

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Season's

Greetings

Czesław Słania - Honorary Polpex Chairman

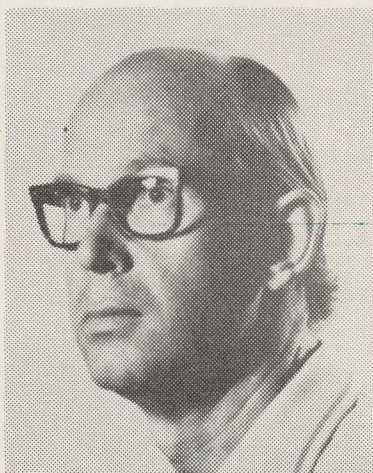
Czesław Słania, internationally famous steel engraver of postage stamps, has accepted an invitation to serve as Honorary Chairman of POLPEX 1972.

Mr. Słania's stellar reputation places him at the top of a field which requires the utmost in art and craftsmanship. His talent and ability are unmatched by his peers.

He was born on October 22, 1921 in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie, Poland. As a child he displayed a remarkable talent for producing miniatures with a photographic accuracy. In 1945 he entered the Academy of Art in Kraków, specialized in the graphic arts, and graduated with honors in 1950. Upon graduation he began to work for the National Security Printing Company (PWPW), and during the 6 years (1950-1956) he was with the PWPW, he designed more than 20 stamps and engraved another 24.

In 1956 Mr. Słania relocated in Sweden and in 1960 he was employed by the Swedish Ministry of Posts. Since 1960 Mr. Słania has distinguished himself with numerous designs and engravings not only for Sweden, but also for Denmark, Greenland and Iceland. The list is lengthy and an article listing the numerous designs and engravings will be included in the POLPEX 1972 catalogue.

In addition to Mr. Słania's numerous stampic efforts, he has also executed a number of private engravings which not only speak of his exceptional skill, but have assisted him to obtain commissions from the Scandinavian Ministers of Posts. These engravings have also come



to the attention of numerous other individuals and firms. For a time, the internationally famous British firm, Thomas De La Rue Company, had attempted to procure his services, but the negotiations proved fruitless.

Amongst the private engravings, Mr. Słania has executed portraits of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, Winston Churchill, Sophia Loren, Marilyn Monroe, Charles De Gaulle, and John F. Kennedy. He has also executed a number of fine engravings honoring the Polish Millennium, Marshall Piłsudski, and General Anders for the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain.

But perhaps the most breathtaking display of Mr. Słania's talent and ability is to be found in his monumental engraving "Grunwald" after the painting by Jan Matejko. Done in a size of 113 x 203 mm. the scope and depth of detail leave the viewer speechless. It is a work of art only matched by the original which this writer has had the distinct pleasure of viewing.

(Continued on page 295-4)

Polonus Backed Copernicus Booklet Published

"STAMPS TO HONOR COPERNICUS" — is the title of a booklet showing all the stamps thus far issued, honoring Copernicus.

The 36 page booklet was published by the Sport-Youth Commission of the Polish National Alliance in the form of their Autumn 1971 edition of "PRO-MIEN"—the P.N.A. Youth Leaders Magazine. Nearly fifty Copernicus stamps and other material are illustrated in heroic size (twice actual) and much philatelic data is included to make this theme complete and authentic. Myron Steczynski has written and illustrated this article and its a headliner of the greatest merit. The original manuscript was shown at a recent Polonus meeting and Myron was given the full backing of our society in developing this subject to the highest possible level.

We might stress here that this booklet is a must for the topical collector of space stamps. We could not publish this particular article in the Polonus Bulletin because the layouts and illustrations required a larger page such as 8½ x 11.

Polonus has a supply of these booklets so that members may have a convenient source for this timely material. The price per copy is \$1.50 postpaid and may be obtained from Chester Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill.

Polonus is setting its sights on the important quicentenary of Copernicus' birth which falls on February 19, 1973, but which is being celebrated for a year or two before that date and will go on for a year or two after that date.

We already advised Polonus members that a design contest is being conducted for a contemplated U.S. stamp by the Polish American Congress with Polonus members on the active committee. We hope that we can be helpful in evolving a suitable design and in influencing U.S. authorities to issue a stamp.

This "STAMPS TO HONOR COPERNICUS" booklet will acquaint stamp collectors, artists, writers and the general public with the life and accomplishments of Copernicus. It contains 54 illustrations on the subject.

We have every reason to believe that many countries will honor Copernicus during the next year or so and that the U.S. will be among them. The Copernicus stamps will constitute a major division of philately. If you wish to develop this subject in your collection you should begin now to round out your holdings and be in sound shape to continue when the new stamps will be coming out.

P.S. We have word from Myron Steczynski that he will be glad to autograph any copies of the booklet upon request. Just make a note on your order for an autographed copy.

POLPEX ENTRY FORMS

With this issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* we are enclosing an entry application for POLPEX 1972. Prepare your exhibit over the holidays and send in your entry as soon as possible. The amount of frames available this year are less than usual as we plan on showing exhibits of other Polish philatelic clubs. First come, first served!

DR. KOZAKIEWICZ HONORED

Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz was the honored guest at the U.S. Diplomatic Courier Association ceremonies held at the Thomas Jefferson Room of the Department of State in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 1971. The occasion was the first day of issue of a medal for the Diplomatic Courier Service.



Dr. Kozakiewicz is a former member of the U.S. Diplomatic Courier Service; one of the original couriers recruited back in 1918. Recovering from wounds in a hospital near Paris, he was approached by a representative of Colonel House to take up a special assignment — that of acting as an escort officer for the return of Ignace Paderewski to Warsaw. It was decided to appoint him to the newly forming Courier Service and he joined it on December 6, 1918, just four days after its creation. He made many interesting courier trips in post war Europe in addition to the special assignment with I. Paderewski.

"Doc Kozy" is the oldest former member of the U.S. D.C.S.

Although 81 years of age today, he still maintains an active medical practice in Chicago.

Reprinted from STAMPS.

SLANIA HONORARY CHRM.

(Continued from page 295-2)

Mr. Slania has also given his consent to display his personal collection which is currently in the possession of Col. Jan Z. E. Berek in London.

Thus, it is most fitting that Mr. Slania has accepted the position to serve as Honorary Chairman of POLPEX 1972 whose theme is the Polish Philatelic Movement throughout the world. A more fitting chairman could not be found.

In 1971, Mr. Slania was singled out for honor by the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, and you are asked to refer to their exhibition catalogue of June 18-22, 1971. In September, 1971, "The American Philatelist", (The Journal of the American Philatelic Society) singled him out and found him worthy of a cover story (Vol. 85, No. 9, Sept. 1971, pp. 792-6).

Polonus can only say thank you to Mr. Slania. You can express your thanks by exhibiting, and attending POLPEX 1972.

—T. J. Gobby

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 14, 1972

Regular Meeting. Nomination and Election of Officers.

Friday, January 28, 1972

Installation of Officers.

Friday, February 11, 1972

Program Meeting. Dr. Miet A. Kamiński, guest speaker.

NEW MEMBER

Vincent P. Cyran

99 Olcott

Buffalo, N.Y. 14220

Polonus Bulletin, December 1971

Poland's Diplomatic Postal Services After 1918

by Edward Nowak, Sr.

Like many countries after World War I, Poland organized postal services at her diplomatic centers in Turkey. As early as 1918, the Polish Consulate in Constantinople suggested a service that would connect Poland and Turkey. Its necessity was prompted by rising diplomatic exchanges of correspondence and a mounting volume of business between the two nations.

The suggestion of the Polish Consul in Constantinople created the foundation for diplomatic exchanges of views leading to an official permit from his country's Foreign Ministry to form the "Polish Postal Agency" in the Turkish capital.

The "Polish Agency" was officially opened June 1, 1919 in the building of the Consulate. The so-called "Polish Delegation" was empowered to supervise the newly created postal service.

A single consulate official functioned in the role of postmaster. With the exception of Sundays and holidays, the postal facility was open daily. One mail box was placed for postal use in the interior of the Polish Diplomatic Legation.

From June 1919, the mail posted in the Polish Postage Agency in Constantinople was prepaid with the regular adhesives in force in Poland. Polish stamps, valued in pfennigs and Marks, were sold at the Turkish money values at the rate of one Polish Mark for six Turkish piastres. All Polish adhesives used by the Agency were overprinted "LEVANT", but the cancellation dies handstamps, and printed instructions were in the Polish language.



In the beginning — after establishment of the Postal Agency — only Polish nationals took advantage of the postal services in Constantinople, but as business exchanges between Turkey and Poland grew in volume, citizens of several other countries corresponding with the latter took advantage of the arrangements.

A courier service between the two nations was maintained as often as the diplomatic department of the Polish Foreign Ministry deemed necessary. All correspondence arriving from Poland was claimed by the addressees at the office of the Postal Agency; or it was delivered personally by the Agency's official. Mail from Poland, addressed to distant places in Turkey was delivered to regular post offices of that country for further dispatch via Turkish postal facilities.

According to records in Poland's Ministry of Post, the amount of letters expedited to Poland, or from Poland to Turkey, seldom amounted to more than 250 pieces of mail in each dispatch. A larger percentage of this mail was for the philatelic exchanges between Polish and Turkish stamp enthusiasts.

The Agency in Constantinople lost its usefulness due to the official establishment of regular postal facilities between Turkey and Poland via Roumania, based

on the laws of the International Postal Convention.

Contingent on the same fundamentals and agreements as those in Constantinople, Poland established in several Russian cities similar agencies; wherever a consulate existed. The most important and busiest such Agency was organized in Odessa, and this office promptly expedited mail to Poland during Russian engagement in the war. The stamps used at the Polish Postal Agency in Odessa were also overprinted "ODESSA".

The Agency in Odessa began functioning November 1919 and officiated until January 31, 1920.

The Odessa Agency received the first shipment of adhesives from Poland on November 12, 1919. These were overprinted "ODESSA" by a typographical system in black ink. They measure 13 millimeters in length and were of 10, 20, 25, 50 pfennigs; the highest denomination is 1 Mark, on which the overprint measured 14½ mm.

The stamps used on letters from Odessa to Poland were cancelled with a triple bordered hand die, the center bearing one word. "ODESSA", in black or violet inks.

Correspondence from Odessa's Agency was censored by officials at the Polish Consulate and later, after the censorship, the letters were stamped on the reverse side, stating in the Polish language "Read in Polish Consulate" and signed "Commander of Etape." All mail posted was prepaid in amounts according to prevailing tariffs in Poland.

Poland's stamps overprinted "Levant" or "Odessa", were plentiful on the American market after World War I. Less than 1

per cent of these proved to be genuine. The rest turned out to be falsifications dumped on the market by unscrupulous people who counted on purchases by unsuspecting or greedy collectors.

For reasons unknown, Odessa adhesives are listed by very few stamp catalogues. Polish catalogues list them.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Polonus Members:

We of Stamps For The Wounded were very happy to receive the cash donation from you at your Dec. 10th meeting. Nineteen dollars were donated by members present. THANK YOU one and all! And to the members who donated stamps.

With this money we will be able to buy philatelic supplies the boys need to continue their collecting activities.

God Bless You All,

John Bor, Regional Dir.,
Stamps For The Wounded

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Local "Gröszy" Overprint From Legnica 1

by Stanley and Eric Kronenberg

During the fiscal reform of 1950 in Poland all post and telegraph directorates issued rubber stamps to their subordinate post-offices to overprint the current zloty denomination stamps into "Groszy." 26 directorate types and 25 local types of overprints can be distinguished. An additional local type of overprint, "Gröszy" instead of "Groszy" from the post office Legnica I is mentioned in Ref. 1. In Ref. 2 and 3 it is described as possible but unconfirmed because of insufficient evidence of its existence.

Looking through a pile of covers bearing stamps with groszy overprints we found one which confirms the existence of this local type of overprint (see illustration.) The overprint is basically of the Wroclaw directorate type 26, subtype 26b**. Above the letter "o" in "Groszy" are two pronounced dots. The overprints are on a block of 3 x 2 of the 10 zl. red, engraved stamp

with the portrait of Bierut. The stamps are on a regular mail cover mailed on January 30, 1951 from the post office Legnica I to Toruń. The cancellation reads: "Legnica 1 * S * 30 - 1.51. 12". The overprint is in violet color.

This item can be considered genuine in all respects because: (1) The cancellation is imprinted over the overprint, (2) In the lot of covers where this one was found were many others from different places in Poland addressed to the same seed and garden supply company. Apparently they are all from routine business correspondence which this company received during late 1950 and early 1951. All the other covers in the batch are very common and for these reasons phiatelic manipulation is most improbable.

One can guess how this local overprint type occurred: The rubber stamps are made by assembling a form from single letter



The photograph has been taken through a red filter to increase the contrast of the overprint.

types and then heat moulding and curing rubber in it. The company which made the rubber stamps for the directorate received a rush order to make several hundred such identical stamps. To shorten the waiting time for the curing of the rubber, several casting dies were made and used simultaneously. In one of them the letter "o" was erroneously replaced by "ö" (the German ö — *umlaut*). This error must have been quickly discovered and the casting form corrected but at least one cast remained and ended up in the Legnica I post office.

Looking at this overprint it is understandable why it was described in Ref. 2 and 3 as being possibly "an o with a bar on top." Too much pressure applied during overprinting can easily combine the two dots into a line as e.g. on the third stamp of the top row in the illustration.

** The Directorate of Post and Telegraph in Wroclaw supplied its 465 post offices with "groszy" rubber stamps which are described in the pertinent literature (ref. 4, 5, 6) as the type 26. One can distinguish two subtypes with differently cut letter "G": 26a and 26b. In type 26a the bow at the bottom of G joins the vertical line in the right lower corner at a right angle and does not extend below its bottom. In type 26b this bow joins the vertical line at an angle greater than 90 degrees. The type 26a appears to be somewhat less common than type 26b.

REFERENCES:

1. L. Parczewski, "Groszy" 1953, II mimeographed edition. p. 39.
2. Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, Vol. II, Warszawa 1960, p. 456.
3. S. Adamski and A. Roszkowski, *Filatelista* 1956, p. 165.
4. S. Adamski and A. Roszkowski, *Filatelista* 1955, p. 5.
5. Same as 2, p. 417.
6. Catalogue of Polish Stamps "Ruch", Warszawa, 1971, p. 93.

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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 \$2.50 —

POLONUS DUES RAISED

Polonus Dues are now \$4.00 a year. At the December 10th meeting, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors meeting of December 5th, the society voted to raise the dues from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per year. The rising costs of printing the *Polonus Bulletin*, postage hikes, rental increases on our meeting and exhibition halls — have forced us to do so.

Our dues have remained at the \$2.50 level for the past 24 years. It was inevitable that this change was coming.

As the new year is just around the corner, your dues for 1972 are payable now. Please send the \$4.00 to the treasurer, Al Rybarski, 2435 First Ave., River Grove, Ill. 60171.

"BIOGRAPHY OF A POLISH STAMP" EXHIBIT WINS PRIZE

Dr. Jerzy J. Biały won a gold medal and first prize for his "Biography of a Stamp" exhibit at the recent TETPEX-71 in New York. Dr. Biały's exhibit showed the history of one Polish stamp. He is president of the Beacon Research Laboratories chapter of the Texaco Stamp Club, residing in LaGrangeville, N.Y.