BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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6 Months To POLPEX 73 And We Need You!

Summer is rapidly fading into the cool of Fall to be followed by the dark days of Winter, and then — almost in conjunction with the first day of Spring, POLPEX - 1973, largest philatelic exhibition ever presented by the Polonus Philatelic Society, will be held at the LaSalle Hotel March 23-25, 1973.

No small undertaking POLPEX-1973 will be the most ambitious in a long line of shows presented by the Society. Much effort and many hours have already been devoted toward making this show an ensured success. Most of the effort and time to date has come from just a few members. There is a lot of important work remaining. Committees, most of them as yet unstaffed, must be filled. Chairman Alfred Szebel announces that he will be making the necessary appointments as soon as we are out of the summer doldrums. The call is out to you, our membership, to respond. The job that remains is a large one, but with all of you pitching in, it becomes smaller by degree and a real joy. Rhetoric you say! No, say I — only factual truth. We do need YOU! Without YOU, nothing is possible. This is an opportunity to not only say that you are a member of our Society which will be presenting this show, but to say that you actually took an active part in putting it all together. Our success is your success. Our show is your show. Our praise and honor is your praise and honor. Think about that, it's true and not just so many words. I believe it. I'm proud to be a member of Polonus. Are you? If not, you are welcome to come forth and prove me wrong.



Polpex 73 Special Souvenir Label

Besides the obvious need for you in terms of your help and time, there is another, equally important need — the requisite finances to meet the multiplicity of expenses inherent in a show of this scope and magnitude. Entries fees, program book and special cachet sales will

meet but a portion of these expenses. Here again we need YOU! Quite literally it is a matter of absolutely every dollar counting. If each of you were to be a patron, and if each of you were to get two other patrons, we would be a long way down the road to keeping us out of the red ink column.

Larger cash contributions will be most sincerely appreciated and are encouraged. Financial sponsors contributing $50.00 or more will be specially honored. The exact ways and specific details regarding the honor cannot be disclosed at this time because of certain pending matters which must be first resolved. Your $50.00 or more will go a long, long way toward making POLPEX - 1973 a genuine success, and a show which will be both long remembered as an exceptional show of high philatelic merit in Chicago and national philatelic circles.

Other plans call for soon to be released special souvenir labels commemorating our show As soon as they are available, each of our members will receive a free sheet, and they will be encouraged to use these on their philatelic correspondence. Additional sheets will be available at 30c per sheet (postpaid) or 4 for $1.00 from:

Chester J. Mikucki
4704 N. Overhill Avenue
Norridge, Illinois 60656

As of this date we have begun to fill the frames for the show as the preliminary entries come in. So far the entries are about 50% out of state and 50% local. We know that there is some good material out there from whose owners we have not heard. If you have not done so already, you are urged to complete the preliminary entry form mailed to you with an earlier bulletin, and get it in before the November 15th deadline. If you don't have one, contact Alfred Szebel or Tom Gobby. Don't be one of those individuals who procrastinate (as I do) and suddenly find out that it's too late. DO IT NOW!

Seldom does an opportunity such as this present itself within a generation and infrequently within a lifetime. Be one of those who does something. POLPEX - 1973 is YOU, our member — not any officer, any committee member, or anyone else — it is YOU! Like the United States, it's all of US. Let's hear from you. We'll be very dissappointed if we don't hear from you.

Whom do you contact? Simple!

For preliminary entry forms or committees:

Alfred Szebel
9041 Emerson
DesPlaines, Illinois 60016

Financial contributions:

Chester J. Mikucki
4704 N. Overhill Ave.
Norridge, Illinois 60656

Mail those preliminary entry forms to:

Thomas J. Gobby
5713 W. Warwick Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60634

—TJG

POLONUS PICNIC DAMPENED

Due to rainy weather the annual Polonus Picnic at Powers Lake, Wisconsin was poorly attended. Only twenty braved the bad weather and made the trip to Aquilla Lodge.

Polonus is ever grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Leon Kozakiewicz for their gracious hospitality and offering us their resort area for this yearly event.

STANISŁAW MONIUSZKO

FATHER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL OPERA — HIS LIFE AND WORK REFLECTED IN PHILATELY

By DR. MIECZYSŁAW LIPIŃSKI

Polonus 292, AIJP 585

1972, the centennary of the death of S. Moniuszko, has been designated as "The year of the Father of Polish National Opera" in Polish cultural and musical circles. Poland issued an 8 stamp set on September 15, 1972 to mark the event.

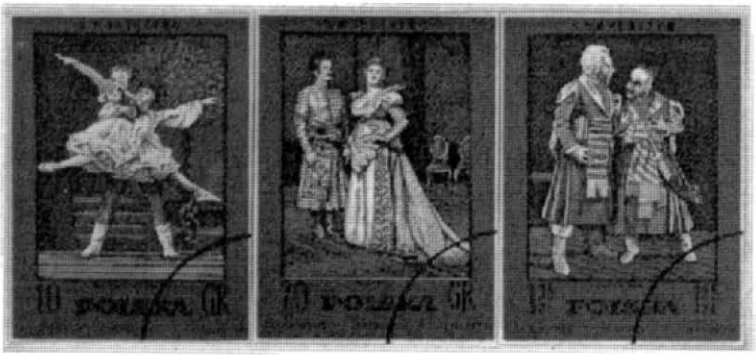
Moniuszko, a great patriot and creator of numerous national songs and operas, distinguished himself as one of the greatest Polish composers.

During his lifetime the Polish peoples were under constant persecution, especially that of the Russians. Like his cohort in Polish literature, Sienkiewicz, Moniuszko was able to light the Polish national spirit and keep it kindled with the will to fight and win for the preservation of the Polish national culture.

Stanisław Moniuszko was born May 5, 1819 in Ubiele near Smilowicze (present day Minsk, Russia) into a middle class landowner's family. As a child he displayed a great fondness for music, especially folk songs, and under the tutelage of his mother, Elizabeth (nee Madziarska), he learned to play the piano.

His family moved to Warsaw on August 15, 1827 and took up residence in the Staszic Palace. Moniuszko studied under Augustin Freyer in Warsaw, then under Dominik Stefanovich in Minsk (1831-34).

1836 saw the family move to Wilno and in September of that year he left for Berlin to study under C. F. Ruebenhagen. In Berlin he also came into contact with such noted composers as Albert Lortzing and Felix Mendelsohn-Bartholdy. While in Berlin he composed many songs based on lyrics from Adam Mickiewicz. Three of these, "Sleep, Uncertainty, and My Caresses", were pub-



Three values of the 1972 eight-stamp set issued on the centennary of Stanisław Moniuszko's death. (Cut courtesy of LINN'S STAMP NEWS)

lished in 1839 by the Berlinian Printing House, "Bote & Bock". In 1840 the same publisher printed more of his songs, including a ballad patterned on Mickiewicz's "The Three Boudrisses".

While in Berlin he composed his first operetta, "The New Don Quixote or the Hunched Madnesses", patterned on Alexander Fredro's libretto, and his first opera, "The night in Apenines". The 1.15 zł. value of the Sept. 15th, 1972 set depicts a scene from this operetta.

In 1840 he composed his first violin quartet which was dedicated to Joseph Elsner, Chopin's music teacher. In June of 1840 he returned to Wilno, married Alexandra Miller, and became an organist at St. John's Church. Remaining in Wilno for several years he composed some of his best works. On November 30, 1840 he conducted an orchestra with a program featuring the works of Haydn, Mendelsohn, and Beethoven. In 1841 he composed the two act operetta "Ideale of the New Preciosa". The 1.55 zł. stamp depicts a scene as staged in the Gliwice Comic Opera House.

While in Wilno he composed numerous songs set to the words of Polish writers and poets: Mickiewicz, Kraszewski, Kochanowski and Syrokomla. A number of songs were also patterned after the writings of Goethe, Walter Scott and Heine.

Moniuszko also conducted a number of operas at the Wilno Opera House.

1842 found Moniuszko in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) and it was here that his style came under the influence of the Russian composers Michel Glinka and Alexander Dargomyrzski. The overture to Moniuszko's opera, "The Fable", was dedicated to Dargomyrzski in 1856. Leaving St. Petersburg he then traveled to Minsk before arriving in Warsaw in 1846.

1847 brought forth the two act opera, "Halka", which was later enlarged to four acts.

1852 saw Moniuszko meet the famed Polish violin artist, Henryk Wieniawski.

On January 1, 1858 the four act version of "Halka" was presented at the Warsaw Grand Opera — in spite of the protests of the Russian ruling authorities. The 60 gr. stamp depicts a scene from this opera as it was staged on the opening day of the Grand Theatre in Łódź.



May to July, 1858, saw Moniuszko traveling through Germany and France. While on this journey he passed through Kraków for the first time, met Karol Lipiński, famed Polish composer, in Dresden, and visited Liszt in Weimar. In November, 1858 he and his family returned to Warsaw where he accepted the position of orchestra director with the Warsaw Opera. He later taught harmony at the Music Institute (today the Music Conservatory) in the Ostrogski Palace.

The Warsaw sojourns were the most productive for Moniuszko. Many consider his best work to

date from these periods. His 2nd national opera, "The Countess", was presented in Warsaw February 7, 1860. The 20 gr. value depicts a scene from this opera January 1, 1861 saw a new Polish national opera, "Verbum Nobile", staged at the Warsaw Opera House. The 1.35 złoty value shows a scene as staged in the Opera House in Kraków.



1861 also saw "Halka" presented in Kaunas (Lith.) and the presentations of new operas, "The Raftsman, Beate, Betty," etc., and several church songs, of which "Ostra Brama" is considered the most important.

In late 1861 he went to Paris and remained there until February, 1862. In Paris he edited the translation of his 40 songs. Here he met French composer Esprit Auber and Italian composer Giachimo Rossini, and to the latter Moniuszko dedicated his composition, "The Third Litany".

Returning to Poland, he presented in Lwów his musical drama, "The Spectres (Widma)" based on Mickiewicz's drama, "The Beggars (Dziady)".

On August 28, 1865 he presented his latest national opera, "The Terrible Court (Straszny Dwór)". The 40 gr. stamp depicts a scene as staged in the Poznań Opera House. The Poznań Opera house has been featured on many stamps and pictorial cancellations. Polish Opera and Ballet Festivals are presented here every three years and there has been a succession of postmarks commemorating these events. The Poznań Opera House was dedicated to Stanisław Moniuszko.



In early 1868 Moniuszko traveled to Prague and presented his "Halka" on the stage of the Prague National Theater (Narodni Divadlo) under the direction of the famous Czech composer, Bedrich Smetana. On September 6, 1868 he presented the one-act ballet, "At Quarters" (Na kwaterunku) on the stage of the Warsaw Grand Theater. The 10 gr. stamp shows a fragment as staged at the Comic Opera Theater in Gliwice.

On December 11, 1869 his 4 act opera, "Paria" (composed between 1859 and 1869) was presented. The 2.50 zł. value depicts a scene as staged in the Silesian Opera House in Bytom.




MONIUSZKOWSKI
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KUDOWA ZDRÓJ
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VI FESTIWAL MONIUSZKOWSKI
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II FESTIWAL
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22-7 63
W KUDOWIE ZDROJU


VII
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KUDOWA ZDRÓJ 1
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IV FESTIWAL MONIUSZKOWSKI
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17-22 VII 1965
W KUDOWIE ZDROJU


V
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10-16·VII·1966


X FESTIWAL MONIUSZKOWSKI
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KUDOWA ZDRÓJ 15-18.VII.1971

Moniuszko's last three years were especially productive. He composed the cantatta, "Madame Twardowska"; composed several church pieces, seven masses, two requiems, four Litanies of the Short Gate (Litanie Ostrobramskie); several cantattas, most notable of which was, "The Crimean Sonnets", based on Mickiewicz lyrics. He also composed the music for various presentations at the Warsaw Theater, amongst these: "Ophelia's Song", from Shakespeare's "Hamlet", and sung by Helena Modrzejewska (also famous in the U.S.A.); musical dramas based on Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor"; Espit Auber's, "The Brassy Horse"; Jean Racine's, "The Fedra"; Frederick Schiller's, "The Robbers"; Julius Slowacki's tragedy, "Lilla Veneda"; several songs based on lyrics of "The Song of Medora" from Lord Byron's "Pirate"; "The Dawn Glitters" (Lśni jutrzenka); and Francesco Petrarca's cantatta, "Madonne".



Being the first to introduce national, and often regional, characteristics into Polish Operas, brought Moniuszko the title of "Father of the Polish National Opera".

He died on June 4, 1872 and his burial from the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw was heavilly attended by Poles of all walks of life.

Moniuszko has been depicted on various Polish stamps, stationery, and commemorative cancellations — the first time on an illustrated postcard issued in 1933. The second postcard which commemorated his 150th anniversary was issued in 1969. He has also appeared on several Polish stamps (Scott No.'s: 526, 527, and 832.) The Sept. 15, 1972 set of 8 stamps is the largest commemoration to date. The numerous commemorative cancellations comprise a rather lengthy list.

The Grand Opera House in Poznan, dedicated to Moniuszko, has been the scene of a famous Polish Opera and Ballet Festival held every three years since 1961.

Since 1962, Judowa Zdrój (a health resort in southwestern Poland) has been the site of the "Moniuszko Festival" held in the last half of July. 1971 marked the 10th jubilee anniversary of this festival and there is a long line of postmarks commemorating this event.

NEW MEMBERS

Elward C. Malkowski
2945 N. Neva Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60634

Gabriel Krezlewicz
10648 Montrose Ave.
Betheseda, Md. 20014

Phillip Simko
40 Eugene Blvd.
So. Amboy, N.J. 08879

Mitchell E. Wozny
4768 N. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60630

PREPARE FOR POLPEX 73!

GZOWSKI PHILATELIC SOC. OF TORONTO, CANADA

From member M. Lubinski of Ontario, Canada we learn that there are some changes in their philatelic environment and also some activity to be noted.

On March 20th their philatelic circle was transformed into the Gzowski Polish Philateiic Society of Toronto. The usage of the name 'Gzowski' was permitted them by the grandson of Sir C. S. Gzowski. Other formalities connected with the founding of the society are yet pending.

On June 4th, in agreement with the Buffalo Polish American Citizens Organization, they issued a cacheted cover for the annual "Decoration of Graves" celebration held in memory of Polish Volunteers who died in service during 1917. The cover features the Polish flag, symbols of dead soldiers and an inscription: "Decoration Day / In Memory of the Polish Volunteers/ Who Died In Service / During World War I / June 4, 1972 / Niagara-On-The-Lake/Ontario, Canada. Covers are postmarked with a commemorative cancellation specially prepared by the Canadian Post Office. A set of 3 covers is priced at $1.00.

In conjunction with their Polish philatelic exhibit during the Canadian National Exhibition, Aug 16-Sept. 24, they issued souvenir sheets and covers showing the Gzowski stamp. There are 3 varieties of each as the inscrptions differ: Engish, Polish and French. Covers are 3 for $1.00. Souvenir sheets are 3 for 50c. Available from exhibition chairman, M. Lubinski, 8 Atercliffe Ct., Rexdale, Ont., Canada. No personal checks please and return postage appreciated.

FALCONS STAMP SOCIETY

Buffalo's Falcons Stamp and Coin Society will hold its 5th annual stamp and coin show on Oct. 28-29, 1972 at Polish Falcons Hall, 883 Sycamore St. On display will be an award winning collection of Poland exhibited by Polonus member Ray Schneider, the society's president. Ray was re-elected president for the fifth term. Others elected were: Norbert Wujek as vice-president, David Walsh as secretary, John E. Kluss as treasurer, Arthur Andrzczak - Alois Russina - Lawrence Huber as directors, and Jan Kobiela, custodian.

COPERNICUS PORTFOLIO

With the spotlight on Copernicus in the coming Quincentennial of Copernicus in 1973, some 8½ x 11" lithograph reproductions of famous paintings of Copernicus are now available.

Along with this edition of the "Polonus Bulletin" is enclosed a flyer on the Copernican Portfolio for those who may be interested. Additional information is available by writing to the Copernicus Portfolio, 147 E. 42nd St., Room 601, New York, N.Y. 10036.

LITHPEX AT BALZEKAS MUSEUM

The Lithuania Philatelic Society will hold its XV-LITHPEX, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of De Jure recognition of Lithuania by the United States, on September 30, and October 1, 1972, at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Avenue, Chicago, Ill. Admission is free.

Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz was named as one of the judges.

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STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

General Government — When the German army overran Poland in 1939, they came all prepared stampwise. They brought along their current Hindenberg stamps surcharged in Polish currency and imprinted "Deutsche Post Osten." Immediately, all Polish stamps were withdrawn from the post offices, and only these Hindenberg stamps were good for postage. This set of thirteen values, Scott Nos. N17-29, used to be plentiful, and once the war was over, they came to the U.S.A. in large quantities at very low prices. But now, more than thirty years after they were first issued, the set has become more difficult to find, and many German dealers are now advertising to buy it. While Scott lists it at $3.80, the German Michel catalog, which is "net" priced, lists it for about $4.50. Dealers in Germany are offering to pay a bit less than $2.00 per set at this time, and most price lists show a marked increase in the retail price, now asking around $3.50.

* * *

During World War II, a Government in exile was formed in England which had jurisdiction over some Polish navy ships as well as some merchant ships. These ships carried mail to the United States and the British Government agreed to have some stamps issued by the Polish Government to be valid for postage. A Polish army corps fought along with the U.S. army in Italy and it captured after a long and hard fight the Monte Cassino. To commemorate that event a set of four previously issued stamps were surcharged in 1944 (Scott 3K17-20). Total mintage of that issue was 55,000 sets. Today it catalogs at $10.00 and usually can be had for around half catalog. This in my opinion is a good buy, and should be picked up. So far very few of these sets have been sold back to Poland due to stringent currency restrictions, but eventually things might change and if it becomes the case this set will be selling at much more than it does now.

The above reprinted from STAMPS.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIEY

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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 $4.00 —

IN MEMORIAM

HENRY J. CHOYNACKI
July 18, 1972

Polonus mourns the passing of this charter member and publisher of the 'Polonus Magazine', the forerunner of our present 'Bulletin.'

NOTICE TO MEMBERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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

PREPARE FOR POLPEX 73!