

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 257

March, 1968

POLPEX AT RADIO HALLS A SUCCESS!

It was the first time that a Polpex was ever held at Radio Halls, Belmont and Long Aves. in Chicago. The atmosphere, interest, enthusiasm and attendance was great. A steady stream of visitors poured in Saturday and Sunday from opening time to closing time.

The exhibition was officially opened Saturday at noon when the ribbon was cut by Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of the Polish National Alliance, the largest Polish fraternal organization in America. Mr. Mazewski is a long time Polonus member.

From then on the show was viewed by historians, clergy, artisans, Polish



Anthony A. Mazewski, President of the Polish National Alliance, cutting ribbon at opening ceremony. Assisting and watching (left to right): Chester Mikucki, Joseph Migala, Chester Schafer—President, Walenty Poniecki, Anthony Banasiak, Aloysius Mazewski, Roman Reinowski—Director; Dr. Edward C. Rozanski—Honorary Member, Alfred Szebel—Secretary and Stanley Dobrzycki—Treasurer.



Typical scene of what went on during the exhibition.

(Photos by Frank Las)



Mr. and Mrs. Jan Haniewicz of Brooklyn, N.Y. dealing with customers at their bourse tables. They missed Interpex in New York just to attend our Polpex.

Army veterans, many non-collectors as well as collectors.

Stamp dealers in the bourse did very well. Bourse Chairman, Roman Reinowski, reported that they had exceptional sales at the tables.

The Grand Award of the exhibition went to Col. Jan Berek of London for his Jozef Pilsudski Stamps of 1919-

1924. The Dr. Kozakiewicz Research Award was given to Chester A. Schafer for his Lublin Issues of 1918-1919. Dr. Uznanski's Historical Award was presented to Alfred Szebel for his Pilsudski Legion Postal Markings. Special Plaques were given to Zygmunt Lindauer of Canada for Warsaw Locals, and to Zdzislaw Wagrowski for



The new official Polonus Medal. In its original form it is in brass. For the Polpex awards it was plated in gold, silver and bronze.

Poland Postal History.

Gold Medals were presented to:
F. E. Wolosewick—Stamps of Warsaw, 1915-1918;

Dr. M. A. Kamiński, Canada—Polish Territory during and after World War I;

Zdzisław Wągrowski — Balloon Mail;
H. George Wolfe, Jackson Hts., N.Y.
—Plebiscite Stamps of Allenstein, Marienwerder and Upper Silesia.

Silver Medals:

Roman H. Strzelecki—Postal Stationery of 1918-1939;

Chester Schafer—Central Lithuania;
Joseph M. Jakubecki, Detroit—Polish Revenue Stamps;

Emil R. Mrugacz—Research of Poland's #81 to 132.

Bronze Medal:

Alfred Szebel — Postal History of Zaolzie.

Topical Awards:

Ludwik Pieczara — Poland's Millennium;

Dr. Józef Kuderewicz, Manchester, N.H.—Marie Skłodowska-Curie.

Dr. Kuderewicz also won the American Topical Ass'n Award with his Curie stamps and Zdzisław Wągrowski also won the Central Federation Historical Award with his Postal History.



Zdzisław Wągrowski receiving one of the three awards he won at Polpex.

The highlight of the Polpex, as always, was the Beeba held on Saturday night. A capacity crowd attended and they were treated to some excellent bigos, kielbasa, kiszka, sledzie, paczki, chrusciki, etc. All food was donated by members and their wives very capably assisted in the kitchen. Walenty Poniecki co-ordinated the activities of the Beeba and he is credited with a job well done.

Presentation of Awards was handled by Judge Lester Jankowski who lost no time in presenting the awards. The most touching presentation was made to Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz. He was



Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz being presented with Honorary Membership Plaque is congratulated by Judge Lester Jankowski.

awarded with Honorary Membership in Polonus and was given an impressive plaque and a bouquet of flowers.

Over all, this was one of the best philatelic shows staged by Polonus in the sense that on the hall one could see a complete cross section of the scope of a Polish collector. Material was limited to Poland, its associated countries and Polonica. Shown was Early Postal History, Kingdom of Poland Mail of 1815-1860, Pilsudski Polish Legions Mail of 1914-1917; Stamps of Warsaw 1915-1918; Polish Field Posts of Gen. Haller and Dowbor Musnicki, General Issues of 1913 to 1939, Central Lithuania, Allenstein, Marienwerder, Upper Silesia, P.O.W., Poland Millennium topicals and Marie Sklodowska-Curie topicals.

Especially strong were stamps pertaining to Pilsudski. This was in order as the theme of POLPEX 1968 was "Poland's 50th Anniversary of Independence, 1918-1938" and our souvenir sheet honored Marshall Jozef Pilsudski who led the Polish Legions in World War I and who fought so gallantly against the Russians to regain freedom for Poland.

Honorary Chairman of the Polpex was Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz. The Sales of seals and covers was handled by J. P. Rux and Chester Mikucki who practically sold out the supply of covers. The program catalog was impressive with the many ads collected by J.P. Rux, Stanley Kucharz and Chester A. Schafer; the many Patrons collected by Chester Mikucki and Stanley Dobrzycki; and the appropriate article specially written by Jozef L. Brodowski of Brooklyn.

Although there was no official Executive Polpex Chairman, the burden of this job was handled by Alfred Szabel who took care of Awards, Entries, some Publicity and co-ordinated the work of the exhibition.

IN MEMORIAM

VINCENT DOMANSKI, JR.

Vincent Domanski, Jr., well known Philadelphia stamp collector, died on Monday, 26 February, 1968, at Episcopal Hospital, following a heart attack. He was 74.

Mr. Domanski was a past president, editor, and head of the research department of the now defunct National Philatelic Museum which was formerly at Broad & Diamond Streets in Philadelphia. He was a member of the Society of Philatelic Americans, the Polonus Philatelic Society, Chicago, and of the Collectors Club of New York. He had been on the executive committee of the CIPEX international philatelic exhibition held in New York City in 1947.

Mr. Domanski was educated at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and at Temple University. He was associated with the real estate firm of Domanski Brothers, and secretary of the John Sobieski Building & Loan Association, both of Philadelphia.

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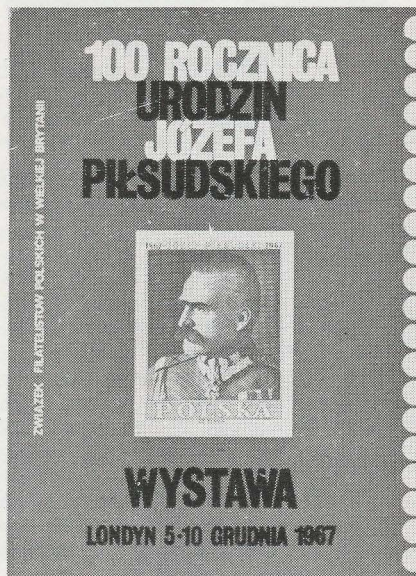
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Andrzej Domisiewicz
Ul. Rejtana 14m8
Warszawa, Poland

Richard J. Brzustowicz, M.D.
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Rochester, N.Y. 14618

POLISH PHIL. SOC. OF GREAT BRITAIN SPECIAL EXHIBITION

The Polish Philatelic Society of Great Britain held a special stamp exhibition to celebrate 100 years of Poland's history and the 100th anniversary of Jozef Pilsudski's birth. The honorary chairman of the exhibition was General K. Sosenskowski, a personal friend of Marshall Pilsudski.



The opening ceremony was attended by many famous personalities. Among them were General Anders, the daughter of the Marshall, Dr. Wanda Pilsudska and his grandson, Krzysztof Jaraczewski.

The ten exhibits covered the life and history of Pilsudski. Polonus was represented by a Polish Legion collection displayed by Alfred Szebel of Chicago, and by a "Memories of Pilsudski" collection shown by Z. Wlodarski of London.

All exhibitors received medals especially minted for Pilsudski's 100th anniversary. The illustrated souvenir sheet was also issued and the British Post Office used a special decorative cancellation during the exhibition.

IN OUR MAILBOX

Jestem członkiem od roku i z wielkim zainteresowaniem śledzę akcję "Polonusa." Czy jestem z akcji tej zadowolony? Za odpowiedź niech posyły fakt, iż bardzo Panom zazdroszczę, że mieszkacie w Chicago, że możecie się wspólnie spotykać i dyskutować na tematy filatelistyki, że możecie pracować z wielkim wysiłkiem, by rządzić piękną wystawę, że wraz z rodzinami możecie brać udział w "bibach", itd. Choć mieszkam w Syracuse, sercem jestem z Wami w Chicago. Szczęść Boże w dalszych osiągnięciach.

Z najlepszym pozdrowieniem—

B. F. KOR

1433 Midland Ave.

Syracuse, N.Y. 13205

PLEWACKI POST ALPEX 799

The annual stamp exhibition of Adam Plewacki Post of the American Legion of Buffalo, N.Y. known as ALPEX 799 will be held April 5-7, 1968 at Plewacki Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. The theme of the show is "Art on Stamps." Both the United Nations and the United States will have post offices on the premises with a special exhibition cancellation.

Polonus member, Dr. Matt A. Gajewski, president of the society, says the cancellation will be of special significance to collectors of Polish material. The cachets are available by mail at 25c each or five for \$1.00 from the Plewacki Post Stamp Society, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

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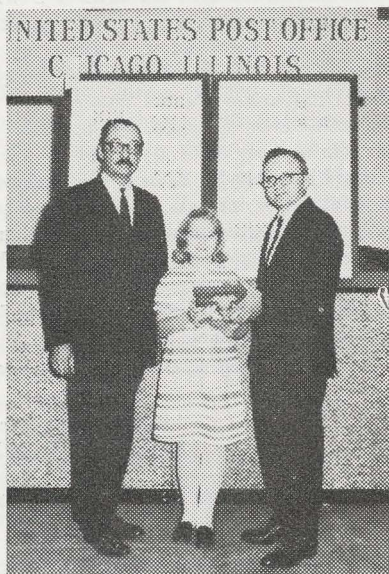
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POLONUS MEMBERS WIN TOP AWARDS AT LITHPEX '68



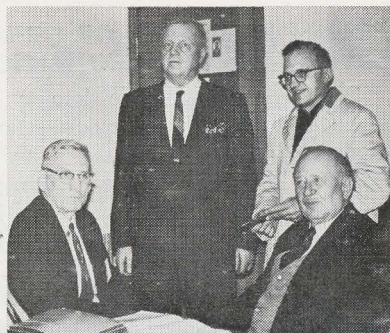
At the recent Lithuanian Philatelic Society stamp show held at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Ave., Chicago, Chester A. Schafer (right) won a first award with his collection of Central Lithuania. Shows on photo are Stanley Balzekas, founder of the museum, Jane Schafer, holding a Lithuanian hand made musical novelty box which her dad received as the first award. All are standing in front of the special U.S. Post Office set up especially for the exhibition.

LITHPEX '68 honored the 50th anniversary of Independent Lithuania and was the largest Lithuania exhibition ever held in the United States.

The Grand Award of the exhibition went to Polonus member Jan Chalecki of St. Ann's Canada for his 13 frame collection of Lithuania Nos. 1 to 26.

Also participating in the show was Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz who showed his complete collection of Lithuanian cancellations, 1919-1944.

Shown on the photo above are (left to right) Walter Norton, Editor of



the Lith. Phil. Soc. of New York Bulletin and a judge at the show; Richard Estka; Chester Schafer and Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz.

STAMP STUDY PAYS DIVIDENDS

Binghamton, N.Y. — A collector here has found that stamp study sometimes pays high dividends.

Years ago, A. R. Kaczmarek bought a cheap mixture of common United States stamps from the Society of the Divine Word, Techny, Ill. According to Linn's Weekly Stamp News, one copy of the one-cent Franklin stamp of the 1922 to 1925 series, Scott's type A 155, did not correspond to any listed variety.

Some experts said it was of no value, but Kaczmarek kept it. Recently, he submitted it to the Philatelic Foundation, which found it to be genuine and a new variety.

The stamp now is listed as No. 596 by Scott. This number had been left blank, assuming that such a stamp might turn up. It is one produced during the 1920s, when the ends of the webs of coil printings, too short to produce full coils, were fully perforated and sold as regular stamps.

When sold at auction last month in New York, this stamp brought \$6,750, and now is rated as the most valuable 20th century regular adhesive.

Kaczmarek intends to donate the proceeds to church mission work.

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Napoleon's Army Spent Two Weeks in Wilno

By W. E. NORTON

Reprinted from LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

In 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia. The Russians withdrew in front of him, and following the battle at Borodino (Sept. 7, 1812). Moscow was occupied and burned. After this Napoleon was obliged to retreat during which almost his entire army perished.

On his way to Moscow earlier that year, Napoleon and his 'Grand Armee' had to cross Lithuania. He stayed a while in various cities — especially Wilno — with the hope of picking up additional recruits and supplies for his army, as well as popular support for his cause — but his advisors misjudged the Lithuanian people who turned out to be far from sympathetic.

Instead of a several days stay in Wilno to accomplish his mission, he tarried more than two weeks — the delay is attributed to throwing his campaign timing off sufficiently to cause the disastrous results incurred when he retreated through the Russian wastes in wintertime.

Dr. Jozef Kuderevicz has a historic cover from this period of Lithuanian postal history and has consented to share its contents with our members and readers.

The letter, a folded sheet, was written on July 11, 1812 from Wilno by one of Napoleon's soldiers to his mother — one Madame Chatal who resided at Rue du Faubourg, St. Denis No. 90 in Paris, France.

Following are the quoted introductory lines of the letter, and it is these that are of interest to students of history and Lithuanian and Polish philately: "Wilno, July 11, 1812. My Dear Mama: We have crossed the Niemen and the Wilia (Rivers) and are now in Wilno. We arrived here yes-

terday, July 10 . . ."

Napoleon's army became known as the "Grand Armee" in 1805, prior to his Eastern Prussian campaign. In his Russian campaign, it is recorded that his army entered Wilno on June 28, 1812 and then another detachment passed through Grodno on July 5, 1812.

This cover is cancelled in the upper right-hand corner in black ink with a 49 x 9 mm cancel from the Napoleonic Army Unit. It is a two-lined, straight-line cancel made from 4 mm capital letters: "BAU GAL/GRANDE ARMEE" with the "AU" and "AL" well above the line of "B" and "G". "BAU" is a contraction for "Bureau", and "GAL" for "General".

The back of the letter has a mercuric red-oxide colored double ringed, 27 mm circular backstamp from Paris reading "Aout 8, 1812" (Aug. 8, 1812) with the numeral "8" within an 8 mm inner circle. "Aout" is above the inner ring and between the rings; and "1812" below.

The cover also has a very large manuscript numeral "8" written in black ink vertically through the address on the face of the letter indicating the amount of the postage due to be collected from the addressee.

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SZEBEL TO LEAD SYMPOSIUM ON EASTERN SILESIA

On Sunday, April 21, 1968 at the Lincoln Federal Savings & Loan Bldg. 6635 W. Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill., a symposium on Eastern Silesia will be held calling attention to the history, geography, economy and philately of Eastern Silesia.

Alfred Szebel will present his collection of Polish Occupation of this area in conclusion of various talks by members of the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, who will present both stamps and covers prior to and including the Plebiscite of 1920. Everyone is welcome. Meeting begins at 2:30 PM.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

I have two questions which I hope you can help me with. The first is how to avoid cancelled to order type stamps. Can these be recognized by the cancellation itself? If so, how?

The second is the significance and meaning of a Polish Field Post cancellation (Poczta Polowa) on a 6c US Airmail of 1945; I assume it was sent

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

by a member of the Polish Armed Forces from England because of the censorship stamp used. The lower left corner has the written inscription "For My Personal Use" in Polish.

Edward P. Zabawa #819
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