

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

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POLPEX 78 THEME: POLISH FOLKLORE

POLPEX 78, the annual stamp and coin exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society, will be held on March 18-19 at the elegant halls of the Polish Army Veterans Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, Ill.

This year's theme is Polish Folklore. A 140 frame exhibition is planned with a special section

of International Folklore. Exhibits with a folklore theme of any nation are welcomed. A twenty dealer bourse and a U.S. Postal Service sub-station with special cancellation will operate on the premises. There will be cacheted covers, souvenir sheets and other special events.

The board of directors and of-



Polonus members held their September meeting at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. Photo shows officers in front of folklore exhibit of native Polish peasant regional costumes. Left to right: Fred Szebel, President; Roman Strzelecki, Treasurer; James Mazepa, Secretary; Sebastian Styczynski, Director; Chester Schafer, Vice-Pres.

ficers of Polonus will act as the Exhibition Committee. Dealers are invited to participate. For bourse tables write to Roman H. Strzelecki, 1620 N. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.

OUR HANDBOOK GETS AWARDS

Our Polonus Handbook "The Occupation of Russia by the I Polish Corps" has received two outstanding awards. In the national philatelic competition held at STAMPSHOW 77, the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society, the Handbook received a Silver Medal. This show was held August 24-27 in Los Angeles. At the exhibition of the Chicago Philatelic Society October 7-9, our Handbook received a Vermeil Medal.

These awards have given much recognition and exposure of our Society. The Handbook is a valuable source of historical and philatelic knowledge. If more are to follow, the Membership needs to support this venture with a purchase. To date only about 15% of our members have bought the Handbook. Order your copy today from John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60647. Price is \$5.50 for Polonus Members, \$7.50 for Non-Members.

MAZEPA WINS AWARDS

At the annual exhibition of the Chicago Philatelic Society, the only Polonus exhibitor, James Mazeпа, did quite well. His exhibit of "The Postal History of the Russian Administration of Poland 1858-1880" received the Reserve Grand Award - Richard W. Canman Trophy, for Best Foreign. In addition, he received the Gold Medal of the Chicago Philatelic Society and the Gold Medal of the Postal History Society.

Congratulations James!

GREETINGS TO POLONUS FROM SAN MARINO



Greetings from the Centenary Stamp Exhibition, SAN MARINO 77 to all members of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

M. Lipinski

Jan Witkowski

Walter Zachariasiewicz

The above is a translation from the Polish of what appeared on the illustrated post card received by President Fred Szebel. Dr. M. Lipinski and Jan Witkowski are our members residing in Poland. Walter Zachariasiewicz became first known to us when he was assistant to the Postmaster General E.T. Klassen in Washington, D.C. He was in charge of the U.S.P.S. Pavillion at POLSKA 73 in Poznan, Poland. He represented the U.S. at many international exhibitions as INTERNARA in Switzerland, ITALIA 76, AMPHILEX 77 in Holland, and now SAN MARINO 77.

For many years Mr. Zachariasiewicz has been president of the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs and right now heads the Polonia delegation to Poland laid at Kosciuszko's tomb at Wawel, Kraków in commemoration of the 200 anniversary of Kosciuszko's participation in the war for United States independence.

Polonus is indeed fortunate to have a friend in Mr. Walter Zachariasiewicz, a real credit to the Polish Americans.

PUCK 1920 OVERPRINTS

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

On 10 February 1920 General Haller's army occupied the Pomorze region of northwestern pre-World War II Poland establishing Poland's access to the Baltic Sea. Celebrations were held that day in the Baltic Sea shore town of Puck, which at that time was the main town of the territory.

The Department of Culture and Education of the Pomorze Front under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Marian Dienstl-Dąbrowa decided to commemorate this historic event philatelically. German stamps issued for the commemoration of the German National Assembly (Scott numbers 105, 106, 107) were acquired and overprinted in the printing shop of Mr. Buszczyński in Toruń. The black typographic overprint — reads: "Nad/Polskiem/Morzem/Puck 10. II. 1920" (at/the/Polish/sea/Puck/10 Feb. 1920"). (Fig. 1) On the 10 pf and 15 pf stamps it is positioned normally whereas on the 25 pf denomination it is always inverted. According to Ref 1 the total number of overprinted — stamps was 800 (300 @ 10 pf, 250 @ 15 pf, 250 @ 25 pf), but according to the Ministry of Military

Affairs in Warsaw, department of the 2nd staff section III (press liaison), the total was only 700.

Mrs. Czarlińska and Mrs. Boćkowska of Puck volunteered to distribute the stamps and all were sold on 10 February. The profit, totaling 1,450 Polish Marks, was transferred to the Fund of the Department of Culture and Education of the Pomorze Front. In addition to cash sales some barter also took place. For example, the editor of "Mucha" ("The Fly") magazine agreed to supply 10 copies of each issue for one year to soldiers' club rooms in exchange for one set.

At the request of Lt. Col. Dienstl-Dąbrowa the post office in Puck under Postmaster Lange cancelled stamps with a German cancellation consisting of two rings with a date bridge: "Putzig (Westpr.) 10 2.20.45 N". Dimensions of this cancellation are: Outer circle: 25.5 mm, inner circle: 15.5 mm, bridge width 9 mm. They are imprinted in gray-black or in gray-blackviolet ink.

The issuance of the Puck set caused an immediate (and justifiable) furor. After numerous re-



Figure 1. Cancelled set of Puck overprints. 10 and 25 pf stamps were photographed through a red filter, 15 pf stamp through a blue filter.

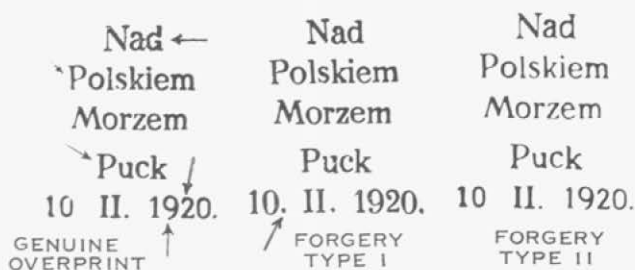


Figure 2. Genuine overprint and two types of forgeries. (Reproduced from Ref. 6).

quests for these stamps were declined by the army, the issue was described by philatelists as being a privately made bogus. "Filatelista Polski" published a note entitled: "Small Profit — Large Embarrassment" (Ref 1) as a follow-up of another article (Ref 2), in which the Puck issue was described as an "illegal private undertaking" executed by a "crafty officer" for private profit. These statements were bitterly resented by the Polish Army; on the basis of the Austrian press law of 17 December 1862 it forced "Filatelista Polski" to print its version of the Puck stamps affair (Ref 3).

The opinions of the philatelic press concerning the status of the Puck overprints were generally disregarded. Their price soared immediately and in 1921 reached 9000 Polish Marks per set, (equivalent to about \$230.00 in 1977 U.S. currency computed on the basis of applicable postal rates) (Ref 7). By the spring of 1920, forged overprints began appearing on the philatelic market to satisfy the great demand for these stamps (Ref 4 and 6, 1st type forgery in Fig 2). These forgeries being easy to recognize, were superseded by significantly improved forgeries in the summer of 1920 (Ref 5 and 6, 2nd type forgery in Fig 2).

Common characteristics of all genuine overprints is the interrup-

tion in the vertical line of the letter "d". Overprint dimensions are as follows: height — 16.9 mm, width of "Nad" — 5.4 mm, width of "Polskiem" — 12.5 mm, width of "Morzem" — 11.1 mm, width of "Puck" — 6.7 mm, width of the date — 16.3 mm, height of capital letters — 2.2 mm. Distances between lines measure: between lines 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 4 and 5 — 1.15 mm, between lines 3 and 4 — 2.2 mm.

Philatelically the Puck issue has always been a subject of controversy. These stamps were not available to the general public in a post office and I do not know of any of them having been used for prepayment of postage. On the other hand they were issued legally by the Polish Army which, being the sole government of the Pomorze territory at that time, had every right to issue them.

REFERENCES:

1. Filatelista Polski, II, April 20, 1920, No. 4, p. 58.
2. Filatelista Polski, II, Mar. 20, 1920, No. 3, p. 40-41.
3. Filatelista Polski, II, April 31, 1920, No. 5, p. 75.
4. Filatelista Polski, II, July 31, 1920, No. 6/7, p. 89.
5. Filatelista Polski, II, November 30, 1920, No. 10/11, p. 122-123.
6. A. Łaskiewicz, Polskie Znaki Pocztowe "Ikaros" in Białystok 1935, p. 336.
7. Filatelista No. 15, August 1, 1970, p. 339, T. Gryzewski, "Wspomnienie O Znaczkach Pucka".

Minutes of Meeting held September 30, 1977 at the Polish Museum

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 by President Szebel with 14 members in attendance. M/S/C Messrs. Schafer, Makowski: to suspend the usual order of business so as to get on with the tour. Three brief announcements were made. PANA members were welcomed to the meeting. Members were reminded of the upcoming Chicago Philatelic Society Show, October 7-9, and Pres. Szebel announced that Dr. Edward C. Rozanski will head the drive for the Pulaski stamp in 1979.

Acting upon the motion on the floor, the members retired to the exhibition halls for a guided tour of the museum given by Rev. Donald Bilinski. The members had the opportunity to see many old letters sent by Polish kings as well as other historical items. A special tour through the new art gallery and the Paderewski Room were conducted.

If you haven't been to the Museum lately, try to attend. The setting is new as are many of the exhibits. Open daily from 1 to 4 p.m. seven days a week. It's at 984 Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago.

Minutes of Meeting Held October 28, 1977 at Polish Veterans Hall

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 by President Szebel with 17 members in attendance. The minutes were dispensed with as they will be published in the Polonus Bulletin. The treasurer reported a check-book balance of \$502.19. A more thorough report will be offered at the next meeting. The secretary reported no pertinent correspondence. He noted that no objections have been received regarding the proposed new members as listed in the Bulletin. M/S/C Messrs. Resner, Styczynski: to accept them into membership. No new members were proposed.

Old Business: POLPEX 78—Pres. Szebel reported that the first publicity release has been sent to the philatelic press. The theme will be "Polish Folklore" and exhibits with this theme will be solicited. Special awards will be given which will have a folklore theme also, that is, special hand carved wooden plates imported from Poland and other works of Polish folk art. The Board of Directors will be the exhibition committee with the help of a few dedicated others.

Pulaski Stamp: Mr. Mazepa read a letter from Dr. Rozanski which is optimistic about the U.S.P.O. issuing a stamp in honor of the 200th anniversary of the death of Pulaski and the Battle of Savannah. There still is much work to be done and will involve the cooperation of all Polish organizations, philatelic and non-philatelic, and Fred plans to meet with Dr. Rozanski next week. **Ted Resner**

Finally Gets His Award: Fred Szebel presented Ted Resner with his long overdue POLPEX 77 award. Somehow the original got lost. Belated congratulations, Ted!

New Business: Christmas Party—Three options as discussed at the Board of Directors meeting were presented by Mr. Mazepa. 1). to have the party at a restaurant as last year, 2). have the party at the usual meeting place with members bringing food, and 3). not have a party. After some discussion the members present decided to have

the party at the Veteran's Hall on December 30th at 7:30 p.m. The Society will cover the cost of the major items and members will be asked to bring side dishes. In order to insure this, members can bring their wives, lest we all starve. Cost will be \$3.00 a ticket.

Philatelic News: Mr. Mazepa presented a picture he had received from Mr. Bojanowicz showing the newly discovered mint block of Poland #1. An article will follow in the Bulletin regarding this discovery. **Polonus Handbook:** We need to sell about 60 more **Handbooks** before we can start on the next one. If you haven't purchased your copy yet, please do so. It would be a shame if the Society would have to terminate this effort because of lack of support on behalf of the members.

The business of the Society being completed, M/S/C Messrs. Pristka, Mikucki; to adjourn.

Philatelic Presentation: Mr. Szebel then introduced a man who needs no introduction, Mr. Chester Makowski. Chester treated us all to a talk on Polish Postal History interspersed with bits of Polish history, Polonus history, and "u's" and "ah's" from those looking at an outstanding range of material. Chester showed us prestamp material from the 18th century which included some of the earliest Polish postmarks. This was followed by Napoleonic covers and material from the Duchy of Warsaw. Various other prestamps material was shown and followed by Russian stamps used in Poland, the stationery issue of 1859-65, and Poland's #1. Everyone appreciated the wonderful talk and the opportunity to see such seldom seen material. Someone expressed the desire that some of the other old timers follow Chester's example and teach the rest of us something about philately! The evening concluded with coffee, cakes and friendship. If you missed this meeting, do come next month.

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

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STAMP MARKET TIPS

by John G. Ross

In October 1944, almost at the end of World War II a semipostal stamp of 10 plus 10 złoty was issued to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the General Government, Scott NB47. This stamp had two different printings and specialists in Europe as well as in this country are eager to get both printings. It might be worth your time to check over whether you own the first printing which was a greenish black, while the second printing shows a gray black color. The first printing as listed by Scott No. NB41b is quite scarce. Dealers in Europe pay as much as \$4 per copy, while the second printing has a buyprice of about 85c at this time. Study the colors when this stamp is offered to you and try to get the first printing. I believe this stamp is still underpriced and eventually will sell for much more than it does at this time.

After the end of World War II huge quantities of all occupation stamps were sold to the U.S.A. at very low prices. Some of these sets that could be bought here for a few cents now are difficult to find in Germany and dealers are anxious to buy as many as they can. A case in point is the first issue of Poland, General Government a set of thirteen Hindenburg stamps surcharged in Polish currency, also "Deutsche Post Osten". This set was issued right after the occupation of Poland on December 1939, Scott No. N17-29. You might be interested to know that this was not a provisional surcharge, these stamps were ordered and printed about one year in advance at the Government printing office in Berlin and were ready for use immediately after

Warsaw was occupied. Scott 1977 lists the set for \$5.60, today's buy-price in Germany is at least \$3.25 and retail is up to just about full Scott. There is no difficulty finding that set here in the U.S.A. at a reasonable price and it is definitely worth adding to your collection.

Reprinted from STAMPS

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Londyn, 23 września 1977

Szanowny Panie Prezesie,

Dzisiaj otrzymałem Biuletyn Polonusa nr. 355 z 7- 8. 1977, w którym w czołowym artykule dr. M. Lipińskiego przeczytałem notatkę o nadaniu mi "dyplomu uznania" przez Klub Polonica w Chodzieży.

Jestem zaskoczony umieszczeniem obok mego nazwiska zasługi "założyciela" "Polish Philatelic Society in England", do której się nie poczuwam i która nie jest prawdą.

Od niemal 20 lat jestem natomiast prezesem Związku Filatelistów Polskich w W. Brytanii — co po angielsku brzmi — Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain i jak mi się wydaje, powinno być wiadomo nie tylko w Polsce, ale i w Redakcji Biuletynu Polonusa, który artykuł ten zamieścić na swych łamach.

Proszę uprzejmie o sprostowanie tej wiadomości, oraz powiadomienie dr. Lipińskiego, że tego rodzaju dyplomu w żadnym wypadku nie może przyjąć.

z poważaniem

Jan Z. E. Berek

KAPOSTA HITS JACKPOT!

Julius Kaposta received a grand award, gold medal, American Philatelic Society certificate and Society of Philatelic Americans medal at CORNPEX 77, sponsored by the Corn Belt Philatelic Society.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, November 25, 1977:

Program meeting at Veterans Hall. Ted Resner will speak on the Free City of Gdansk. Dr. James J. Matejka will be a guest. Starting time: 8:00 p.m.

CHICAGOLAND POLONUS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The members decided to have a Christmas Party this year, combined with a Past Presidents Night. It will be in the form of our traditional Beeba with the ladies preparing the food. The get-together takes place on Friday, December 30th at our regular meeting place, the Polish Veterans Hall, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd., in Chicago. Cocktails at 7:00 PM, Buffet Dinner at 8:00 PM. Drinks available at the cash bar.

In order to cover some of the expenses, there will be a charge of \$3.00 per person at the door. To give us an idea as to how many will attend, please mail the enclosed card if you're coming.

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— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

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