

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 No. 263

November 1968

Polonus To Celebrate 30th Anniversary at POLPEX

POLPEX 1969 will not only honor the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino and the Warsaw Uprising, but also the 30th Anniversary of the Polonus Philatelic Society. A larger than usual Beeba will be held, according to Polpex Chairman Walenty Poniecki. Out-of-town members are especially urged to attend the society's greatest event of the year which will be held on March 1st and 2nd at Radio Halls, Fullerton and Long Avenues in Chicago.

Chairman Poniecki announced the following committee for the various work connected with Polpex:

Entries: Roman Strzelecki

Bourse: Roman Reinowski

Awards: Alfred Szebel

Sales: J. P. Rux, Chester Mikucki

Publicity: Alfred Szebel, C. Schafer

Finance: Stanley Dobrzycki

Art: Alfred Szebel

Ads & Patrons: Stefan Kochanski,

Stanley Kucharz, J.P. Rux,

C. Mikucki, S. Dobrzycki

Beeba: Zdzislaw Wagrowski, S.

Kochanski, Sebastian Styczynski

Judges: Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz,

Myron Steczynski, John Gapinski

Polpex Entry Applications will be sent to each member with the mailing of next month's Bulletin. We urge you to exhibit World War II material in keeping with the theme of the

exhibition. Take advantage of the holidays coming up when you will have time to prepare your material for exhibiting.



You do not have to show a powerful Krakow stamp collection to win the Grand Award trophy shown here. Your Fieldpost of the 2nd Corps or P.O.W. issues may just take the main prize. The Dr. Kozakiewicz Research Award will be given for the best research exhibit and the Dr. Uznanski Historical Award for the best historical collection. A sufficient amount of gold, silver and bronze medals will also be given for deserving exhibits.

Articles are needed for the philatelic press and our program catalog. The subject of these too, should be on World War II material. Send these on to your editor.

In your own way, help us to make a success of this, our greatest event of the year.

DR. KOZAKIEWICZ PRESENTS TALK ON UPPER SILESIA

At the November 29th program meeting Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz brought along his collection of Upper Silesia and presented a talk on the history and stamps of this territory. The Doctor was well qualified to speak on this subject as he served with the United States Peace Commission and was in Upper Silesia at the time of the plebiscite. He personally bought the first official issue at the Opole post office and had the postmaster sign each stamp on the back. He displayed a full sheet of one issue, types and plate varieties of all the issues, different positions of the C.G.H.S. overprints, and some scarce postally used covers.

CPS SHOW NOTE

At the recent Chicago Philatelic Society exhibition held November 15-17, two Polish exhibits brought prizes to their owners. Julius Oster was awarded a bronze medal for his issues from 1860 to 1945 and Chester Schaffer got a silver medal for his study of the overprint of the 1919 Lublin issues.

POLAND SPECIALIZED

Prisoner of War Camps:

Woldenberg, Gross Born, Murnau
Locals, Imperfs & Very Rare Stamps
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WANT TO EXCHANGE WITH COLLECTORS IN POLAND?

In a recent issue of *FILATELISTA* there appeared a write-up on the Polonus Philatelic Society listing your editor's name and address. As a result, we were flooded with mail from collectors in Warsaw, Poznan, Przemysl, Katowice, Czestochowa, Kutno, Olshzyn, etc. They wrote asking us to publish their name, address and collecting wants in our "Polonus Bulletin."

In view of the large amount of mail received, it was decided by the society not to publish these letters. The letters would take up too much room and leave little space for philatelic articles.

Several members present at the last meeting took some of the letters, but we still have many more letters of collectors in Poland wishing to establish contacts here.

Any members wishing to receive such letters from us, please write to our Secretary, Alfred Szebel, 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

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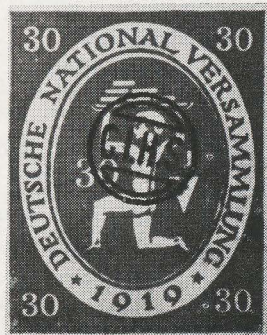
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Quantity of Stamps Overprinted

As a rule, the overprinting was performed in a closed room by a special clerk under the direct supervision of an Inter-Allied Commission official. A daily record was kept indicating the number of 'overprinted stamps and postal stationery that were delivered to the postal window at Opolé. This record includes only the number of stamps delivered each day and does not show how many stamps were actually overprinted or which values were included. Due to the

lack of strict controls, this record is not very trustworthy and can not be accepted as a basis for estimating the number of stamps overprinted.

The actual number of each issue to receive the overprint can only be estimated by later statements of the special clerks, the amounts mentioned in official correspondence and on the reports of the stamps overprinted on February 20, 1920. The closest estimates possible on the number of each issue to be overprinted are as follows:

Values	Copies Overprinted
Violet Overprint	
—Germania Issue	
2½ pfg. — 3 pfg. — 5 pfg. — 7½ pfg. —	
10 pfg. — 15 pfg. — 20 pfg. — 35 pfg. —	
40 pfg. — 50 pfg. — 60 pfg. — 75 pfg.	1750 - 5500 each
2 pfg. (1918 issue)	250 - 350
2 pfg. (1905 issue) — 25 pfg. — 80 pfg.	25 - 50 each
—Wilhelm Issue	
2 Mk.	250 - 350
1 Mk.	200 - 250
3 Mk. — 5 Mk.	25 - 50 each

Values	Copies Overprinted
—War Invalid Semi-Postal Issue 10 + 5 pfg. — 15 + 5 pfg.	100 - 150 each
—National Assembly Issue 10 pfg. 15 pfg. — 30 pfg. 25 pfg.	1750 - 3500 200 - 250 each 75 - 150
—Booklet Panes Total of all values	about 50
—Postal Stationery Total of all values	about 250
Red Overprint	
Germania 15 pfg. and 20 pfg. — National Assembly 15 pfg.	150 - 250 each
Germania 5 pfg., 40 pfg. and 75 pfg. War Invalid Semi-Postal Issue 15 + 5 pfg.	500 - 750 each
Wilhelm Issue 1 Mk	about 20

Forgeries

Due to the popularity of these stamps many forgeries exist. Some are very difficult to tell from the originals and others are poorly done. It is safe to say that probably 99% of these stamps now in circulation are forgeries.

It might be added here, that for many years after their appearance these C.I.H.S. overprints were not recognized by collectors as postal issues but were thought to be simply control marks used by the post office, similar to the perforations used on certain stamps by large German and British firms for control purposes. Due to the fact, however, that this overprinting was done by the express order of the Commission these are actually a legitimate stamp issue.

OFFICIAL STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COMMISSION

There was also an attempt by the British Commission to issue their own Official stamps during this period. On February 13 and 14, 1920, they overprinted German stamps for letters and correspondence of the British delegation with a large rubber

handstamp (32.05 mm. diameter) covering almost two complete stamps with the initials C.G.H.S. designating Commission de Gouvernement de Haute Silesia (Government Commission of Upper Silesia.)

Letters bearing stamps with this handstamp were not accepted by the post office but on February 13 and 14 they were given the additional Oppeln Provisional handstamp and forwarded. These covers are quite rare and much sought after by specialists. After February 15 and until February 19, such handstamped letters were returned to the sender. These returned covers are extremely rare.

FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE

On February 20, 1920 the first stamps issued especially for use in the Upper Silesia plebiscite territory made their appearance. These stamps had been printed at the State Printing Office — Paris Boulevard Brun (Imprimerie Nationale) in Paris, France.

Having been very hastily prepared the issue was not very well executed either in design or in production.

They could well compete with any in the world as the worst in taste and most abortive stamp design ever created.

Design

The format of these stamps consists of a figure of value in an oval



frame and bears the name of the plebiscite territory in three languages; Commission de Gouvernement — Haute-Silesie (French), Oberschlesien (German), and Gorný Slask (Polish). The equivalent in English would be — The Government Com-

mission of Upper Silesia. Printing was done by lithography on various types of paper, i.e. white, buff, gray and yellow. All are perforated 14:13½ and all values can be found in varying shades of the basic color due to the fact that each value was printed in numerous runs and the ink mixture was not carefully matched each time. Gum color varies between white, brown, yellow and gray tints. Various minor flaws can be found on most values.

Description of Values

A total of eleven values were prepared but only nine of these were actually issued as the 25 pfg. and 30 pfg. were never sent to Upper Silesia. Although these so-called black minister blocks never came into circulation as postage a few can be found on the market.

All values were printed during November and December 1919 but only a portion of the stamps, equaling a total value of 9,000,000 German marks including stationery, were sent to Opole (Oppeln), the capitol of the plebiscite territory.

First Definitive Issue

Value	Color	No. of Copies Printed	Catalog No.	
			Michel	Scott
2½ pfg.	slate	300,000	1a	1
	light gray		1b	
	black gray		1b	
3 pfg.	lilac brown	300,000	2	2
	brown lilac		2b*	
5 pfg.	green	8,000,000	3a	3
	light green		3b	
	light gray green		3c*	
	yellow green		3d*	
10 pfg.	brick red	8,000,000	4	4
	light brick red		4b*	
15 pfg.	violet	12,000,000	5	5
	dark violet		5	
20 pfg.	light blue	10,000,000	6	6
	blue		6a*	
	dark blue		6c*	
	ultramarine		6d*	

25 pfg. @	chocolate	300,000	unlisted
30 pfg. @	orange	5,000,000	unlisted
50 pfg.	brown lilac	3,000,000	7 7
1 mk.	lilac rose	2,000,000	8 8
5 mk.	orange	150,000	9 9
	red orange		9

* No current listing — Numbers are from 1942 Michel Special Catalog.

@ The 25 pfg. and 30 pfg. values were printed but never issued.

Printing Flaws

Due to the rushed production schedule for this issue a number of printing flaws occurred and can be found in the design of various values. 2½ pfg.

De instead of DE in DE GOUVERNEMENT — field 45.

Line over second I in SILESIE — fields 49 and 110.

Line under G in GOUVERNEMENT — field 96.

Thick l in ½ — field 115.
5 pfg.

Line between vertical bars left of GORNY appearing to form the let-



ters HI or NI. The theory has been offered that this flaw was German inspired for propaganda purposes to

read OBERSCHLESIE NI GORNY SLASK meaning Oberschlesien (German) not Gorny Slask (Polish) — fields 10, 20, 30, etc. through 150

Broken C in COMMISSION — fields 57 and 60.

Point on third shading line — field 59.

Second S in COMMISSION broken — field 59.

Broken T in GOUVERNEMENT — field 59.

Broken H in HAUTE (IAUTE) — field 60.

Broken GOUVERNEMENT (GOUVERNEIENT or GOUVERIV-IENT) — fields 70 and 80.

First M in COMMISSION broken — field 89.

White dot over N in SCHLESIE — field 112.

Line over N in COMMISSION — field 121.

10 pfg.

Broken E in DE (DC) — field 80.

Line on first I of SILESIE (t) — field 99.

Line below second I of SILESIE (I,) — field 99.

Line above K in SLASK — field 99.

20 pfg.

Imperforate sheet (four sheets known).

Left border imperforate (about five sheets exist).

EFIMEX '68

Polonus was represented at EFIMEX '68 International Exhibition in Mexico City November 1-9 by Myron Steczynski. He reported that only one entry of Poland material was in the competition—Warsaw Municipal Post of 1915. The exhibit belonged to Bogdan Trzeciecki of England and got the owner a bronze medal. Other Polonus members exhibiting were Derek Palmer of Chile who received a vermeil medal for 1879-1884 Pacific War Covers and Military Mail; and Alfred Szebel who got a silver-bronze medal for U.S. Lufthansa and DO-X Flights. Our member Herbert Bloch served as a member of the jury.

PRAGA 68 NOTE

To our report of Polonus members participating in PRAGA 68 and published in our Bulletin Issue 260, we would like to add that M. A. Bojanowicz of England was also an exhibitor. His collection of Railway Cancellations of the Kingdom of Poland was exhibited in the Court of Honor.

AMPOLPLEX 7

News reached us from the seventh annual exhibition of the Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo held on October 18-20 that two Polonus members received high awards. Zdzislaw Wargowski was awarded a silver dish as the Second Best Award for his Poland Balloon mail, while Ludwik Pieczara received the Falcons Silver Medal for his Poland Millennium collection.

APPLICANT PENDING

Hilmar A. Gross

Kurt Schumacher Allee 34
Bremen, West Germany

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.

NEW ISSUES

Polish Paintings

On October 10th, 1968 the Polish Post issued a set of eight stamps with reproductions of paintings of outstanding Polish painters of the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries.

- 40 gr.—Knight on a Bay Horse
by Piotr Michalowski
6,400,00 issued
- 60 gr.—Fisherman by Leon Wyczolkowski
6,000,000 issued
- 1.15 zl.—Jewish Woman with Lemons by Aleksander Gierymski
4,500,000 issued
- 1.35 zl.—Portrait of Eliza Parenska
by Stanislaw Wyspianski
3,500,000 issued
- 1:50 zl.—Manifest by Wojciech Weiss
3,800,000 issued
- 4.50 zl.—Stanczyk by Jan Matejko
3,300,000 issued
- 5.00 zl.—Children's Band by Tadeusz Makowski
2,000,000 issued
- 7.00 zl.—Fcast II by Zygmunt Waliszewski
2,000,000 issued

* *

Printed by the rotogravure process in fancy sheets of four stamps and two tabs on chalky paper, at PWPW Warsaw. Designed by A. Heidrich.

United Workers' Party Congress

On November 11th, 1968 a set of three stamps was issued on the occasion of the Vth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party. Each stamp is of a 60 gr. value and show paintings connected with the history of the work movement:

Members of the Proletariat Party
by F. Kowarski
Strike by S. Lentz
Manifesto by W. Weiss

Offset printed in sheets of twenty stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw in a quantity of 6,000,000 sets. Designed by Fran. Winiarski.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, December 13, 1968 —

Regular business meeting at the
Falcons Hall.

Friday, December 27, 1968 —

Annual Christmas Party combined
with program meeting. To be held at
the Bagatela Club hall, 1122 N. Mil-
waukee Ave. Don't miss this, our last
meeting of 1968.

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