

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue #70

January 1949

Poland Varieties

by Larry C. Zieler

A study of Scott's Poland #312 and N30 reveals two distinct types in the background of shading, both types from separate plates and printings.

TYPE I: In use from July 1, 1937 to 1939, perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$. The shaded area in background consists of horizontal and diagonal lines criss-crossing each other from the top of design and extending downward completely to the left shoulder, while on the other side the diagonal lines diminish from a point below the bill of the cap, ending in an area partially crisscrossed and the balance in horizontal lines only. (This is approximately 11 mm from the bottom of the design.) There appears to be no outer frame line to the left or right of the design, occasional breaks visible where the diagonal lines are lacking.

TYPE II. These made their appearance sometime in 1938, but the exact date as yet is unknown. Two perforations have been found in this type, these being $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, and $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, the latter seemingly being the scarcer of the two. On this type the shaded area is similar to Type I, but extends with crisscross lines to the bottom of design on both sides of the shoulders. Only a small horizontal line area remains, this beginning at the top of the lapel of the coat to the bill of the cap, and extending approximately 3 mm from the point of the nose. The lines of engraving are more pronounced, and are especially noticeable in the diagonal lines in the numerals of value and the words "Poczta Polska." A thin vertical line has been added to the left and right sides of the design, creating a "frame" line



Type I



Type II

of smooth appearance.

Although both types may be found abundantly in #312 no figures as to the amounts issued are available at this time. In the occupation stamp N-30, overprinted by the Germans from remaining stocks seized in Poland, both types of the basic #312 have been noted, although type II seems to have been predominately used. A few copies of type I have been found, but doubtless the number of these in existence may classify them as "scarce" if not "rare."



M. HAIMAN
1888-1949

Polonus mourns its devoted friend and adviser, M. Haiman, custodian of the Polish Museum in which some of our finest POLPEX'es were held. During his several months of severe sickness, Polonus sent Mr. Haiman words of cheer and support. The end came a few hours after the January 14th Polonus meeting.

Mr. Haiman was born in Poland in 1888, came to America in 1913, married in 1919, and became a citizen in 1925. Besides his widow, he leaves a son and daughter.

I have known Mr. Haiman for about 30 years, when he was editor of the Dziennik dla Wszystkich in Buffalo and came to Cambridge Springs, Pa. to study the historical documents at the Alliance College Museum which unfortunately burned in the winter of 1931. He was always a student of history of the Poles in America and wrote many enlightening books on the subject. With the support of Mr. Kania, President of the P. R. C. U., Mr. Haiman founded and developed the Polish Museum so that it was and is un-

questionably the No. 1 point of interest and the pride of all Poles in America. Besides the Museum with its historical and civic objects, Mr. Haiman, with able assistance of Dr. Wolanin, gathered the finest and largest collection of books in the English language on Poland and the Poles. He was honorary President of the Polish American Historical Commission, and was decorated for outstanding civic work by Poland, the Polish National Alliance, and others.

For the POLPEX'es held at the Museum, Mr. Haiman would change the entire set-up, clearing out all the cases, tables and desks, to make room for our stamps, trophies, and albums. He worked hard to put up our exhibits and to take them down. He seemed to be just as proud of our exhibits, as we ourselves were. And of course he studied them diligently—he brought to them a background rich in facts and tradition, and took away impressions and associations which many collectors missed.

In Mr. Haiman's death, the Poles in America lose a capable scholar, an industrious researcher and an ardent patriot. Polonus loses a friend who understood us and who tolerated all our fancies and impositions. May he rest in peace.

M. E. Steczynski

NEW MEMBERS

Alex M. Zarzycki Jr.
416 W. Grand Ave.
Rahway 1, New Jersey
(E.P.P., U.S., France and Cols.)

Leo John Zalkowski
232 E. Front St.
Grand Ledge, Michigan

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Stanislaw Draganowski
13a, Parsberg, D. P. Camp Hohenfels
Hohenfels, Germany

Joseph S. Kay
8663 Bessemore Street
Detroit 13, Michigan

Barney J. Fialkowski
2633 No. Emmet St.
Chicago 47, Illinois

CHOPIN IN PHILATELY

by M. E. Steczynski

The year 1949 brings to the Polonus Philatelic Society its tenth anniversary—also its tenth exhibition known as POLPEX 1949. During each of its ten years Polonus issued a philatelic souvenir sheet depicting some timely subject or else honoring a historic occasion. This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the death of one of Poland's most beloved sons—the immortal composer and pianist Frederic Francois Chopin. Polonus honors the memory of this greatest of Polish composers by setting aside its POLPEX 1949 as a Chopin event and by issuing a suitable souvenir sheet featuring a stamp of Chopin from the recent cultural series of Poland.

Frederic Chopin was born February 22, 1810 at Zelazowa Wola, only a few miles from Warsaw, of a French father and a Polish mother. His sister Ludwika gave him his first piano lessons, then he studied under Zywny and later under Joseph Elsner (see Scott's NB22) with whom Chopin made the greatest progress. He composed even as a boy with his first polonaise published when he was seven, and achieved full development as a composer earlier than any of the other prominent European masters. Had he died at the age of twenty, his works would have assured him distinction in the musical world.

He came to Paris in 1831 and practically remained there for the second half of his life, traveling however to Berlin, Vienna, London, Scotland, and Italy. He was frail and in poor health a good deal of the time—he never married in spite of his ardent loves. These affairs of the heart, as well as political happenings in Poland, reflected themselves in his works and playings. Chopin died on October 17, 1849, in Paris, where he was buried. His heart was taken to Warsaw and built into the wall of the Holy Cross Church.

Chopin loved Poland above all else, and because of that love was able to give it a national heritage. He was endowed by his genius to express the soul of his people and by his music has helped to preserve the feelings and characteristics of the Polish spirit. His many works include a wide range of compositions—they include nocturnes, etudes, preludes, polonaises,

mazurkas, concertos, waltzes, sonatas, and ballades. The beauty of his melodies, the patriotic spirit of his rhythm, the richness of his harmonies and the depths of his emotions have indeed placed Chopin among immortals of the musical world.

On March 1, 1927, which was 2½ years too late to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the artist's death, Poland issued the 40 Gr. Scott's No. 243 in a simple design rendered by Prof. Zygmunt Kaminski. The stamp is ultramine on thick coated paper made by Jones in London. The ink readily dissolves in warm water. Some of the stamps are easily scratched with a fingernail. Copies in a much lighter blue also occur. The total issue is 3,059,000 and is perforated 12x11½ and 11½ (scarcer). The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 with value counters inscribed along the top margin of the sheet.

In 1947 Poland issued its cultural set where Chopin is honored on the Prussian green, 3 Zl value, released on March 31, 1947. 2,054,000 copies were issued imperf (Scott's No. 398a) and 6,353,000 copies perforated 11 (Scott's No. 398). The sheets include 100 stamps



with value counters along the top margin and with quantity counters along the bottom margin. Both lower corners have the identification N1W11, meaning Issue (Naklad) I, Cylinder (Walec) II. A flaw in this issue occurs on the 27th stamp of the sheet where the surface within the letter "A" in POLSKA is blurred to the same tone as the background. As soon as the postal authorities noticed this er-

ror, the stamp was removed from the sheets, making it quite rare.

On July 20, 1947, the same Chopin design appeared in olive green for the change of colors of the entire cultural set. 4,012,000 stamps were issued imperf (Scott's No. 407a) and 4,453,000 stamps were perforated 11 (Scott's No. 407). The sheets and marginal markings at the top and bottom are the same as in the original issue, except that the identifications in the lower corners read N2W11, N2W111, and N3-W1, like the markings of the first issue.

On June 10, 1948, the entire cultural set of 9 values was issued in the form of an effective souvenir sheet in the same colors as the July 20, 1947 set. Perforation is 11½. The printing was done by Courvoisier in Switzerland and is decidedly better than the original individual stamps. The Chopin stamp appears in the upper right-hand corner of the group. The face value of the set of stamps is 62 Zł with a surtax of 438 Zł, or a total value of 500 Zł. 50,000 of the sheets, numbered consecutively, were issued. The sheets were sold out or withdrawn at the post offices on July 20, 1948 and not many of them have made their appearance in America.



Prior to the last war, there appeared in Poland a movement to rebuild Chopin's birthplace. Black labels of 50 gr value were issued to raise funds. They show a head of Chopin and bear the inscription "For the home of Chopin in Zelazowa Wola."

70-4

WHEN POLONUS MEETS

The meeting of January 14, 1949 was called to order by the presiding officer, Chester Mikucki, with thirty-one members and five visitors in attendance.

Chairmen of the various committees rendered their reports, some of which are as follows:

Larry Zieler of the Publications Committee announced that due to the increase in postal rates, effective January 1st, it was necessary to go to the Post-office to affix a ½c stamp in addition to the usual rate on the BULLETIN. This had delayed delivery of the BULLETIN for a few days.

Jack Domar, on New Issues, announced that stamps were issued to commemorate the Worker's Congress, and others to fight tuberculosis. A dealer in New York seems to be getting information about the new issues of Poland far in advance of the public, resulting in his having the new issues on hand at time of announcement, and selling them as high as four times the face value.

Mr. Domar then read an article prepared for "New Issues" of the BULLETIN regarding the above issues, requesting the opinion of the membership. Mr. Lester Jankowski moved (seconded by Mr. Ben Reeves) that the members of POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY wholeheartedly approve the publication of this article. (Ed: See article under "New Issues.")

Following other reports the next important business of the evening was under way, with nomination of officers for 1949. The membership seemed unanimous in retaining Chester Mikucki as President, who respectfully declined the honor, stating his present difficulties in being able to fulfill his obligations of this office. Various expressions of thanks and "a job well done" were expressed by various members to both our President and Secretary, Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz. Nominations from the floor began with the result being as follows:

For

President: Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz
Vice Pres.: Chester Mikucki
Secretary: Mr. John Wendt
Treasurer: Mr. Adam Kloskowski
Board of Dir.: Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz
Mr. Jack Domar

There being no further business to transact, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

POLAND NO. 1 VARIETY

by Edwin Mueller

(Reprinted from Mercury Stamp Journal, December, 1948)

Poland #1 has been a stamp, for which much research has been done and it is therefore surprising that new facts can be discovered on the stamp itself. In 1944, a collector drew the attention of V. Rachmanov, the well-known expert on Polish stamps and postmarks to a variety, which was until then unrecorded, although it is not only very obvious, but also highly important. Mr. Rachmanov published the result of his research about the matter during the war, but the facts are practically unknown here and, with the assistance of Mr. Rachmanov, who is now a resident of this country, we give here the details of the new discovery. It consists of stamps which, aside from the usual red frame line around the center oval have a second such frame line, but in blue. A small number of copies have been found of this type, which certainly deserves a sub-number in the general catalogs as is granted in similar cases (for example Wenden #4b, which is quite an identical case, or Switzerland 1850 with framed crosses, which received even main numbers, due to the fact that all stamps on a plate had framed crosses). Investigations revealed that probably four stamps in the sheet of 100 showed the variety, which can be found also in pairs with normals, in all printings as well as on both kinds of paper, which proves that it was never corrected. It can be assumed that in the plates for the blue printing originally all clichés had the (unnecessary) blue frame line around the oval but that it was removed before the printing started. Obviously by accident on four clichés the frame was not or only incompletely removed and this resulted in the newly discovered varieties. As there were probably four in every sheet of 100, it can be supposed, that quite a number of them repose unnoticed in dealers' stocks and collections, giving the collector a good chance to find a scarce variety of the first Polish stamp of 1860.

TID BITS

Ben Reeves was the guest speaker at the "Roosevelt Philatelic Society," Chicago, January 18th.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

We have just received the Workers Party Merger Congress set scheduled for release on December 8th with the information that the issue has been overprinted in LIMITED?? quantities due to a change in the date on which it was held.

As previously reported the set consists of 3 stamps, 5, 15 and 25 zloty values. In the upper left corner is the date 8-12-48.

The original issue of the 5 zloty value is carmine, the 15 zloty, lilac and the 25 zloty in a sepia brown. This set was reissued in a change of color; the 5 zloty in brown-lilac, the 15 zloty-ultramarine and the 25 zloty in olive green. In the change of color set the 8 is omitted from the date.

—R. A. Wilson, J. Bieniecki, JJD

The anti-tubercular series has also appeared in 4 values, 3+2 zloty green, 5+5 zloty brown, 6+4 zloty purple and 15+10 zloty carmine.

All have a small child in the design. However to each stamp is attached beside it a label, perforated, gummed and of the same size, bearing an anti-tubercular slogan. There are 10 different slogans used, thus necessitating the purchase of 10 sets of stamps if one would like to be complete. Did I hear someone say racket?

—J. Bieniecki, R. Reinowski

A new commemorative airmail issue of 3 values has just been received.

The 80 zloty gray value honoring Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 100 zloty lilac, value honoring General Casimir Pulaski and a 120 zloty blue, value issued to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Death of Tadeusz Kosciuszko "1798-1948."

They were printed in sheets of 16 stamps or 20 positions, 4 horizontal rows by 5 vertical rows. In each position of the center vertical row is a different slogan, which honor the 3 men as fighters for "Liberty," "Humanity" and "Democracy."

They are rotogravured, 28 mm x 25 mm in size. Designed by T. Gronowski and printed by Courvoisier S. A. in Switzerland.

Now this is the part that seems to have a slight odor to it.

As late as December 31st our contacts (at least 15) which furnish us

with "New Issue" information had no definite information regarding this issue, yet a New York wholesaler not only knew about it but sends out a mimeographed letter dated January 8th with his wholesale prices, which is \$32 for a complete set of sheets, which have a face value of \$12.00 on the official rate of exchange and \$6.00 minus on the unofficial exchange rate.

It is my personal opinion that it's time that we call a halt to this parade of unnecessary issues. I can stretch my imagination and condone the Anti-tubercular issue—because of the cause of issue, but I cannot under any circumstances see the justification for this issue. Particularly when the New York wholesaler has the colossal nerve to advertise it as a "Limited Issue."

"Mr. Scott Catalogue" are you going to take on from here?

—J. J. Domar

A three value airmail set has been issued on a souvenir sheet. Values of 80 Zl in ultramarine picturing Roosevelt with a globe of the world in the background, 100 Zl red shows Kazimierz Pulaski, and the 120 Zl depicts Tadeusz Kosciuszko, printed in green. All three stamps have an American flag in the foreground and an airplane in the background. The sheet is perforated, an inscription at the bottom of the stamps reads in two lines "Bojownicy / O Wolnosc i Demokracje" in caps, which translated means, "Champions of Democracy." At the lower right beneath ornamental margins appear "300+200 Zl," evidently a 200 Zl surtax being collected with the sale of each sheet, but for purpose unknown at this time. From unofficial sources it is said this issue has been printed in Switzerland, with total issue of 20,000. Little or no advance information about this issue has been released, and the high face value and surtax leaves no doubt about the purely speculative intention of this issue.

—Larry C. Zieler

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard M. Katz
Box 21
Crystal Lake, Illinois
Vincent Czarnowski
Cavia 3333
Buenos Aires
Argentina

POLISH BIOGRAPHIES

by Thaddeus E. Gasior

JULIUSZ SLOWACKI — The year 1949 marks the 100th Anniversary of the death of another great Pole, Juliusz Slowacki. He was the link in Poland's literary tradition, standing out as an isolated jewel amidst the classic Kocanowski and the modern Wyspianski. Slowacki's genius fertilized many branches of his nation's literature. The reason he lives is the reason Shakespeare lives. He was an instrument, and through him, a culture found voice. Simply put, he was Poland's whole, unique culture. In his poetry were happily fused the northern Romanticism of the Baltic, the English, and the German, the "clarity" of the southern classical tradition.

He was born in the Wolynian town of Krzemieniec, on September 4, 1809, which is near the area where the southern Steppes merges with the Northern Forests. His family, though native to the Borderlands, were not typical of that region, his mother's people being of Armenian origin with a tendency and fondness of business which was traditionally shunned by the Poles of the Borderland. His father, on the other hand, was a partially self-taught man of languages and literature, who at the age of 36 became instructor of poetry, and rhetoric in the Lyceum of Krzemieniec. Eager to advance his position, he and his family left for Wilno, and when Juliusz was three years old, his father was appointed to a professorship at the University of Stefan Batory in Wilno. They stayed here for three years until the professor died, and the mother had to return to Krzemieniec with her son. Here Juliusz received the warmth and welcome of his grandmother who strongly influenced and filled his mind with all the beauty and sadness of the Borderland. After a stay of four years his mother remarried to a very wealthy doctor and they removed to Wilno.

Her husband, Dr. Becu, caused Juliusz much grief, as he was strongly anti-Polish and pro-Russian, and the un-Polishness of his home life hung over the sensitive Slowacki like a black pall. He became very depressed.

After finishing his studies at the age of 20, he said farewell forever to his mother and homestead and made his way to Warsaw where he stayed for two years, working in the Treas-

ury Department. He loathed this work very much and plunged himself to his childhood land of dreams, writing in a forged style of poetry that pleased himself. Two important works emanated from his Warsaw stay, the drama "Marya Stuart" and "Jan Bielecki." These are full of intrigue, treachery, and revenge, based on his life in the Borderland.

He was only 4 years of age when death visited him in 1849, with only a very few mourners at his funeral, and without a single member of his family. His passing was hardly noticed because nobody missed him as a person, but his contemporaries, the Krasiński brothers, correctly estimated the loss of Polish literature his death meant.

In 1947, Poland honored his memory with the issuance of a postage stamp in the "Polish Culture" series, and he is shown on Scott's #402 and 402a, with Stanislaw Wyspianski and Jan Kasprowski, also great Polish Literary Artists. With the change of colors of this series at a later date, the same design may be found on Scott's #411 and 411a.



SO SORRY

"SPYING EYE," author of "GERMAN PROPAGANDA FORGERIES," appearing in the Issue #69 for December, 1948, of the BULLETIN, has called to our attention that the acknowledgement to J. J. Domar and Larry C. Zieler for use of their material and information in connection with the preparation of the article was omitted.

TID BITS

Max G. Johls' column in Stamps of December 25, writes that Polonus member Anthony A. Banasiak of Chicago—recently had the good fortune of finding two matched sheets of the 13 cent U. S. special delivery with double paper on the 4th, 5th and 6th rows. These were lower right and left of plate number 231721 and had cellophane tape over the front of row 3 and 4 and on the back of the 6th row. Mr. Banasiak also found a single pane

of the 17c special delivery with double paper.

It just shows to go ya' that Polonus members also are collectors of other than just the stamps of Poland.

* * *

To our Chicago members we would like to announce that the meetings of the Chicago Philatelic Society will be held at the Hotel Sherman in the future instead of the Hamilton Hotel.

* * *

Word from Australia reaches us to announce that member Keyes has become the proud father of a 5 lb. 13 oz. baby boy. Congratulations!

* * *

Our thanks to members A. Hampel, F. Wisniwski, R. Ragan, Imielski, Prof. Mikstein, and Z. Kaszewski, of Poland, Ozleblo of England, and D. Palmer of Chile, for their very nice Season's Greetings to Polonus Philatelic Society.

* * *

It will pay every Polonus member to examine carefully the changes in the titles of the illustrations for Central Lithuania, in part II, of Scott's 1949 Catalog as compared with the titles in the 1948 edition. The changes are most welcome as they represent information contributed by Polonus members to amend the catalog and reflect sincere efforts of the publisher to improve "The Encyclopedia of Philately" in every possible manner.

* * *

Word has just reached us from Mr. Bojanowicz in London that his publication is being discontinued with the New Year, due to financial and technical difficulties (lack of paper, etc.) We regret to hear this news, because the "Wiadomosci Filatelistyczne" filled a need in Polish philately and Mr. Bojanowicz certainly bent every effort to keep it going during the two years of its existence. We trust that much of the information available to him will find its way to other publications.

* * *

The Ogden Hill Stamp Club announces their CHPEX 1949 to be held

on March 19 and 20, at the Ogden Park Field House, 65th and Throop St. The show will be bigger than ever, with over 200 frames in the exhibit. Dealers will be on hand to offer nice philatelic material for sale. The Public Opinion award will again be repeated, with visitors in attendance casting their vote for the exhibit they like best. A philatelic information booth will endeavor to answer any questions that visitors may have, and refreshments will be served. This promises to be a worthwhile event to attend.

* * *

The Inaugural Stamp Exhibition of the Philatelic Museum of Philadelphia (Broad & Diamond Sts.) was held from December 5th to 19th, 1948. The opening ceremonies were described in the philatelic press in great detail and the event was widely publicized in the daily press. Polonus membership was well represented in the opening show, the exhibits were by special invitation only, exhibitors being asked to show a certain specialty in order to avoid duplication of material.

Polonus members who exhibited were:

Stephen G. Rich, Verona, N. J.—Cape of Good Hope Triangles, 1853-65

Stephen G. Rich, Verona, N. J.—Union of So. Africa 1910-26

Dr. Edw. H. Lewandowski, Phila., Pa.—Montenegro

Vincent Domanski, Jr., Phila., Pa.—Poland #1

Vincent Domanski, Jr., Phila., Pa.—Russia — Pieces from Collection of Czar Nicholas II

Vincent Domanski, Jr., Phila., Pa.—U. S. & Foreign Christmas Seals.

Ben Reeves, Chicago, Ill.—Heligoland.

It is well to note at this time that Polonus member Vincent Domanski, Jr., past president of the S. P. A. was Vice Chairman of the show and is the Treasurer of the Museum besides being on the Board of Trustees.

* * *

We received a very interesting cover from a member, M. A. Bojanowicz of England in which was enclosed also Holiday Greetings to all members. The cover was made of a part of a military map of Poland.

* * *

By the time this BULLETIN is re-70-8

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Larry C. Zieler, Chairman
3120 S. May St.
Chicago 8, Ill.

M. E. Steczynski, Editor
4154 N. Le Claire Ave.
Chicago 41, Ill.

Associate Editors this Issue

Jack J. Domar
3715 Clinton Ave.
Berwyn, Ill.

ceived by members of Polonus the Prospectus for the coming POLPEX 1949 should be delivered. You are urged to submit this as early as possible, bearing in mind that all entries are limited to eight frames per exhibitor, and those first come will be first served. Your co-operation in this matter is solicited.

* * *

Myron Steczynski, writing in the April 1944 issue of the Polonus Bulletin, said that if he were asked to name his favorite stamp of Poland, he would choose the dark blue Sobieski at Vienna, Scott's No. 278. According to the Filalelista Polski of Poznan, a recent survey among readers and collectors in Poland and abroad names this same stamp as the most attractive of the prewar issues of Poland. Scott's No. B29, Warsaw 1938 Exhibition Issue with the Stage Coach and Wayside Inn was selected as the prettiest souvenir sheet, and Scott's No. B41, Last Stand at Westerplatte as the prettiest post-war stamp. The London Issue, Scott's 3K1 to K8 was selected as the prettiest Polish series abroad after 1939.

MEMBERS MART

POLAND, mint, used and on cover, new issues, FDC, Germany, Austria, etc. Everything on approval to members of POLONUS. Conditions and prices guaranteed to satisfy.

WANTED, offers from members in Poland.

Joseph Bieniecki, 2509 East 23rd St., Granite City, Illinois, U. S. A.