

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 243

August 1966

WELCOME TO POLAND'S MILLENNIUM POLPEX!

This year, Poles all over the world are celebrating Poland's Millennium of Christianity. We at Polonus are honoring this event with our annual exhibition, POLPEX 1966 on August 26th, 27th and 28th, at the Polish Museum of America, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago.

Participating in our exhibition is His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman with his Religion on Stamps exhibit in our Court of Honor. Acting as Honorary Chairman is the Most Rev. Aloysius J. Wycislo, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago.

The official Polpex opening ceremony will take place on Friday, August 26th at 7:00 p.m. with the cutting of the ribbon by the Most Reverend Władysław Rubin, Delegate of Cardinal Wyszynski of Poland, in the presence of many prominent Polonia personalities.

Visitors to the Polpex will see the largest exhibition of Poland's stamps outside of Poland. Historical material from the pre-philatelic period through the present day will be shown. The Polish American Numismatic Association will join us with an outstanding exhibit of "1000 Years of Polish Coins" to be shown in the hall adjoining the exhibition hall. An additional exhibit of commemorative medallions and military decorations will be shown in the Civil War Room.

Beautiful Polpex mementos — souvenir sheets, opening day covers, first day covers of Poland's Millennium stamp, program catalogs, and a special Millennium medal struck by P.A.N.A. will be available to the visitors.



**The Most Rev. Aloysius J. Wycislo,
Honorary Polpex Chairman**

The Post Office Department will service mail and use a special Polpex cancellation for the duration of the exhibition. Their postal station will be located in the Kosciuszko Room. In addition, they will display the "Birth of a Stamp" panels of the U.S. Poland's Millennium 5c commemorative.

Join your fellow members and friends when they gather for the traditional Beebe on Saturday, August 27th at 10:00 p.m. The presentation of awards will take place at this time.

Don't miss this rare occasion and opportunity to get together and in our own way, to honor Poland's Millennium.

— Alfred Szebel
Polpex Chairman

Millennium Stamp First Day Sale Beats All Records!

Before the initial printing of 115 million of Poland's Millennium stamp went on sale, the heavy advance demand compelled the Postmaster General to take unprecedented action in ordering a second printing of 110 million additional stamps. The first day cover requests for the stamp as well as orders for mint stamps were at all time record levels.

Over 1500 people attended what is now an historic event — because it was the largest banquet ever staged by Polish-Americans in the nation's capital — when the new 5-cent stamp was dedicated that commemorated the 100th anniversary of Christianity in Poland.

The gala dinner was staged in the Sheraton Park Hotel on Saturday, July 30th, 1966.

Postmaster General O'Brien, principal speaker at the affair, praised the Polish people as a group ever ready to "fight for your freedom and ours."

Mr. O'Brien noted that the two most "outstanding and striking facts" that can be found in the core of Polish history are "Poland's commitment to religion and Poland's commitment to brotherhood."

Judge Thaddeus Adesko of Chicago, and the Very Rev. Norbert Zonca o.f.m. of Buffalo, were co-chairmen of the national committee.

An outstanding address was delivered by Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo of Chicago, U.S. Senator Muskie of Maine, was toastmaster. Benediction was said by Bishop Stanislaus Brzana of Buffalo.

Polonus was represented at the banquet by Myron E. Steczynski who sat at the main table with the committee and guests of honor. Myron commented that the food, program and entertainment were just wonderful.

Polonus was privileged in having a table at the hotel for the sale of our first day covers. Our President, Josef Bendkowski, was saddled with the job of managing the sales, and according to him, buying was so heavy that he could not leave his post to eat at the banquet. He stayed at his post selling covers from 4:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Other Polonus members who made the trip to Washington for the first day banquet were Roman Strzelecki, Stefan Kochanski, Zdzisław Wagrowski, and junior members Barbara Strzelecki and Andreas Kochanski.

From the members attending we hear nothing but compliments for our Polonus cacheted first day cover. It was the general opinion of the banquet crowd that the Polonus envelope was the nicest design among the 30 or more different designs seen on covers that first day.

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PHILATELY IN POLAND

By R. Winiarski

Reprinted from THE AUSTRALIAN STAMP MONTHLY

This year Poland is celebrating the 1000th anniversary of its Statehood. It was in 966 that the first King Mieszko I married the Czech Princess Dabrowka and accepted Christianity.

To commemorate this historic event a national exhibition will be held and all those who collect stamps of Poland were invited to participate.

This article is intended to highlight the development of philately in Poland. For convenience, I have divided its history into three periods.

1915-1939

Prior to World War I Poland did not exist as an independent country. In 1792, it was divided between Austria, Russia and Prussia. In each of the occupied parts, stamps and postmarks of the ruling country were in use, but in the Austrian and Russian parts postmarks either in Polish or bilingual were used, with an exception in the Russian occupied parts of Poland.

It was in 1860 that the first Polish stamp was issued in Warsaw.

Like in many other countries the hobby of collecting stamps soon developed. A philatelic movement, as we know it, developed early in this century and Poland was no exception — in 1915 the first philatelic club was opened in Warsaw. The permission was obtained from the German military authority for such a club which was opened on 3/11/1915. The name attracted the leading philatelists of that time and a serious study of Polish postal history and of the first stamp began.

After the Allied victory in 1918, Poland regained its independence and soon after philatelic clubs sprung up in many cities and then shortly, in 1919, the first philatelic exhibition was held in Warsaw. To cater to the needs of the philatelists a rich press came into being and at one time seven publications were attending to their needs. Research was conducted on the pre-philatelic covers and on the many overprinted issues of the 1918-1922 issues. To popularize the hobby and to take

stock of the development of philately frequent exhibitions were held: in Warsaw — 1928, Torun — 1933, Katowice — 1934 and the last pre-war in Warsaw in 1938. Amongst those who contributed to the development of Polish philately is none other than Englishman, Col. R. N. W. Larking. In 1921, he was a member of the Allied Plebiscite Commission in Silesia, became interested in stamps of Poland and made a thorough study of the earlier issues. His work is even today a reference book of great value. Of Polish specialists with a reputation in Europe we will name but a few: Messrs. Polanski, Mikstein, Rachmanov, Łaskiewicz, Tislowitz, brothers Gryzewski and many others.



One of a set of thirteen stamps issued in Nov. 1938 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Independence. The 55gr. bright blue shows symbols of the Constitution of May 3, 1791.

1939-1944

These were the darkest years in the history of the Polish people. The War and the brutal Nazi occupation cost the nation very dearly. Five million people perished and amongst them many leading philatelists. National treasures were lost and outstanding collections were looted and lost in fires. The Postal Museum was robbed and rare proofs and imperforated stamps which were never issued found their way into private collections. Organized philatelic life ceased to exist but individuals continued with their hobby as best they could. There were opportunities to col-

lect — besides official stamps — the Polish underground issued the so-called A.K. stamps. The Polish Government in London issued several sets of stamps and even in the P.O.W. camps, stamps were printed for internal use. Of special interest to philatelists is the set of stamps which were issued in the Jewish Ghetto in Lodz and the scout field post cancellations used during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising.



This 2 zł. carmine stamp is another of the 1938 20th Anniversary series. It portrays Romuald Traugutt, one of the leaders of the November Uprising of 1830-31.

1944-1966

As soon as part of Poland was liberated philatelists became active again. They started to collect the provisional cancellations, the first set of stamps was issued on 7/9/1944 and this was documented by eager philatelists. It is of some interest to us to learn that the name of a Polish national hero — Kosciuszko, is given to the highest mountain in Australia. After liberation of Poland, in 1915, philatelic activities began to blossom. Clubs and societies were opened in dozens of cities. Philatelic publications appeared in the old philatelic cities like Poznan, Krakow and Lodz. By 1950 it became apparent that a national body was needed to co-ordinate the work of the many societies in existence. A conference was held in 1951 and a national executive was elected and a constitution was adopted. The center was located in Warsaw with full time functionaries to look after the work of the many societies. On a regional basis — provincial committees were elected to look after the local, factory and school philatelic clubs. The growth of membership was astronomical.

In 1958 they had 22,622 dues paying

members; 1963, 93,165 members, and in 1965, 142,155 members, of which 48,681 were juniors.

This large membership was organized into 459 city clubs, 906 in factories and 1,645 in schools. All told, 3,010 clubs. A central biweekly, "Filatelista," recently celebrated its 250th issue, and many local societies publish their own bulletins.

Philately in Poland is extensively used by the education authorities used by the education authorities in schools. They believe that "the hobby" can improve concentration, teach systematic approach to work, can help in composition in the study of history or geography.

Medicine is also using the hobby of stamp collecting in tuberculosis sanitariums and rest-homes for handicapped children. The Melbourne Polish Philatelic Society regularly sends stamps to a tuberculosis sanitarium in Rabka.

The 1960 International Philatelic Exhibition held in Warsaw under the auspices of F.I.P., to commemorate the centenary of the first Polish stamp, attracted famous collections the world over. The grand prix was awarded to Mr. Bojanowicz (London) for his outstanding collection of number one and a gold medal went to Mr. Kolpak, Warsaw, for his classical collection of Poland. Many others received high recognition in international exhibitions for classical as well as thematic collections. Polish philatelic societies exist abroad and the oldest and most influential is the "Polonus" Society in Chicago, U.S.A. In England — the London Polish Philatelic Society has many fine philatelists who continued the work started by Col. Larking way back in the 1920's. In Melbourne, a similar society was organized in 1959.

The 1000th anniversary of Statehood and Christianity were commemorated by special issues of stamps by Poland, U.S.A. and the Vatican. A national stamp exhibition will be held in October in Warsaw open to all those who collect the stamps of Poland.

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NEW ISSUES

Harvest Festival

On August 15, 1966 the Polish Post will issue a set of three stamps devoted to the Harvest Festival "Dożynki".

The harvest festival is traditionally celebrated in Poland at the end of harvest time. Formerly it was connected with rural customs and rites to secure good crops in the following year. Later it became a symbol of harvest end and was accompanied with folk amusements. Today the central harvest festival, rich in artistic performances, is kept every year and is attended by the highest authorities.

The 40 gr. and 60 gr. values are agricultural products. The 60 gr. shows a country woman with a loaf of bread. On the 3.40 zł. a traditional festival wreath is shown.

Rotogravure multicolor printed at the PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper: designed by Helena Matuszewska.

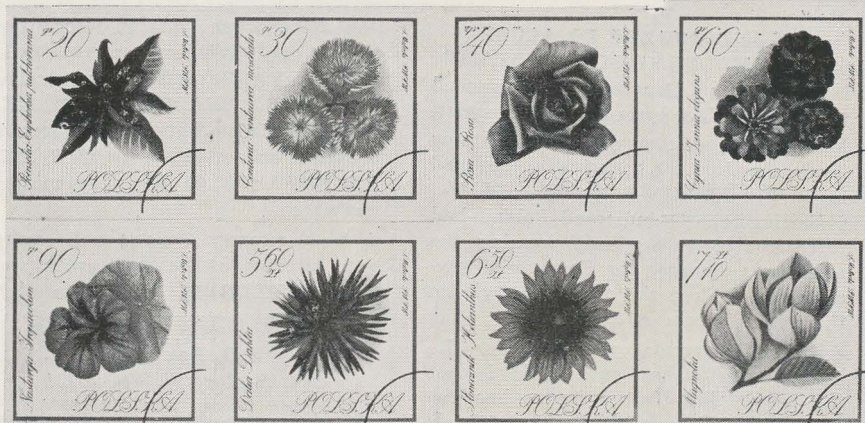
The 40 gr. and 60 gr. values are printed in sheets of 30 stamps 8,500,000 of each value to be printed. The 3.40 zł. is printed in sheets of 25, 1,800,000 of this value to be printed.

Garden Flowers

In September, 1966 the Polish Post will issue a second set of "Garden Flowers". The first set was issued in 1964.

The nine stamps represent: 10 gr. chrysanthemum, 20 gr. euphorbia, 30 gr. centaury, 40 gr. rose, 60 gr. zinnia, 90 gr. nasturtium, 5.60 zł. dahlia, 6.50 zł. sunflower, and 7.10 zł. magnolia.

Designed by St. Malecki and rotogravure multicolor printed at the PWPW in Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 20 stamps. Quantities: 8 million of the 10 and 20 gr., 6 million of the 30 and 60 gr. 7,500,000 of the 40 gr., 2,500,000 of the 90 gr., 1,300,000 of the 5.60 zł., and 1,200,000 of the 6.50 and 7.50 zł.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, August 24th —

Polpex Chairman, Alfred Szebel asks those who can make it to come to the museum at 7:00 p.m. and help to assemble the easels for the exhibition. Pliers and a screw driver would be useful.

Thursday, August 25th —

Mounting Night at the museum — 7:00 p.m. All Chicagoland members are asked to participate in putting up the show. There are many out-of-town exhibits to be laid out in frames. Bring along cloths for wiping glass — and screw driver.

Friday, August 26th —

At 7:00 p.m. the official opening of the Polpex with ribbon cutting ceremony with the Most Rev. Wladyslaw Rubin and Most Rev. Aloysius J. Wycislo and other dignitaries participating. Exhibition, Bourse and Polpex Post Office open to public. Judging of the exhibits to take place. Winners to be announced before end of evening.

Saturday, August 27th —

Exhibition, Bourse, Post Office and other Museum Rooms open to public at 10:00 a.m. Buying, selling, trading, visiting and renewing old acquaintances will be the order of the day. Beeba at 10:00 p.m. Presentation of awards.

Sunday, August 28th —

Show, Bourse, Post Office and Museum Rooms open to public at 10:00 a.m. Browsing, visiting, buying, selling and trading until 6:00 p.m. Dismanteling of exhibits.

POLAND AGREES TO ACCEPT NEW MILLENNIUM U.S. STAMP

The State Department announced that Poland has agreed to receive mail bearing the controversial U.S. stamp issued on July 30 honoring a thousand years of Christianity in that country.

Earlier reports indicated Poland had threatened to refuse mail bearing the new stamp because the Communist government disliked the fact the eagle on the stamp wears a crown.

State Department press Officer Robert J. McCloskey said "this is not the case." The United States has discussed the issue with Polish officials

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

and received assurance "mail bearing this stamp will be handled normally." McCloskey said.

The eagle, symbol of Poland for a thousand years, has been retained by the Communists — but the Communist eagle does not wear a crown.

IKAROS PUBLICATIONS

Several books published by the pre-war periodical IKAROS are still available. For information write (in Polish or English) to:

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