

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 303

Price 40c

September, 1972

Copernicus Commemorative Medallion For Polpex

Chairman Alfred Szebel announced that negotiations have been completed for the striking of a special commemorative medallion for POLPEX 73. This

This medallion will prove to be a worthy addition to anyone who specializes in Polonica, philately, numismatics, or who has an eye for esthetics. Don't be



Obverse side of Special Polonus Medallion to be struck for POLPEX 73. The Design is by Edward Gorol, a noted artist of Warsaw.

medallion will be presented to exhibitors in the show, and will also be presented, as a special acknowledgement, to all sponsors of the show who contribute \$50.00 or more.

Szebel states that the design will be unique among the many Copernicus medallions that will be issued in the coming year and that he will issue further details as the negotiations covering the minting and shipment are finalized.



Reverse side of Medallion. Empty space is allowed for name to be engraved.

one of those who will say they are sorry for having missed such an opportunity. The medallion will be issued in a very limited edition—less than 200!

Don't miss this opportunity. Send your \$50.00 or more to ensure the success of POLPEX 73 without delay to Chester J. Mi-kucki, 4704 No. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656. This medallion is worth it!

SOUVENIR POLPEX 73 LABELS

With this issue of the Polonus Bulletin we enclose a sheet of souvenir labels for POLPEX 73.

Use them on your philatelic correspondence. Additional sheets are available at 30c per sheet (postpaid) or 4 for \$1.00 from Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.

AUCTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH POLPEX 73

Chairman Szebel announced that Roman Burkiewicz, noted Chicago dealer and specialist in Polish Philatelic material, will conduct an auction in conjunction with POLPEX-73.

A POLPEX ENTRY FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Member Vojtech P. Maxa, a journalist from Prague, will show 45 pages from his specialized Poland Collection of 1928-1935 Pilsudski and Moscicki stamps at POLPEX 73. This is the first time for an entry to come from Czechoslovakia in the history of Polonus Polpex shows. His exhibit won a silver-bronze medal at the Brno national exhibition in 1966.

In this edition of our Polonus Bulletin, we begin the first installment of a lengthy article by Mr. Maxa on the Pilsudski and Moscicki issues. The study of these stamps was really never deeply undertaken by our members. The only attention given them was by Myron Steczynski in his article that appeared in our Bulletin many years ago.

The Polonus Bulletin is glad to be able to publish this fine study thus making it available to our many readers.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

The treasurer asks that Polonus members in foreign countries pay their dues with international money orders.

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY BUFFALO

Chairman, Theo. Skotnicki, announces that the Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo will sponsor its 11th annual philatelic exhibition, AMPOLPEX, on November 4-5, 1972. The theme of the show is Mikołaj Kopernik (Copernicus). The Society will offer special cacheted covers, souvenir sheets, and a U.S. Post Office will be in operation on the premises at Adam Mickiewicz Hall, 612 Fillmore Ave.

Those who wish to exhibit may contact the Polonus Secretary or Mr. Skotnicki direct at 2341 Falls Link, Grand Island, New York 14072.

POLPHIL 73

The Polish Philatelic Society of Australia, in conjunction with the National Organizing Committee of the 500th anniversary of the Polish Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, will stage a four day philatelic exhibition POLPHIL 73 starting February 18, 1973, at "Sir Dallas Brooks" Hall, 300 Albert St., East Melbourne. A special commemorative postmark will be used and souvenirs will be available. For further details write:

Polish Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 1455/N
G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic. 3001
Australia.

CONGRATULATIONS

Alfred Szebel was awarded a silver-bronze medal in the recent international show BELGICA for his German Airmails.

Chester Schafer exhibited at LITHPEX in Chicago and received a 2nd award in the Numismatic class for his collection of Kosciuszko commemorative medallions.

PIŁSUDSKI AND MOŚCICKI 1928-1937 POLAND'S FIRST ENGRAVED STAMPS

BY VOJTECH P. MAXA

The 50 groszy Piłsudski and 1 złoty Mościcki stamps (Scott 253-255) are the first Polish stamps printed by recess. The introduction of this new technique was not an easy process and it happened at a time when postal authorities were building and equipping new printing works. These two factors — inexperience and switching over from one plant to another — played a great role. The result is a very intricate issue, which, though consisting of two values only, offers a wide scope for interesting philatelic study.

The Piłsudski and Mościcki stamps can be divided into six groups:

1. Warsaw 1928 Stamp Exhibition Souvenir Sheet;
2. Definitive Issue: a) 50 groszy, b) 1 złoty;
3. PORT GDAŃSK Overprints;
4. DOPLATA Overprints;
5. Mościcki 10th Anniversary 1 złoty Blue;
6. King Carol 1937 Visit Souvenir Sheet.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Early in 1927 Polish postal authorities decided to introduce new high value regular stamps of 50 groszy and 1 złoty denominations. At this time (from December 1, 1927 to June 30, 1931) the rate for ordinary foreign mail was 50 gr., and 50 gr. was also the rate for heavier (20-250 g.) surface mail. There was not a single rate of 1 złoty, with the exception of the foreign mail special delivery fee valid

only for a short period (Dec. 1, 1927 to April 1, 1929).

Till July, 1935, 1 złoty was the highest stamp issued in the new gold-based currency and was often used in combination with other values to make up the different postal rates which changed eleven times in the last fifteen years of pre-war Poland (1924-1939). In my collection I have one postally used block of fifteen 50 gr. stamps and two blocks of eight 1 złoty stamps.

Because 1 złoty and even 50 groszy represented a lot of money before the war and because the postal authorities had to cope with forgers of the typographed stamps, a more elaborate process of stamp production was chosen, namely the line-engraving.

Since 1920 Polish stamps were printed at the Państwowe Zakłady Graficzne — P.Z.G. (State Printing Plant) in Warsaw. In mid-twenties the Government decided to build a modern printing plant — Polska Wytwórnia Papierów Wartościowych — P.W.P.W. (Polish Valuable Papers Works). In 1930 the printing of Piłsudski and Mościcki stamps was transferred from the P.Z.G. to the P.W.-P.W.

Despite all the difficulties the new stamps are very fine indeed and because of their well-balanced design, dignity, and excellent workmanship I regard them as the most beautiful pre-war Polish stamps.

II. 50 GROSZY PIŁSUDSKI STAMP:

a. Project, Engraving and Proofs:

The project is the work of an eminent Polish artist, professor Zygmunt Kamiński, originator of several other Polish stamps, who died in 1969 at age eighty.

After World War I, there were no experienced engravers in Poland and therefore the engraving in steel was commissioned in Austria. It was masterly executed by professor Ferdinand Schirnbock who worked for the State Printing Works in Vienna.

The original engraving differs from the final stamp in that it includes the author's name in the middle of the bot-

tom margin: ZYGMUNT KAMIŃSKI DEL. The overall size of the original steel plate with the master-die is 94 x 116 mm., the size of the stamp itself is 20.0 x 25.0 mm. A proof print made from the master-die (fig. 1) measures 100 x 120 mm. and is signed Bojanowicz on the back. On the front side it bears a pencilled number 212.

According to W. Rachmanow three prints were made from the 50 groszy master-die on sheets of hand-made art paper and together with print of 1 zł. Mościcki stamp were bound into three albums. One was presented to President Ignacy Mościcki, the second to Premier Marshall Józef Piłsudski, and the third was kept at the Postal

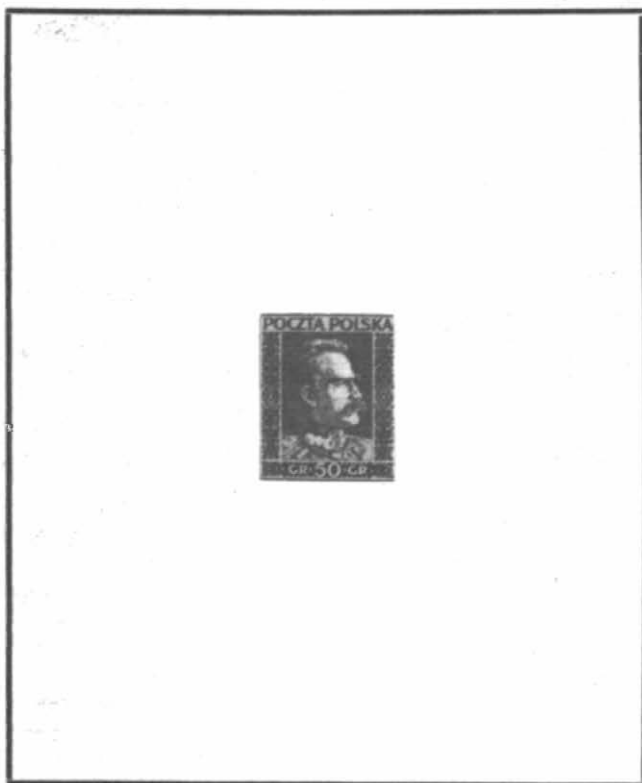


Figure 1

Museum in Warsaw. Obviously more prints were executed on ordinary paper; maybe over 200 if the number on my copy denotes the sequence of prints.

b. Printing Plates:

The printing plates were not produced by the classical method consisting in the transfer of the original engraving on a plate with the help of a roller die. This precise but more complicated method was used in the production of Polish stamps only eight years later (in 1934). The Pilsudski plates were manufactured by galvanoplasty.

Most probably a printing plate was prepared in the following manner: from the master die first an intermediate stereotype was made and from it the master stereo. From the 1st intermediate stereo or from the master-stereo the name of the artist was removed. From the master-stereo a second intermediate stereo was obtained in

required numbers — ie. 400. These four hundred 2nd intermediate stereotypes were then assembled into a plate consisting of four panes of 10 x 10 stamps each (fig. 2). Thus an intermediate plate was obtained from which — still by galvanoplasty — a printing plate was made. I presume that a master-stereo was included in the production process to safeguard the valuable original steel master-die from damage. The scheme of plate production is shown in fig. 3.

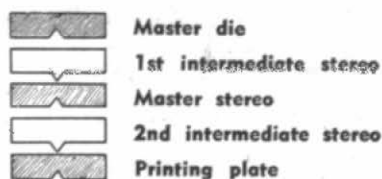


Figure 3

Production of recess printing plates by galvanoplasty is a tedious and slow process. Moreover the soft plates thus ob-

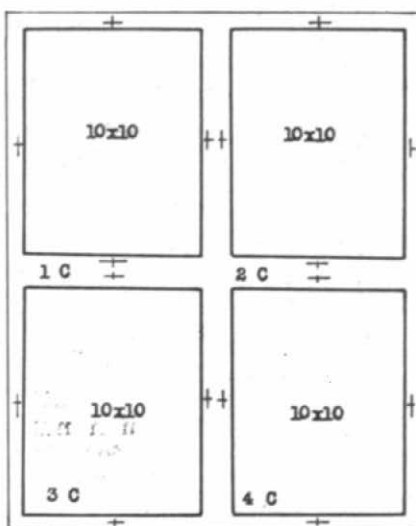
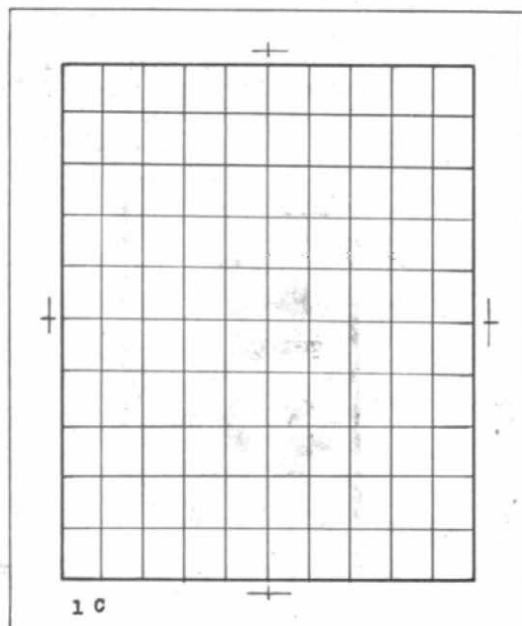


Figure 2

tained need coating with a hard metal (steel or chrome) to give more prints. A plate made at the P.Z.G. printed roughly 5 million stamps or 12,500 sheets; later, when the printing was transferred to the P.W.P.W., the output from one plate was doubled to 10 million stamps or 25,000 sheets. This was caused by better coating of the plates.

At the P.Z.G. the intermediate plates were composed from single 2nd intermediate stereos and therefore on blocks of 50 groszy stamps we often find stamps out of alignment both in a vertical and horizontal direction. Lack of sheet material does not permit to allocate these imperfections to particular panes and stamps but fig. 3a gives an example of it.

At the P.W.P.W. the 2nd intermediate stereos were soldered in blocks of 5 x 2 stamps and the intermediate plate was composed of forty such blocks. This method produced better plates and badly aligned stamps are less frequent in the latter issues.

In contrast to the previous issues, Piłsudski 50 groszy has no imprint in the margin showing the value of single rows or columns of the stamps. But it has a plate number which had not been used previously.

With the exception of the first plate all the subsequent ones were numbered under the 91st stamp (fig. 2). The plate number consists of an index number allocated to different panes and of Roman numerals or capital letters denoting the plate as a whole.

At the P.Z.G. the Piłsudski stamp was printed from eleven plates:

1. no marking (?)
2. 1 I, 2 I, 3 I, 4 I,

3. 1 II, 2 II, 3 II, 4 II,
4. 1 III, 2 III, 3 III, 4 III,
5. 1 IV, 2 IV, 3 IV, 4 IV,
6. 1 V, 2 V, 3 V, 4 V,
7. 1 VI, 2 VI, 3 VI, 4 VI,
8. 1 VII, 2 VII, 3 VII, 4 VII,
9. 1 VIII, 2 VIII, 3 VIII, 4 VIII,
10. 1 IX, 2 IX, 3 IX, 4 IX,
11. 1 X, 2 X, 3 X, 4 X.

At the P.W.P.W. another eight plates were produced:

12. 1 A, 2 A, 3 A, 4 A,
13. 1 B, 2 B, 3 B, 4 B,
14. 1 C, 2 C, 3 C, 4 C,
15. 1 D, 2 D, 3 D, 4 D,
16. D 2, D 4, (?)
17. 1 E, 2 E, 3 E, 4 E, (small E)
18. 1 E, 2 E, 3 E, 4 E, (large E)
19. plate F (?)

This system of plate numbers prepared by me on the basis of available information and of copies with plate number assembled in my collection is a preliminary one, and needs further confirmation. The plates and their numbers will be described more in detail when different issues will be dealt with.

Four crosses were engraved on the margins of the four panes opposite 5/6, 50/60, 95/96 and 41/51 stamps. The longer bar of the cross measures about 4mm., the shorter about 3mm. (fig. 4).



Figure 4

(To be continued)

THE LATE HENRY J. CHOYNACKI

By Myron E. Steczynski

The brief notice that appeared in the *Polonus Bulletin* for July-August on the passing of Henry J. Choynecki certainly does not pay tribute to the man who was the very first vice-president of the society and then its second president. Henry founded and published the *POLONUS MAGAZINE* — predecessor of our present *BULLETIN*, which has been coming out continuously for over 300 issues over some thirty years — the longest of any publication devoted to the philately of Poland. *Polonus Magazine* was Henry's personal venture — he originated it, financed it and built it up, issue by issue.

Polonus Magazine carried on where the Society left off. The Society after all was a local group which met twice a month. The Magazine, however, reached out to collectors of Poland all over the country and beyond. Poland was overrun by Germany and Russia at the time. Polish publications were suspended. It was the *Polonus Magazine* which carried the torch and drew outside members into the society.

Collectors of Poland from all over the country were quick to join the ranks of *Polonus* and the Society prospered. All the philatelic editors helped us, and dealers advertised extensively — we should not overlook their helpful role in sustaining interest in the stamps of Poland. Looking through the advertising pages of the early issues of *Polonus Magazine* is like peering into an entirely distant world — practically all these men are gone today, sad to say.

Henry will be remembered for his whole-hearted devotion to promote the study and collecting of Polish stamps. His introductory remarks in the first issue of his Magazine are as valid today as they have been in 1940. Henry carried on for 13 issues — from October 1940 to April 1942. — then quit. The first issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* was dated August 1942. After Henry finished his term of office as the society's president — he left it for good.

We are now saddened to learn that he passed away.



LABELS OR STAMPS?

The above shown adhesives have popped up on the market recently. Collectors of material of this period were surprised to see them first now. Do any of

our Bulletin readers know of this material? Is it listed anywhere? Kindly contact Alfred Szebel, 9041 Emerson Ave., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 27, 1972

Meeting to be held during the Chicago Philatelic Society Stamp Exhibition at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel, 505 North Michigan Ave., 11th Floor, Kingston Room starting at 7:00 p.m. Hotel parking on lower level, entrance from Grand Avenue. After the meeting we plan on viewing the exhibition which will be held on the same floor.

CLASSIFIED ADS FOR POLONUS MEMBERS

At one of the recent Society meetings it was proposed that Polonus reintroduce a member's mart in the monthly bulletin. The proposal was that each member be entitled to insert 2 short ads each year (at no cost) listing needs for philatelic material, material for sale, etc. The main limiting condition was that no price quotes, offers to buy, etc. be expressed on a dollar basis.

This is an opportunity for those of you who are looking for specialized or general material and would like the exposure and contact that our Society offers.

Sorry, no dealers! The Society also reserves the right to edit any ads that may be placed for inclusion in the members' mart. Send requests and copy to: Thomas J. Gobby, 5713 West Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634.

SOKOL CANCELLATIONS

A member, who happens to be the Educational Director of the American Sokol Organization, is seeking information on Sokol cancellations of Poland issued after World Wars I and II. He will buy or trade this material. Write to Joseph Janecka, 7306 Ogden Ave., Riverside, Ill. 60546.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Thomas J. Gobby, Secretary
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

Al Rybarski, Treasurer
P. O. Box 82, River Grove, Ill. 60171

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, Ill. 60622

Lester Jankowski, Publications Chrm.
7303 Kildare, Lincolnwood, Ill. 60466

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 \$4.00 —

EXCURSION TO POLSKA 73

As you all know the enormous philatelic show (5000 frames) will be held in Poznan, Poland in August, 1973. The show is POLSKA 73. Many members have expressed an interest and desire to attend in a group. There are possibilities of a special group rate if enough members wish to go.

If you would wish to see one of the greatest international philatelic displays of Polish material and travel to Poland next year you are respectfully requested to contact Alfred Szebel regarding your desire. Please write to Fred at: 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

If there are any possibilities Fred needs your queries now!

—TJG

STANLEY KUCHARZ COLLECTIONS TO BE AUCTIONED

The award winning collections of Ten Cities, Three Heroes, 2nd Corps Field Post and other Poland material will be auctioned on Friday, Nov. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at Rasdale Stamp Co., 36 So. State St., Chicago.

PREPARE FOR POLPEX 73!