

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 204

October, 1962

IT'S OFFICIAL -

POLPEX 1963 TO BE HELD AT POLISH MUSEUM

The Polish Museum of America at 984 Milwaukee Ave., at the Northwest Expressway in Chicago, will be the site of Polpex 1963 — the greatest showing of Poland's stamps on this side of the ocean. A background of historical and cultural mementos dating way back into Poland's colorful history, will provide the setting for the stamp exhibition of Polonus Philatelic Society on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1963.

Since 1963 marks the 100th Anniversary of Poland's January Insurrection of 1863 as well as the Battle of Gettysburg in the U.S. Civil War, both these events will be the subject of our Polpex theme. Special emphasis will be given to the January Insurrection as it is expected that little mention of this anniversary will be made in Communist ruled Poland. This uprising was the last stand made against the Russians and its defeat resulted in the mass exodus of Polish prisoners to Siberia, leaving Poland with many years of bitter suffering.

In the past, there has been a lack of participation of out-of-town members in the Annual Polpex Exhibition. Can more of you members exhibit your collections in 1963? A Polpex show is the outstanding event of the year for the Polonus Philatelic Society. As you members cannot take part in the meeting, you can take part in the exhibition!

The show is but four months away—time enough to prepare your collection for exhibit purposes. Please make an effort to exhibit this coming March! Plan also, to come for the show. A visit to our Beeba, through the Polish Museum as well as the many sights Chicago has to offer will be well worth the trip.

Be a member who contributes something to the Society, not one who just takes!

— Josef J. Bendkowski,
Polpex Chairman

SCOTT'S CATALOGUE FOR 1963

Now is the time for us to take a good look at Scott's 1963 Catalogue and compare it with 1962. What is the price trend — Up? Down? No change?

In the Poland section, there are approximately 461 price increases and approximately 18 price decreases. Approximately? Well, you count 3142 price changes and if you come up with a more accurate count, more power to you.

Poland No. 1, of course, leads the price increases, up from \$75. to \$85. mint, and from \$30.00 to \$32.50 used. Next in line are the Krakow issues. These classics show the biggest price increases, especially those already priced high.

The Warsaw Exhibition sheet is up to \$22.50 from \$18.00, and the Stratosphere Balloon sheet is \$6.00, up from \$3.50. Port Gdansk and the airmails

have more price increases than any other group.

We also noted that price increases favored mint stamps, more so than used. We also noted 83 new listings in the 1963 Catalogue.

— Lester Jankowski

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

To commemorate the 7th European Athletic Championships which took place in Belgrad, the 12th to 16th of September, 1962, the Polish Post Office were to issue eight commemorative stamps as follows:

- 40 groszy—Pole Vault
- 60 groszy—400 m. relay
- 90 groszy—Javelin
- 1 zł.—3000 meters
- 1.50 zł.—High Jump
- 1.55 zł.—Throwing the Discus
- 2.50 zł.—100 meter Final
- 3.40 zł.—Hammer Throw

The stamps are to be printed in sheets of 80.

On October 9, 1962 to commemorate "Stamp Day" which is becoming an annual event, two stamps were to be released. The design of both is identical. It shows a young woman putting a letter into a letter-box hung on the General Post Office fence in pre-war Warsaw.

There are two values, a 60 gr. and 2.50 zł. and they were designed by Hanna Przedziecka, the illustration is based upon the painting "A moment of Determination" by Anthony Kamien-ski a 19th Century painter.

They are to be produced on water-marked paper in sheets of 56, by rotary recess (engraver B. Kowalska), size 31.5 x 45 mm. Amount to be issued: 60 gr. 1.5 million; 2.50 zł. 700 thousand.

As many other countries have done, Poland is to issue three stamps and a souvenir sheet in connection with the World Health Organization's campaign for the eradication of malaria.

In each design is reproduced the emblem which shows a globe beneath which is an anopheline mosquito being attacked by the Aesculapian staff.

The 60 gr. stamp will show an ano-

pheline mosquito, the most dangerous carrier of the malaria parasites.

The 1.50 zł. stamp reproduces a slide showing malaria bacteria in a drop of blood.

The 2.50 zł. shows the flower of the quinine tree, the discovery of which in 1820 produced the first medicine used against malaria.

The 3 zł. souvenir sheet will also illustrate the mosquito.

They will be printed by multi-colored offset on watermarked paper, and in sheets of 35. The quantities printed of each are:

- 60 groszy—2 million
- 1.50 zł.—1.5 million
- 2.50 zł.—750 thousand
- 3 zł. (S.S.)—700 thousand

Size of the stamps 60 x 80 mm., souvenir sheet 31.25 x 39.5 mm.

The stamps issued in commemoration of Karol Swierczewski's death and the Polish Northern Territories were printed on plain instead of watermarked paper as intended.

Planned issues for 1963 are:

First quarter:

1. A set of 6 stamps devoted to space flights.
2. 3 stamps, Monuments of Fight & Martyrology
3. Battle against starvation, three stamps.

Second quarter:

1. 6 stamps showing races of dogs.
2. 2 stamps, Geneva Humanitarian Convention
3. 12 stamps, Reptiles

Third quarter:

1. Great Poles, 4 stamps.
2. International Basketball Competition.

Fourth quarter:

9. Day of the Stamp, 2 stamps.
10. Horses, 6 stamps

A new regular issue is contemplated in addition to some new Air Post issues and of course some items which cannot be foreseen at present.

APPLICANT PENDING

Stanley H. Fryczynski, Jr.
32-34 East 22nd Street
Bayonne, New Jersey

For The Music Stamp Lover

FREDERIC CHOPIN

By Clare McAlister

Reprinted with permission from SCOTT'S MONTHLY STAMP JOURNAL

After more than one hundred years, Chopin continues to be a controversial figure in the world of music. The quality of his compositions and of his performance is still questioned by some, statements regarding his love life are argued, and even the date of his birth is disputed. But stamps with Chopin continue to be issued.

The "Encyclopedia Britannica" unhesitatingly states that Chopin was born at Zelazowa-Wola, near Warsaw, on February 22, 1810 (not March 1, 1809). There are some important facts, which tend to prove that this encyclopedia should have been more careful about making such a definite statement, although there are also strong arguments for the date they use. M. Karasowski, one of Chopin's first biographers, writes that Chopin's sister told him the date of Frederic's birth was 1809. In 1878, Liszt confirmed that date. The inscription on the 1889 memorial in the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, Poland where his heart is preserved, states also that Chopin was born on March 2, 1809; but some other monuments carry the date of 1810. That he was born seems far more important, however, than the actual date of his birth.

An Infant Prodigy

Chopin's first musical training on the pianoforte was given him by Adalbert Zywny. It is said he begun composing almost immediately — even before he could handle a pen. His study of counterpoint and of composition was under Joseph Elsner (Poland NB-22) who had the insight to recognize genius and to give free play to the natural tendencies of his pupil's powers. Later, when Frederic was blamed for his disregard of rules and customs. Elsner wrote: "Leave him in peace, his is an uncommon way, because his gifts are uncommon." All of his life, Chopin had a great fondness for both of his teachers. He once remarked:



"From Messrs. Zywny and Elsner even the greatest ass must learn something."

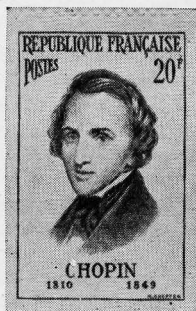
During his short life, Chopin gathered around him a large circle of intellectuals, among whom were the artists Ary Scheffer, Eugene Delacroix, and T. Kwiatkowski, as well as the famous composer Liszt and others. Some of his portraits on stamps are recognizable as being those drawn or painted by these contemporary artists. Posthumous portraits, such as the 20 pfg. stamp issued by the German Democratic Republic on October 19th, 1961, are probably taken from some of these contemporary portraits. New issue chronicles reports that the 10 pfg. stamp of this issue shows the youthful hand of Liszt after a sculpture in the Liszt Museum, Budapest, Hungary by an unknown French sculptor; while the 20 pfg. stamp shown a medallion like relief produced by Ernst Rietschel in 1852.

For the 150th anniversary of Liszt's birth, the German Democratic Republic issued on November 23, 1961, a 25 pfg. stamp portraying Liszt and Chopin in profile views. The portrait of Chopin is taken from an 1837 medal by A. Bovy, which is considered to be one of the best likenesses of the composer. It and the portraits by Kwiatkowski were those most prized by Chopin's pupils and acquaintances. So far no portrait has been found that one can be certain is by Kwiatkowski. Bovy must

have been a somewhat obscure medalist as he is not listed in the "Index to Artists," that rather comprehensive index by Mallett.



To commemorate the centenary of Chopin's death, Czechoslovakia in 1949 issued two stamps of identical design (No. 389-390.) They show a portrait of Chopin against a background of the Warsaw Conservatory. This is a mirror image detail of the portrait in the Versailles Museum by Ary Scheffer. Of this Scheffer portrait, a friend of Chopin's said: "It has the appearance of a ghost, and is more pale and worn than Chopin himself."



In the 1956 French series honoring famous men is another portrait of Chopin (No. 815) which appears to be after the one by Scheffer.

An unidentified portrait appears on the 1956 Hungarian issue for the Day of the Stamp (No. 1169).

Poland Issued First Chopin Stamp

Poland, as it should, has the honor of being the first to honor this composer in 1927 with a stamp (No. 243). This can almost positively be identified (lacking only confirmation from Kaminski, the stamp designer) as reproducing the sketch made and signed in 1849 by Franz Liszt, the composer. So far, we have been unable to determine if this artistic ability of Liszt was too common to have been men-



tioned by his biographers, or so little known that it escaped their attention. This stamp is the only one positively identified with the Liszt sketch, although others of the profile portraits could have been made after it.

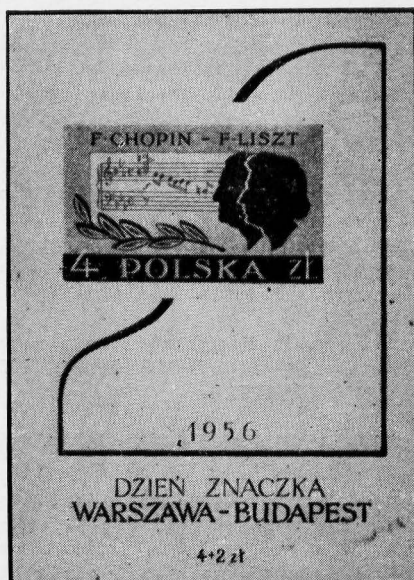
The 3 zł. stamp of the 1946 Polish issue (No. 398) and the two 1951 stamps (Nos. 526-527) seem also to be after the Scheffer portrait mentioned above. Unidentified portraits are shown on Nos. 465, 644-646, and 666-667, issued in 1950, 1954 and 1955.

In 1960 Poland issued another and different portrait (No. 908). This is taken from the Portrait in the Louvre by Eugene Delacroix, painted in 1838. Through the efforts of F. C. Schang, Chairman of the Board of the Columbia Artists Management (and a member of the Fine Arts Unit of the American Topical Association), and Miss Julia Sabine, head of the Art Research and department of the Newark Public Library, information about this painting was obtained. As the oil was never completed, it was actually a simple outline or rough sketch. Chopin's head is well formed, and Madame Sand was sketched/painted to just below her folded arms, as she stood to the rear of the seated Chopin, listening to his music. The canvas remained in the workshop of the painter, Delacroix, up to his death and at that time passed to Constant Dutilleux, who resided in Copenhagen, Denmark. Some authorities believe the painting had been divided later by Mr. Dutilleux for prudish morality, because he did not wish to display in his home a picture of Chopin and his mistress. Regardless of when it was separated, today it forms two

distinct portraits. It was sold by Dutilleux in March 1874 for 820 French francs to a Mr. Brame, and later passed to a musician by the name of Marmontel, who either gave or sold it to the Louvre Museum. A reproduction of the portrait of Chopin is quite easy to find; but so far as one can determine, there is now left only a small sketch of the entire painting as it was once. This sketch was found by John S. Papa, M.D., of Bristol, Conn., who sent the writer a reproduction of the page on which it appears in Robaut's "L'oeuvre de Delacroix."

The 1.50 zł. stamp of the Polish 1960 issue (No. 907) shows a musical quotation from Chopin's "Variations in B flat major" on a theme from Mozart's "Don Giovanni." The theme, "La ci darem la mano," is in the duet sung by Don Giovanni and Zerlina in Act 1. Schumann's article containing the words, "Hats off, gentlemen, a genius!" refers to these variations, which was the first of Chopin's compositions to be published outside Poland.

In 1955 Poland issued a souvenir sheet (B106) on which is a musical notation, as well as profile portraits of Chopin and Liszt. This music is from Chopin's "Study in C Minor, Opus 10,



No. 12," or the so-called "Revolutionary" study, which is supposed to have been inspired by the downfall of Warsaw in September 1821. Dedicated to Liszt, Opus 10 was first published in Leipzig, Germany in 1833.

The 1960 Russian stamp (No. 2406) again shows the Delacroix portrait and



Courtesy of The Louvre Museum's, Paris, France, Archives Photographiques.

music from the "Revolutionary."

Certainly Chopin had both musical and personal faults, yet he had a certain attitude which one finds fascinating. This is attested to in one of his letters to his parents (1831), quoted in part in the Niecks' biography: "... I have let my whiskers grow only on the right side, and they are growing very well; on the left side they are not needed at all, for one sits always with the right side turned to the public."

All cuts in this article through the courtesy of SCOTT'S MONTHLY STAMP JOURNAL.

CONGRATULATIONS BEN REEVES!

Ben Reeves is back in the stamp business. He is now managing the philatelic department at Chandler's in Evanston, Ill. Ben suffered a great loss when his own stamp firm was robbed a few years ago. Best of luck to you.

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SCHOEPF, AMERICAN SOLDIER

By Eugene Kusielewicz

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The life of Albin Francisco Schoepf is an interesting chapter in the history of the Poles in America. It is the story of a Polish political refugee who fought with the Northern forces in the Civil War, winning the rank of General for himself, continuing in this way the brilliant tradition begun by Pulaski and Kosciuszko almost one hundred years before.

Schoepf was born in Podgorze, near Cracow, in March 1822. His mother was Polish and his father was probably German, (though he may have been a Hungarian), in the service of the Austrian Government. At an early age the young Schoepf was sent to a military academy in Vienna, where he received a thorough military education and from which he emerged as a Lieutenant of Artillery in the Austrian Army. A short time later he was promoted to Captain for his display of bravery on the field of battle.

At the beginning of the Hungarian War of Independence, Schoepf left the Austrian service. As a true son of Poland, this represented to him, as to other Poles, another opportunity to strike against the common foe — Austria.

He enlisted as a private in Louis Kossuth's army, but his background and experience coupled with his outstanding accomplishments on the battlefield, soon propelled him to Captain and later to Major.

After the suppression of the insurrection, he was exiled to Turkey where he was interned with other Polish and Hungarian officers. While there, he served for some time under General Josef Bem against the insurgents at Aleppo, and afterwards he became Instructor of Artillery in the Ottoman service, receiving the rank of Major.

In 1851, the Ottoman Government released the Poles. A group of them went to America. Among this group was Schoepf.

He arrived here like countless immigrants before him, without resources



or friends. As a result he was forced to take a job as a porter in one of the hotels in Washington, D.C. His military training and experience, however, could not be easily hidden. His military bearing attracted the attention of Joseph Holt who then held the post of Patent Commissioner.

The result of this encounter was that Holt procured for him a minor drafting position in the Patent Office. When Holt became secretary of War under President Buchanan (1857-1861), Schoepf was transferred to the War Department, where, in recognition of his capacity as an engineer, he was sent to North Carolina to conduct a military survey. In 1859, he was named Second Assistant Examiner in the Patent Office.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he offered his services to the North. It was probably through Holt's influence that he was appointed a Brigadier General on September 30, 1861, and detailed to Holt's own state, Kentucky, to serve under Gen. George H. Thomas, the future "Rock of Chickamauga."

Schoepf fought brilliantly at Cumberland Gap, at the battle of Logan's

(Continued on page 204-10)

WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS . . .

By Roman H. Strzelecki, Secretary

MEETING OF SEPT. 28th, 1962

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, who both were down with the flu, the meeting was called to order by Dr. M. E. Uznanski, a Board member. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted as read. There were 21 members and 6 visitors present.

As there was a Round Table Discussion planned for this meeting, the Chairman pointed out that only most important business should be discussed. As we are coming closer to Polpex 1963, this was the topic under discussion. Myron Steczynski brought up the question of the theme for the Polpex. He pointed out that the 1863 Insurrection and Battle of Gettysburg Centennial, would be a similar sort of a repetition of last year's theme. He personally suggested Mikołaj Kopernik as the father of astronomy, as the theme for this year's show. He furthermore pointed out that in view of today's space achievements, the Kopernik theme would have unlimited advantages, not only for an attractive design but also for many articles in our program book, and in the philatelic press. He confessed that at this time he has not a single idea for this year's theme as well as not too much material to work with.

At this point a lengthy discussion developed with most of the members present expressing their opinions, which ran pro and con. Dr. Kozy very strongly recommended Poland's Insurrection and the U.S. Battle of Gettysburg for the theme. In support of this, Dr. Kozy emphasized the historical and cultural events of that time as being a world wide manifestation of the constant fight of the Poles against an occupant. He pointed out that in our theme we should bring out and stress the importance of the political and historical relation.

There were many suggestions and many differences of opinions, but it was agreed that not only Myron but all would search for material and ideas in

order to come up with a most attractive souvenir sheet. Myron on his part promised to cooperate with the Committee as much as possible.

The New Issues report was presented and with such large numbers of them coming out, it gave us cause to be concerned. Issues like the imperf Belgrad Games and the F.I.P. Sheet with a comparatively low face value, but with a very high wholesale listing, were strongly criticized.

It was brought to the attention of the members that the latest issue of the F.I.P. with only 18 cents face value, is being offered by the Philatelic Agency in Poland at \$2.50 approx. It was unanimously agreed that the Society should take an official stand in this situation. The matter was finally referred to the Board of Directors meeting for further consideration.

The Secretary read a letter of resignation from Chester Makowski, and after a discussion this matter was referred to the Board for consideration.

Myron Steczynski read a letter from our member Mr. Bojanowicz, of England, who planned on coming to the United States, and who expressed his wish to attend our Polpex 1963 and at the same time to exhibit his collection of Poland Number One. The letter was referred to the Polpex 1963 Committee for further consideration. Roman Burkiewicz informed the meeting of Zdzisław Wagrowski's illness, and as customary, the Secretary was instructed to mail a get well card to Zdzisław with best wishes from the Society.

At this point of the meeting the official business part was adjourned and the Secretary introduced the two speakers of the Round Table Discussion. The Round Table was scheduled for four members to take part in, but unfortunately Lester Jankowski, our President, and Zdzisław Wagrowski were both confined to bed, and could not make the meeting. The discussion therefore had to be conducted in a limited manner by Walter Szymlek and Myron Steczynski.

Walter made the introduction on Poland's Air Mail Stamps illustrating his talk with the first post war air issue. A short run down of the printing method, identification marks of different plates, and a safe, easy way of mounting them was also included by Walter.

Myron Steczynski was next, and he in turn limited his talk to Air Mail covers. He pointed out various ways and stages of collecting covers, which makes it more exciting and above all more difficult. This phase of Air Mail requires more knowledge and information, since here not only stamps are involved but different dates, markings, labels, backstamps, etc. Myron showed some of his own pages with covers and explained how he mounted them. They certainly were most attractive.

After the talks a large number of members participated in the discussions which lasted until late hours.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 12th, 1962

The Meeting was called to order by the President at 8:30 p.m. sharp. Minutes of September 14th were read by the Secretary and after one correction they were accepted as read. The minutes of the last meeting were read as notes of what transpired at this meeting, and they were recorded as such, because officially the last meeting was not conducted by an authorized officer, as at the last meeting both our President and the Vice-President were down with the flu. The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting were also read and all recommendations of the Board accepted as read. The Secretary had a ball reading three separate sets of minutes at one time, but business is business and all that transpired at the meetings must be recorded.

There were 21 members and 6 visitors present, which is not too bad. It would be a pleasure to see around 50 to 60 of our Chicagoland members at a meeting.

The Membership Committee reported and presented two new members, one adult and one junior.

Our Treasurer missed last month's meeting and had to make the financial report for two months. The report was

a long one, but at the same time showed that our balance is constantly running lower. The disbursements are always much higher than the receipts. He also has a lot of trouble with the delinquent members, having reported over a 100 members whose dues are still unpaid, and some that are past due for more than one year.

Now, for a Society like ours, this constitutes a lot of money. He appealed to all members to look at their membership card to see if their dues are paid. Let's do it right now!

The Finance Chairman of Polpex 1962, Lester Jankowski, was cheered next as he delivered the final financial statement of Polpex 1962. He presented the Society with a check of the Polpex profit which will help build up our treasury. He also emphasized the fact that the cost of running this year's show was over \$300.00 more than last year's show. The annual Polpex show bring us a little income which in turn builds up our treasury, but this is the only revenue that keeps the Society running. That is why before every Polpex, the committee does its best to stage not only an attractive exhibition, but above all, to make a profit.

Upon completion of the report, Myron Steczynski proposed a round of applause for all the Committee members of Polpex 1962.

The President announced the death of Stamps Magazine's Mrs. Charlotte Downs' husband. A sympathy card was mailed by the Society. Also, Dr. Kozy informed the members of the death of Ed Miller, of the Mercury Stamp Co. in New York. Here too, a card was mailed with the Society's sympathy.

The New Issues of Poland were reported. Most of the members lost count of them. In the last quarter of this year a large number of new stamps were issued. Many of the members are getting reluctant about collecting them, especially those who collect blocks of four. The excessive cost will not permit them to keep up with all these new stamps.

To add yet more excitement to this, one of the members read the listing in

the Polish "Filatelista" of the proposed new issues for 1963. Thus far, there are over 60 issues planned.

This matter of so many new issues was finally referred to the Board of Directors for further consideration.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 26, 1962 — Program Meeting

Chester Schafer will give a talk on the Lublin Issues of 1918-19. He has attempted to plate full sheets of these interesting overprints and will bring along his collection and show what progress he has made. A Beeba is also planned for this evening.

November 9, 1962 — Business Meeting

Before and after the meeting another Members' Bourse. These get better and better all the time. If you want to fill the holes in your collection, attend these meetings and buy. Bring your duplicates and sell them. There will also be an auction of Polish Christmas Seals from the Bert Powell Collection.

November 23, 1962—Program Meeting

Mr. Joseph Ryczaj will talk on the Unesco issues and will show all the stamps issued. This should be very interesting. A Beeba will follow.

SCHOEPF, AMERICAN SOLDIER

(Continued from page 204-7)

Cross Road and at Perryville. In November, 1862, he was named a member of the Military Commission set up to investigate the conduct of General Buell. Disgusted with the intrigues revealed at this court martial, and suffering deafness caused by a wound he earlier received, Schoepf submitted his resignation to the Army. The request was not accepted and immediately he was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, but due to his physical disability he was recalled a month la-

— POLAND —

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

ter and made Commandant of Fort Delaware, where thousands of Confederates were imprisoned.

In 1866, Schoepf was honorably mustered out of the service. He returned to his position in the patent office, where he became one of its Chief Examiners.

He died on May 10, 1886, in Hyattsville, Maryland. The cause was listed as cancer, resulting from a disability encountered in the war.

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