poniecki will head the committee and will be assisted by Stanley Dobrzycki. Accordingly, the various committees are as follows:

Entries Chairman..Alfred Szebel
Bourse .....Roman Reinowski
Mail Sales .....J. P. Rux
Polpex Sales...Chester Mikucki
Chester Mikucki Jr., J.P. Rux
Awards ..... Alfred Szebel
Awards Presentation...T. Gobby
Publicity...Polonus Membership
Ads ..... Chester Schafer
Patrons.....Chester Mikucki
Beeba..... Walenty Poniecki,
Stanley Dobrzycki

What remains? Only you to make POLPEX 1972 the success of shows years past.

We need you. We need your exhibit. We need your ad or participation as a patron. We need you to patronize the dealers at the bousre, and the U.S. postal station. Our show is only as good as you, for whom POLPEX 1972 is all about. Mark your calendar — March 4-5, 1972. Come, see, enjoy. We need you!!

—T. J. Gobby
Executive Chairman

"POLSKA 73"

In conjunction with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the Polish Philatelic Federation will present the exhibition in the halls of the Poznań International Fair - in August, 1973. A 5000 frame show is planned, with 16 pages per frame. Rules will be according to the F.I.P.

An international stamp show, projects and associated events are foreseen (congress, symposium, film festival, competitions, auctions, etc.). The Polish Post will issue special commemorative sets and cancellations. Further details will be announced later.

ALPEX 799 STAMP SHOW

Edmund J. Kloss, Chairman of ALPEX 799, Adam Plewacki Post 799 American Legion, announces their forthcoming show which is to be held March 24-26, 1972 in Buffalo. The theme of the show is "Americanism", and the gold ATA medal is to be awarded for the best in Topicals.

For all those who may be interested in exhibiting, you are asked to write to: Plewacki Post Stamp Society, 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, N.Y. 14212. A large, stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Edward J. Kowrach
P.O. Box 125
Medical Lake, Wa. 99022

Tadeusz M. Olszewski
4909 12th Ave. So.
Seattle, Wa. 98108

MEET MEMBER #858
BARBARA SZYDLOWSKI

A stamp collector of Poland dating awhile back to pre-war material with some covers and letters. Also a special collection of topicals varying from baseball to zebras. An active member (Financial Secretary) of the Polish National Home of Glen Cove and vicinity in New York, was the successful chairman of the Fifth Annual $500 Scholarship Award given by the Polish National Home at a Dinner-Dance held recently.



Barbara with her boys Andrew (left) and John (right) in their Polish costumes after a parade.

Barbara, a mother of two boys, is employed by *Newsday*; loves Polish music and loves to dance especially the *Oberek*; has a penpal in Poland with whom she corresponds in English. The two boys like to collect stamps and enjoy Polish music and dances as well.

—F. A. Bowsky

P.N.A. Donates Copernicus Booklets To Polonus

In the last issue of the *Bulletin* we told about the Autumn 1971 issue of the Polish National Alliance Youth Leaders Magazine "PROMIEŃ" devoted entirely to the stamps of Copernicus and to his achievements. The large size stamps in the publication look good. There are also plenty of them. Each stamp serves as documentary evidence that the issuing country thought enough of the man to honor him with a stamp. These stamps are tangible proof that Copernicus was a great man. And there are other stamps on their way.

It was a pleasant surprise for *Polonus* to learn that the Polish National Alliance Sports-Youth Commission will not charge us for copies to *Polonus* members. This issue is the Commission's contribution to promote the Copernicus Quincentenary and to persuade our U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp in honor of Copernicus. These aims certainly fall in line with the objectives of Polonus and we wish to express our thanks to Mr. Frank Prochot, Vice President of P.N.A. and Chairman of the Sports-Youth Commission who edited the impressive issue and to his fellow officers in the P.N.A. who added their letters of appeal to honor Copernicus with a U.S. stamp. These officers. in addition to Mr. Prochot include Mr. Aloysius Mazewski, President of the P.N.A. and of the Polish American Congress and Mrs. Helen Szymanowicz, Vice President and Chairman of the Educational Department. This is a job well done and *Polonus* is really elated.

In view of the fact that *Polonus* was given its supply of the Magazine "PROMIEŃ" as an outright gift, Polonus is hereby rescinding any previous notice of any charge to its members, and is hereby announcing that it will send out the publication to members at no charge, although Polonus would appreciate a nominal enclosure for postage and mailing. Those members who sent money for the magazine will have their full amount returned.

The 1973 Polpex will be dedicated to Copernicus because the precise quincentenary falls on February 19, 1973. We will have a specialized showing of Copernicus in particular and space stamps in general. In the meantime we are gathering all data on the stamps of Copernicus. We will keep Polonus members posted on all new issues devoted to the astronomer. We are hopefully anticipating a U.S. commemorative stamp and many other stamps by that time.

We would like to get the reaction of Polonus members to the current issue of PROMIEŃ and to boosting the celebration activities for 1973.

We are contemplating a deluxe issue on heavy paper showing all the Copernicus stamps in FULL COLOR. It is a foregone conclusion that many countries will honor Copernicus with stamps in 1973, so it is hoped that with any measure of success at that point, this final edition will be twice the size of the present PROMIEŃ and that it will be infinitely more impressive.

Such an ambitious project cannot be the effort of Polonus alone — it should be undertaken by the Polish American Congress

which embodies all of Polonia. To keep the price per copy at a reasonable level, such an edition must be printed in a quantity of 50,000 to 100,000 — not really a large amount for the size of our Polonia and for the scientists, the universities and libraries that will attract many people at lectures, celebrations and observances during the quincentennial year. Please let us have your reactions and suggestions.

POLISH MATERIAL WINS GRAND AWARD AT HAMPEX-71

A very informative and attractive display of World War I Postal History of Poland won the Grand Award for exhibitor Karl Wacker, Minster, Ohio, at HAMPEX-71 sponsored by the Fort Hamilton Philateiic Society at the Hamilton, Ohio Campus of Miami, University.

—STAMPS, Jan. 15, 1972

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 28, 1972:
Installation of Officers.

Friday, February 11, 1972:
Program Meeting. Dr. M. A. Kamieński will give a talk on the Kraków Issues and illustrate the talk with color slides.
Beeba to follow.

Friday, February 25, 1972
Last Business Meeting before the Polpex.

COPERNICUS MONUMENT

A. J. Ferraiuolo of Phildelphia reports that the City of Philadelphia is considering the contruction of a monument to Copernicus. The monument, a massive 24 foot granite and steel structure costing $30,000.00 would be located in central Philadelphia. This monument, inspired and promoted by Philadelphia City Councilman, Joseph L. Zazyczny, was the subject of a 3-column article in the December 1, 1971 edition of *The Evening Bulletin*, a Philadelphia daily. Construction is scheduled to begin this year and the dedication is slated for August, 1972.

SPECIAL DELIVERY IN POLAND

Dr. John A. Knapp, 104 Elise Drive, Butler, Pa., 16001, writes and asks if anyone in *Polonus* can supply him with or direct him to information regarding Special Delivery service in Poland. He is interested in the history, origin, rates, and actual usage. Any help from Polonus members would be sincerely appreciated.

In this issue of the *Bulletin* we continue with another segment of the lengthy **"Handbook of Upper Silesia"** by Dr. Rayal De Ragan, edited by D. Meinung.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA FORGERIES

The time of the plebiscite in Upper Silesia occured at a very difficult period for the Polish State. The country, less than one year old, had been entangled in a war with the Soviet Union which, in the beginning of 1922, took a turn for the worse. Even after the Polish victory at the Wieprz River, known as the Wonder Wisla (Vistula) River, it left its impression on the economic situation leading to a devaluation of the currency.

Even though the devaluation of the Polish mark did not become as disasterous as that of the Germak mark, its fall in the year 1920 and early 1921 was greater than in Germany. This can be seen in the following table.

Exchange Rate for U.S.A. Dollar

Date	*Polish Mark*	*German Rm.*	*Rm:Mk.*
April 1, 1919	11.75	9.20	1:1.27
January 1, 1920	120.00	50.00	1:2.40
April 1, 1920	156.00	67.00	1:2.18
July 1, 1920	150.00	37.00	1:4.00
October 1, 1920	260.00	60.00	1:4.30
January 1, 1921	620.00	78.00	1:7.95
April 1, 1921	800.00	60.00	1:13.35
July 1, 1921	1,180.00	64.00	1:18.60
October 1, 1921	5,075.00	120.00	1:41.75
January 1, 1922	2,800.00	200.00	1:14.00
April 1, 1922	3,760.00	312.00	1:12.05
July 1, 1922	4,000.00	460.00	1:10.50
October 1, 1922	9,275.00	2,150.00	1:4.30
January 1, 1923	18,000.00	8,000.00	1:2.25
April 1, 1923	42,500.00	22,000.00	1:1.96
July 1, 1923	62,000.00	80,000.00	1:0.75

This temporary depression in the young Polish State, from 1920 to 1922, gave the German propagandists a decided advantage in the battle for the plebiscite territories, especially in Upper Silesia. West Prussia (Mazury) and East Prussia (Warmia) were also plebiscite territories during this period.



With this in mind a false issue of current Polish stamps in mark values was prepared, in values of 1 Mk., 1,50 Mk., 2 Mk., 3 Mk., 6 Mk., 10 Mk. and 20 Mk. Only the 1 and 3 Mk. values

were issued in colors differing from the original stamps. The remaining values were printed in colors very close to the original stamps, although a slightly different typographical technique was used.

These were subsequently overprinted in black or red with the three line propaganda ovreprint "Deutscher Wert gleich ... Pfg. **Wahlt Deutsch!**" which means German Value (of Polish stamps) equals ... Pfg. (German) **Vote for Germany!**

Depending on the face value there was substituted the value of Polish marks at the rate 1 Mk. equals 7 Pfg., 2 Mk. equals 14 Pfg., etc. to 20 Mk. equals 140 Pfg.

Wahlt Deutsch Issue

Face Value	*Color*	*Overprint Color*	*Catalog Number* *Michel*	*Scott*
1,00 Mk.	orange	black	not listed	
1,00 Mk.	blue	black	109	104
1,50 Mk.	green	black	110	105
2,00 Mk.	olive brown	black	111	106
3,00 Mk.	red violet	black	113	144
3,00 Mk.	light blue	red	not listed	
6,00 Mk.	rose	black	115	146
10,00 Mk.	red	black	116	147
20,00 Mk.	grey green	black	117	148

Overprint Types

On comparing these overprints it appears, on the basis of certain characteristics, that they were prepared either in several editions or simultaneously by several printing establishments.

Major differences in the overprints exist and can be divided into five distinct groups.

Type I — Top and bottom lines start even but the beginning of the second line is shifted right half a letter thickness. A subtypye IA exists with a break in the f of Pfg. spelling "Pig". To date this variety has been found only on the 1 Mk. value overprinted 7 Pfg. but it is possible that it exists on the other values too.

Type II — Letters are large and shaped differently than Type I. The first letter in each line projects out a little further than the one above, creating a stepped effect.

Type III — As Type I but with the center line shifted left half a letter thickness rather than right. The inscription "Wahlt Deutsch!" larger than "Deutscher eWrt".

Type IV — Larger print. The first letter in each line projects out to the left by two letter thicknesses. The letter f in Pfg. under the letter W in Wert.

Type V — Similar to type IV but the center line shifted slightly to the right so that the letter P in Pfg. is under the W in Wert.

(To be continued)

NEW ISSUES

Postage Stamp Day

Issued on October 9, 1971 to mark "Polish Postage Stamp Day 1971". Shown are reproductions of works of Polish painters from the collection of the National Museum in Cracow.

40 gr. "Portrait of Mrs. Fedorowicz" by Witold Pruszkowki(1846-1896)
6,500,000 issued

50 gr. "Woman with Book" by Tytus Czyżewski (1885-1945)
6,500,000 issued

60 gr. "Girl with Mums" by Olga Boznanska (1865-1940)
6,500,000 issued

2.50 zl. "Girl in a Red Dress" by Józef Pankiewicz (1866-1940)
3,000,000 issued

3.40 zl. "Nude" by Leon Chwistek (1884-1944)
2,000,000 issued

4.50 zl. "Strange Garden" by Józef Mehoffer (1869-1964)
2,000,000 issued

5.00 zl. "Wife Wearing a White Hat" by Zbigniew Pronaszko (1885-1958)
1,700,000 issued



Cut courtesy of LINN'S STAMP NEWS

7.00 + 1.00 zl. "Nude" by Wojciech Weiss (1875-1950) 1,700,000 issued

Issued in small sheets with four copies of the stamps plus two tablets. On the margin is the inscription "Polish Postage Stamp Day 1971" and "150th Anniversary of the Postal and Telecommunications Museum" and on the added tab "Woman in Polish Painting." Photographic material prepared by J. Baranowski. Designed by K. Sliwka. Offset printed on chalky paper by the National Security Printing Works (PWPW) at Warsaw.

— Ruch

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Kosciuszko Foundation of New York City has announced a photo contest featuring a theme centering on the character of Poland and her people. Numerous prizes are offered. The entry deadline is March 1, 1972.

Those interested in entering the contest are asked to write to the Quo Vadis Society, Kosciuszko Foundation, 15 East 65th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. A large, stamped, self-addressed envelope should accompany the request, and the sender is asked to specify whether he wishes the contest rules in the Polish or English language.

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SEE YOU AT THE POLONUS SHOW — MARCH 4th & 5th, 1972

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