

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLAND'S POLONICA CLUB HONORS POLONUS

By DR. MIECZYSLAW A. LIPINSKI

Six Polonus members were singled out to receive a Diploma of Recognition by "Klub Poonica" at their first exhibition POLONICA 77 held June 4-12, 1977 at Chodzież, near Poznań, Poland.

Chester Mikucki, the founder of Polonus; Myron Steczynski for his enormous literary contributions and other activities; Chester Schaffer for merits as Editor of the "Polonus Bulletin"; Chester Makowski for the translating of Polish articles; Dr. Miet Kamiński for his promotion of Polish philately in Canada; Alfred Szebel for his organizing of Polpex shows since 1967, especially the Copernican and U.S. Bicentennial Polpex exhibitions.



Presentation of Diploma of Recognition to Alfred Szebel by President Lipinski.

Polonus President Alfred Szebel was personally invited to attend the exhibition and meeting of the Polonica Club in Poland. On behalf of Polonus, he presented the Club with the special commemorative Polonus medal struck for



Polonus President A. Szebel in center. To his left is Jan Witkowski of Poznań, Z. Hampel, L. Konopiński, Dr. M. Lipiński, J. Dobrzeński, and other members of the Polonica Club.



Men table at the meeting of the Polonia Club in Chodzież, Poland. The speaker is Dr. M. Lipiński, President of Polonica and a long time member of Polonus. Next to him is A. Szebel, Polonus President, and then J. Dobrzeński, President of the Warsaw Club. Photo taken June 12, 1977.

the U.S. Bicentennial. At the same time, Mr. Szebel presented the President of Polonica, Dr. M. Lipiński, with Honorary Membership in Polonus for his countless articles submitted for publication in the "Polonus Bulletin", Polpex program books, as well as "Linn's", "Stamps", "Dziennik Chicagoski", "Dziennik Związkowy", etc.

President Szebel also presented Polpex souvenir sheets, covers, and other Polonus memorabilia to Polonica members and honored guests.

Other philatelist from abroad to receive diplomas are: Jan Berek, founder of the Polish Philatelic Society in England; John Landau and Marian Szczepanowski, founders of the Polish Philatelic Society Australia; Czesław Słania, of Sweden for his designs and engraving of postage stamps.

The Polonica Club is a chapter of the Polish Philatelic Federation (P.Z.F.). Members collect postal material issued by countries other than Poland, to honor Poland, its culture, science, famous personalities, or any other Polish topic. Established in 1964, it now consists of 120 members who not only collect, but study and research the Polonica topic thoroughly. In

the last few years they have organized exhibitions abroad, and participated in many local, national, and international shows.

At the conclusion of the visit of President Alfred Szebel, the Polonica Club made him an Honorary Member, the third to receive this award. Previous such honors were granted to Prof. A. Łaskiewicz and the founder of Polonica, M. Kamski.

ROMANIAN BULLETIN

"ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES" published by the Romanian Philatelic Club of New York, 50c a copy from Mircea Abramovici, 209 Berger Street, Somerset, N.J. 08873.

The bulletin has no advertisements, only studies on Romanian philately and postal history, reviews of Romanian philatelic literature, summaries of the latest issues of the Romanian philatelic magazine "FILATELIA", useful information on Romania, etc.

Philatelists who have done some studies on Romanian stamps and postal history are invited to share their knowledge and send articles to the editor: George Pataki, 34-24 76th Street, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

POSTS IN THE FREE CITY OF CRACOW

By M. A. BOJANOWICZ, R.D.P.

Cracow was the capital of Poland until 1609 when for political reasons it was transferred to Warsaw.

It was an important city at it was linked by the trade routes to the Hanseatic ports in the North, with Russia and the East with Venice and Rome in the South.

As a result it played a very prominent part in history and suffered many vicissitudes and this is reflected in its Postal History. In early times the Trade Guilds and the great Trading Houses organized their own posts alongside that of the King and the earliest record of such a post is in 1387 when in order to expedite the dispatch of letters, the Trade Guilds organized horse riders to replace the much slower foot letter carriers.

The Trading Houses developed as is natural, their own postal system, and one of the best organized was that of Fugger, a South German firm which had established itself in Cracow during the 15th century. This firm ran a service to Antwerp which departed from Cracow once a month and another mail route ran to Rome via Vienna and Venice. Another important firm was that of Severin Boner, 1486-1569, who was Court Banker at Cracow; he attempted to reorganize the posts but his early demise resulted in only the Cracow post functioning successfully whilst the Polish Post as a whole was far from satisfactory. The First Master of the Posts was Prosper Provano who was granted this privilege on October 15th, 1558. He ran a highly

successful mail service from Cracow to Rome, he merged the Royal Posts, the Trading and the Guild post and ran them as a unified service. He died in September, 1584 and was followed by another Venetian, Montelupi, who had also settled in Cracow. This article, however, will not dwell on the early history of the Cracow Posts as it has already been adequately covered by others, it is only given here by way of parenthesis.

During the years 1770-1792, the only postal markings were A) a single circle 17 mm. diameter, in the center was the town name "CRACOVIA" 14 mm. x 25 mm., above which was a flat shaped crown and below a posthorn facing left with a square trumpet piece. Of these only few entries are known, the earliest dated 26-3-1773 and the latest 2-10-1783. All were struck in black (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

And B) also circular being 16.5 mm. diameter, above the initial "K" was also a crown, dates of usage being between 19-8-1786-1792. These are in black and red (Fig. 2).

Apparently, later during the early 19th century letters were again endorsed in manuscript and are found without any handstamp. One such letter endorsed "CRACOVIA" addressed to "Verona" Italy in 1803 has only the postal marking of Venice (a ver-

tical dotted oval reading in five lines "IMP REG VFF/DI POSTA /IN VENEZ/ E TRANSITO") (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

The anti-Russian insurrections led by Kosciuszko in March 1790 while being abortive, had consequences which were far reaching, for in 1795 the third Partition of Poland took place.

However, in 1809 Napoleon incorporated Cracow into the Duchy of Warsaw. During this period a peculiar hand-stamp was in use consisting of three tiers. The upper one had the town name "KRAKOW", the center tier had the abbreviation P.Z.g.-Sr. "paid to the frontier in silver groschen" and the lower tier had the abbreviation P.K.Zł.gr. "paid with gold Złoty" (Fig. 4).

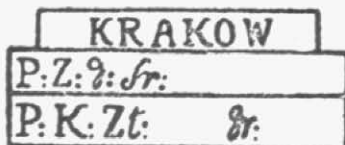


Fig. 4

After the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, the Congress of Vienna conceded the city and its environs to be a "Free Town" under the joint patronage of Austria, Prussia and Russia. As a result of this, each of these countries opened a post office of their own to handle mail passing to and from Cracow to their own territory. These offices existed from 1818 until 1846 when Cracow was completely absorbed by the Austrians, all other postal agencies being withdrawn by agreement.

We shall take each of the Post Offices in turn and record the markings found on mail emanating from them. It should be noted that most of the mail from Cracow was destined to Austria, hence a larger proportion of postal markings are known.

The earliest recorded date is to be found on an entire of February 15th, 1818 addressed to Stayer, Austria. (Capes collection) (Fig. 5).

CRACAU Fig. 5

This hand-stamp was again changed to a new type reading "Cracovie" (in French), and is found in two varieties: (Figs. 6a and 6b).



Cover from Cracow to Verona with Venetian marking similar to Fig. 3

- (a) Small letters 3 mm. high
x29mm. long.
(b) Small letters 1½mm. high.

Cracovie Fig. 6a

Cracovie. Fig. 6b

These marks were usually applied by the Austrian Post Office clerks at the Austrian side of the border on all incoming mail from the city of Cracow. The earliest date I have seen for this hand-stamp is January 22, 1828, and the latest date August 21, 1830 for type A.

For type B the earliest recorded date seen is November 24, 1832 and the latest dated December 6, 1832.

The Austrian Post Office introduced a new type of hand-stamp consisting of an oval with a cross shaped date: (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

Krakau
10. APR.

Fig. 8

The entires seen are dated April 13, 1833 to Bordeaux and July 24, 1838, to Austria, with no dividing line between the day and the month. Mueller's hand-book shows the example with a dividing line. So both types could have been in use.

A further change occurred with the appearance of a two lined hand-stamp which had the town name in italic type and the date below (Fig. 8), it was introduced circa 1839 and the dates of usage as seen on entires are August 28, 1839 to Steyer-Austria and August 2, 1844 to Nuremberg-Bavaria.

It should be noted that where the date stamp in the Austrian mark has the year omitted the German arrival hand-stamp at Nuremberg has the date in full.

This concludes the Austrian markings for the Free Town of Cracow as in 1846, Cracow became incorporated into Austria proper. We find the Austrian Post Office use of the double circle with the town name above and an ornament at the base; placed between the circle in the center of the inner circle is the date in vertical format with a dividing line: (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9

The outer circle is 23.5 mm in diameter.

The inner circle is 15.0mm in diameter.

Entires seen are:

May 24 ? to Brun.

November 9 ? to Radom.

October 18, 1848 from Odessa Russia to London, England. This has the "Forwarding Agent's" cachet at Cracow dated 18-10-48. It passed through the Cracow Post Office the same day and arrived via Ostend (per endorsement) at London October 24th, 1848. (Capes collection).

The Polish Office

Very little mail passed through this office and as a consequence material from this source is quite scarce. As was to be expected the main bulk of the mail passed through Austria which had almost a monopoly. The Polish Post Office was closed and the extra-territorial Polish office was opened on July 1st, 1836.

However, from the known entries two types of hand-stamps have been recorded:

- (a) A single circle of 22 mm. diameter with central date but no dividing line (Fig. 10) in red.



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

- (b) A double circle 23½ mm. and the inner 22½ mm. The date has a dividing line (Fig. 11) in red. Earliest date in my collection 3. XII. 1839, latest date 13. I. 1843.

Of these marks the following have been seen on entries:

Single circle 19-8-?

Double circle:

December 3rd, 1839. To Random Poste Restante.

January 13th, 1843. To Random with Polish Franco mark in arc.

September 3rd, 1844. Trieste. Has Warsaw town mark of origin. Krakow hand-stamp as transit mark.

The Prussian Office

The Prussian Post Office used a hand-stamp similar to the

Austrian as illustrated in Fig. 8 but in Roman capitals (Fig. 12).

KRAKAU
13. OCT.

Fig. 12

The earliest entire from this office seen is June 22nd, 1820 on a letter to Leipzig. Again very small quantities of mail passed through this office and material is rather difficult to find.

Entries recorded and seen are as follows:

June 22nd, 1820. To Leipzig, Germany.

October 13th, 1825. To Gotha, Germany.

July 30th, 1941. To Beaune, France, arrived August 8th, 1841.

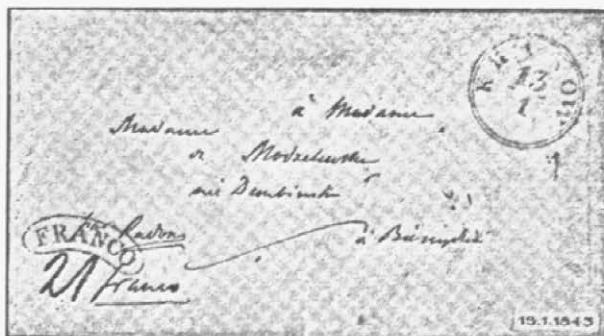
There is one other mark which cannot yet be fitted into any of the above categories but seems to be of Austrian origin. It is the shaping Roman type of Krakow (Fig. 13).

KRAKAU
2. AUG.

Fig. 13

This mark is found on entire to Zaleopol c/o Nowy Targ, the date August 2nd, (the year unknown).

Anyone having material not recorded here is invited to contact the author c/o the Editor.



1843 cover with double circle mark of Polish Post Office

CHESTER MAKOWSKI — AN HONORARY MEMBER

By ROMAN H. STRZELECKI

Polonus Philatelic Society is nearing its 40th year. From its very beginning the Society was an active and dynamic group. Among its members was a variety of personalities. Some were natural leaders, promoters, showmen — others were historians, or wheelers and dealers.

But there was also a group of members whom we regarded as "all around members". Many of these were hard working but preferred to stay in the background. They were always ready to give a helping hand for some Polonus event, participate in the activities, or make a donation.

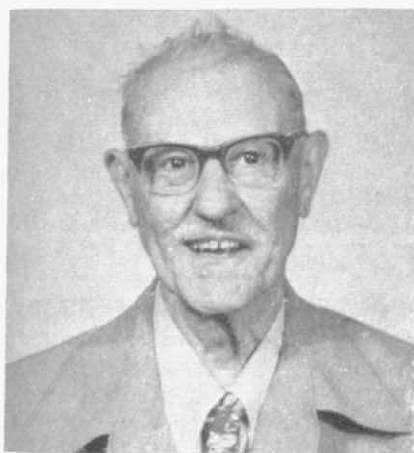
Then there were others who spent countless hours, researching, and writing, digging into a new phase of Poland's philately.

As Polonus grew older, the members gradually appreciated such contributions. The Society established its most valued award, greater even than a Polpex grand award, that of an "Honorary Member". "For special achievement to a special person", the Society expressed its thanks. Very few members receive this award.

This year it was decided to honor member #317, CHESTER W. MAKOWSKI, an all-around hand at Polonus.

As a lawyer, his profession demanded much of his time. But he still was able to find time for writing, translations and research.

In the early 50's Polonus was studying postal history. In translating such articles from the Polish language, Chester fell in love with this aspect of Polish philately and began collecting it. His collection of postal history won him his first grand award in



1958, followed by two more grand awards later on.

In the 60's Polonus decided to publish a 48-page booklet "The Scout Field Post in the Warsaw Uprising" by Tadeusz Gryżewski. The original manuscript was in Polish. The monumental task of translating it was undertaken by Chester Makowski.

Here again, not only did he do translating and research, but he built up his own extensive reference collection of Warsaw Uprising material which today has grown into one of the finest.

He was the first of the Chicago group to enter his collection in national and international exhibitions for which he received many silver and gold medals.

Many a board of directors meeting was held in the law office of Chester Makowski. He always made it a point to serve refreshments at his own expense. He was always generous in his donations, but he not only gave of his money but of himself.

For these reasons Polonus bestowed on him the title of "Honorary Member".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 22, 1977:

Program Meeting—President A. Szebel will speak on his recent trip to POLONICA 77 and his visit with "Klub Polonica" in Poland. He will pass out souvenir cards to all members attending.

Friday, August 26, 1977:

Regular Meeting — POLPEX 78 plans to be discussed.

POLONUS EMBLEM PINS NOW AVAILABLE!

Because of the many inquiries received for a Polonus emblem pin, President Alfred Szebel designed a lapel pin, and with the approval of the board ordered 250. The long awaited lapel finally arrived and it's thing of beauty in gold, red and white enamel. Members may purchase them at \$3.00 each plus 50c postage from John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60647.



Pin design (double size)

NEW ISSUES

Polish Art Masterpieces

As a continuation of the series of Masterpieces of Polish Art two values were issued in late 1976. A 1.00 zł. shows the "Epitaph of Wierzbieto from Branice", 1425, painted on a wooden board. The 6.00 zł. shows a wooden sculpture of "The Beautiful Madonna", 1410. Offset printed by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 30 on chalky paper. 10,000,000 of the 1.00 zł. value were issued while only 5,000,000 of the 6.00 zł. value were issued. Designed by Stefan Matecki.

Information courtesy Roman Burkiewicz

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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 \$5.00 —

GET WELL WISHES

Best wishes to Benedict Jan-czewski of Enfield, Conn. who is recuperating after an illness.

NEW MEMBERS

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