

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 217

December, 1963



SIXTEEN AWARDS TO BE GIVEN AT POLPEX 1964

The largest number of awards ever to be given at a Polpex will be presented at our Silver Anniversary POLPEX 1964 to be held February 28th, 29th and March 1st at the Andrew House, 2441 W. Division St., Chicago, U.S.A.

In the Polpex entry applications mailed out with last month's Bulletin, there were 14 awards listed. Since then two more awards have been added: Best Other Than Poland Award and Best Polonica Award. The correct listing now is as follows:

1. Polonus Philatelic Society Grand Award.
2. Kozakiewicz Research Award
3. Uznanski Historical Award
4. First Award
5. Second Award
6. Third Award
7. Best Other Than Poland Award
8. Best Locals Award
9. Best Plebiscites Award
10. Best Fieldpost Award
11. Best Offices Abroad Award
12. Best Prisoner of War Award
13. Best Polonica Award
14. Best Topicals Awards
15. Novice Award
16. Apfelbaum Award

So if you haven't done it yet, fill out your entry application and mail it to the Entry Chairman. Additional forms may be secured by writing him: Josef J. Bendkowski, 6223 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60636.

In the entry application there is a printer's error in the rules and regulations under article one. It should read: "The exhibition is open for competition to members in good standing of the Polonus Philatelic Society, and to invited philatelists, and whose exhibits must be their bona fide property. Polonus members may exhibit Polish or other foreign material, but the invited philatelists must limit their exhibits to the stamps of Poland, Polonica and associated countries (Allenstein, Marienwerder, Central Lithuania, Easter Silesia, Upper Silesia, Poland Offices Abroad, Prisoner of War, Field-Post, etc.)"

We are grateful to the following for donations of trophies and awards:

Alfred Szebel, Roman Burkiewicz, Myron Steczynski, Hollywood Press and Josef Bendkowski. If any more members wish to make donations of this kind, please contact Acting Polpex Chairman Stefan Kochanski, 4030 W. Carroll Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60624.

As mentioned in our earlier reports on the coming show, the U.S. Post Office will operate a postal station at our Polpex. Visitors to our exhibition will be able to purchase U.S. commemoratives in any quantity. Polpex mail will receive the special Polonus Silver Anniversary cancellation. The success of this postal station is determined by the sales of postage stamps and the number of pieces of mail posted at the show. So if you will attend the exhibition please plan on purchasing stamps here and the mailing of covers. The larger the sale of stamps and volume of mail the better for Polonus.

We received several articles in our appeal for material for the special editions of our leading national philatelic publications. We need many more. Let's make this an outstanding Silver Anniversary, one that will long be remembered in the philatelic world. Let's promote Polish Philately like it's never been promoted. Send your articles to Publicity Chrm., Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

The highlight of every Polpex is the Beeba. This year a Silver Jubilee Banquet will augment the Beeba with catering provided by the Andrew House who specialize in Polish style food. The banquet will be held Saturday, February 29, at 10 p.m. Tickets for the Banquet are priced at \$3.50 per person and are available from Stan. Kucharz. Place your order by using the enclosed convenient remittance envelope.

Admission to the Polpex show is free. Money to cover expenses of the show is obtained from the sale of the souvenir sheets, covers, the one dollar frame charge, and from advertisers and patrons in the Program book. And

the program book this year will really be something. For the first time we plan on publishing an up to date membership list in the program book. It will also contain philatelic and historical articles. Please help make this book a worthy remembrance of our Silver Jubilee. Place your ad with anniversary greetings and well wishes. Advertise your wants. Full page ads run \$20.00, half-page ads \$12.00, quarter-page ads \$7.00. Send copy & check to Stanley Kucharz, 4324 S. Spaulding Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60632.

Would you be a Patron of the Polpex? For one dollar we will print your name in our colorful and impressive program book, to be distributed to visitors at the exhibition.

With this issue of the Bulletin we are enclosing a remittance envelope. Please print your name on the flap, tell us how many tickets you want for the Silver Jubilee Banquet. Enclose a check or money order for the amount plus one dollar for your patron listing. Seal it, affix a stamp and mail. In this way you will be of great help to our society.

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WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS...

Let's go back a few months to recapitulate the events and doings.

In October the Board of Directors and Members had selected four men to receive honorary membership in our Society: Mr. Harry Lindquist, publisher of "Stamps"; Carl P. Rueth, associate Editor of "Linn's Weekly"; William W. Wylie, Editor of "Western Stamp Collector"; Dr. Edward Rózański, noted Polish-American Historian. Presentation of the Honorary Membership will be done at our Silver Jubilee Banquet in February.

In November the Board of Directors proposed the establishing of a Polonus Award to be given for the best Polish exhibit at philatelic exhibitions throughout the United States. By giving this award we hope to promote the exhibiting of more Polish collections and to emphasize our activities. A committee is working on the conditions of the award and we hope that in January this award can become a reality.

Another proposal brought up by the Board and accepted by the members, was to establish an Auction Committee for the disposal of members' material at auctions. Regulations for the functioning of this committee are also in preparation.

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors mostly administrative matters were discussed. The regular society meeting of Dec. 13th was devoted in great part to the reading of numerous correspondence received in connection with our Silver Anniversary, POLPEX 1964. Many out of town members will attend and many promised to help. After the meeting another auction of Bert Powell material was held.

—Stefan Kochanski

TID BITS

Polonus members welcome Reverend David Balla into the Chicago area. Rev. Balla, formerly of Nebraska, was transferred to Oak Park, Ill. We hope to meet him at our meetings.

Myron Steczynski exhibited his Poland No. 1 collection at the Chicago Philatelic Society Exhibition recently and received two prizes, a medal and the S.P.A. Research award.

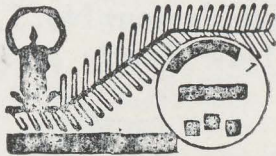
"WELCOME, GOLDEN STAR"

by Stefan Kochanski

Poland, if not the first, was one of the first countries to use a pictorial cancellation on Christmas mail, which can be considered as a forerunner of the Christmas stamps which are becoming more and more popular today.

In 1935, the general post office at Warsaw introduced a special cancella-

tion to be used at Christmastime. This experiment proved so popular that the following season the Ministry of Posts furnished eleven post offices in the larger Polish cities with special postmarks. Each postmark was different from the other but all carried the inscription "Witaj Gwiazdka Złota" ("Welcome, Golden Star").



To whom it may concern:

Because of moving from Chicago I am liquidating my collection of Poland. I have mint and used First Day Covers in large numbers.

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POLONUS HIGHLIGHTS OF 1963

January

New administration elected: Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Pres.; Stefan Kochanski, Vice Pres.; Roman H. Strzelecki, Secretary; Eugene Bogucki, Treas.; Roman Reinowski, Librarian; Josef Bendkowski and Chester Schafer, members of the board.

February

Polonus prepares for Polpex 1963 . . . Advance publicity of coming show displayed in philatelic and Polish press . . . Committees busy collecting ads, patrons, entries, etc.

March

Polpex 1963 held at Polish Museum of America . . . Many members out of Chicago attend, including M. A. Bojanowicz and Z. Bokiewicz of London . . . Grand award goes to outstanding No. 1 collection of Bojanowicz . . . Unusual souvenir sheet designed by famous artist W. Gawron, shows dual theme of Polish Insurrection and Battle of Gettysburg . . . Polpex 1963 biggest financial success . . . Special program meeting of March 8th features M. A. Bojanowicz speaking on Poland No. 1, attracts large crowd . . . Stefan Kochanski presents those in attendance with printed souvenir card.

April

Polonus mourns the loss of its President Dr. M. E. Uznanski . . . Stefan Kochanski takes over as Acting President.

May

Joseph Janecka, President of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club delivers talk on the 1100th anniversary of introduction of Christianity and the alphabet to Slavic peoples by SS. Cyril and Methodius.

June

Lester Jankowski gives philatelic talk on his prize-winning French Precancels.

July-August

Souvenir sheet design contest announced in order to secure best possible design for coming 25th Anniversary POLPEX 1964 . . . Cumulative index to Polonus Bulletins by Ron Negus published.

September

Permission received by Polonus from U.S. Post Office Dept. for a special cancellation for POLPEX 1964 and for a postal station on the premises to sell stamps and handle covers . . . Myron Steczynski delivers enlightening philatelic and historical lecture on Pulaski and Kosciuszko.

October

Outstanding program meeting held October 25th with two speakers: Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, Polish-American Historian, speaking on U.S. Civil War, and Wladyslaw Terlecki, former Mintmaster of Polish mint at Warsaw speaking on Polish Numismatics.

November

A preliminary survey made among members to determine who will exhibit and attend POLPEX 1964 results in a great response among out of towners . . . Myron Steczynski's souvenir sheet design wins contest . . . Program meeting at Chicago main post office combined with escorted tour held on same day nation's President John Kennedy is assassinated.

December

Polonus bestows honorary membership to H. L. Lindquist, Carl P. Rueth, W. W. Wylie and Dr. Edward Rozanski . . . Largest number of awards announced for POLPEX 1964 . . . Past President's Nite and Christmas Party to be held December 27th.

— P O L A N D —

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POLISH FIRST AIR MAILS 1944 - 1956

By T. Gryżewski

(Reprinted from Polish Philatelic Review of May-June 1959)

Considering the amount of destruction left behind by the retreating German troops, the Polish Civil Administration started work by organizing aerial links between more important towns in the liberated area.

In August 1944, a Civil Air Unit attached to the Polish Air Force H.Q., began to operate two regular air lines on routes Lublin-Bialystok and Lublin-Rzeszow-Przemysł, and 5 lines, exclusively for mail transport, linking distant towns with capitals of provinces.

No first airmails are recorded and it is safe to say that the initial mails carried were of official character. It is doubtful if in the chaos then prevailing these flights were publicly announced at all. If, however, someone knew by chance of any forthcoming flight and tried to send a letter by air it is more than certain he would never have had his mail carried by the required flight. The then obligatory, inefficient censorship would take care of that. According to reports from known philatelists no special markings were used on that mail.

On March 6th, 1945, the "Monitor Polski" informed that the Polish Air Lines "LOT" had been organized. In the same month three branches of the Company were opened in Lublin, Krakow and Rzeszow. On March 30th, the first regular circuit air service began to operate joining Warsaw - Lodz - Krakow - Rzeszow - Lublin - Warsaw.

In April 1945, four new branches of the Company were opened in Poznan, Katowice, Olsztyn (Allenstein) and Gdansk, and on April 13th, a second regular circuit service started on route: Warsaw - Lodz - Poznan - Lodz - Warsaw.

Further development of the service (first flights) is given here in chronological order, and the data are taken from J. Osinski's "Transport Lotniczy" (Warsaw 1954).

1945 Apr. 18—Warsaw-Olsztyn-Gdansk
30—Warsaw-Bialystok

May 5—Warsaw-Krakow

7—Warsaw-Kielce

14—Warsaw-Gdansk. (This was additional, direct service).

Jun. 18—Wroclaw added to the circuit line (Wroclaw branch opened on Apr. 28).

Aug. 1—Due to technical difficulties all the services closed down till February, 1946.

1946 Mar. 11—Change from the circuit to direct lines linking Warsaw with Krakow, Katowice, Gdansk, Wroclaw and Poznan.

Apr. 15—Warsaw - Poznan - Szczecin (Szczecin branch opened on Sept. 8th, 1945).

May 11—Warsaw-Berlin

July 4—Warsaw-Paris

9—Warsaw-Stockholm

Aug. 7—Warsaw-Prague.

1947 Oct. 8—Warsaw - Budapest - Belgrade.

1948 May 24—Warsaw-Bucharest

Oct. 12—Warsaw - Copenhagen

1949 Jun 25—Warsaw-Bruxelles ("SABENA")

1950 Apr. 16—Krakow-Lodz-Poznan

1951 Jun. 1—Szczecin-Gdansk
15—Warsaw-Rzeszow

Some of these services were of ephemeric character and none of them were truly regular. Unfortunately, from our point of view, no philatelic souvenirs are known — probably nobody knew much about these flights. It is said that on the Warsaw-Copenhagen a special cachet was issued. But as much as I tried, I have never seen it. Airmails of that period are found mostly with an open or framed cachet "Par avion" of various sizes as all the major post offices had them made locally. Introduced later air labels resemble the pre-war type. Size and wording of these labels were changed twice.

Additional information regarding first flights we find in F. Muller's "Catalogue des Aerogrammes du Monde Entier" (Paris 1950). Majority of these were probably experimental, trial or special flights and in Poland among collectors they are completely unknown, which, bearing in mind that we know so little about the history of our own P.L.L. 'LOT', is perhaps not surprising.

- 1945 July 18—Warsaw - Visby - Stockholm (ABA)
 Oct. 4—London - Gdansk
 1946 May ?—Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow (AEROFLOT)
 Aug. 8—Warsaw-Prague-Zurich (in conjunction with SWISSAIR)
 1947 Apr. 24—Warsaw-Paris (in conjunction with AIR FRANCE)
 July 10—Gdansk-Lodz-Katowice
 10—Katowice-Lodz-Warsaw
 15—Gdansk-Szczecin
 Oct. 11—Warsaw-Bucharest (in conjunction with TARS (Roumania))
 1948 Apr. 18—Gdansk-Bydgoszcz-Warsaw
 18—Poznan-Wroclaw-Katowice
 18—Warsaw-Gdansk-Stockholm
 1949 Jan. 1—Warsaw-Sofia - Istanbul
 Apr. 18—Warsaw - Berlin - Paris
 From the collection of R.K. Wagner came two further items:
 1948 May 11—Amsterdam (KLM), with cachet "2nd Special Flight".
 1953 Oct. 1—London-Warsaw (BEA) Introduction of unsurcharged mail from Great Britain to Poland.

The 1952-55 period remains a tabula rasa and till now no information is available.

The first Polish post-war air cachet is to be found on mail carried by East Germany's "Lufthansa" plane on the first Berlin-Warsaw flight, on April 4, 1956. About 10,000 letters were dispatched from Warsaw. The cachet was applied both to Warsaw and Berlin mail, and is fairly well known. What is not known, however, is the fact that

Warsaw 1 post office, collecting center for the Warsaw-Berlin mail, absently-mindedly accepted letters until the evening, whilst the plane left for Berlin in the afternoon. After intervention by the Min. of Communications, the commemorative cachet was applied to this large additional mail, which was then directed to Berlin by rail. The originally flown covers bear Berlin N.W.7, Luftpoststelle, postmark, dated, 4.2.56.

On Oct. 15, 1956, "SABENA" Airlines inaugurated the Brussels-Warsaw service, with return flight on the next day. In both cases a commemorative cachet was applied to the mail in Warsaw. Because the flight was announced too late in the press, very few letters were dispatched from Warsaw. "SABENA" carried a certain number of letters in both directions. The Philatelic Agency "Ruch" trifled with the occasion by having subsequent covers hastily cancelled to order with the original cachet. These, not backstamped, are of no value to aero-philatelists whatsoever.

On Nov. 4, 1956, two "KLM" planes carrying the Polish Olympic team to Melbourne, also took 20,000 specially prepared souvenir covers, bearing a commemorative Olympic pmk. On arrival the mail received the Olympic Village, Vic. Aust. pmk., dated Nov. 8 or 9. There are 7 varieties of this depicting:—

- a) Olympic Village,
- b) Olympic Gate,
- c) Torch bearer,
- d) Cyclist and runner,
- e) Cyclists
- f) Long jumper
- g) Javelin thrower

Connecting mail from Berlin is also known.

Let me say here also that the idea for this mail belongs to the author of this article.

This is a general outline of the progress of air services in post-war Poland till 1956, from the philatelic point of view. It has many gaps, many points need elucidation, and the writer would welcome any additional information or corrections which readers may be able to supply.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, December 27, 1963

Past President's Nite combined with Christmas Party. A most colorful evening is planned. All past presidents will be asked to say a few words. Please bring the ladies. Donations of food, "krople Świętego Waleriana", or money will be appreciated. Contact Stefan Kochanski. Souvenir cards will be given to all who attend.

Friday, January 10, 1964.

Our anniversary year begins with the Nomination of Officers for 1964. The outgoing administration will give a report of the past year. Please be present at this important meeting; it is your duty and privilege to select capable officers to carry the Society through our Silver Jubilee year.

Auction to follow.

Friday, Jan. 24, 1964 — ELECTIONS

This is the most important meeting of the year, the election of officers for our 25th Anniversary Year. Every member in the Chicago area should take part in the election.

**Friday, February 14, 1964 —
INSTALLATION**

At this meeting the new administration will be sworn in. As this is the last meeting before POLPEX, final preparations will be discussed.

**Thursday, February 27, 1964 —
MOUNTING NITE**

We meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Andrew House, 2441 W. Division St. to set up POLPEX 1964. Chicagoland members who will exhibit must mount their own collections or have someone do it for them. Other members who will not exhibit are asked to be present and help

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political.
Views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

mount out of town entries. Please bring along a screw driver and cloth for wiping glass. We need all the hands possible as this will be the largest Polonus exhibition ever.

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