

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Annex,
5800 W. Diversey Avenue, Chicago, IL

ISSUE NO. 446

Price: \$2.00

March-April, 1991

May 3rd Constitution Polpex Celebration

The year 1991 has many celebrations planned for Poland's May 3rd Constitution Bicentennial. Polonus held the first such celebration at its annual exhibition.

POLPEX 91 drew over 700 for the three day event March 15-17 at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, IL. A 23 dealer bourse and 54 large size frames exhibit filled the hall comfortably.



Fred Szebel and his Grand Award Winning Exhibit.

The Grand Award was presented to Fred Szebel for his Gold Medal postal history exhibit of "400 Years of Warsaw." Chester Schafer's "Poland Constitution Issues" received a Gold Medal, the President's Award, and a special award from the Polish Consulate. Silver Award winners were Conrad Straub for "Poland Official Stamps - 1920-35"; David Stefancic for "Polish Legions"; Teresa Lederer for "Poland Municipal Issues - 1915-18"; Edward Link for a topical "Kosciuszko"; Stanley Dobrzycki for a topical "Paderewski"; Romuald Odrowski for "Grudziadz-Graudenz" and another for the "First Issues of the Peoples Republic".



Opening ceremony with Polish Consul of Chicago, Hubert Romanowski, cutting ribbon. Left to right: Stefania and Walenty Poniecki, Vice Consul Slawomir Wroblewski, Chester Schafer, Stefan Czarniecki, Hubert Romanowski, J. Mordel, Roman Strzelecki, Raymond Orzechowski, Romuald Odrowski, Edward Link.

(Photo: Mark Dobrzycki)

Bronze Medal awards went to Joseph Schafer for "150th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution" topical; Walenty Poniecki for "Poland Postal History - 1860 to Present", and another for "Australia Postal History."

Award presentations were made at the Beeba-Banquet held Saturday evening by the Master of Ceremonies, Thomas Gobby and President, Roman Strzelecki. Andrzej Jaroszynski, cultural attache, represented the Polish Consul and expressed feelings of establishing a close relationship with Polonus. An excellent Polish meal was served by the staff at Przybylo's White Eagle. The highlight of the evening was an enlightening talk on the May 3rd Polish Constitution presented by historian, Louis Koncza, President of the Polish American Numismatic Association and Chief Engineer of the City of Chicago.

In conjunction with the Polpex theme, the Bicentennial of the May 3rd, 1791 Constitution, Polonus issued three different cacheted postal cards, one for each day of the show. All received the special Polpex cancel. One card shows the title page of the Polish Constitution printed in English in London in 1791. The second card shows the 55 groszy Poland stamp glorifying the adoption of the Polish Constitution. The third card is taken from a drawing of a Polish Eagle describing the event in a Polish history book. The price of each postal card is \$1.00. A set of three costs \$2.50.

A pair of souvenir sheets with descriptive folder were also printed. One sheet shows the first handwritten page of the original constitution document; the other shows a Polish eagle of the 1791 period with the Black Madonna on its breast. The pair of sheets and folder cost \$1.00.



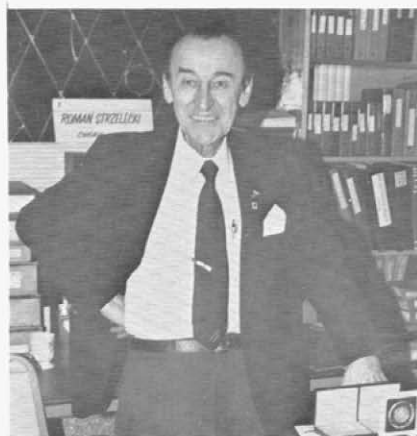
L. to r.: Rev. Bruno Janik; Hubert Romanowski, Polish Consul and Romuald Odrowski, Polpex Chrm.
(PHOTO: M. DOBRZYCKI)



S. Dobrzycki chats with Dr. Edw. Rozanski.
(PHOTO: M. DOBRZYCKI)



Fred Szebel; Louis Koncza, P.A.N.A. President and Stanley King at banquet table. (PHOTO: F. SZEDEL)



Pres. Roman Strzelecki at his bourse table.
(PHOTO: M. DOBRZYCKI)



R. Odrowski; Andrzej Jaroszynski, Cultural Attache Polish Consulate; Ted Kwiecinski, Polonus Sec'y and Stanley Dobrzycki.
(PHOTO: M. DOBRZYCKI)



Al and Fran Rybarski at the Polonus table.
(PHOTO: M. DOBRZYCKI)



Polpex award winners posed for a group photo at the Beeba-Banquet. Left to right: Master of Ceremonies Tom Gobby, Edward Link, Fred Szebel, Conrad Straub, Chester Schafer, Romuald Odcrowski, President Roman Strzelecki, Teresa Lederer, Polish Consulate Cultural Attache Andrzej Jaroszynski and Walenty Poniecki.

The souvenir card shows another Polish eagle of that period, a 55 groszy blue Constitution stamp of Poland, and the U.S. 3¢ violet issued in 1937 on the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. A mint souvenir card is priced at \$1.00. A Polpex cancelled card with a 29¢ U.S. stamp affixed is priced at \$2.50. Orders for all items should be sent to Polonus, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Please enclose \$1.50 additional for postage and handling.

This year the Ukrainian Philatelic Society had a table at the Polpex. Polonus has been invited to have a table at their exhibitions in return. The Polish Military History Society held a meeting on Saturday afternoon. A group of students from Notre Dame, Indiana were brought along by Professor David Stefancic. Janusz Kubicki flew in from California to attend the bourse. Stanley King came in from Florida for the show.

WINNERS OF DOOR PRIZES:

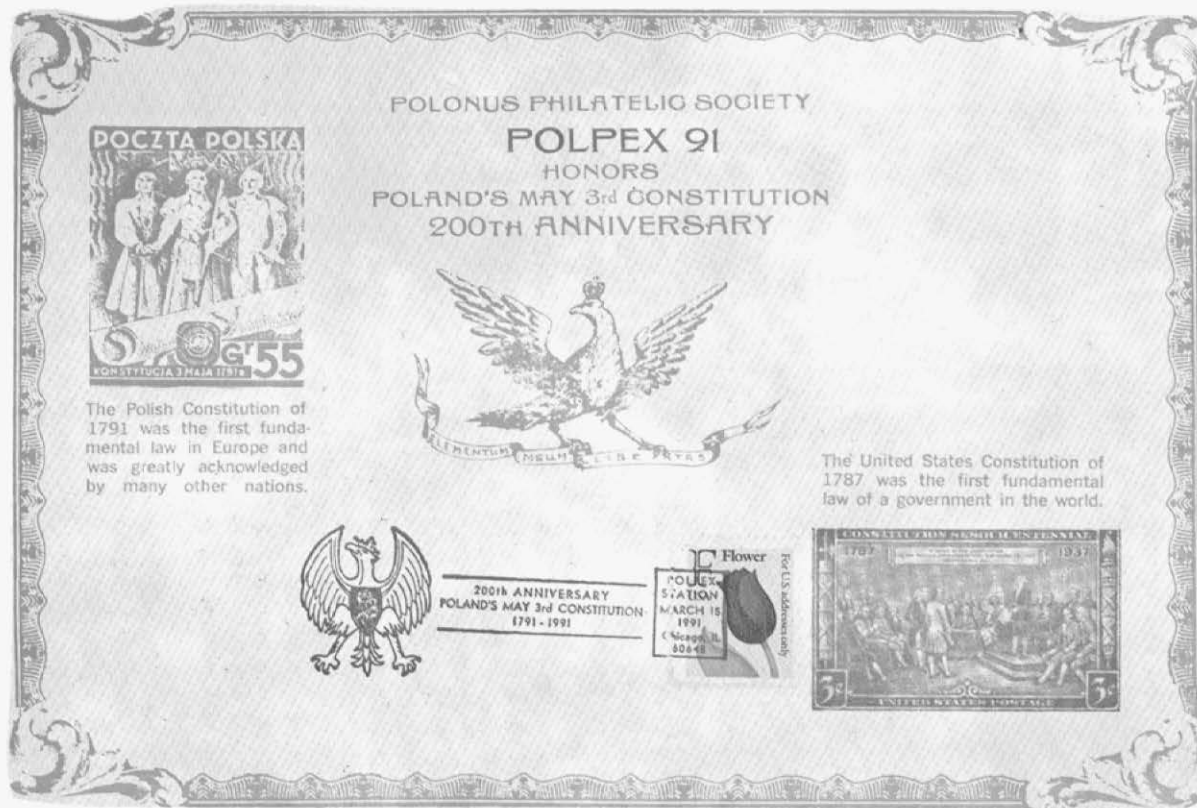
Catalog of Stamps of Poland:

Ms. Cathy Witzak
Poland #1:
Stefania Poniecki
Joseph Banchak
K. Mazur
Robert Kleppin

Pre-Stamp Covers:

Joseph Skibinski
Barb Janssens
John Kula
Bill Fredernik
Emil Skibinski
Arlen Foreman
James Seegall

Richard Thomas
Robert Jacobson
Hiroshi Saratoni
Joe Sedliny
Edward Dybas
Michael Bisberg
Fred Baumgartner
Martin Moses



BI-COLORED SOUVENIR CARD WITH POLPEX CANCELLATION ON AFFIXED FLOWER STAMP.

CONRAD P. STRAUB — HONORARY MEMBER

The Board of Directors of Polonus voted to award Honorary Membership to Conrad P. Straub of Columbia Heights, Minnesota. He has consistently exhibited in our annual Polpex shows coming up with a variety of material. His most valuable contribution has been the many articles submitted and printed in our Polonus Bulletin. Most of them involved original research involving deep study. You can understand the excellent quality of his writings when you learn of his real life profession.



Left to right: President Roman Strzelecki making presentation to Conrad P. Straub with congratulatory handshake extended by M. C. Thomas Gobby. (Photo: F. Szebel)

Conrad P. Straub obtained a degree in Civil Engineering from Newark College of Engineering, a Master of Civil Engineering and a Ph.D. degree in Sanitary Engineering and Public Health from Cornell University, and attended Harvard University. In May, 1941, he joined the U.S. Public Health Service and served in domestic and overseas assignments, including mainland China and Poland. He was assigned to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and later to the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati. He retired in 1966 as Director of the Center with the rank of Captain. He joined the faculty of the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota as Professor. After serving as head of the Department of Environmental Health, he retired in 1981. During his active career he served as consultant to international, national, state, health agencies, research associations and private industry. Currently, he still serves as a consultant, and edits a journal: "Critical Reviews in Environmental Control." He has written numerous articles in his professional field and several books, one of which was translated and published in Russia.

In retirement he has returned to studying his Polish collection, particularly the First and Second Provisional Issues, in which he has reported several findings resulting from his observations. His other collecting interests include all issues prior to World War II, the official stamps of Poland (pre-World War II) on cover, postage due stamps of the same period on cover, stampless covers (Interes Rzadowy), watermarks found on papers used in these letters, the first Provisional Postal Cards, etc. At present he is preparing a brochure on the Second Provisional Issue (Poczta Polska/Gen. Gouv., Warschau), which he hopes to complete for the 75th Anniversary of this issue in 1993.

PADEREWSKI 50th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT

On June 29th, 1991, Poles everywhere will observe the 50th anniversary of the passing of pianist, composer and statesman, Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Polonus has been invited to co-sponsor a mini Paderewski exhibition in conjunction with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. After a meeting on May 7th of the consulate officials with Romuald Odrowski and Stanley Dobrzycki, it was agreed to have the exhibit June 28th thru July 12th at the Consulate building at 1530 No. Lake Shore Drive. Admission will be free. This action was approved at the Polonus Board Meeting held May 8th.



Not only will philatelic material be shown, but also photographs, concert programs, newspaper clippings, and other Paderewski memorabilia. The Consulate has arranged a collection of Paderewski photographs brought in from Poland to be shown here for the first time.

Polonus members are invited to attend the official opening of this exhibit on Friday, June 28th at 6:45 p.m. Co-ordinator of this project is Romuald Odrowski, 5327 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, phone: (312) 545-2089.

New Philatelic Publication

The Typographic Overprints of the 1919 Krakow Issues of Poland

For nearly three quarters of a century the 1919 Krakow Overprints have represented an enigma to most collectors of Poland, who have had to rely on the opinion of experts to authenticate these issues.



Dr. Michael E. Melnichak produced a 41 page, illustrated work which explains the printing & authentication of the various typographic overprints of the Krakow Issues of Poland in terms that the collector is able to understand. In addition he has produced a transparent measuring scale (reticule) which used in conjunction with his measurement tables lets collectors

recognize common forgeries of these issues and tentatively plate genuine stamps.

This informative booklet and reticule are a must for all collectors of Poland. Available for \$10.00 postpaid from Bieniecki, Inc., Box 100-K, Granite City, IL 62040-0100.

DECEASED



JOSEPH JANECKA

Riverside, IL

JEROME MAZUREK

Buffalo, NY

NEW MEMBER

Bro. John Federowicz, csc

Box 40144 St. Paul, MN 55104

Polpex Patron

ANTHONY J. SZAFRANSKI

Glenshaw, Penna.

ANOTHER HONORARY MEMBER: JOSEPH BIENIECKI

Just before Polpex 91 a Polonus stamp dealer's name was submitted for Honorary Membership consideration and the Board unanimously agreed to present the honor to this long time member in Granite City, Illinois. Joseph Bieniecki, has been very generous to Polonus over the years. In the past, he has repeatedly donated Poland stamps to Polpex shows to be distributed free to children attending. This year he gave four Poland Number One stamps and twenty stampless covers to be given as door prizes during Polpex 91.

He always supported the Polpex program catalog by giving us full page advertisements. When asked by our editor to write articles for the Bulletin, he always responded. He is best known as an honest dealer giving Poland collectors a fair shake.

When we sent him a letter notifying him of the Board's decision, he responded as follows:

"Thank you for your letter. Am most surprised that you all want to make me an honorary member.

"It has been about fifty years since I became a member and began my correspondence with Jack Domar. I first wrote to Jack in regard to the Poland Over-Run Country Issue. That began a frequent exchange of letters and eventually personal visits.

"On returning home from WW-II, I began writing to several people in Poland in search of Poland stamps. Jack Domar helped me in selling them to Polonus members. Luckily, I made contact with a man in Tarnow who had been a friend of Prof. Mikstein. From him I managed to obtain many pre-1939 issues. Among them were some unusual items such as blocks of four of the 25h. and 90h. Krakows. Myron Steczynski bought the 90h. but passed on the 25h., which was purchased by a young collector named Chester Schafer.

"I recall selling copies of Poland #1 to Dr. Kozakiewicz and Dr. Uznanski for \$9, \$10 dollars per copy no matter how scarce a numeral cancel may have been. We also had a few copies of the famous "Slania" essays on covers sent from Poland and only wish we had more.

"We attended a number of Polonus shows and increased our knowledge and circle of friends, many of them were among the founders of Polonus and regrettably are no longer with us. Their collections have been passed on to others or broken up to enrich the collections of others.

"We helped Myron Steczynski with his famous collection of Krakow Issues with the help of Jack Domar who was doing all the expertising at that time. When Jack died, we obtained his Krakow expertising material which was passed on to Dr. Melnichak. He refined the process much more which resulted in the booklet available today. This work has made the collecting of the Krakow Issues possible where before no one was interested in them.

"Regrettably, Myron Steczynski's collection was sold to Gibbons in London so collectors in the U.S. lost the opportunity to buy much of it.

"Over these many years we have made hundreds of friends among Poland collectors and hope that we have treated them all fairly. We won't mention names as the list would be pages long, although some of them deserve extra credit for the help they have also provided. Without these friends we would never have had any success in our efforts."

NEW ISSUES

By Romuald Odrowski

The 40 zł. and 50 zł. Polish Kings surcharged to new values of 1000 and 1500 zł. Issued March 23, 1991.



Six values of Masterpieces of the Krakow Museum collection issued Jan. 1, 1991.



On Feb. 22, 1991 two stamps issued — coniferous tree fruits.

CEPT acceptance March 3rd, 1991.

Brother Albert March 29, 1991.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 24, 1991 — Polonus General Meeting at 5800 W. Diversey Ave. — 7:30 p.m. Election of officers. Presentation on Polpex 91 Grand Award exhibit, "400 Years of Warsaw" by Fred Szebel.

May 24-25-26, 1991 — COMPEX Stamp Show at O'Hare Expo Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL. Hours: Friday 10-7, Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4. Admission Free.

June 28 thru July 12, 1991 — Paderewski Exhibit at Polish Consulate, 1530 W. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. Polonus members and guests are invited to participate in official opening on Friday, June 28th at 6:45 p.m. Short meeting to be held.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Dr. James Mazepa, Grand Award at SANDICAL Naional Stamp Exhibition in San Diego, California, for KINGDOM OF POLAND 1858-1875. This exhibit will now be shown in the Champion of Champions section of STAMPSSHOW in Philadelphia in August. This is the only Polish exhibit to ever be shown in the APS Champion of Champions competition.

DEACON ROZANSKI HONORED

The National Office of the Knights of Columbus honored Polonus member, Dr. Edward C. Rozanski with Honorary Life Membership. He is a known historian and very active within Polonia's Society.

Ordained 12 years ago by Cardinal Cody, he performs charitable services and serves the St. Hyacinth Church including being a Vice President of the School Board.

The Knights are known for charitable services, support of Catholic Schools, concern for the youth of today and promote unity among the fraternal and civic organizations.

Deacon Rozanski is known for his sensitive homilies and visitation of the sick in the hospitals.

Virgil C. Dechant, the Supreme Knight in his message said: "You are recognized for long and faithful service."

Rozanski, a retired journalist at present renders services as a chaplain to many Veterans organizations and civic societies.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic So-

ciety, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.