

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

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ROZANSKI HEADS U.S. PULASKI STAMP DRIVE

Honorary member Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, has been appointed by President Alfred Szebel as Chairman of the Polonus Committee for a United States commemorative stamp to honor the 200th anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski at the Battle of Savannah in 1779.

Dr. Rozanski participated in Polonus activities in the past and is well known in Polonia. He was chairman of a successful Pulaski Bicentennial Observance in Savannah just this past July. A Polish-American historian, he is presently employed by the Polish National Alliance where he heads the printing section.



Drawing of Pulaski at Savannah by Leon Kawecki from the famous painting by S. Batowski.

Among their publications are the daily newspaper "Dziennik Związkowy" and the monthly, "Zgoda".

In the past Polonus was instrumental in securing the issuance by the U.S. Postoffice of the 1960 Paderewski Champion of Liberty set, the 1966 Millennium of Poland stamp, and the 1973 Copernicus commemorative. Under the capable leadership of Dr. E. C. Rozanski, and with the cooperation of other Polish organizations and influential individuals, we hope to achieve our ultimate objective, that of a U.S. Pulaski stamp in 1979.

A secondary objective would be that of Poland issuing a stamp of similar design.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Friday, September 30th, at the Polish Museum of America, 984 Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago, starting promptly at 8:00 p.m. Use side entrance in parking lot. This is a joint meeting with the Polish American Numismatic Association. After a short business meeting, members will go on tour of the museum guided by the curator, Rev. Donald Bilinski.

NEW FORGERY OF WARSAW CITY CANCEL

By STANLEY and ERIC KRONENBERG

Stamps issued by the Citizens' Committee of Warsaw 1915/16 were cancelled with several types of cancellations, some of which have the design of "Syrena" (Mermaid) — Warsaw's coat of arms. Among them Type I has a diameter of 28 mm and Type II — 27 mm. Type I has 2 sub types: one with a normal and one with a shorter letter 'T'. In Type II one can distinguish 4 sub types with minor differences in the drawing of the Syrena.

Two kinds of forgeries of these cancellations have been reported in the literature (ref. 1). We have encountered a third kind of forgery which is described and illustrated here. The diameter of this forged cancellation measures 28.3 mm. Its main distinguishing characteristics are: The hand of Syrena which holds the sword differs from all other genuine and forged designs; the lettering is irregular and the height of capital letters varies between 3.3 and 3.8 mm.; "S" has an outgrowth on top and resembles the Polish letter "Ś"; the plumes on the side of Syrena's belly consist of unconnected lines unlike all other cancellation designs.

The cancellation is applied on a genuine 5 gr. stamp (position 38 in the sheet of 8 x 5) which has known forged overprint "6 groszy" in a frame (ref. 2). Both the cancellation and the overprint are imprinted with black aniline ink which can be recognized by pink edges on front and by its reddish appearance when viewed from the reverse side.



It appears that this is an early forgery which was made during World War I while Warsaw City Mail stamps were still in circulation.

The authors thank Mr. Joseph Bieniecki of Granite City, Illinois who gave us this stamp.

References:

Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, Editors: Łaskiewicz and Mikulski.
"Ruch", Warsaw 1966, Vol. IV, p. 1128 (ref. 1) and p. 1116 (ref. 2).

TID BITS

At the AMPHILEX International Exhibition held in Amsterdam, Holland, Mr. Mazepa received a Vermeil Medal with special award for Ukraine 1918-20 and Mr. Szebel received a Silver Medal for German Airmails. Congratulations!

☆ ☆ ☆

The International Exhibition to be held in 1986 will be at McCormick Place in Chicago hosted by the A.P.S. and C.P.S. in honor of their 100th anniversary.

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There are 16,000,00 stamp collectors in the United States and 1,000,000 coin collectors according to the U.S. Bureau of Statistics.

POLAND REVISITED - 1977

By ALFRED SZEDEL

Arrived in Warsaw on June 9th at 5:00 a.m. on a charter Lot Polish Airline flight from Chicago. The flight was smooth with only one short stop for refueling in Gander, Newfoundland. After some short customs formalities, I found myself among friends waiting at the Okęcie Airport. Dr. M. Lipinski of Poznań greeted me with the traditional bread and salt. Among others were Jerzy Dobrzeńcki, president of the Varsaviana Club, and Zygmunt Hampel, former director of the PZF (Polish Philatelic Federation) and an old friend of Polonus.

After a few days of touring Warsaw and visiting with family and friends, we left by car for Poznań, where I was invited to attend the convention of the Polonica Club in the beautiful town of Chodzież. Details of this meeting appeared in our last Polonus Bulletin in the account given by Dr. Lipinski, president of Polonica. Among those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Jan Witkowski and Lech Konopinski. In a cordial atmosphere, many ideas were exchanged and traditional toasts proposed to the prosperity of Polonus. Evenings were spent in hospitable roadside inns, famous in the Poznań area.

From Poznań we went to Wrocław to visit the Postal Museum where Polonus souvenirs, bulletins, catalogs, medals, etc. were donated for posterity. Our touring of the museum was arranged by Director Dr. Fijas.

Back in Warsaw, we visited the Military Museum, which thanks to the kindness of its

director, was specially opened for me and a private tour arranged. That evening visited with members of the Varsaviana Club, viewed some specialized collections and discussed problems of thematic collecting.

From Warsaw by car to Żelazowa Wola, birthplace of F. Chopin, arriving in Łódź for family gathering, then by train to Kraków. During my short three day stay, had the opportunity to visit many philatelists and saw some excellent Poland postal history material.

After a day at Zakopane, I flew from Kraków to Gdańsk in a plane piloted by Capt. Andrzej Dobrzeńcki, son of the president of the Varsaviana Club. While in that area, visited with Commander Szmon, editor of the Polish Ship Collectors Bulletin in Gdynia. Relaxing a few days in Sopot on the Baltic sea, I enjoyed dishes of fresh caught flounder, smoked eel and other Baltic fish.

From Sopot by train, we arrived in Olsztyn in the land of a thousand lakes and many historical places. Escorted by a young collector of Polish Maritime Mail, we visited the former Hitler headquarters in East Prussia where an attempt on his life was made in 1944. Also visited an old castle at Nidzica, the battlefield of Grunwald, and a Polish - Czechoslovakian stamp exhibition in Olsztyn.

Returning to Warsaw got back into the stream of philatelic visits and discussions. Visited with Mrs. Zielińska of the Ministry of Polish Posts where the possibility of similarly designed

stamps of Poland and U.S. were discussed for the 200th anniversary of Pułaski's death at Savannah in 1779. Fruitful discussions were also conducted with the Director of the PZF.

The hospitality of people in Poland was great, especially in philatelic circles. Shortages of meat and other everyday articles are noticeable, but in restaurants food is plentiful and tasty.

With favorable weather for most of my visit in Poland, this trip was the most enjoyable of all my previous trips to the motherland.

FROM OUR TREASURER

Our new treasurer has tackled the job vigorously putting his knowledge of accounting to good use. He noted that many members have fallen in arrears in the payment of dues. With soaring costs of printing and postage our \$5.00 yearly dues do not even pay for the Polonus Bulletin you receive. Please mail in those \$5.00 payments for dues to Roman Strzelecki, 1620 North Latrobe, Chicago, IL 60639. Enclose return postage if you want to receive a membership card.

JOIN THE POLISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Members of Polonus may join Polski Związek Filatelistów for \$12.00 a year plus \$2.00 entry fee. You receive their bi-weekly **FILATELISTA**, other philatelic periodicals, dozens of special covers and cancellations a year, plus rare black proofs of Polish stamps. Write to:

R. Rzepko, P.Z.F.
Rynek Starego Miasta 14
00-272 Warszawa
Poland/Polska

OUR HANDBOOK REVIEWED

The following review of the **Handbook** appeared in the **American Philatelist**, July, 1977:

"**The Occupation of Russia by the Polish I Corps**, editor James Mazepa, Polonus Philatelic Society, available from John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond, Chicago, IL 60647. \$7.50 to non members, \$5.50 to Polonus members post paid.

This is the first in a projected series of Polonus Handbooks. For the first attempt, the result is good. The material is carefully presented with quite a few illustrations — both photos of covers and stamps and line drawings of postal markings.

If future emmissions are to match this standard, then philatelic publishing has another excellent entrant to the field, and students of Polish philately have a new source of good information.

The work opens appropriately with a short historical sketch of the formation of the I Corps in Russia. Then follows the postal history discussion."

If you have not ordered your copy, do so now. It will be an important addition to your philatelic library and will help support future Handbooks which the Society will publish.

CLUBS OF SPECIAL INTEREST SILESIANA

PZF Zarząd Okręgowy
ul. Bankowa 29
40-007 Katowice, Poland
KLUB FRANCOTYP
Ireneusz Kołaciński
Skr. Poczтовая 11
90-982 Łódź 58, Poland

**Let's have a U.S. Pułaski stamp
in 1979!**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC
SOCIETY — July 22nd, 1977 at Polish Veterans Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 by the president, Mr. Szebel, with 17 members in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, M/S/C Messers. Schafer, Kokocinski: to accept the minutes as read. The treasurer's report was deferred in the absence of the treasurer. No new members were presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Resner reminded us that he has not received his award from POLPEX 77 yet. Mr. Szebel is to look into the matter.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Szebel asked the secretary to summarize the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting: 1) Where to hold POLPEX 1979 — either the Blackstone Hotel or Palmer House are the best alternatives. Major issue is will the dealers come to the Blackstone as this would be the first show in this hotel. 2) Mr. Szebel will discuss the possibility of a joint medal for 1979 with the Polish American Numismatic Association. 3) The theme for POLPEX 78 will be "Polish Folklore." Mr. Szebel will be the Chairman; Mr. Kawecki will do the designs; Mr. Strzelecki will deal with the dealers; Mr. Mazepa will take care of publicity if he gets some help; Sales, Patrons and mail sales will be handled by Mr. Bor and Mr. Mikucki; Mr. Szebel will find awards; other chairmen new to be found. 4) The financial book of the Society will have a new arrangement devised by Mr. Strzelecki beginning June, 1977. 5) The Board voted to donate a Handbook to a library in Germany (whose name escapes the secretary at this time). 6) A detailed accounting of all POLONUS souvenirs from all past shows will be made by Mr. Bor so that quantity offers can be made to dealers. The material is cluttering up the basements of several members. 7) Dr. Lipinski will be coming this fall. 8) We need to push the sale of Polonus pins and Handbook. No further Handbooks will be produced until \$1,000.00 has been recovered from the production of the first one. 9) Mr. Szebel and Mr. Mazepa will draft a letter concerning the formation of Polonus chapters. 10) Mr. Schafer will look into the possibility of having the September meeting at the Polish museum. 11) Next meeting will be called as needed.

In response to the need for Chairmen for POLPEX 78, Mr. Resner volunteered to chair the Entries. There were no volunteers for the other vacancies. Mr. Mazepa brought up the need for speakers for the coming year. Mr. Makowski volunteered to speak on Postal History at the October meeting. Mr. Dobrzycki will show his films of Poland at the August meeting. Members are asked to reserve next June 10 onward for the great International Philatelic Exhibition in Toronto — CAPEX. Several members are exhibiting and we might want to go en block there as a Society.

The business of the Society being completed, M/S/C Messers. Wolosewick, Pristika, to adjourn the meeting.

PHILATELIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Szebel then took the floor to tell us in detail about his trip to Poland. The details of the trip were discussed in the July-August Bulletin. Mr. Szebel presented

Mr. Makowski with the special Diploma given him by the POLO-NICA Society in Poland. Mr. Szebel went on to elaborate on the people and experiences he had while visiting there. He commented on the difficulty getting material yet there are a large number of enthusiastic collectors. Other interesting comments were about the food, weather, women, vodka, and other cultural experiences. The evening concluded with pastries and coffee.

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

POWEX II WINNERS

The Polish POW Study Group exhibition, POWEX II, held in conjunction with STAMPEX '77, May 10-12, Toronto, Canada, featured a number of exhibits and souvenir covers and cards.

The gold medal went to L. Draeger, while silver award winners were M. Lubinski, M. Kalawski, C. Kulpinski, and H. Fenigstein. Bronze awards were presented to T. Skotnicki and J. Winstanley.

Two different cacheted covers, a souvenir card and a special show handstamp, as well as a special Canadian postmark, were all produced for POWEX II. Information on obtaining these is available from Theo Skotnicki, 2341 Falls Link, Grand Island, NY 14072. Information on the POW Study Group is available from Henry F. Zebrowski, 3721 Nile Rd., Davidsonville, Md. 21035. Inquiries should include a self-addressed, stamped reply envelope.

POLAND PHILATELIC CLUB

The newly organized Poland Philatelic Club of Milwaukee invited our President Alfred Szebel to be a guest speaker at their September 18th meeting at 3:00 p.m., Polish Veterans Hall, 1629 South 10th Street, Milwaukee. His talk was on his recent trip to Poland, which is described in this Bulletin.

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

At the end of World War II huge quantities of all occupation stamps were sold to the U.S.A. leaving the German market especially bare of many issues. Even until now some of these issues still can be found easier in the U.S.A. than in Germany; prices keep rising there all the time. When Poland was invaded, all Polish stamps were declared invalid for postage. For a while the Hindenburg issue surcharged General Government which had been prepared prior to the invasion in Berlin were used, but soon supplies began to run low, and it was decided to overprint all available stocks of Polish stamps and reissue them. Twenty-six different stamps were placed on sale in the months of February to March 1940, Scott No. N30-55. By far the scarcest stamp in the set is Scott N53, of which only 20,600 copies were issued. Scott 1977 catalog raised the price of the set to \$35.15 from last year's listing of \$30.15. Dealers in Germany are offering to pay \$25.00 and with prices for the set rising constantly, chances are they might pay quite a bit more in a short while.

Reprinted from STAMPS of 8/27/77.

HAVE YOU OVERLOOKED PAYING YOUR 1977 DUES?

NEW ISSUES

Katowice Steelworks

A 1.50 zł. commemorative was issued in December 1976 showing the largest steelworks in Europe at Katowice. Construction began in 1972 with production commencing in 1976. The design shows a vat pouring melted steel. Offset printed by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 20 on chalky paper. Total issue: 6,000,000. Designed by J. Zabagło.

☆☆☆

Trade Union Congress

To commemorate the 8th successive Congress of Polish Trade Unions a 1.50 zł. stamp was issued in late 1976 showing the trade union's symbol. Rotogravure printed in multicolor by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 60 on chalky paper. 8,000,000 were issued. Designed by Stefan Małeckki.

☆☆☆

Polish Ports

A set of eight stamps were issued December 29, 1976, showing the main Polish ports.

- 1.00 zł. Gdańsk fuel base at No. Harbor and tanker Zawrat, 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.00 zł. Gdańsk ferry dock and ferry boat Gryf, 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł. Gdynia container base with boat during loading, 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł. Gdynia passenger port and liner Stefan Batory, 10,000,000 issued.
- 2.00 zł. Ziemia Szczecińska crane loading barge, 8,000,000 issued.
- 4.20 zł. Świnoujście coal base loading boat, 3,000,000 issued.
- 6.90 zł. Kołobrzeg passenger port with liner, hydrofoil boat and lighthouse, 3,000,000 issued.

8.40 zł. Map of Polish coast
1,000,000 issued.

Printed in multicolor rotogravure on chalky paper in sheets of 50 by PWPW, Warsaw. Designed by Stefan Małeckki.

☆☆☆

Polish Red Cross

A 1.50 zł. value was issued on January 24, 1977 to publicize the activity of the Polish Red Cross. The design shows a nurse helping an aged lady. Offset printed by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 30. 6,000,000 issued. Designed by Jacek Brodowski.

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Air Mail Issue

A 20 zł. air mail stamp appeared February 15, 1977. (No further details available).

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Civilian Defense

A 1.50 zł. stamp was issued on February 26th, 1977 showing the medal of merit award for services rendered in civilian defense. Offset printed by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 60 stamps. 6,000,000 issued. Designed by Emilia Nozko-Paprocka.

☆☆☆

Road Sign

A 1.50 zł. stamp was issued on March 12, 1977 showing a road sign "Stop! Child On The Road". This sign is a project of the Polish Social Committee for Action. Multicolor printed in rotogravure by PWPW Warsaw, on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps. 6,000,000 issued. Designed by Julian Raczko.

☆☆☆

Forest Fruits

On March 17, 1977 a set of eight was issued.

- 50 gr. Dewberry, 10,000,000 iss.
- 90 gr. Red berry, 10,000,000 iss.
- 1.00 zł. Strawberry, 10,000,000 iss.

1.50 zł. Bilberry. 10,000,000 issued
 2.00 zł. Raspberry. 8,000,000 iss.
 4.50 zł. Blackthorn. 4,000,000 iss.
 6.00 zł. Briar rose. 3,000,000 iss.
 6.90 zł. Hazel. 1,000,000 issued.

Multicolor printed in rotogravure by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper. Designed by Alojzy Balczerak.

☆☆☆

Science and Technology Sharing

A commemorative of 1.50 zł. value was issued April 4, 1977 on the 30th anniversary of the first agreement between Poland and USSR on the sharing of new discoveries in Science and Technology. Offset printed by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 30 stamps on chalky paper. 4,000,000 issued. Designed by W. Surowiecki.

☆☆☆

Rubens Birth Anniversary

A set of five commemoratives was issued April 30, 1977 on the 400th anniversary of the birth of P.P. Rubens showing paintings by this artist.

1.00 zł. Venus. 10,000,000 issued.
 1.50 zł. Batsabea. 10,000,000 iss.
 5.00 zł. Helen Fourment. 3,000,000
 6.00 zł. Rubens self portrait
 1,200,000 issued.

8+4 zł. St. Stephen. 1,100,000 iss.

The surtax of 4 zł. was for PZF. Offset and steel engraved printed by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 20 stamps. Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk.

☆☆☆

30th Peace Race

To commemorate the anniversary of the 30th International Peace Race from Warsaw-Berlin-Lin-Prague a 1.50 zł. value with a cyclist was issued May 6, 1977. Multicolor rotogravure printed by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 50. 10,000,000 issued. Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk.

New Issue info courtesy of R. Burkiewicz

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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 \$5.00 —

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH CISZEWSKI

Chicago, Ill.

UPCOMING CHICAGO P. S. PHILATELIC EVENT

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