

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

Issue No. 364

PRICE 50c

June, 1978

GALA POLPEX 79 TO MARK POLONUS 40th ANNIVERSARY

The largest and finest ever Polonus show will be our annual national stamp and coin exhibition, POLPEX 79, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Polonus Philatelic Society, and the 200th anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski's death at the Battle of Savannah. The event will take place March 16-18, 1979 at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago, the home of the COMPEX shows.

500 frames of philatelic and numismatic collections will appear in the court of honor and in competitive classes. Collectors from U.S. and abroad will be invited to exhibit. The Polish American Numismatic Association will furnish the numismatic material.

U.S., U.N., and Canadian postal services will be invited to set up booths and a 50 dealer bourse will operate on the premises.

"The 40th year of Polonus is a special anniversary as today Polonus is the oldest Polish philatelic organization in the world!" Thus said Professor Antoni Laszkiewicz, the nestor of Polish philately.

To mark this occasion here are a few of the special events planned:

- A Commemorative Medallion to be struck for the event
- A Reunion of members and widows of members from all over U.S.
- A Convention of all the Polish philatelic clubs in the U.S.
- The participation in the exhibition of Polish collectors from Australia, England, France, and Poland

Watch for announcements in the coming months. Plan now to take an active part in this extraordinary and memorable celebration by exhibiting and attending at POLPEX 79!

—Alfred Szebel

PRE-PHILATELIC ERA IN OLD GALICIA

By LUDWIK STEINBACH

Even before the First Partition of Poland, when dissension within the country foreshadowed this coming catastrophe, Empress Maria Teresa assumed the title of Queen of Galicia and Lodomeria, while her armies encircled and controlled Northern Poland at Wegier, from Cieszyn to Siedmiogrod. On 14 May, 1772, the Austrian armies advanced beyond these borders and within six weeks they controlled the entire area. The invaded territories were later acknowledged by the partitioning countries as belonging to Austria. The official possession was effected on 11 September 1772; it included a significant part of former Little Poland (Malopolska) and the Southern province of Zamosc.

In like manner other parts of Poland were taken during the Third partition. During the reconquest attempt by Kosciuszko, Austrian armies overran the borders at the end of June, 1794, from Zamosc toward Warsaw, while the Prussian armies took the city of Warsaw. During the final fixing of borders following Poland's dismemberment, Prussia withdrew from Warsaw, and new borders were established along rivers: Biala Przemsza, Pilica, Wisla and Bug, except Warsaw, which ran along a straight line from Narwi's beginning from Bug up to the point where the Swider flowed into the Wisla River.

From this time on, the areas occupied after the first Partition, were called Eastern Galicia (first partition) and Western Galicia (third partition). Postoffices in Bukowina were administered from Lwow, on the same level as postoffices in Galicia.

In the year 1809, Austria returned to the Warsaw Principality all Polish territories taken during the third Partition, as well as Zamojszczyzna. From parts of these territories was established in 1815 a so-called Republic of Krakow, which was again included as part of Austria (Galicia) in 1847.

The pre-philatelic era of this period of Austrian rule began with the entry of that country's armies into Poland and lasted until 31 May, 1850, when the first Austrian postage stamps were used in that country. To clarify the history of the posts outside Austria, four divisions, or eras, are necessary:

- (1) The Posts under military control until their official transfer to civilian use. This period saw the use of previous Polish postmarks and postal fees or rates.
- (2) From the arrival of Austrian postal services on 1 April, 1773 until Spring of 1793, during which years a limited number of Postmasters used their own initiative in having postmarks designed (engraved) by local printers, or designing same themselves. These practices ended when official Postal regulations were published, forbidding the acceptance of letters where the sender had not written a return address.
- (3) Mail without postmarks from Spring of 1793 to the end of 1817, when Postmasters' own postmarks were, generally, no longer used (except that on arriving mail in Lwow we find some up to 1798).
- (4) From 1 January, 1818, or from the beginning of use of hand-

stamps as a result of official postal directions.

The first handstamps used by postal offices in Galicia, patterned after previous Polish ones, were oval or circular, showing at the top the two headed Austrian Eagle instead of the Polish Crown; in the center appeared the city name and on the bottom the symbolic posthorn. After 1782 we encounter new forms, brought in from other Austrian territories, having a plain frame or a rectangular one, without the posthorn. Despite the active operation of over one hun-

dred post offices in Galicia, these latter designs are found only among eleven locations. We find, from this period, twenty-three postmarks of various forms on letters, these letters having originated, primarily, from official archives or family records, making them priceless material for future study and research. No postal markings are known from Western Galicia and it is doubtful if any were made for this area since, from the earliest annexation of this territory to Austria (1796) provisional handstamps were not used.

TABLE OF HANDSTAMPS FROM EIGHTEENTH CENTURY



Don Bochnia



♥ CASIMIR JASIENICA

Ł. Lemberg. v. Podgórze podgórze PODGÓRZE

Ł. Przemyśl. LEMBERG RESSOVIA 16 19. April

Handstamps from the XVIIIth Century, because of their use by only a few postmasters, are especially scarce and valuable compared to other postal markings of that period. None of them lasted

until the end of the stampless period and were not to be found prior to the age of postage stamp introduction. Letters from this period contain only handwritten annotations as to source (city-town name,

made by postal clerks or postmasters. Additionally, they bear various other postally-related writing such as weight rates, dates of receipt, Port of call, postal card number, special routing if other than regular, Registry, etc.

These annotations were made in black except in Bochnia, where carmine ink was used, and in Zamość, red color which upon oxida-

tion, changed to yellow-brown.

It should not be surprising, then, that such valuable and scarce postal markings caught the attention of "imitators" whose greed led them to produce counterfeits or phantoms. Their fakes are found even in the Warsaw Postal Museum, which bought a dozen or so. These are shown here with other fakes from the same source.

TABLE OF COUNTERFEIT POSTMARKS



With the introduction of new postal rates on 1 June, 1817, there appeared in Galicia in the larger post offices, the first mail boxes for depositing letters, similar to those in neighboring countries. From then on, postal clerks could no longer exercise direct control to assure that senders of letters made the required handwritten notations as to "origin;" because of this there came a Decree of 18 November 1817, to be effective 1 January, 1818, requiring the use of postal handstamps on letters showing the place of origin. Smaller post offices which did not have mail boxes were permitted to delay the ordering of the handstamps. The newly-introduced handstamps were not uniform in appearance since the printer-engraver made them to the style of the postmaster (who had to buy them at personal cost) or to the printer's own liking. Not until a few years before postage stamps were used in Austria, which ended our pre-philatelic era, were the postmarks made standard and the individual creations slowly disappeared. The last of these stand out prominently since they form a historical document of a previously cultural state in graphic arts relating to handstamps of the Department of Posts.

Despite this not encountered in other countries variety of postmarks, we are able to establish a chronological sequence of their forms during this era. The basic and oldest form found throughout the entire period was the oblong postmark having, at first, only the city-town name. Later, the date was added. Stamps without the date were sometimes rectangular and within the frame was sometimes placed the city name between two dots. Parallel to this

type, we see at the same time stamps with an oval or circular shape. These were replaced in 1838 with a new form having a printed city name under which appeared the date. Apart from the three postmarks described above, we meet handstamps specially-formed which cannot be counted among the types described thus far. Occasionally these have very interesting patterns and attractively colored designs, such as the two ornate ones from Pilzno, an ornate medallion type which is not only the scarcest but the most striking one of its age. In 1847 a new and official type of postmark was introduced, the so-called Ring-type with date. We find these only in a few post offices where the printer-engraver products were not used. The final type were circular stamps with date, which were brought into Austria a few months before the time of postage stamps. However, these last types of handstamps were never used in Galicia during this pre-philatelic era and are found only on letters with postage stamps.

Material used in making the postmarks was very inconsistent which greatly affected their appearance. Besides various metals, substitute material was sometimes used. After the introduction of new postmarks in 1838, postal officials noticed a lack of quality in their own engraving guilds producing postmarks as not being "sharp, clean and precise", and they directed, in 1844, that the larger postoffices accept only fine and uniform postmarks in the future.

The color most frequently found on postmarks was black, in obedience to postal regulations. However, we find them in various colors and inks. The major post of-

JASIEŃCA LANGUT NEUSANDETZ DonWoynicz Tysminitz
POSTBOCHNIA

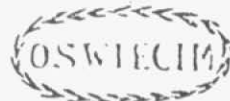
Podgorze

*N. S. Postamt
Bochnia*

VON BRZESKO

B. S. NISKO

*Monaste:
ryzka*



fices in Lwow and Departmental Distribution Sections used red colors only for fully prepaid letters. However, as years passed, it became a habit to use red on all routine mail. Beyond this, there was a special handstamp, FRANCO, which served to show full payment made by the sender.

Rectangular stamps are most common and appear with many different lettered or handwritten combinations. Only in 1838 was the date added, using the same type print or lettering as was used for the city of origin, or with the year; less frequently did dates or names follow the dots, and this was sometimes handwritten. No ornamentation was employed except in the post office in Zywiec (Saybusch) where the posthorn appeared under the town name.

Most oval or circle-type postmarks are seen with the name of the town on a straight line. Within the band is a single line of lettering, or a double line, sometimes broken, with one or two rows of diamonds, or circles, strings of pearls, leaves, clasps and the like. Between the border and the town name we encounter different adornments — posthorns, coils, wavy lines, ornamentation, rosettes, branches, stars, both pointed and blunted, wheel-cutouts and the like. None of these postmarks gives any date, but sometimes the date is handwritten outside or inside the border. In Tarnopol they were struck with a special date stamp. We also find handstamps with the town name fitted in along the border; among these, some have the date following dots.

Arch-type handstamps form a characteristic pattern met almost exclusively in Galicia. In one instance the year was given with the day and month.

Ring-type postmarks turned out to be most practical in form and, with some changes in design, lasted up to this day. The city name if placed between two rings, the date centered in a broken fashion, following dots, without a year. At the bottom, between the two rings, is seen an officially-added ornament, a stylized branch; in one instance, a star.

Postmarks made with particular details are predominantly from newer engravers, elegantly framed and variously ornamented. For example, a laurel wreath between two rings, with uniform strokes; a border of wreaths, shells, pearls or other ornamentation. I include among these latter postmarks those letters which include the source city as well as those without it.

SAMBOR
26 Aug. 1839



RECOMANDIRT

On letters where the postmark bears the word RECOMANDIRT in various styles, without originating city names, these were used from 1830; on the other hand, postmarks with FRANCO, indicating letters fully paid by the sender, did not begin until 1838.

(To be continued)

NEXT MEETING

Friday, June 23, 1978:

Short business meeting at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd., in Chicago. Sound movies on "Poland Today" to be shown by Arthur Marquart. Starting time: 8:00 p.m.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Stanley S. Bartnikowski
9417 Farmingdale Ave.
Walkersville, MD 21793

Keith M. Gobeski
4948 Jonathon St.
Dearborn, MI 48126

Ryszard Lupa
5006 N. Parkside Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Marjory Hagens
18583 Harmon Ave.
Melvindale, MI 48122

Leo J. Stawicki
R.R. 1, Box 251
Yorkville, IL 60560

K-LINE PAGES FOR POLAND

1977 SUPPLEMENT #22/77

\$2.70 (plus 95c post.)



500th Anniversary of
COPERNICUS — \$6.20

Part 2 (Final) — \$4.25

Plus 80c post. each, or \$1.35 for both

Write us for a special price on
complete Poland pages

K-LINE PUBLISHING, INC.

Geo. C. Kobylka
Box 159, Berwyn, IL 60402

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622

James Mazepa, Secretary
Hines V.A. Hospital, Box 381
Hines, IL 60141

1620 N. Latrobe, Chicago, IL 60639
Roman H. Strzelecki, Treasurer

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

— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

TID BITS

The June 17 edition of STAMPS carries an article on "Stained Glass Art on Stamps of Poland" by Jozef L. Brodowski.

The Poland Philatelic Club of Milwaukee held an auction at their June 18th meeting. The club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month at Polish Veterans Home, Post 3, 1629 So. 10th St., Milwaukee, Wis. Visitors are always welcome.

MEMBERS MART

Will trade various, very interesting, Polish Military and Labor Camps Post Cards of 1st & 2nd World War for the Polish Falcons Military Movement Cards in USA and Canada 1915-1917, also Gen. Haller's Army in France & Poland 1918-1920.

JAN NIEBRZYDOWSKI

104 Grove St., New Britain, CT 06053

WANTED — Revenue Stamps of any kind: Passport, Documentary, Beer, Wine, Liquor, State Tax stamps, etc. Doctors & Dentists, your obsolete annual Federal STS for dispensing narcotics, too! Cash or trade, your specialty? Your kind attention appreciated.

JOHN S. BOBO

Polonus Member 125

1668 Sycamore Street
Des Plaines, IL 60018, U.S.A.

F.I.P. 1986 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN CHICAGO

Chicago has been selected as the site of the 1986 International Stamp Exhibition by the F.I.P. (Federation Internationale Philatelique). The Executive Committee with J. Duffy as President, was formed months ago. He will be assisted by prominent philatelists of Chicago: C. Hahn, B. Hennig, R. Outlaw, J. Ross, and Dr. J. J. Matejka.

Polonus members A. Szebel, J. Bartczak, J. Mazepa and J. Kapostka were invited to participate in the Organizing Committee of this the first international exhibition to be held in Chicago.

The above mentioned Polonus members' participation in national philatelic activity for the last ten years was recognized by the Executive Committee. An Organizing Committee meeting was held in March at the Collectors Club. A possible site for the exhibition has been selected. The next meeting will take place in the summer. The site and name for the international exhibition will be discussed.

Polonus wishes success to the Organizing Committee and is pleased that members of our Society were recognized for their achievements and were invited to participate in this great undertaking.

Zbieram znaczki o tematyce "Ryby", mam jeden z największych zbiorów w Polsce i potrzebuję katalogu który byłby mi pomocny. Chodzi mi o katalog, który obejmował by wszystkie państwa o tym temacie.

Mam na wymianę Polskie znaczki — malarstwo polskie w blokach oraz parę ciekawych pozycji przedwojennych. Jeżeli byłby ktoś zainteresowany, chętnie wymienię.

RYSZARD LUPA

5006 N. Parkside Ave., Chicago, 60630

OUR POLONUS ARTIST

The prestigious annual awards competition of the Orange County Advertising Federation in its impressive ceremony and exhibition of entries held recently in the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California, presented the 1978 Award of Excellence to designer and illustrator Leon S. Kawecki for his entry "POLPEX 77 Souvenir Sheets" showing the Polish notables Zaborowski, Krzyzanowski, Modrzejewska and Wierzbicki. Congratulations, Leon!

Member Leon Kawecki is also participating in the 8th Internationale Biennale of Graphic Arts in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

POLAND, MAINE

Poland, Maine was not named after Poland of Europe or the Indian Chief named Poland — but after an ancient melody called "Poland" found in most of the collections of ancient psalmody. The town was incorporated in 1795 by Moses Emery. The first post office was established on September 5, 1800 with Samuel Sweet as postmaster.

Reprinted from Plewacki Post Stamp Society Bulletin.

— Be An Active Member —
Get Involved In POLPEX 79!

WILL BUY PROOFS and RUCH #376

Pre-War Polish Proofs Especially by Vacek and Ruch #376 mint cancelled on covers.
Also Ruch #437-40 proofs.

DR. JERZY J. BIALY

P.O. Box 234

Glenham, N.Y. 12527

POLONUS MEETING OF MAY 26, 1978

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Szebel at 8:30 p.m., with eleven members in attendance. With the absence of the Secretary, James Mazepa, no minutes were read. The treasurer, Roman Strzelecki reported that Polpex 78 took in \$3,576.00 and had an expense of \$2,900.00, and he projected a net profit of between \$550 and \$600. He will finalize his report next month. The Polonus bank book balance was \$820.00. Motion made by Ted Rezner, seconded by Frank Wolosewick and passed that his report be accepted.

New Applicants were presented: Leo J. Stawicki of Yorkville, IL, and Marjory Hagens of Melvindale, MI. Motion made by Matt Pristka, seconded by Sebastian Styczynski and passed that they be accepted. Our ad for new Polonus members running in LINN'S was renewed to run for May-June-July for a cost of \$40.00.

The Polpex entries chairman, Ted Rezner, reported he collected all charges for frames from exhibitors for a total of \$236.42 and incurred \$17.00 worth of expenses. The treasurer reported that the Beeba brought in \$216.00 in ticket sales but cost us \$325.63 for food and help.

Roman Strzelecki motioned that we print an additional 1000 flyers of our Polpex material for sale and that each members receive one with the next bulletin mailing. Seconded by Frank Wolosewick and passed. Roman also reported that 163 members were delinquent in dues payment for a total of \$1,953.00. Frank Wolosewick asked if senior citizen members who were members over 25 years were required to pay dues. President Szebel said he would check the by-laws if we had such a provision.

Fred then told us of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee rejecting the Pulaski stamp. Discussion followed. It was decided that Polonus would continue to strive for a Pulaski stamp. Extra copies of our June Polonus Bulletin were printed and would be sent to prominent people. Frank Wolosewick suggested we send a telegram to President Carter. He was asked to formulate its contents and will send it to President Szebel.

Fred then read a letter from Prof. Laszkiewicz in Poland which pointed out that Polonus was the oldest Polish philatelic society in the world. Our 40th anniversary will be celebrated at POLPEX 79 March 16-18 at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago. A 500 frame show is planned. A special medal will be struck for the occasion. More plans and committees to be formed at a special Polpex meeting to be called in early September.

President Szebel then called on Ted Rezner, chairman of the committee nominating candidates for Polonus officers and directors. After much discussion Ted came up with the following slate: President Alfred Szebel, Vice President Chester Schafer, Treasurer Roman Strzelecki, Secretary James Mazepa, Directors: Walenty Poniecki, Sebastian Styczynski, Frank Wolosewick and Al Rybarski. Ted Rezner then made a motion that the Secretary cast one vote to elect the previous mentioned slate. Seconded by Romuald Odrowski and passed. The new officers and directors were installed with Matt Pristka administering the oath to the new administration. Motion to adjourn by Ted Rezner, seconded by Matt Pristka and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chester A. Schafer, Acting Secretary