

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue 226

November, 1964

U.S. WILL ISSUE SOKOL STAMP IN 1965

Postmaster General John A. Gronouski unveiled the design of the Sokols Physical Fitness commemorative postage stamp in a Post Office Department ceremony attended by 200 members of this physical fitness organization from all parts of the country.

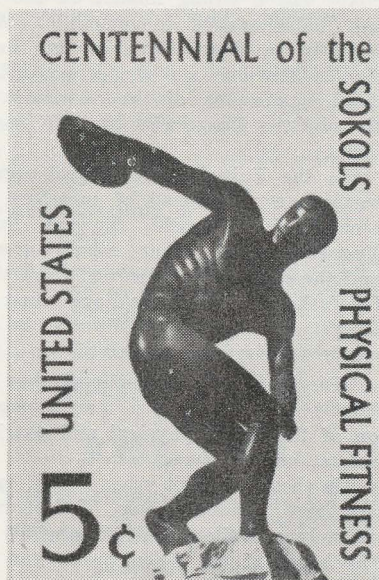
The 5c stamp will be issued next year to salute the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Sokol in the United States. This took place at St. Louis, Mo. on February 14, 1865, but the PMG did not suggest that this date would—or would not—see the release of the new commemorative.

A statue of a Greek discus thrower is featured in the vertical design. The statue, which was a gift from the people of Italy to the people of the United States, stands near the State Department, in Washington, D.C. The stamp was designed by Norman Todhunter of New York City.

Speakers who preceded Mr. Gronouski in the ceremony were: Frank Voderazka, Cicero, Ill., president of the Czechoslovak Society of America; Gustav Pieprzny, Pittsburgh, Pa., national physical instructor for the Polish Falcons of America; and Paul Fallat, Passaic, N. J., supreme president Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Also, Andrew Valuchek, Washington, D.C., president Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol; Rep. Thaddeus J. Dulski, of New York; and James L. Cihak, Cicero, Ill., chairman of the Sokol centennial commemorative stamp committee.

In commenting on the new stamp, the PMG said in part that "...a So-



kol stamp is not being issued just because my name happens to be 'Gronouski'.

"I feel certain that a Postmaster General Cassidy or a Postmaster General Smith would have been equally impressed with the splendid show of energy and enthusiasm by which you went about justifying the issuance of this physical fitness stamp...

"When the Sokol movement in the United States was first established February 14, 1865, in St. Louis, Mo. there began a most worthwhile activity that has fanned out to every corner of our nation and now includes more than a quarter-million members of all ages, imbued with the highest standards

—both physical and cultural.

"Now this in itself does not make the Sokol movement unique. There are other organizations in our country that are concerned with physical fitness.

"But what does make Sokol unique, it seems to me, is the historic role Sokol plays in battling to keep free men free. This aspect of Sokol is like the hidden part of an iceberg, the part underneath the water. There is more to Sokol than meets the eye.

"In Poland, from which my grandfather migrated to the United States, Sokol had a strong impact on the Polish independence movement... More recently in Czechoslovakia this devotion to freedom and democracy led to cruel suppression of the Sokols there, first by the Nazis, now by the Communists...

"In the United States, Sokol organizations are comprised of members descended from Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Yugoslavs, and other ethnic groups, and these Americans learned from their forefathers that freedom must be fought for and that liberty is not easily acquired or preserved.

"For this reason, I believe, that the Sokols—taken man for man—comprise on of the finest physical and patriotic assets America has...

"In these difficult years ahead, America must remain strong. The strength of body and the moral fiber which are the heart of the Sokol movement will keep us strong."

APPLICANT PENDING

Karl H. Nelson
1676 Buchanan Drive
Pomona, Calif.

"RAILWAY EXPEDYCJA MARKS"

ARTICLE CONTINUED

On the next five pages of this issue of the Bulletin is the continuation of the article "Railway Expedycja Marks" by M. A. Bojanowicz and S. J. Capes. With this issue the article is concluded.

NEW MEMBERS

A. H. Ganczarezyk
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HHC. 2nd, 10th, Inf., BN.
5th Inf. Div. (Mech.)
Fort Carson, Colo. 80913

ARE THESE OVERPRINTS PROOFS?

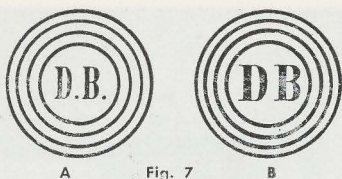
We came across these Warsaw Monument Issues overprinted with an unfamiliar "Poczta Polska fenygów" overprint. The values are illustrated. All are inverted.

According to "Polskie Znaki Poczto-we" published by "Ruch", they are most probably overprint proofs, but to this day, further information about them is unknown.

Should we accept them as proofs of the overprint of the first issue of independent Poland of 1918 (Scott's Nos. 11 to 14)?

Perhaps some of our readers know of information regarding these overprints. If so, please write your editor.





A Fig. 7 B

The two four ring stamps "DB"/1 and "DB"/2 were probably used in the case of arrangements which existed in connection with the special Thursday and Sunday mail runs on the Warsaw-Lowicz railway section, as mentioned under (c) above. We suggest that as DB/2 is the scarcer, it was this cancellation which was used on Sundays, as there probably was less mail on a Sunday (Fig. 8).

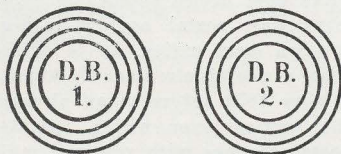


Fig. 8

Warsaw Station

Warsaw was connected by railway line to the frontiers of Russia, Austria and Prussia. In addition to the normal post offices for the city, special offices for the railway stations

existed, that for lines to the West being known as "Dworzec Warszawa" and that for the east bound lines "Dworzec Praga".

Each of the two stations had its own special canceller which was used for mail handed in directly by the public to the station office (Fig. 9). This can be found struck in black or red, the reason for this not yet being apparent.



Fig. 9



Fig. 9a

The "Expedycja" in the coach also dealt with post already cancelled in the town post offices and forwarded to the Carriages for transport. We know of only one case where this class of mail was cancelled again. On the route Warsaw-Terespol, all mail received the canceller "D.T." superimposed on normal numeral town cancellation (Fig. 10).

On the eastern side of the river which divided Warsaw, in the suburb of Praga, there functioned the "Dworzec Praga" which handled, in its own

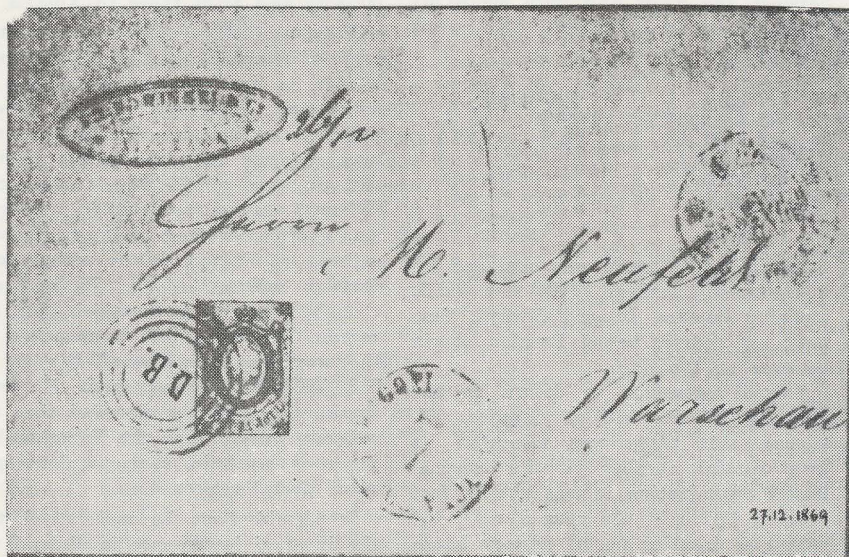


Fig. 7a



Fig. 10

separate post office, mail going to the east.

The canceller used (Fig. 9a) was very similar to that of "Dworzec Warszawski" except that the name "Praga" appears instead of "Warszawa". This canceller is known struck in black and red.

Lódź

In addition to those used in Warsaw and its suburb Praga, two special cancellations relating to railway post were used at Lódź in connection with the Koluszki-Lódź factory branch line, (an offshoot of the Vienna-Warsaw line). The canceller consisted of two rings with the letters "W.D.Z. Lódź" between the rings and with small ornaments between letters and word (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

In 1870 this mark was replaced by a postmark inscribed ŁÓDŹ-Ż.D. (Ż.D. meaning Żelazna Droga-Railway). This must, of course, be of Russian origin because of the date.

Special attention is drawn to the cancellation No. 175 of Granica. Although this place was allocated its own special number in the original postal organization it was not in fact a town office in the normal way, but rather a frontier postal agency handling mail leaving Poland for abroad, or vice versa (Fig. 12).

At that time Granica consisted of very few buildings apart from the post office and we suggest that this particular post office should be considered a railway postal agency rather than a town post office. It is of interest that a postal circular of August/September 1859 refers to an alteration of the section over which operated the postal coaches with reserved mail compartments. It states that "the coaches are directed from Warsaw not to Granica but to Sosnowice. Later, in a circular dated May/June, 1861, we find a special order referring to the improvement of the postal connection on the railway between Żabkowice and Granica and from there to Austria.

Kibarty (282) in the north eastern area of Poland on the old Prussian border, is another special case to be mentioned. Examination soon reveals that a large amount of mail from this area received the cancellation number 282. It was considered at first that Kibarty was a town where the post was transferred from the narrow gauge railway of Poland to the wider gauge Russian railway line. It was also thought that all post which, for any reason, had remained uncanceled on the way was here cancelled with the 282 (Kibarty) handstamp. However, further research has revealed that this railway station near the Prussian border was used in fact to develop a small postal racket.

It should first be understood that the internal letter rate in Poland was 10 Kop. for 1 Lot (about ½ oz.) in weight. By arrangement this rate was

applied to letters from Poland to Russia. In the case of letters from abroad however, the rate was doubled.

Mail from Prussia to Russia, being from a foreign country, was therefore subject to this double rate. It follows that it was found convenient to bring mail from the nearby Prussian towns and industries by special messenger to Kibarty and then send it by the cheaper 10 kop. rate. This in all probability is the real reason for the large turnover of mail cancelled 282 Kibarty.

Besides the use of the current Polish stamp we find from Kibarty letters franked also with the current Russian stamps of the period 1860-5 (cancelled 282) although the stamps had no legal validity in Poland during that period.

In addition to this we have in Kibarty many examples of the second use of stamps already cancelled. No doubt a profitable source of pocket money to impecunious postal clerks!

A further outstanding example of stamps being used twice occurs at the town of Berdyczew, this time on the south Polish-Russian frontier. In this case covers are known bearing copies of Poland No. 1 already cancelled in Poland, recancelled with the Russian frontier framed cancellation of Berdyczew.

Very few of these covers are known to have survived and the example shown (Fig. 13) is from the Bojanowicz collection.

Russian Railway Cancellations Used In Poland

We have listed here the special cancellations used in Polish postal carriages for stamped and stampless mail. It is also known that special hexagonal numeral cancellers were used by Russian postal carriages, or at Russian railway postal agencies at the frontier on the line from Warsaw to Russia. These hexagonal cancellations were used in the case of mail franked with the Polish stamp and posted directly into the frontier station post boxes or the Russian postal carriages during the course of the journey across Polish territory.

From the evidence which has so far come to light it would appear that at least four Russian postal carriages were issued with special hexagon cancellers (12, 14, 15 and 16), or alternatively, that four different frontier crossings had postal agencies or postal boxes. The cancellers take the form of dots with the carriage number in the center (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

Copies of Poland No. 1 cancelled with hexagon numbers 12, 14 and 16 have been known for some time, but recently hexagon number 15 has been

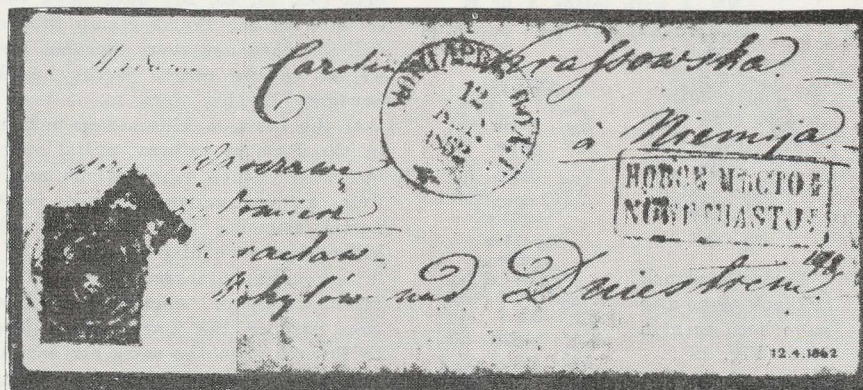


Fig. 13

discovered in addition. So far, hexagon numbers 11 and 13 have not been seen on Polish stamps. It is possible that 13 was never used (perhaps on superstitious grounds!)

Dr. Wortman mentions, in an article entitled "The Early Railway Postmarks" contained in issue No. 19 of the British Journal of Russian Philately (page 575) the hexagon No. 11 used on a Russian stamp on cover, addressed to Mitau, backstamped with wagon No. 6, dated 1863. He does not, however, give any indication as to where the cover was posted. We think it certain that the cover went to Mitau from Russian territory. So far no example of Poland No. 1 cancelled with No. 11 has been reported.

In addition to the above wagons it seems that all Russian traveling railway post offices were issued with a ring date-stamp to correspond with the number of the Russian postal carriage. This ring date-stamp was normally applied to the back of the cover although it was occasionally used to cancel the stamp itself. Copies of Poland No. 1 are known cancelled in this manner. These date-stamps take the form of a ring, lettered around the periphery in Cyrillic characters, as follows:

- Type 1. "С.П.Б. ВАРШАВСК. Ж.Д. — ПОТСХТ. ВАГ. NR. 2 (or 3 or 4)" with date in center (Fig. 15).
- Type 2. "ПОТСХТОВЫЙ ВАГОН NR. 4 with letter A or B underneath and date in center (Fig. 16).



Fig. 15a

Normally struck in black these also have been seen in blue (Fig. 16).



Fig. 15aa



Fig. 16

Besides the date, these ring cancellations have an additional number (Fig. 15a and 15aa). The additional number is normally to the left of the day of the month and may be found inverted (Fig. 15a) or sideways (Fig. 15aa). The meaning of these numbers is not yet definitely established but "it has" been suggested that the number corresponds to the place from which the cover was posted. If this should be established, then figure 1 will indicate the town of St. Petersburg (covers in the Bojanowicz collection and others). Corresponding places for other numbers have still to be established.

In conclusion we can confirm that six different Russian Postal Carriages (Wagons) were used to carry letters addressed from St. Petersburg to Poland and to further abroad. In the Bojanowicz collection are stampless covers used in 1862/63 addressed to France, bearing the ring railway cancellation of all the carriages above mentioned (Fig. 17 etc.). Some of these Russian ring wagon cancellations have been found cancelling the Polish stamp but unfortunately we have not seen any examples on covers.

One important problem needs to be resolved. Did every Russian wagon for the return journey — Poland to Russia — use a special hexagon of dots killer for cancelling the stamps? If this is so, then six different hexagon numbers would be needed (11 to 16 inclusive). As only four hexagon numbers (12, 14, 15, 16) have been found to date on the Polish stamp this may indicate that not every Russian postal wagon on the return journey used a hexagon. If this were so, it may be that the hexagon killers were not used in the Russian railway postal wagons but were rather cancellations used at four, as yet unnamed fixed railway postal agencies (or frontier crossing killer for cancelling the stamps? If is reasonable to assume that if six different Russian carriages (wagons) were used on the journey from Russia to Poland, then the same six carriages (and their cancellations) must have been used on the return journey. These points of exit from Poland to Russia

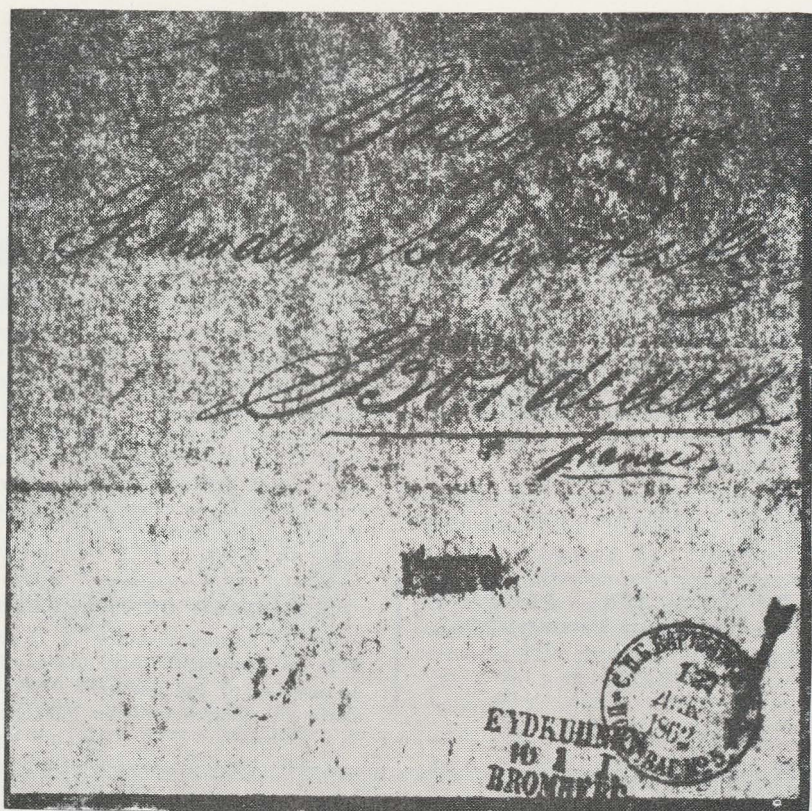


Fig. 17

or abroad could be at Kowno, Grodno, Wierzbolowo and Bialystok, etc., etc.

Dumb Cancellations

Following the withdrawal, in 1865, of Poland No. 1, the cocentric ring type of cancellation remained in use and was still applied to valid Russian issues. In some places the figures were removed from within the rings and the canceller used minus its figures of identity. This applied also in the case of the railway canceller "B.W."

POLONUS MEMBERS GET AWARDS AT C.P.S. EXHIBITION

At the recent Chicago Philatelic Society Exhibition held November 13-15 at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz received the Best Other Than U.S. award for his Poland No. 1 exhibit, and Myron Steczynski was given a silver medal for his Poland Kraków collection. Myron also exhibi-

ted his Poland No. 1 collection in the Court of Honor which last year won him a gold medal.

FROM DETROIT . . .

Polonus member Joseph Jakubecki of Detroit, Mich. is certainly doing his share in promoting Polish philately in the Detroit area.

In the recent Wayne Stamp Society Exhibit he entered an exhibit of Polish postal stationery of 1918-39 which received a first place in the cover classification. Another exhibit he showed was "Królestwo Polskie" essays of 1918.

Then he entered the Motor City Stamp and Cover Club Show and had two award exhibits. His exhibit of Polish miniature and souvenir sheets placed first in the General Foreign classification, and the second — Polish postal stationery took a second award in the Foreign Covers classification.

PROGRAM MEETING OF NOV. 27

A most interesting program meeting took place on Friday, October 23rd at Polonus. Samuel Ray lectured on "The Art of Mounting Stamps For Exhibition Purposes." Mr. Ray, an expert in this field, held the members' interest for over an hour with his enlightening words on a topic of importance to all philatelists. He inspired some, straightened many out, and was helpful to all.

For the next program meeting, member Roman Strzelecki proposed that all members attending bring along album pages from their own collections and present their ideas on mounting stamps. It was decided to do this on the night of November 27, 1964.

Chicagoland members are requested to do so — please cooperate. An auction will follow.

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NO MEETING ON DECEMBER 25

As the second meeting in December falls on Christmas Day, there will be no meeting of Polonus held. The annual Christmas Beeba will be held on Friday, December 11th. (See ad below.)

POLONUS CHRISTMAS BEEBA AND "STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED" NITE

**Friday Evening, December 11th, 1964
at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave.**

— BRING THE LADIES —

Members attending are requested to bring along a donation to Stamps For The Wounded." Stamps, catalogs, albums, philatelic literature or cash donations will be accepted and put to good use among disabled veterans. Please be generous.

Out-of-town members — kindly send donations to the Midwest Regional Director of Stamps For The Wounded:

JOHN BOR, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, Ill. 60647

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

On Sept. 28 Poland issued a 60 gr. to commemorate the centenary of the International Workers Association. It depicts a globe on the background of a red flag. Designed by Jerzy Desselberger; printed by rotogravure, size 31.25 x 51 mm. on chalky paper.

* * *

A commemorative on the centenary of the birth of the Polish writer Stefan Żeromski was issued Nov. 9th. It will depict his portrait painted by his daughter. Four million issued.

* * *

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the birth of Eleanor Roosevelt, a great social worker, a 2.50 zł. value was released Oct. 10th. Two million issued.

* * *

Stamp Day 1964 will be celebrated with two 60 gr. commemoratives of the same design but in different colors. An 18th century mailcoach on the background of a Polish landscape will be the design. Four million to be released.

* * *

Previous issues of Polish postage stamps devoted to nature depicted, as a rule, objects under protection. This time the Polish Post prepared an issue of 12 stamps with popular garden flowers to be issued during Nov. 1964.

They are as follows:

- 20 gr.—Persian Cydamen (*Cydamen persicum* Mill.)
- 30 gr.—gardening fraesia (*Freesia hybrida* Hort.)
- 40 gr.—Rose "Monique" (*Rosa*)
- 50 gr.—Peony (*Paeonia tenuifolia* L.)
- 60 gr.—Royal lily (*Lilium regale* Wils.)
- 90 gr.—Oriental Poppy (*Papaver orientale*)
- 1.35 zł.—Tulipa "Orange Wonder" Tulipa)
- 1.50 zł.—Narcissus "Fortune" (*Narcissus incomparabilis* Mill.)
- 1.55 zł.—Begonia (*Begonia tuberhybrida* Voss.)
- 2.50 zł.—Carnations (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.)

3.40 zł.—Iris "Rubin" (*Iris barbata* Hort.)

5.60 zł.—Japanese Camelia "Elegans" (*Camelia japonica* L.)

The size of the 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 90 gr. is 40.5 x 40.5 mm. and 1.35 zł., 1.50, 1.55, 2.50, 3.40, and 5.60 zł. is 31.25 mm. x 43 mm. Printed on chalky paper in sheets of 10 by Polychrome rotogravure. Designs are by Alojzy Balcerzak.

Amount issued: 20, 330 50 gr.—six million; 40 and 60 gr. 8 million; 90 gr. 1.35 and 1.50 zł., 4½ million; 1.55 zł. 5 million; 2.50 zł. 4 million; 3.40 zł. 1½ million; and 5.60 zł. 1,300,000.

* * *

During December the Polish Post is to issue a set of 8 stamps depicting space research. They are as follows:

- 20 gr.—future interplanetary space craft.
- 30 gr.—launching of a soviet space craft.
- 40 gr.—Lajka, the first "cosmonaut" dog on the background of a launching tower,

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- 60 gr.—Lunnik III and a picture of the unseen side of the moon.
 1.55 zł.—an artificial satellite examining the ionosphere.
 2.50 zł.—the soviet satellite "Elektron 2" examining radiation belts.
 5.60 zł.—the capsule "Mars I" examining the space between the orbits of Mars and Earth.
 6.50 zł. + 2 zł.—J. Gagarin, the first cosmonaut of the world in the cockpit of the space capsule.

Printed in sheets of 20 on chalky paper, size 31.25 x 43 mm. Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk.

Amounts issued: 20 and 30 gr. — 6 million; 40 and 60 gr. — 8 million; 1.55 zł. — 5 million; 2.50 zł. — 4 million; 5.60 zł. — 1½ million; and 6.50 zł. — 1 million, 300 thousand.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, November 27th, 1964:

Program Meeting. Members will present ideas of mounting stamps on album page. Auction to follow.

Friday, December 11th, 1964:

Polonus Christmas Beebe & "Stamps For The Wounded" Nite. Ladies invited.

Friday, January 8th, 1965:

Nomination of Officers for 1965.

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

Friday, January 22nd, 1965:

Election of Officers.

Friday, February 12th, 1965:

Installation Nite.

Friday, February 26th 1965:

Last Meeting before Polpex.

March 5, 6, and 7, 1965:

POLPEX 1965.

POLPEX DIRECTOR NAMED

At the November 13th meeting Roman Strzelecki was appointed Chairman of POLPEX 1965. It was Roman who proposed that the theme of our coming exhibition be "Copernicus and Space".

With the exhibit scheduled for March 5th, 6th and 7th, it is but three months away. It is already time to plan what part of your collection you want to exhibit and with the holidays approaching you will have the opportunity to prepare your exhibit.

— POLAND —

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