

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 80 SUCCESS DUE TO JOHN PAUL II THEME

Last year's Polpex was presented at the Sherman House in Downtown Chicago on a grand scale. This year's exhibition was held at the Veteran's Home on a much smaller scale. Despite the difference, interest in POLPEX 80 was great and the show wound up very successfully!

The success was attributed to the theme: Pope John Paul II. Never before did we have such powerful religious collections at the Polpex. Visitors were just amazed at the Cardinal Spellman and other collections. For a small scale show the attendance was larger than expected.

The Grand Award was given to Walenty Poniecki for his exhibit of the Polish Army in Russia, and the President's award for the Best Non-Polish Exhibit was presented to Carmen DiNatale for his Pontifical States. Other awards were:

Gold Medals:

James Mazepa, Russian Railroad system in Poland (Honorary Gold, not for competition).

Fred Szebel, Field Post in the New Born Polish State.

Milton Cohen, Concentration Camp Mail

Silver Medals:

Walenty Poniecki, Pope John Paul II.

John Bartczak, Pope John Paul II.

Conrad Straub, Local Post Covers.

Chester Schafer, November Uprising

Issue.

Andrew Wacinski, Woldenberg.



The Polonus Grand Award Trophy was placed on the stage which was decorated to show our Pope theme.



Walenty Poniecki (right) received the Grand Award from Richard Estka for his "Polish Army in Russia" while James Mazepa smiles approvingly.



Taking part in opening day ceremonies were R. Strzelecki, W. Ponecki, Rev. Peter Gacki of Warsaw, Rev. Joseph Mytych, Pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, A. Marquart, C. Schafer, artist Leon Kawecki, Kaz. Jodłowski and Jan Rackowski, Polish Army Veterans "5 Kresowej Dywizji Piechoty".

Bronze Medals:

Tony Rizzo, Vatican City

Ludwik Pieczara, Vatican City and Polish Millennium

Pauline Zarling, The Madonna

Alex Florczak, Stamps of Poland to 1939

W.Z.J. Nowicki, Date Stamps of 1953-73

Certificate:

Leo Zelasko, St. Francis.

Selected pages from the specialized collection of Vatican City were shown from the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum. Judges for the Exhibition were Richard Estka, Honorary Chairman; Werner Gruenbaum; Julius Kaposta; Mark Issacs and James Mazepa. The Awards were presented at the BEEBA Banquet at which traditional Polish foods were served. Mr. Richard Estka, long time dealer and Polish philatelist, was made an Honorary Member of the Society in recognition of his long service to Polish Philately.

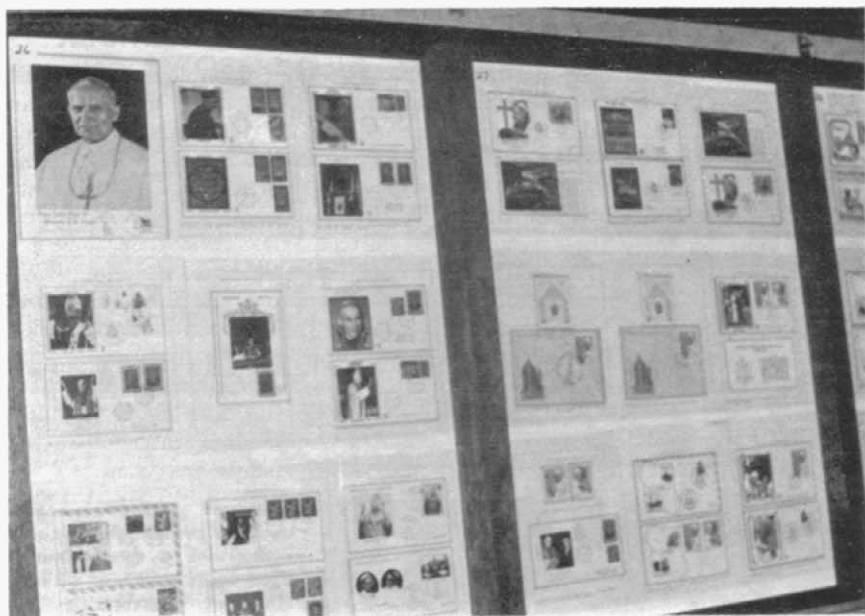
A total of eighteen exhibits were shown as well as four exhibits from the Polish American Numismatic Association. Twenty dealers were on hand to serve collectors and the USPS had a station at the Exhibition.

The usual POLPEX Souvenirs are available and all have a religious theme. A pair of Papal Souvenir Sheets, 75c;



In addition to the philatelic exhibits (above), visitors were impressed with coin and medal exhibits of members of the Polish American Numismatic Association (below.)





During the short period of time since the Polish Cardinal became Pope, the collecting of this topic has become popular with philatelists everywhere. Shown here is a typical such exhibit belonging to W. Poniecki, which won him a Silver Medal.

Souvenir Card with Pope John Paul II, \$1.25 or cancelled, \$2.00; two different cachet envelopes cancelled on the two days of the exhibition, \$1.50; Rocket cover and Pulaski card, \$5.00; Exhibition Catalog, \$1.00. These are available from Mr. Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. All orders should include 75c postage and handling.

Much of the responsibility for the show was on the shoulders of Walenty Poniecki. Because of this hard-working Polpex Chairman, the traditional Polonus Beeba turned out just great.



President Szebel presented Arthur Marquart, President of PANA, with a medal for their participation in POLPEX 80 (above).



A happy group with award winners at the Beeba held Saturday nite.

RICHARD ESTKA MADE HONORARY MEMBER

During the presentation of awards at POLPEX 80, President Alfred Szebel presented Richard Estka with a medal naming him an Honorary Member. Prior to the Polpex it was voted at a Polonus meeting to select him for this honor. Mr. Estka has constantly been a heavy financial supporter to the Polpex shows making it possible for Polonus to continue with presenting an exhibition every year.

Richard Estka is 71 years old. Before we knew him at Polonus he conducted a stamp auction house in Germany from 1946-49. He had two

stores and thirty employees. Upon his arrival in Chicago he worked as an accountant for ten years. He became a stamp dealer again in 1951 when he opened a shop on 63rd and Ashland in this city. Later in 1975 he moved again to his present location at Sacramento and Archer in Brighton Park. Here he conducts the Patria Stamp & Coin Co. with his son Edmund. They make appraisals, authenticate their material with a microscope, have teletype service in their store, in addition to their regular duties of buying and selling stamps and coins.



President Alfred Szebel (right) presented Richard Estka with a special medal upon bestowing him with an Honorary Membership

POLONUS PARTICIPATION IN POLCAPEX '80

Polonus members participated in the Tenth Anniversary Exhibition, POLCAPEX '80, presented by the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada in Vancouver, B.C., May 3-4, 1980. John Bartczak and Chester Schafer journeyed from Chicago, as did Marek Kalawski from Worcester, Mass., and Wally Pawlowski of Inglewood, Calif.

The exhibition consisted of over 300 frames, the largest philatelic show ever held in Vancouver.

Award presentations were made at a banquet which included entertainment followed by dancing to the music of an orchestra.

The Grand Award went to Chester Schafer for Poland Under Russia 1815-17; a Gold Medal to John Bartczak for Galicia Pre-Stamp Period;

and to Dr. Jozef Kuderewicz for Polish Corps WWI; a Silver Medal to Mgr. Marek Kalawski for Polish Nobel Prize Winners; a Silver Medal to Wally Pawlowski for P.O.W. Camp Gross-Born; a Bronze Medal to Ryszard Poddubiuk for Polish Postmarks on Prussia; and a Bronze Medal to W.Z.J. Nowicki for Copernicana Cancellations.

Joseph Podejko, President since it began ten years ago, is the dynamic leader of this group. President Podejko presented Librarian John Bartczak with a complete set of "Hejnals", the official publication of this Society.

Polonus wishes the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada's officers and members continued success in their future philatelic endeavors.

Dangerous Forgeries of "Poczta Polska" Overprints on "Gen. - Gouv. Warschau" Stamps

By STANLEY KRONENBERG



Figure 1. Genuine overprints: 3 fen. (used) with uninked spots in the Polish overprint and 10 fen. (used) with solid black overprint. Both are position 49 of form II (with inverted "k"). Forgery: 10 fen. (mint) with inverted Polish overprint.

Among forgeries of Polish stamps of 1918 'Scott' numbers 15-26, 'Ruch' numbers 6-16, one type of forgery is exceedingly difficult to recognize. It is an imitation of the overprint Form I printed in full sheets of 10 x 10 stamps. The lettering and the lines crossing out the German inscriptions are indistinguishable from those on genuine stamps. All dimensions in these forgeries exactly match those of genuine overprints of Form I (*) with the possible exception of the length of "Poczta Polska" which measures 15.5

— 15.7 mm. in genuine stamps and 15.2 — 15.6 mm. in these forgeries. Another (unreliable) distinction is the typographic printing itself, which is always solid black in these forgeries but often exhibits irregularities and white spots in the lettering of genuine stamps. (see figure 1).

The only reliable way to characterize these forgeries is by the ink of the overprints. It is a velvety jet black and exhibits a weak gloss only when viewed at a grazing angle against an intense light source. However, the ink



Figure 2. German occupational stamps positions 1, 2, and 3 with forged inverted Polish overprints.



Figure 3. Nonexisting stamps: German occupational "Russisch / Polen" with forged Polish overprint.

on many genuine stamps has a somewhat similar appearance, so that a side-by-side comparison with a known forgery of this type is necessary to safely expertize these stamps.

I was aware of the existence of these forgeries for many years, but have only recently found a positive proof that this typographic form is not the original overprint Form I which had been stolen and abused. I received for expertization a mint corner 3 x 2 block of 20 fenigov stamps with inverted Polish overprints which exhibit the characteristics of these forgeries. German stamps in violet blue, are printed on flat press; the "Gen.-



Figure 4. Forgeries of stamps with double Polish overprints.

Gouv./Warschau" overprint is semi-glossy. A fragment of this block is shown in figure 3. The positions of the German stamps in figure 2 (1, 2, and 3 in the sheet of 10 x 10) require that the (inverted) Polish overprints be positions 100, 99, 98. In genuine Polish overprints the only interruption in lines in the applicable positions of Form I is in position 100 in the second line under the letter "c" (*). In these (forged) overprints this interruption does not appear; instead there is an interruption in position 99 in the first line under "a" of "Poczta" and another interruption in the second line under "a" of "Polska". This shows that these overprints were not made with Form I and are therefore forgeries.

A similar case is shown in figure 3. It illustrates a block-of-four of non-existing stamps: "Russisch - / Polen" with Polish overprint. Here again the Polish overprint is similarly forged. According to the numbers in the margins of the German stamps the positions in the 10 x 10 sheet are: 7, 8, 17, 18. Here only the first line has one interruption below "P" of Polska in position 17, while line interruptions of genuine overprints should be as follows: Position 7—none, position 8—in the 2nd line below "P" of "Poczta" and below "P" of "Poczta", position 18—in the 2nd line below "t" (**).

This fake overprint Form I was used (probably exclusively) to create extra-ordinary varieties; I have never seen normal stamps including plate errors (e.g. "Pocata" position 2, Form I) forged that way. In addition to these inverted overprints on "Russisch - / Polen", other forgeries of unusual items exist. Figure 4 shows four stamps with forged double overprints. Note the regularity of the shifts between the two overprints on stamps of different denominations which indicated that the error was made intentionally.



Figure 5. Nonexisting stamps: German with forged (inverted) Polish overprints.

Figure 5 shows a block-of-four of other nonexisting stamps: German stamps (without German overprints) with inverted Polish overprint. So whenever a stamp of the set: 'Scott' 15-26 whose overprint is printed with Form I characteristics with uniform black ink appears to be an unusual variety or shows a major printing error it must be thoroughly examined before being accepted as authentic.

* The two basic overprint forms used for this issue can be distinguished as follows:

Form I: Distance between inscription and 1st line: 2.5-3 mm, between 2nd and 3rd line: 3.25 mm-3.5 mm (rarely).

Form II: Distance between inscription and 1st line 2-2.5 mm, between 2nd and 3rd line: 3.5 mm in the first row, 4 mm in either rows.

** Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, A. Laszkiewicz, Z. Mikulski et. al. Warszawa 1960, "Ruch", Vol. I. P. 104.

NEW MEMBER

William Claringbole

Rt. 1, Box 440

Eagle River, WI 54521

Extensive Forgeries Exist On Cracow Issue

By JOHN GOODRICH

At the close of World War I, Poland became an independent nation. The postal authorities in Cracow called in all available Austrian stamps to be overprinted.

These overprinted stamps are Scott 41-60, P1-5 and J1-12 (reference numbers are derived from Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue).

The amounts available varied greatly among the different values. The greatest amount was Scott 60, at 100,000 copies; the least was J-10, at 40 copies.

The majority of these stamps are rare. The 6-halerzy value (Scott 43) had a printing of 28,750 copies and retails for around \$10-\$15 today; as a comparison, there were 27,350 \$5 Columbians printed.

The Cracow issue, especially the better values, has been extensively forged. Some of the forgeries are crudely done, while others are quite good, being made from partial reconstructions of the original dies.

The overprint on the smaller stamps (except Scott 60) was typographed. A lithographic process was used to overprint 60, 52-55, and J8-10. The following information will deal with form I of the overprint.

This form was designed to overprint the current Austrian definitives, which came in sheets of 100. The following values were overprinted with Form I:

The 3h (Scott 41); 5h (42); part of the 6h (43); 10h (44); 12h (45); 40h (46); 50h (46); 60h (48); 80h (49, illustrated in Figure 1); 90h (50); most of the 1-korona (51); 15h (56); and 20h (57). Also, J12 was overprinted with Form I, as were 15 copies of J10.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Inverted and double overprints do exist on some values overprinted with Form I. The 6h, 50h, 60h and 80h exist with inverted overprints.

The 40h, 80h and 50h/42h (J12) exist with double overprints. Also, Scott 60 (Form III, lithographed) and J3 (Form IID, typographed) exist with inverted overprints. Inverted or

double overprints on any other values are forgeries.

The overprint consists of the words "POCZTA" and "POLSKA" separated by a rhombus (or diamond) in a vertical setting. Many forgeries can be detected simply by measuring the overprint (Figure 2).

The height of the overprint is 9.25 millimeters; the length of the word "POCZTA" is 14 mm; "POLSKA" measures 14.5 mm in length. The length of the rhombus and the height of the individual letters is 2.5 mm.

Correct measurements alone, however, are not an assurance of authenticity. Some forgeries are very well done. If the overprint dimensions are correct, then the plate position must be determined as final proof of authenticity.

The technicalities of the plating process are beyond the scope of this article, but collectors should be advised of the necessity of having these stamps expertised. I would not buy any of the Cracow issues from someone who would not guarantee it.

NEW MEMBERS

Huguette Gagnon

305-555 Shaw Avenue

Coquitlam, BC

Canada V3K 5P3

Tsutomu Yamamoto

38-105 4-chome

Kariguchidai, Tarumi

Kobe, Japan 655

Jacek T. Bartel

104 Seaton Street

Toronto, Ontario

Canada M5A 2T3

POLISH LEGION IN ITALY

Le Legioni Polacche in Italia 1797-1806, printed in Italian, edited by Giorgio Migliavacca, Box 42, 27100 Pavia, Italy, describes cachets, cancellations and postal history of the Polish Legion.

SUPPORT A MARIE ZAKRZEWSKA U.S. STAMP

The Polish American Progress Assn. is organizing a local petition drive to assist Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski in urging the United States Postal Service to issue a stamp in memory of Dr. Marie Zakrzewska.

An immigrant to the United States in 1853, she graduated from Western Reserve College of Medicine in only three years. Dr. Zakrzewska became a pioneer woman physician and pathfinder in American medicine. She was one of the founders of the New York Infirmary and served as its first resident for women and children in 1859.

Dr. Zakrzewska then went to Boston where she organized New England Hospital for women and children, where she was a director for 40 years. She helped organize the first American school for nurses. She was also a pioneer of women's rights and a leader in the abolitionist movement in America.

When Dr. Zakrzewska died on May 12, 1902, the following observation was made in the *Boston Transcript*:

"Marie Zakrzewska, the pioneer among women physicians of the country, was the first woman doctor in New England. She was so well known, and her work so widespread in its benefactions, that there was deep interest in recalling the nobility of the woman and the unselfishness with which she devoted her life to administering to the sick and afflicted."

Petitions may be obtained by calling: 201-432-7465.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are asked to notify us immediately. Failure to do so is costing the Society unnecessary expense. Please mail the notice to Al Rybarski, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171.

S/4 DAL TO RETURN TO POLAND AFTER 40 YEARS

The S/4 Dal was built in Poland in 1933 as a sailboat with one mast and a single headsail. Lt. J. Swiechowski of the Polish Merchant Marines and Lt. A. Bohumolec of the Polish Cavalry left Gdynia on the sailboat crossing the Atlantic and heading for Chicago for the famed Century of Progress Exhibition. The journey took many months through hurricanes and adverse weather before the boat reached Bermuda. It made its way up the Atlantic seaboard to the Great Lakes and finally in 1934 it arrived in Chicago on Lake Michigan.

Here the Dal attracted much attention as it lay at anchor in the Jackson Park Lagoon. Swiechowski and Bohumolec returned as heroes to Poland. As far as we know, there is no philatelic documentation known from this voyage.

With the outbreak of W.W. II, the Dal was moved to the Museum of Science and Industry where it was displayed in the exhibit of wind power in commerce and transportation for almost 30 years. In 1968 the museum decided to close the Dal exhibit.

Renee Gieblewicz, son of a Baltic fisherman, and a mariner of sort, visited the museum and fell under the spell of

this legendary boat. He appealed to the Illinois Division of the Polish-American Congress and with help of Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, Polonus Honorary Member, presented the museum officials with a plan for the restoration of the Dal and its return to Poland. The proposal was accepted. With the help of a few friends, Gieblewicz began the task of the restoration. It took many years of labor and much expense. Financial resources were exhausted.

Tom Korzeniowski, Newscaster from NBC-TV, was also fascinated by the Dal story. Learning of the difficulties he appealed for support to Polish National Alliance President, Aloysius A. Mazewski. Thanks to support from the P.N.A., the Dal departed Chicago May 3rd, 1980 upon taking part in the Polish Constitution Day Parade held in that city.

Alfred Szebel, Polonus President, decided to document this historical return of the Dal to Poland. For the voyage, Polonus sponsored a special cachet and other markings which will permit the crew to post souvenir mail on the trans-Atlantic trip to Poland.

Skipper Gieblewicz agreed to post mail from the time of leaving New York



on July 4th, from the ports of call to Poland. Self addressed covers should bear Poland's postage of 6 zloty for surface and 10 zloty for airmail; or U.S. postage of 20c for surface, or 31c for airmail. Self addressed and stamped mail should arrive in New York before June 28th:

S/4 DAL
c/o Henry Archacki
Cooper Station - Box 253
New York, NY 10276

Skipper Gieblewicz and the crew will do their best to comply with requests, but will take no responsibility if something will go wrong. The risk is yours.

For the departure from the Chicago Yacht Club, Polonus prepared souvenir cards cancelled May 3, 1980. They are available at \$1.00 plus 25c postage from Al Rybarski, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171.

Here's wishing Skipper Gieblewicz and his crew a successful voyage to Poland. May the historical Dal rest in glory in the Polish Maritime Museum in Gdansk.

J. A. KLOSKOWSKI DIES

Joseph A. Kloskowski, 85, of New Britain, Conn., died April 25 following a long illness. Mr. Kloskowski wrote for 25 years a regular stamp column in the *Hartford Courant* under the pen name of "Jay A. Kay."

The philatelist was a 50-year employee of the newspaper and continued the column after his retirement from the publication several years ago.

Mr. Kloskowski was founder and president of the Association of Polish Philatelists in Connecticut and was one of the founders of the Connecticut Philatelic Society.

The collector-writer, was also a member of the Society of Philatelic Americans, the Polonus Philatelic Society and the New England Precancel Society.

NEW MEMBER

Robert J. Bannan
8600 Marie St., S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501

AMERIPEX '86

The 1986 International Exhibition AMERIPEX '86, sponsored by F.I.P., will be held in Chicago. An Executive Committee with J. Duffy as President, was formed in 1978. He will be assisted by prominent philatelists of the Chicago area: C. Hahn, B. Hennig, R. Outlaw, L. Winick, and others.

Three Polonus members, A. Szebel, J. Bartzak, and J. Mazepa, were invited to participate in the Organizing Committee of this, the first International Exhibition to be held in Chicago May 21-June 1, 1980.

Polonus participation in national philatelic activity during the last decade was recognized by the Executive Committee when they invited these three active Polonus members.

An Organizing Committee meeting was held recently at the Collectors Club of Chicago. The task of the committee is enormous when you consider the size of the exhibition: 3,000 frames of 16 pages each, of the most prominent philatelic exhibits of the world, with hundreds of dealers.

We at Polonus wish the committee success in their undertaking and are happy that three of our members were recognized for their achievements and were invited to participate.

NEW OFFICERS

The following officers were elected at the Polonus meeting of May 23rd, 1980:

John Bartzak	President
Roman Strzelecki	Vice President
Chester Schafer	Secretary
Stanley Rusin	Treasurer
Al Rybarski	Director
Tom Gobby	Director
James Mazepa	Director
Frank Wolosewick	Director

Installation of these men as officers will take place at the regular monthly meeting on June 27th, 1980, at the Polish Veterans Hall.

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

James Mazepa, Secretary
P. O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304
Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622
Roman H. Strzelecki, Treasurer
1620 N. Latrobe, Chicago, IL 60639

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 \$7.50 —

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Editor,

Now and then I get an occasional letter from a Chicagoland Polonus member on activity at Polonus meetings. May I suggest something that would or could be a topic of general interest to the membership. One of these is the stamp issuing policies of the present Polish government.

Most members still collect the new issues of Poland. In the past few years there have been and continue to be issues which are printed in metallic inks, such as *silver* and *gold*. Stamps printed with these inks do not hold up well in handling or in postal use. These inks deteriorate and show fingerprints and smudges where they are handled. They also do not take good cancellations. For the long term interest of collecting and preserving stamps, I think that the use of such inks should be discouraged.

The flora and fauna wall paper issues should also be discouraged and suggestions should be made to honor worthwhile historical events, personages, various tourist sights and cities of note, industrial progress, folk art, and topical events worthy of mention.

It should also be noted that the so called "limited editions" as the Silver S.S. for the occasion of Pope John Paul II's visit, should be prohibited. There was no valid reason for dupli-

cating the gold printing in silver. If we accept the excuse that it was to obtain dollars needed for trade we are being taken for simple fools. The printing in silver is supposed to be 120,000 copies. Reports are that the ARS agency originally sold the sheet to their wholesale clients at \$3.00. If so, the entire printing would have enriched the Polish government by 360 thousand dollars. On the other hand, if they had printed a million copies and sold them at a dollar each, they would have realized more than double that amount.

We have heard stories that the Silver S.S. is selling for as much as 10 dollars in Poland. It would appear that this would result in a considerable net LOSS in Poland, rather than any gain of dollars.

From all we have been able to learn about such issues, it is evident that something is rotten in denmark, rather in Poland.

—Joe Bieniecki

Granite City, IL

P.S. Poland issues some sets in 6 to 8 stamps to a set. They could very easily put 3 to 4 stamps on a single cover instead if using a separate envelope for each stamp. It would be a saving in album pages and needless bulk.

(J.B.)

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Polonus Philatelic Society will be held on Friday, June 27, 1980 at the Polish Veterans Hall Clubroom, starting at 8:00 p.m. Installation of Officers will take place. Beeba to follow.

NEW MEMBER

Marion J. Dudek
1805 Via Arriba
Palos Verdes Est., CA 90274

Happiness for our club members is having lots of good friends—especially those who collect stamps.