

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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(Dom Harcerski) 6434 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL

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POLPEX 94 Recalls Poland's Glorious History

50th ANNIVERSARY of the WARSAW UPRISING AUGUST 1, 1944.

The citizens of Warsaw made a last heroic attempt to free Poland's capital on August 1st, 1944. In spite of severe shortages of food, medicine, water and weapons, the fight lasted 63 days. When it was over on October 2nd, more than 250,000 civilians and combatants perished including hundreds of children. Warsaw was destroyed, house by house.

50th ANNIVERSARY of the BATTLE of MONTE CASSINO.

After many failed attempts by Allied forces to conquer this strategic point blocking the access to Rome, the 2nd Polish Corps succeeded after a bloody battle lasting seven days. 860 Polish soldiers died and 2,800 were wounded.

200th ANNIVERSARY of KOSCIUSZKO'S VICTORIOUS BATTLE of RACLAWICE in 1794.



200 years ago Kosciuszko led a Polish insurrection which promised freedom for all citizens. He defeated the powerful Russian imperial troops in the Battle of Racławice near Kraków on April 4, 1794. For the first time in history, peasants fought alongside professional military men.

Stamps, postal history, coins and medals are excellent evidence of what transpired in a country's history. The Polonus Philatelic Society and the Polish American Numismatic Association will gather such evidence and exhibit it at POLPEX 94 to be held March 18-19-20, at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois.

The above anniversaries will be honored at Polpex 94 with special postmarks and exhibits. Mr. Z. Mikulski of Switzerland is expected to bring and exhibit an unusual collection of the Warsaw Uprising. Mr. K. Lachowicz of Wrocław, Poland promised to send part of his Kościuszkow

collection, and yours truly will show the 2nd Polish Corps and Monte Cassino in the Court of Honor.

Visit with us on March 18-20th, 1994 at the House of the White Eagle, 6839 North Milwaukee Ave., Niles, Illinois. Hours: Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and plenty of parking is available. About 25 dealers will have a good supply of stamps and covers. The Polish American Numismatic Ass'n will participate with numismatic exhibits.

If you plan to exhibit, ask for entry forms by writing or calling Mr. T. Sokolowski, 8456 N. Olcott, Niles, IL 60714, tel.: 708 - 965-5675.

We need help and support from our local and out-of-town members for setting-up the exhibits on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. and then taking them down on Sunday after 4:00 p.m. We also need your financial support in the form of a Polpex Patron by sending \$5.00 or more. Your name will be listed in the Show Catalog. Send check to Mr. S. Czarniecki, Treasurer, at 1511 South 59th Street, Cicero, IL 60650. Ads for the Program Catalog are: \$60.00 for a full page; \$45.00 for half page; and \$25.00 for a quarter page. Send copy to Mr. C. Schafer, 864 No. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622, phone: 312 - 421-4372.

The U.S. Post Office will be at Polpex '94 with three special cancellations (shown at the beginning of article) and plenty of new postage stamps. The Catalog and show souvenirs will be available at the Polonus table at nominal prices.

The traditional Beeba-Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person available at the show.

—Fred Szebel, Chairman

AUSTRIAN STAMP HALVED IN MYŚLENICE, POLAND

The only instance of Austrian stamps which commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Emperor Franz Joseph (Scott numbers 110-127) being halved for use as stamps of half their original denomination, occurred in Galicja, Poland, during World War I. (See E. Muller, "Die Postmarken von Österreich", die Postmarke G.M.B.H. Wien, p. 285).



Wielkość Pana Roman Sobolewski

In the case of the cover addressed to Jaworzno illustrated here, the postmaster of Myślenice cut the 20 hal. stamp in two, tied its upper part with the cancellation "Myślenice, b, 30 May 1916", wrote on top in German: "valid as a 10 hal. stamp", signed his name, and imprinted next to this note the official seal of the Myślenice post office with the Austrian eagle and the posthorn.

—Stanley Kronenberg

Krakow Postal History Before 1918

By JANUSZ ADAMCZYK

(Translated from Polish by Stanley Kronenberg)

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)



For strictly prescribed purposes (registered mail) was made a straight line postmark analogous on postmarks used in Galicia in the pre-stamp period which I have seen so far only on money letters (photograph 13).

NACH ABGANG
DER POST

Kargus



KRAKAU
16. MAI.

The expansion of posts and the increase in correspondence at the start of the 70's in the 19th century reflect in the text of the postmark. In particular, it was principally accepted to give the year and in larger places also the number of the dispatch and sometimes the time of day.

As a result of nationalistic ambitions or a request to satisfy them. Austrian authorities agreed to introduce Polish as the second official language besides German. Since that time, Kraków postmarks are bi-lingual. The first such postmark was made with Kraków in Polish in its top part and in German in its bottom part. This apparently did not meet with the approval of Austrian authorities because already in 1874 the German name was placed on top of the postmark (photograph No. 14).



In addition to the post office in Podgórze whose postmarks after 1850 do not deviate from normalized postmarks, one must mention the railroad station post office in Kraków which was opened in 1856. This post office used several postmarks which differed from those used by other post offices in Kraków which is understandable concerning its activities. The letters "B" and "H" on the postmark stand for railroad station in German — "Bahnhof" (photograph No. 15).



Here it is worthwhile to mention the postal ambulance postmarks which provide most interesting and rich material. These ambulances connected Kraków with other places (photograph No. 16).

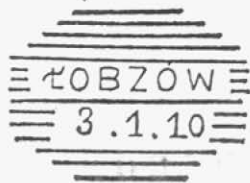
K K FAHRENDES
POSTAMT № 2

FAHRENDE POST
KRAKAU WIEN 2



The Branch Post Office in Kraków which was opened to relieve the City post office is one of the oldest (photograph 17).

The territorial growth of Kraków resulted in its expansion toward nearby villages which with time became its suburbs and later parts of the city. Post offices which existed there first had separate names and later assumed the name Kraków with added number of the name of the post office. The postmarks of these post offices represent a rich collection of types of normalized Austrian postmarks depending on the time period and the class of the post office (photograph No. 18).



In 1887, the post used for the first time a commemorative postmark for the occasion of the State Exhibition. The use of commemorative postmarks was very important as is shown by the fact that the next one was used 25 years later for the Esperanto Congress in August of 1912 (photograph 19).



Seven months after its first stamps, the Austrian mail introduced its first newspaper stamp. Special postmarks were used to cancel these stamps and the first postmark of the newspaper dispatch in Kraków is found very rarely which results in its very high value in specialized catalogs. During a later period, newspaper stamps were cancelled with the postmark of the Main Newspaper Office in Kraków and toward the end of the 19th century with the postmark of the Main Customs Office in Kraków (photo No. 20).



POLOGNE



In addition to the main postmarks, the subject of additional postal marks used in Kraków is very interesting. It is worthwhile to name here first of all the postmarks with the name of the country of mailing. These were used in Kraków still in the pre-stamp period and were used on correspondence arriving among others from the Kingdom of Poland. In the second half of the 19th century they changed their shape with time and as the result of political changes in 1863, their wording from "Pologne" to "Russie" (photo 21).

Going back to pre-postage stamp days, the "registered" procedure did have in the second half of the 19th century numerous postal markings.



RNr

Among them the postmark of the post office "Kraków - miasto" (Kraków - City) is a particularly interesting one because it differs by the shape and type from other usually available post marks. This post mark exists also in blue and green. Other registration post marks used in Kraków represent virtually all of the basic types of normalized Austrian registration post marks depending on the time of their introduction (photograph No. 22).



RECOM

№

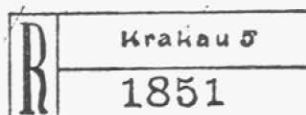
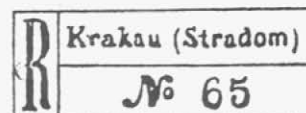
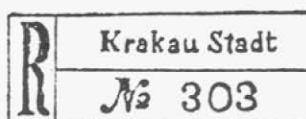
On October 1, 1886 (September 1, in smaller post offices), the Austrian mail introduced registration labels. In Kraków considering its large number of operating post offices and the use of labels since their introduction, one can distinguish four types:

1. Perforated labels with the symbol "No".

2. Labels with removed "No" and a serial number left in its usual place.

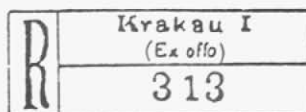
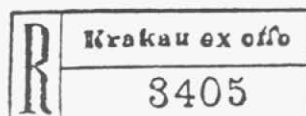
3. Labels with the serial numbers shifted to the center of the label.

4. Imperforate labels with the "No." symbol destined for small post offices.



The post office Kraków 5 used for some time a label with the City's name in Polish. In the text, printing errors also occurred (photo No. 23).

In circulation were also registration labels with a special destination only for official mail: "Ex Offo" (photograph No. 24).



Little known, due to its rarity is the "return to sender" postmark used by the post office in Kraków. This kind of post mark was not available within the activities of the Austrian post. In total, nine such post marks from three places (Vienna had most of them), are known (photograph 25.)



One must not omit in this article wax seals used in Kraków to secure the mailing of money. This fully valid postal mark used for a very factual reason, represents the most neglected area of philatelic knowledge of the second half of the 19th century (photograph No. 26).



(TO BE CONTINUED)

CASIMIR PULASKI'S NUMBER ONE FAN

A gift of a calendar with a color portrait of CASIMIR PULASKI on it changed the life of John F. Szuch of Medina, Ohio. When he was approximately 6 years old, circa 1944, John's Grandfather gave him the calendar from a Polish bakery in Cleveland, where John grew up. Excitedly, he showed it to his Grandmother, who then told him stories of Pulaski. Thus, simply enough began a life long love for the American hero of Polish descent.

For almost 50 years now, John has collected anything he can find pertaining to Pulaski. His collection, which he figures is the largest in the world or close to it, includes many interesting items. There are numerous medals, pins, coins, books, programs, prints, beer cans, mugs and hundreds of philatelic items.



John F. Szuch of Medina, Ohio at Hartford, CT Pulaski Celebration, October, 1993.

A new interesting facet of his collection started several years ago when he decided to visit towns and counties named Pulaski. His two-fold mission was to make the people in those areas aware of whom their area was named after, and secondly to see what he could find on his hero. In regards to the first, John has been successful in getting write-ups in local papers, in which they make the reader aware of who Pulaski was and what he did. He has also been successful in getting Somerset, KY, to erect a sidewalk marker honoring Pulaski. He was instrumental in having a commemorative pictorial USPO cancel for the Pulaskifield, MO Centennial this past September. In regards to the latter, John created envelopes with Pulaski's likeness on them and had them cancelled with the special cancellation. They are available from him for \$1.00 each plus a #10 S.A.S.E. (large self addressed, stamped envelope).

Secondly, he usually found very little on Pulaski himself. It didn't take long though for John to start collecting anything with the town name on it, as it would bear the name of his hero. To that end, John now has over 500 postcards from the approximately 28 towns and townships, and seven counties named after Pulaski. He has also collected police and fire department badges and patches, and school sports uni-



JOHN F. SZUCH

forms from the towns and counties.

To date, Szuch has visited 16 towns and townships and five counties, and has photographed them extensively.

In addition to the Pulaski named locations, Szuch also tracks down the whereabouts of Pulaski statues, monuments, paintings, Vet. clubs, etc. in various cities to photograph them. He plans to publish a pictorial book not only on the hundreds of items he's collected, but also on the towns, monuments, etc. across the USA pertaining to Pulaski. He would appreciate hearing from any

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readers who can enlighten him with information about Pulaski monuments, etc. in their areas.

Write to: John F. Szuch, (Polonus member), P.O. Box 328, Medina, OH 44258, (216) 725-2408.

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BULLETIN PRICES

We have received inquiries on the cost of back issues of the Polonus Bulletin. At a recent Board Meeting it was stated that the cost per Bulletin is \$2. An order for 25 or more: \$1.00 each plus shipping. A complete set #1-460 costs \$195 plus shipping. Write Polonus, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402.

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Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. currency only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, Stefan Czarniecki, 1511 South 59th Ave., Cicero, IL 60650. 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 Society, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints or other matters should be directed to the President.

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