

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

Issue 250

April-May, 1967

ZBIGNIEW MIKULSKI VISITS POLONUS

Polonus honored a distinguished philatelist, Mr. Zbigniew Mikulski, with a dinner, meeting and reception on Friday May 12 at the Warsaw Restaurant in Chicago.

Mr. Mikulski, a director of POLSKA 60, a co-editor of "Polskie Znaki Pocztove", published by Ruch in 1962, a stamp expert, and a man of many other accomplishments, made a trip especially to the United States to meet Polonus members. He is a mining engineer, 42 years of age, and resides in Switzerland with his son and wife, a pediatrician.

Thirty-four members turned out for the occasion which began with a dinner. A short meeting followed during which the new officers were installed by our first President, the Honorable Judge Lester Jankowski. The greater part of the evening was given over to the guest of honor. Mr. Mikulski spoke of Philately on the continent and stated that the collecting of Polish stamps is becoming as popular as the Vatican City craze. He mentioned that supplies of pre-war Poland issues have disappeared from the stocks of European dealers. He talked of outstanding collections in Poland and of their owners. He promised to return to Chicago in June and present a talk on the Poznań-Gniezno Issues of 1919.

To the delight of all he signed an application for Polonus membership. The evening then turned into a party.

We look forward to Mr. Mikulski's visit in June.

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Josef J. Bendkowski

KOSCIUSZKO TALK PRESENTED BY DR. EUGENE L. SLODKOWSKI

Pediatrician, historian, philatelist and numismatist, Dr. Eugene L. Slotkowski, was a speaker at our April 28th program meeting at the Falcons Hall. Dr. Slotkowski has done original research work on Thaddeus Kosciuszko and revealed some of his findings in an interesting talk on the hero's life here in the United States. He showed the stamps of Poland and U.S. that honored Kosciuszko with his likeness on the stamps.

Earlier in the evening the Doctor was voted in as a new member. It was pleasing to see four ladies at this program meeting which ended up with a beebea.

DERWINSKI INTRODUCES BILL FOR SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE STAMP

Congressman Edward J. Derwinski (R-4th, Ill.), in addressing the House of Representatives on May 3rd, introduced a bill for the issuance of a special commemorative stamp honoring Madame Marie Skłodowska-Curie, the discoverer of radium.

Some Notes on the Second Polish Provisional Issue

by Conrad P. Straub, Ph. D.

Col. R. N. Larking, (1) in his series on the "Stamps of Poland," made the following comments with reference to the "Poczta Polska" overprints and surcharges on the overprinted "Gen. Gouv. Warschau" German stamps (Scott's catalog — Poland Nos. 15 through 26):

"Forged overprints are known, but seeing that this issue is a comparatively common one, it can be taken that these forgeries were done to defraud the revenue and not the collector."

"...I have five examples — the only ones I have seen so far—used on pieces of entire: 3 pfg. postmark illegible; 5 pfg. postmarked 'Zgierz' and dated '14.1.19;' 10 pfg. 'Łódź 15.1.19;' 20 pfg. 'Łódź 23.12.18;' and 25/7½ pfg. town illegible, but dated '18.1.19.' The overprint is slightly larger than the original and the type used, although similar at a glance to the type of the original, differs from it notably in the 'a' of 'Poczta' and the 'ka' of 'Polska.' The obliterating bars are thicker, and the lower bars are spaced 1¼ mm instead of 1 mm. I have not seen any forgeries of the inverted and double overprint."

In a later article, Schroeder (2) describes a forgery of the 3 pfg. value, but shows an illustration of the supposed forgery on the 25/7½ value. In concluding he states, "The illustrated stamp postmarked 'Łódź' is possibly genuine and may be one of the liberated pieces."

In my possession I have a cover, shown in Fig. 1, cancelled "Łódź/**a" dated "13.3.19" which includes copies of the 3, 5/2½, 5/3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25/7½, 30, 40, and 60 pfg. values. The positioning of the overprint on some of the stamps differs from that normally encountered. It will be seen that the third and fourth obliterating bars start at variable distances when measured from a vertical line dropped from the stem of the 'P' of 'Poczta.' Thus, on the 3 pfg. value, the third and fourth bars begin 3.0 mm to the left of the verti-

cal line dropped from the 'P' of 'Poczta' (see Fig. 2), 2.8 mm to the left for the

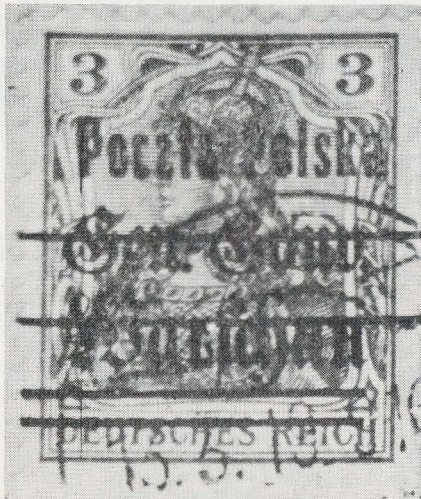


Fig. 2

5/3 pfg. value (see Fig. 3), 2.1 mm to



Fig. 3

the left for the 5 pfg. value (see Fig. 4), and 4.1 mm to the left for the 15 pfg. value (see Fig. 5). In the remaining stamps, the distance measures 1.2 to 1.8 mm. The other measurements mentioned by Larking are summarized in

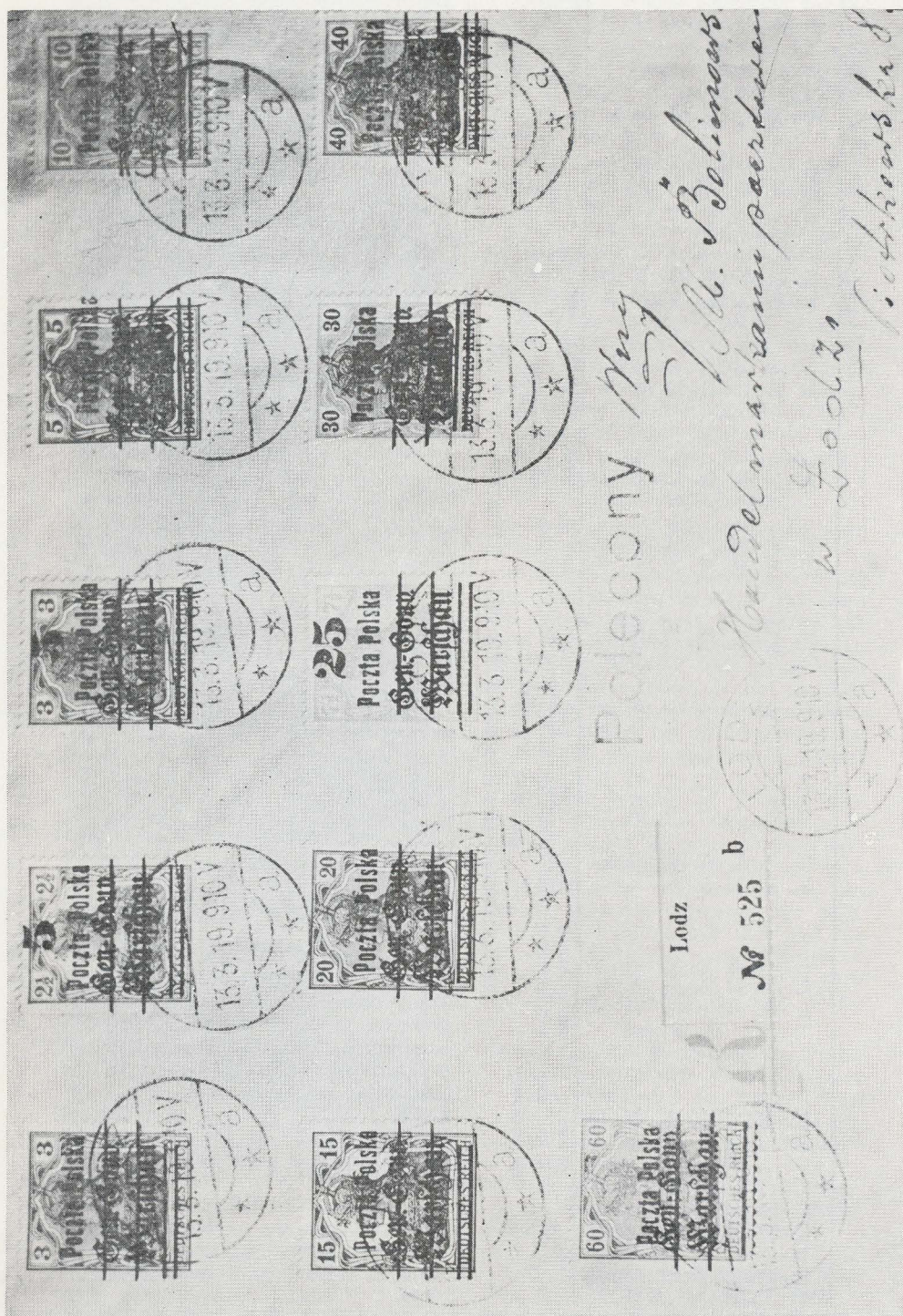


Fig. 1



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Table 1. The length of the third and fourth bars (for the stamps on the cover) varies from 18.1 to 18.2 mm. If these stamps are similar to the ones described by Larking, this brings to seven the number of values observed.

The 5/3 pf. value is of additional interest in that it shows a "break" in the first line below the "o" in "Polska" (I-o (8)) (Fig. 3). Such a "break" was not identified and reported by Mikstein. (3) Thus, one would conclude that this was a special printing and not the first or second printings reported to date.

Table 1. VARIETIES - THE SECOND PROVISIONAL ISSUE, POLAND

Fig. No.	Value pfg.	Printing	Length, mm.			Height P, mm.	Distance from PP to obliterating bars, mm.				Horizontal Offset, mm.	Length, mm.		Catalog No.
			Pocztka Polska	Pocztka Polska	Polska		1st	2nd	3rd	4th		3rd and 4th lines		
6	3	2nd	15.4	6.9	7.1	3.0	2.2	6.8	11.3	12.7	1.5 L	18.1	Sc. #15	
7	3	2nd	15.3	6.9	7.0	3.0	2.4	6.8	11.3	12.8	1.8 L	18.2	Sc. #15	
2	3*	1st	15.9	7.2	7.1	2.9	3.2	7.6	11.2	12.8	3.0 L	18.1	Sc. #15	
3	5/3*	1st	16.0	7.2	7.0	3.0	3.0	7.5	11.2	12.8	2.8 L	18.2	Sc. #17	
4	5*	1st	15.9	7.1	7.3	3.0	3.0	7.6	11.4	12.8	2.1 L	17.8+	Sc. #18	
5	15*	1st	15.8	7.1	7.1	3.0	3.2	7.5	11.3	12.8	4.1 L	18.1	Sc. #20	
8	5/2½	1st	15.4	7.1	7.2	3.0	3.1	7.5	11.2	12.6	0.7 R	16.8+	Sc. #16	

* Stamps shown on Cover in Figure 1.

Measurements made of the 3 pfg. stamp on the cover (Figs. 1 and 2) show that the distances between "Pocztą Polska" and the four obliterating bars correspond to the **first** printing and not those of the **second**, which is the only printing identified with this stamp. The pertinent measurements are given in Table 1 and are compared with normal 3 pfg. values of the second printing (Figs. 6 and 7). If one were to counter-



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

feit this stamp, it would seem reasonable that one would attempt to counterfeit the **second** printing since it is the only one supposed to exist.

There is a remote possibility for the existence of the **first** printing of this issue. This possibility is referred to on page 145 of **Polskie Znaki Pocztowe**, Tom I, (3) where the following statements are made with reference to shifted overprints:

"Of considerable interest are those stamps on which the overprint is shifted upward so markedly as on the 5/2½ and 5/3 pfg. values, that the numeral "5" appears at the bottom in rows 1 and 9 instead of at the top, and does not appear at all on the stamps in row 10. ... In this situation, if one had stamps from the 9th and 10th rows for example, he would have a vertical pair of the 5/3 pfg. (Scott No. 17) and of the 3 pfg. (Scott No. 15), or a vertical pair of the 5/2½ pfg. (Scott No. 16) and of the 2½ pfg. (uncataloged)."

It is also stated that these pairs have never been cataloged anywhere.

In my collection I also have a 5/2½ pfg. first printing in which the third and fourth bars start 0.7 mm to the right of the vertical projection through the "P" of "Pocztą." This stamp bears the cancellation "Łódź 1" but the date is not discernible. The surcharge value is also shifted to the right approximately one mm when compared to normal values.

Does any member of Polonus have further information on these stamps issued to defraud the revenue? Does anyone have additional copies of these stamps showing variations in the horizontal projection between the start of the third and fourth bars and the "P" of "Pocztą?" If such information is available please write to me at 2330 Chalet Drive, Minneapolis, Minn. 55421.

References

- (1) Larking, R.N.W. Poland. The Postal Issues During and After the Great War. Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, Issues 81 through 100, 1950-1951. Reprinted from Gibbon's Stamp Monthly, 1930.
- (2) Schroeder, A. Checking the Forgeries. Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society, Issue 114, 1953.
- (3) Łaskiewicz, A. and Mikułski Z., editors **Polskie Znaki Pocztowe**, Tom I, Ruch, Warszawa, Polska, 1960.

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON HONORS BOJANOWICZ

Honors are being heaped one upon another on Polonus member Miroslaw A. Bojanowicz of London. At their recent meeting, members of the Polish



Philatelic Society of England elected this prominent philatelist as an Honorary Member of their organization for the many contributions that he has made to the advancement of Poland in word-wide philately. This is a rightfully deserved honor and our felicitations go with it.

Prior to this selection, the 48th Congress of Philatelists in Great Britain which met in Brighton, among its worthy deliberations was the election of a select few to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists from among the highlighted names of world philately. This is perhaps the highest honor that can be awarded in the entire stamp domain.

Mr. Bojanowicz has eminent qualifications for this selection because

1. His philatelic holdings are vast. They are mounted and described meticulously in a professional manner.

2. His exhibits at international shows have won Grand Awards, gold medals and special awards with places in the Court of Honor. Mr. Bojanowicz was the top man or in the Court of Honor at Polska 60, Budapest 1961, Turkey and Sipex 1966.

3. His articles in the philatelic press show mastery of the subject and research into his particular fields. He is advisor to leading philatelic firms as well as to official committees. He is also advisor and supplier of select items to many prominent philatelists.

4. His participation in society and club activities, whether in their programs, exhibitions, conventions, and the

like, always results in raising the standard of the occasion. He was awarded a gold medal as the best speaker at the Collectors Club of New York.

5. His participation in international congresses and meetings is sure to bring forth much vigor, general interest and a spark of showmanship. He is a dynamic and convincing speaker.

After his election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, Mr. Bojanowicz along with three others in this highest echelon signed the Roll in impressive and pompous ceremonies as established by British custom and protocol.

Of the 178 Distinguished Philatelists chosen in the 45 years of the existence of this Hall of Fame, with King George V as the initial signer, only 53 members are still alive.

Mr. Bojanowicz raised the philately of Poland onto a higher plane than it has ever been placed before. With his collection of Poland, especially of the pre-stamp era and the Poland No. 1 specialization, he has collected these items, spent countless hours on the study of the printing and use of this thoroughbred champion to carve for it a niche among the philatelic classics of all times. To Mr. Bojanowicz we wish good health, good cheer and many, many years of continued successes.

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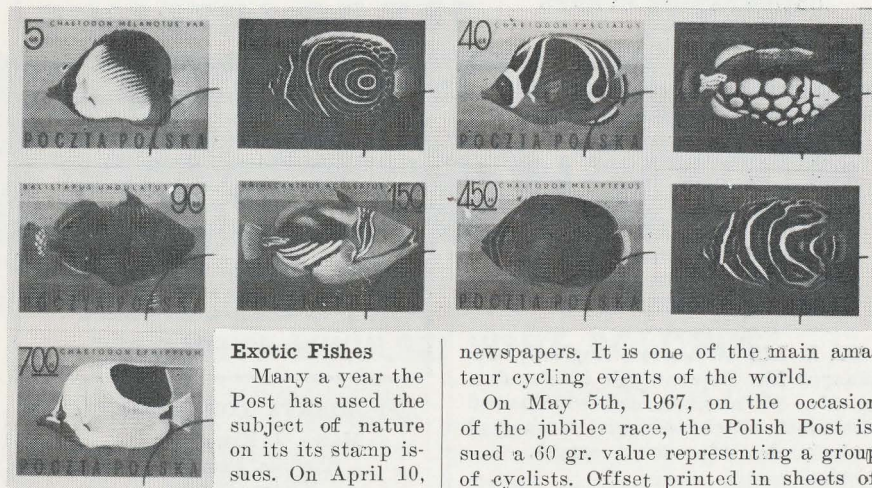
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NEW ISSUES



Exotic Fishes

Many a year the Post has used the subject of nature on its stamps issues. On April 10, 1967 a new set of "Exotic Fishes" were issued representing species of fishes that live in the tropical south seas. From the graphic as well as the topical point of view the designs of the stamps were carefully elaborated. Pictured are:

- 5 gr.—*Chaetodon melanotus* Var.
6,000,000 printed
- 10 gr.—*Pomacanthus imperator* Juv.
5,500,000 printed
- 40 gr.—*Chaetodon fasciatus*
6,000,000 printed
- 60 gr.—*Balistoides conspicillum*
5,700,000 printed
- 90 gr.—*Balistapus undulatus*
3,200,000 printed
- 1.50 zł.—*Rhinecanthus aculeatus*
3,400,000 printed
- 4.50 zł.—*Chaetodon melapterus*
2,800,000 printed
- 6.60 zł.—*Pomacanthus semicirculatus*
1,300,000 printed /Juv.
- 7.00 zł.—*Chaetodon ephippium*
1,300,000 printed

Offset printed on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps at PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Jerzy Desselberger.

20th Peace Race

The 20th International Peace Race from Warsaw-Berlin-Prague takes place annually in May. It is organized by the editors of "Trybuna Ludu", "Neues Deutschland" and "Rude Pravo" daily

newspapers. It is one of the main amateur cycling events of the world.

On May 5th, 1967, on the occasion of the jubilee race, the Polish Post issued a 60 gr. value representing a group of cyclists. Offset printed in sheets of



20 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW, Warsaw. Designed by T. Michaluk. Quantity printed: 6,000,000.

CORRECTIONS — NEW MEMBERS And Their Collecting Activities

- 563 George Jezioranski, 2823 N. Natchez Chicago, Ill. 60634 — 27, 37, 45, 60, 61, 129, 153, U.
- 811 John Bulat, 750 Virginia Ave., No. Bellmore, N.Y. 11710—93, 94, 144, 146
- 812 B.F. Kor, 1433 Midland Ave., Syracuse N.Y. 13205 — 94-95
- 813 Eugene L. Slotkowski, M.D., 5330 Devon Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60646 — 37
- 814 Stan Skibinski, 425 Henry Street, Woodstock, Ont., Canada — 19 M&U, 94 M&U

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF BOSTON ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Louis C. Bakula was named president, Walter Niemyski as vice-president and Frank Budryk as secretary-treasurer.

Collectors interested in joining the society may request its bulletin from the editor, Stanley Bykowski, 14 Cleveland St., Hyde Park, Mass.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 9, 1967

Business Meeting. We have two important proposed events to discuss: a Picnic and a Polpex.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN T. PATALON
of Buffalo, N.Y.
Member No. 704

Mr. S. LIS of London, England, who managed Mr. Bojanowicz's affairs during Mr. B's absence, and who helped with much of the editorial work died suddenly due of a heart attack.

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Eugene L. Slotkowski
5330 W. Devon Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60646
Stan Skibinski
425 Henry Street
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