

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 261

August-September, 1968

W. RACHMANOFF DIES AT 82

It is with deep regret that we report the death of our distinguished honorary member, Mr. W. Rachmanoff who passed away at his home in Bayside, New York on June 22, 1968 after a long illness.

He is mourned by Mrs. Rachmanoff, by their daughter and son-in-law, and by their granddaughter who was Mr. Rachmanoff's joy in his declining years. He left friends throughout Europe and America who were persons of importance in the philatelic world. His remains lie in Flushing Cemetery, New York.

He left Poland during the Warsaw attack in 1944. It wasn't till 1947 that he came to New York with his wife. For many years he was employed first by Stolow and then by Edwin Mueller at the Mercury Stamp Co.

We remember Mr. Rachmanoff for his fine atlases on Poland No. 1, Russia No. 1, for his plating of the Gniezno issue of Poland and for the post-World War I locals on Germany and Austria. He revised and expanded Mr. Polanski's fine album on Poland No. 1 which was issued originally in Polish and re-issued as a joint venture in French and German.

The biography and achievements of Mr. Rachmanoff have been fully covered in Polonus Bulletin No. 233 of July, 1965.



W. RACHMANOFF
1886 — 1968

POLPHILEX 68

Polonus members participated in POLPHILEX 68 which was held at London June 20-23. Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz showed pre-philatelic covers of Poland, 1555 to 1860, in the Court of Honor. Dr. Matt Kamienski received a gold medal in the competitive class and Z. Wagrowski and M. Kalawski received silver medals.

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POLPEX 1969 TO HAVE DUAL THEME

Two significant 25th anniversaries will take place in 1969. One is the important achievement of Polish military strategy, the successful capture by the Polish 2nd Corps of the Nazi held stronghold, the monastery of Monte Cassino in Italy. While many other Allied Forces failed, Polish soldiers under General Anders broke through Nazi defenses and captured the stronghold which opened the road to Rome.

The other anniversary is the tragic Warsaw Uprising and heroic battles of the Home Army (A.K.) and the determination of the people of Warsaw to fight the enemy to the bitter end. Like other uprisings in Poland's history, Poles, and especially youths, fought till death. The uprising failed and resulted in the complete destruction of Warsaw.

Both of these events occurred during our lifetime. Some of our members even took an active part in these battles making these events even more memorable.

The Polpex Committee under the chairmanship of Walenty Poniecki, is making plans to issue two different souvenir sheets in line with the dual theme for 1969. Special covers will also be made for both dates of the show, March 1st and 2nd, 1969.

Due to the size of Radio Halls, we will limit the show to 100 frames. Accepted only will be material pertaining to the Postal History of Poland in World War II.

In order to present an interesting exhibition, without duplication, covering all phases of Polish Philately of this period, we would like to hear from members who plan to exhibit. Please write to Alfred Szebel, 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016. Describe your exhibit, telling us the amount of frames needed (6 or 9 pages to a frame, depending on size).

As every year, we appeal to the membership for interesting and, if possible, unpublished articles for our program catalog and the philatelic press, especially covering the period of Polish Philately during World War II. Send them on to our Editor, Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

— Alfred Szebel

ANNUAL PICNIC BIGGEST YET

Over seventy persons made the long journey on August 4th to Dr. Kozakiewicz's Aquilla Resort in Powers Lake, Wisconsin for the annual Polonus Picnic. They were blessed with a beautiful warm, sunny day and the children spent most of their time in the warm water of the lake.

The first carload arrived as early as 8:30 a.m. They quickly set up the outdoor benches and stoves for the others who arrived shortly after.

Among the guests was Dr. James J. Matejka and his wife Marysia.

The activities of the day included bathing, cooking, eating, races and games for adults and children. The children received prizes and candy. Food was plentiful as Dr. Kozakiewicz made a generous donation of polish sausage, home made pickles and beer to the Polonus picknickers. Mrs. Kozakiewicz and Mrs. Matejka then barbecued and dished out the sausage. It wasn't till dark when the last auto left the grounds at Powers Lake.

Credit for a most successful picnic is due the hard working Committee of Zdzislaw Wagrowski and Sebastian Styczynski.

NEW MEMBER

Earl P. Apfelbaum
1503 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

HANDBOOK OF UPPER SILESIA

by DR. M. A. RAYALL DE RAGAN

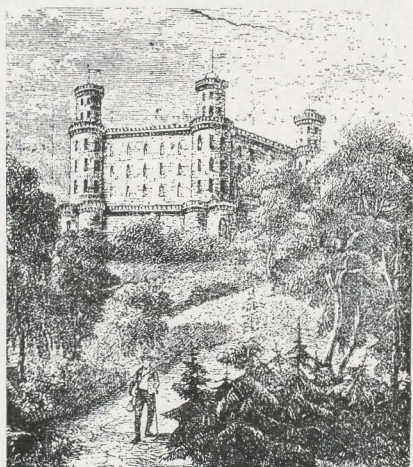
Edited by D. R. A. Meinung, Jr.

An Historical Outline

SILESIA

Upper Silesia, the territory to be dealt with in this study, is a part of Silesia, which in past centuries formed a part of Poland and then was annexed and heavily settled by the Germans and now again forms the south-west portion of Poland.

From the earliest days of the Polish State, Silesian areas have formed an integral part of the nation. Its inhabitants, Slavic in origin, are known as Silesians and are related ethnographically to the nearby Lugians to the west, the Czechs and Moravians to the south and the Vistulians of Cracow to the east.



Castle in Kamieniec (Kamienitz)

Original drawing by B. Z. Steczyński

Due to the area's geographical position at the westernmost end of Poland, Silesia has been the object of constant and bitter contention between the Poles and the eastward expanding German population.

During the XIth Century A.D., the testament of the Polish King, Boleslaw

the Wrymouthed, left Silesia to his son, Vladislav II, whose wife was the daughter of the German Emperor. This naturally encouraged the immigration of great numbers of Germans into the territory. The consequent increased Germanization of Silesia was resisted by the Slavic population, as can be seen by such events as Dogs Field at Wroclaw, the defense of Glogow and the battle of Lignica.

In the XIII Century, many of the highly educated Silesian Princes, such as Henry the Bearded, his son Henry the Devout, Henry IV Probus and Henry the Prince of Svidnitsa, saw dangers in this Germanization and endeavored to strengthen cultural ties with the educational and religious centers of Poznan and Cracow, but the Tartar invasions quickly put an end to their plans.

Some decades later, Henry the Devout's grandson, Henry IV Probus took up the cause of his grandfather but could find little support among either the other Silesian Princes, who had become strongly Germanized by marriages to daughters of German rulers or leaders, nor among the Polish Princes, who were busy fighting among themselves.

Similar efforts were later repeated with more success by Przemyslaw II, Prince of the House of Piast, from Wielkopolska (Western Poland), who in about 1290 was able to unite most of the Silesian provinces and bind them closely to Western Poland. In 1295 he obtained the crown of all Poland but, unfortunately, was soon killed by emissaries of the Graf of Brandenburg, who feared the growing power of the Polish King.

The final major attempt to unite Silesia during this period was made by King Wacław II and his son Wacław III, Kings of Czechoslovakia, Moravia and Poland but these efforts were also ended by their tragic deaths.

Further attempts to unite Silesia and to merge it with Poland met with increasing difficulties, caused partially by the gradual dying off of the Silesian Princes who ruled the various Silesian territories and who were by now related to German families, such as, the large dynastic Houses of Luxembourg, Wittelsbach, Hapsburg or Hohenzollern.



Chapel of St. Ann (Sanct Annaberg)

The last of the House of Piast, Prince George Wilhelm, Prince of Legnica, Brzeg and Wolow, paid with his life for the last attempt to unite Silesia, as late as the beginning of the XVIIIth Century, in 1675.

In spite of this political climate, Silesia surrendered to Prussian rule only after the Prussian - Austrian war of 1740.

The importance which Prussia placed on this territory is shown by the decree issued by the King of Prussia in 1767 forbidding the use of the Polish language in businesses, schools, churches, and even in private contracts. This action had little actual results as can be seen by later facts, such as, in 1867, a full hundred years

later, the officials of the Prussian Administration were required to learn the Polish language as a compulsory subject, as shown by a manual and handbook of the Polish language for use of officials in the Regency of Opole (Oppeln) which was edited and printed in Wrocław (Breslau) in 1867.

In the meantime, Prussia was a party to the three partitions of Poland in 1772, 1793 and 1795 after which years Poland lost its independence and was non-existent as a sovereign country until after World War II when it was officially reborn as of Armistice Day, November 11, 1968.

In these years of partition, the Prussians Germanized the names of Polish cities and used every possible means to Germanize the people and the territory.

The general census of 1910 in Germany showed a very high percentage of Poles in certain areas, such as, from about 45% in the districts of Raciborz (Ratibor), Kluczborek (Kreuzburg) and Prudnik (Neustadt), to over 75% in the districts of Opole (Oppeln), Rybnik, Strzelce (Gross Strehlitz), Czerwone Wzgórze (Rosenberg) and others.

GENESIS OF THE PLEBISCITE TERRITORY OF UPPER SILESIA

Upper Silesia is a region consisting of over 11,000 square kilometers, more than 4,250 square miles, rich in vast areas of coal, deposits of iron, copper, zinc, lead and other ores, and also of great importance as a manufacturing and mining district.

As already mentioned, after World War I the Republic of Poland was established and both Germany and Poland claimed the Upper Silesian territory as their own.

The original decision reached by the Council of Ambassadors for the Peace Treaty on March 15, 1919 stated:

— that the western part of Upper Silesia, the so-called Opoleans Re-

gency, including the districts of Neisse, Falkenbourg, Grottkau and the western section of the district of Neustadt was to remain part of Germany.

- that the southern part of Upper Silesia and the western part of the district of Glubczyce (Leobschütz), the so-called Opavean Region would become part of Czechoslovakia.
 - that the remainder, the so-called Hulthinean Region (the later plebiscite territory), should be granted without plebiscite to Poland except for a small southern portion of the Racibórz district which would go to Czechoslovakia.
- (Condition de la Paix of May 6, 1919).

In the presence of opposition by the German delegation, it was decided that a plebiscite be taken in the eastern part of Upper Silesia so that the confused 2,100,000 plus population of the district would be permitted to decide whether they wished to remain subjects of Germany or to join the new Republic of Poland.

The lower and central sections of the area were made up primarily of Germans (33.3% of the total population) while the rural districts of Upper Silesia were made up mostly of Poles (64.5%) and a small percentage of other nationalities: Czechs, Jews, Slavs, Moravian, etc. (2.2%).

The German and Jewish citizens, who were inclined toward Germany, carried on the function of the towns and cities, while the Poles handled the mining and the agricultural activities.

At the Peace Treaty conferences in St. Germain, Trianon and Versailles the beaten Germany received a great deal of political tolerance. Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain and President of the Conference, and other delegates had very little knowledge of the Polish case and several amendments were intro-

duced into the Versailles Treaty which were extremely detrimental to the Polish cause.



Monastery in Ruda

One of these amendments was Article 88 of the Peace Treaty establishing the plebiscite for Upper Silesia.

From the very beginning of the Conferences the atmosphere was very unfriendly toward Poland. In fact, the case of Silesia was debated in a climate not only unfriendly but simply inimical. None of the recommendations of the Polish delegation of Ignacy Paderewski and Roman Dmowski was given any serious consideration. Especially since they came from a country where the new government of "Socialist" Pilsudski was considered as enemy by other western governments.

In the execution clause of June 17, 1919 to Paragraph 88 of the Versailles Treaty the names of the three original members of the Plebiscite Commission were given as follows:

General Le Ronde of France
Colonel H. F. Parsival of Britain

General de Marinis Standardo de Ricigliano of Italy

Unfortunately, the new Commissioners were completely unfamiliar with the problems of Poland, as well as those of Upper Silesia, the country whose future they were to decide.

Their first problem was to establish order, as the Germans tried repeatedly to intimidate the Poles who, in retaliation, began to perform acts of violence. In short order everything was held and peace reigned for the moment.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UPPER SILESIA

The entire territory of Upper Silesia, the so-called Opoleans Regency, was divided into the following four sections by the Versailles Treaty of March 15, 1919:

—The ethnographically German portion of over 2013 square kilometers ceded without plebiscite to Germany including the districts of Neisse,

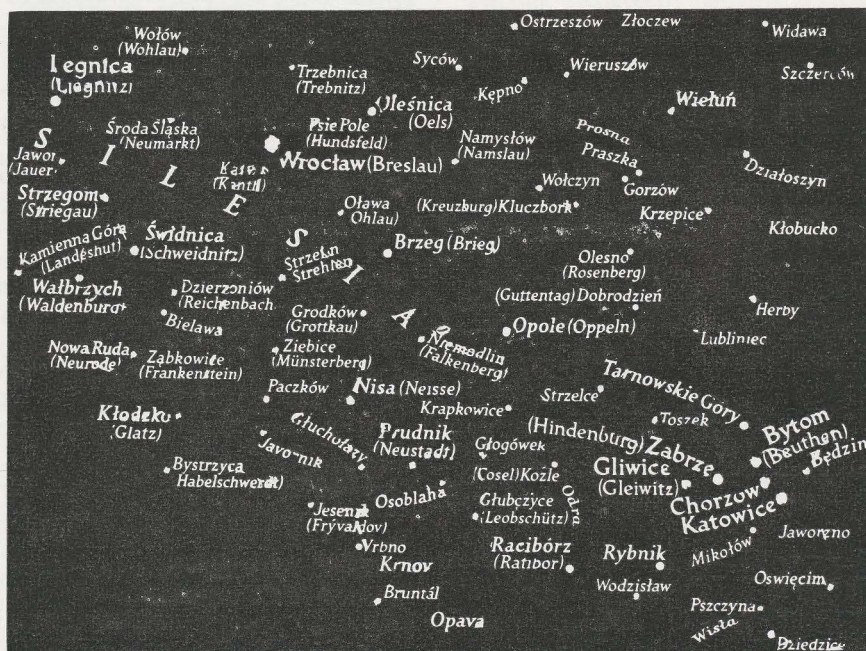
Falkenbourg, Grottkau and the western section of the Neustadt district.

—The ethnographically Czechoslovakian portion of 312 square kilometers was ceded without plebiscite to Czechoslovakia including the southern part of the Leobschutz district, the so-called Opawcan Region.

—This area of 10,538 square kilometers was submitted to a plebiscite and ultimately divided between Germany and Poland.

—This area of 368 square kilometers was submitted to a plebiscite and ultimately divided between Germany and Czechoslovakia. The southern portion of the Racibórz district, the so-called Hutshinean Region, was ceded to Czechoslovakia without plebiscite in October 1920.

The plebiscite area of Upper Silesia consisted of the following towns and districts:



(To be continued)

NEW ISSUES

2nd Internationale Poster Biennale

On May 29th two values were issued on the occasion of the 2nd International Poster Biennale in Warsaw. The 60 gr. shows a poster entitled "Peace" by the artist Henryk Tomaszewski. The 2.50 zl. stamp shows a theatrical poster of Gounod's opera "Faust" by artist Jan Lenica.

Offset printed in sheets of 30 on common paper by P.W.P.W. Warsaw. Designed by A. Heidrich. The total quantity issued of the 60 gr.—5,000,000, the 2.50 zl.—3,500,000.

* *

75 Years of Polish Philatelic Life

On the 75th Anniversary of the beginning of the philatelic movement with the founding of the first Philatelic Club in Cracow on January 6, 1893, two stamps, both of 60 gr. value, were issued on July 2nd.

Offset printed in sheets of 12 on common paper at the P.W.P.W. Warsaw. Designed by T. Michaluk. Total amount issued: 12,000,000 of each.

* *

Revolutionary Deed Monument

On July 20th the Polish Post issued a 60 gr. value showing a fragment of a monument erected for the revolutionary deed of the proletarians of Zagłębie and Silesia districts.

Steel engraving, copper-plate printing and photogravure was done at the P.W.P.W. at Warsaw. Printed on common paper in sheets of 80 stamps. Designed by Wiktor Chrucki. Quantity issued: 8,000,000.

TID BITS

Dr. Matt Kamienski was Chairman of the North Toronto Stamp Club Joint Exhibition with the Armed Forces Stamp Club held in March.

Three Polish exhibits won awards at this show. Dr. Kamienski received a silver medal, Mieczyslaw Lubinski a silver, and Wacław Gruszczyk a bronze medal.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Mieczyslaw Lubinski
8 Attercliff Court
Rexdale, Ont., Canada
M. Chomiak
26 Galley Ave.
Toronto, Ont., Canada
Kenneth L. Phillips
18 Hotel Drive
White Plains, N.Y. 10605
Arnold L. Shay
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IN MEMORIAM

JOSEF BENDKOWSKI
1908 — 1968

Our most heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of our late member Josef Bendkowski of Mundelein, Illinois, who passed away. Josef was an active member for many years, served on many committees, as Polpex Chairman, and as President for 1965-66. He was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the U.S. Army—Retired, but was still working for the Army, in an advisory capacity, up until the time of his death. He was buried with full military honors on September 17th at Fort Sheridan. He is survived by his widow, Dorothy and a sister, Martha Bendkowski.

DUES REMINDER

The Treasurer reminds us to pay those dues now! Spare him the trouble and expense of sending you a statement. He donates his time and efforts with no remuneration.

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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 \$2.50 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 11, 1968 —
Regular Business Meeting.

Friday, October 25, 1968 —
Program Meeting. Speaker to be announced later.

NEW MEMBER

Rev. E. M. Hubicz
846 Burrows Ave.
Winnipeg 14, Man. Canada

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