

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

Issue No. 360

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February, 1978

POLPEX 78 PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY

A special cancellation design by Leon Krawiec will be used March 18-19 at the POLPEX 78 postal station at the Polish Army Veterans Bldg., 6005 W. Irving Park Rd. in Chicago.

Polish Folklore, the theme of the show, will be displayed on the cancellation, souvenir cards and sheets, cachets, in the program catalog, and in some of the exhibits.



POLISH FOLKLORE



POLPEX 78, our biggest undertaking of the year, requires the concentrated effort of many members.

We urge you to participate: as an exhibitor, worker, or perhaps as a well wisher with a donation of \$2.00. If you have not as yet sent in your \$2.00 donation, mail it now to C. J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, IL 60656.

FRAME FIX-UP PARTY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th

The January 26th blizzard in the Windy City halted our holding the Frame Fix-Up Party. Another night has been selected for this event—Friday, February 10th at the Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk. Rd. Chicagoland members are invited to come out and give us a hand.

We need frames to have a POLPEX. Our old frames need repairs. With a little work on our part we can make them last a few more years.

APPLICANT PENDING

Kim C. Chojnowski
237 So. 13th St.

Reading, PA 19602



The Polish American Numismatic Association will participate in the show with an exhibit of Polish silver coins from 1918 to 1939.

POLONUS "OPŁATEK" – CHRISTMAS PARTY



On December 30th, sixty members of Polonus, their wives, and even some of their children, joined together for a memorable Christmas celebration at the Polish Veterans Hall. As friends came together, they were first greeted with snacks of cheese, herring and dips, all beautifully set-up by Mrs. Wanda Szebel and Mrs. Jean Mazepa. Liquid refreshments were in abundant supply. At 8:30 the acting Master of Ceremonies, our President, Fred Szebel, called everyone to their seats and introduced our honored guests, Dr. M. Lipiński and the Past Presidents of the Society. Dr. Lipiński began by sharing the traditional "Opłatki" which he brought from Poland, with all present. He then presented awards and certificates of appreciation to several Polonus member for their outstanding contributions to Polish Philately. Members so honored were Messrs Szebel, Makowski, Schafer, Rybarski, Poniecki, Mikucki, Strzelecki, Steczynski and Wolosewick.

Then the Past Presidents who were present offered a few comments. Present were: Dr. S. T.

Galaskiewicz, John Bobo, Anthony Banasiak, Stefan Kochanski, Roman Strzelecki and Chester Schafer.

After the comments by the former leaders of the Society, all adjourned to the adjoining room to find a lavish Polish family style meal, cooked to perfection, and complemented with traditional pastries.

As we all look back at the accomplishments of the Society for 1977, this gathering of friends stands out as a highlight. The outpouring of friendship among those too long separated for so many different reasons, was well worth the effort it took to plan the party. We need these periodic rewards, and with this in mind, we can look forward to Polpex 78.

NEW MEMBERS

Argyll Etkin

55 New Bond St.

London, W. 1, England

Jan Witkowski

Kasztelanska 37

Poznan, Poland 60316

James Michael Jacobs

906 Christine

Houston, TX 77017

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

Bureaucratic obduracy challenges Polonia's request for the issuance of a Pulaski commemorative stamp

Chicago. — Polonia's request that a Pulaski commemorative postage stamp be issued to mark the 200th anniversary of his arrival in America, his participation in several revolutionary battles, his formation of the Pulaski Legion and his heroic death during the siege of Savannah, has met with stubborn and unfathomable opposition in the Post Office Department and its Advisory Committee on Stamps.

Initial steps taken by Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance, and by Congressmen Dan Rostenkowski, Frank Annunzio, Edward J. Derwinski and John Fary drew standardized replies that Pulaski was already honored by a stamp in 1931.

Commenting on these developments last week, Mr. Mazewski stated that not only the Pulaski stamp is at issue, but the recognition of Polonia's participation in the mainstreams of American history from 1608 to the present time.

Pulaski is one of the most distinguished symbols of that participation, Mr. Mazewski stated.

As I have pointed out in the Congressional hearings in 1972 Americans of Polish origin and heritage have suffered two centuries of neglect in terms of historical text and reference publications and other disseminations of the knowledge of our national past.

It is, therefore, imperative for the present day generations of Polish origin to accept and overcome this challenge of the postal

authorities regarding the Pulaski commemorative stamp.

The direct and effective way to do it is by contacting the Senators and Congressmen and explaining to them our justified request for a Pulaski stamp.

The Polish American Congress as well as component units of the Polish National Alliance and other fraternal organizations together with Polonia's cultural, educational, civic and societal societies should take a concerted action, AND THE TIME FOR IT IS NOW.

However, not only the aforementioned organization, but individual Americans of Polish origin and heritage should write letters or otherwise contact the Senators from their states and Representatives from their Congressional Districts, urging their support of a congressional action which would tell the postal authorities that an issuance of a Pulaski Commemorative stamp is a highly justified project within the framework of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, the Bicentennial which did not end but actually started on July 4th, 1976.

The campaign of letter writings to the members of the U.S. Congress is being correlated by a National Committee for a Pulaski Commemorative Stamp, formed by the Polonus Philatelic Society and headed by Dr. Edward C. Rozanski.

Dr. Rozanski is presently compiling an honorary committee of prominent Americans to help advance the project.

Reprinted from ZGODA

Belorussian-Polish Relations 1918-23 as Viewed from the Polish Side

By J. KUCHARSKI

The article by W. Lesh published in "Polonus Bulletin" No. 353 (May 1977) cannot be considered impartial, as the references at the end contain no Polish views. It is a prejudiced presentation so that per the old Latin proverb, "audiatu el altera pars", it calls for a rebuttal.

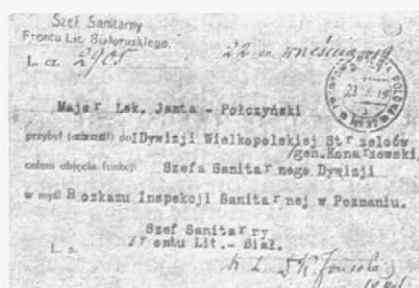
Unfortunately the article was printed in the same bulletin which publicized the First Corps of Gen. Musnicki. Attacks on Gen. Musnicki do not help in this case.

Mr. Lesh should know that the Polish Corps was formed during the Communist Revolution, in abnormal times, and that Russians did not supply the Corps with any food, only with some arms and ammunition, which was quite safe for them to do in far away depots and a stronghold like Bobrujsk.

If Mr. Lesh would read Gen. Musnicki's book, "Krótki Rys Historii I Korpusu" Warszawa 1919, he would find the reason for the "raids by the Polish General Musnicki" or "to halt any further harassment by Musnicki".

After the October Revolution all farms and lands were nationalized. The owners, or "Polish landlords" as the communists called them, were dispossessed, and food and livestock were taken by the peasants.

As Gen. Musnicki states on page 27 of his book, his soldiers "took only what was stolen from Polish farmers. Belorussian peasants considered, according to communist propaganda, all lands and inventory as given to them" Thus the Polish Corps took what was stolen



Postcard with "Poczta Polowa No. 37" cancellation dated September 23, 1919.

as they had no food supplies. So such "raids" and "harassment" are the only relation to the Polish Corps and its postal history?

The rest of the article is anti-Polish. He mentions about fighting for "Horodnia" (Grodno). This is greatly exaggerated.

I do agree only with one statement made by Mr. Lesh: that two Lithuanian-Belorussian Infantry Divisions fought with the Poles for Wilno. In fact, they were Belorussian only in name as they were made up mostly of volunteers from Central and Southern Poland. It was quite normal for that time as Belorussia was not developed politically or nationally (they called themselves "tutejsi" — native).

As an example I can tell you of the three Iwanowski brothers. One chose the Polish side and later became a senator in Poland; the second changed his name to Ivanauskas and was active in Kowno (Kaunas); the third took the Russian side and was liquidated in Stalin's purge of 1936-37.

Whatever was written in the next part of Mr. Lesh's article

contains only anti-Polish statements. The naming of Gen. Zeligowski's soldiers as "freebooters" cannot be considered complimentary but insulting!

Also naming Wilno (Vilna) an "area of Belorussia" is an insult to the Lithuanians who always considered this as their capital. This is surprising as Mr. Lesh is referring to a Lithuanian article, "The Last Act of the Pilsudski Drama".

I did some research at the Pilsudski Institute in New York City and have additional information and corrections for Mr. Lesh. Here is information from J. Pilsudski's books and letters:

Grodno was under the occupation of the German Tenth Army until April 28, 1919 when it withdrew without any fighting with Poles, Lithuanians or Belorussians. Although other parts of the Tenth Army territory (Białystok) were taken previously by Poland, Pilsudski let the Germans occupy Grodno as long as possible so as to prevent the Lithuanians from taking the city before the Poles could bring their forces in. Not one shot was fired when Grodno was taken by the Poles.

Pilsudski stated in an interview on May 2, 1919 with the "Journal des Debats": "With Belorussians, Poles have an easier understanding. With Lithuanians it is much more difficult." In his letter of May 4, 1919 to Paderewski, who was in the Paris Peace Conference, Pilsudski described the pro-Polish actions of Belorussians in Grodno: The B.N.R. did not want Belorussia divided between Russia and Lithuania, the B.N.R. asked for Polish help.

Between September 13-19 Pilsudski was in Minsk. After the speech of Pruszyński (B.N.R.) in



Picture card of drawing of soldiers in the Pulawy Legion.

Belorussian, Pilsudski also spoke that language, promising all kinds of liberties and autonomy to Belorussia and asked them to be loyal to Poland.

In his letter of September 21 to the Commissar of Polish Eastern Territories, J. Osmolowski suggested to Pilsudski to build a "Belorussian Piedmont" like in Italy's Independence. He suggested the same before to A. Luckevics and Polish Foreign Minister L. Wasilewski.

This information is presented here to enable Mr. Lesh to understand Polish-Belorussian relations from the Polish point of view.

I do not see any connection between politics and the Polish Corps, which tried to find its way to independent Poland but was not allowed by the Germans. Someone may ask, why is publicity on the Polish Corps book printed in the same bulletin with an article attacking Gen. Musnicki for "raids and harassment".

Philatelically speaking, only one picture in Mr. Lesh's article is not proper proof of the existence of the Second Belorussian Division. Even the numeral of the Fieldpost was printed wrong, "87" instead of "37", which is listed in "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", Vol. 4, page 1170, as acting at the H.Q. of the Lithuanian Belorussian front.

PIEŚŃ OCHOTNIKÓW (LEGJONISTÓW)
POLSKICH Z 1915 ROKU.

Legjoniści, bracia mili,
Co za cisza tam?
By nie raznać tęsknej chwili,
Piosenkę dla was mam.
Polscy, ziemi obiecanej,
Nasza waszyska krew...
W cześć Jej, jedni, ukochanej,
Będzie i ten śpiew.
Jeszcze Polska nie umarła,
Wstaje z ciężkich snów...
By się pamięć nie zatęchła —
Czynów czeka znów.
Wiec stajemy do apelu
Na usługi Jej...
Niech usłyszą na Wawelu
Słowa piosenki tej.
Niemiec był upiorem świata
Długi szereg lat...
Polak z Niemcem się nie zbrata,
Półki światem świat!
Bo on, chłiwcy naszej ziemi,
Duchem złym jej był,
Dępał ją nogami swymi
I krew polską pił.

Za te życie — w błędnym kole,
Bratnie kule — w nas...
Za te krzywdy, za te bóle,
Czas zapłacić, czas!
Z ziemi dziadów wywłaszczenie,
Dzieci sierot łzy,
Niewiast naszych pohanbienie...
Pomścić musimy my!
Ten rachunek, krwią skreślony,
W sercu Polski tkwi...
I nie będzie zatłokony,
Chyba — morzem krwi!
Na pięknie zataczanie
Tych krzyżackich dusz
Ofiaruję: życie, mienie,
Byle skończyć już!
Miną lata i wiek minie...
Bliższy zatrzaże czas.
Krew nie darmo nasza płynie,
Bo odkupi nas.
Wszyscy, choć do ostatniego,
Chcemy w boju leżeć...
Ach, dla szczęścia, dla twojego,
Polsko, o tem wiedz!

MŚCISŁAW BŁITKIEWICZ.

Warszawa, 19/25 stycznia 1915 r.

ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО
ПОЧТОВКА.

Joan Boen, Пема. 21 ann. 1915 r.
Z. G. B. Wierzbicki i S-ka.

Reverse side of picture card with the Legion anthem.

I am enclosing another illustration of Poczta Polowa No. 37 on a postcard from the same H.Q. with a personal report about a new Chief of Medical Service of "Wielkopolska" Dywizja, which was also on the Lithuanian Belorussian front, but has nothing to do with the Second Lith.-Bel. Division.

According to "Polskie Znaki Pocztove" Vol. 4, only Poczta Polowa Nr. 47 was attached to the Second Infantry Division. I am sorry that I cannot present any example from this fieldpost.

Another similar term when the Belorussian or Ukrainian front was used by the Russians in World War II. It was only a tactical name for military action, not intended to underline any political reason.

I am enclosing a photostat of a postcard with a painting by Ryszkiewicz showing a group of soldiers from the Pulawy Legion, formed as a counterpart of the Pilsudski Legion. It should replace the Pilsudski Legion (First Rgt.

First Comp.) printed by mistake as a group of soldiers of the Pulawy Legion on the front page of Polonus Bulletin No. 353.

COPERNICANA CATALOGUE

"Nicolaus Copernicus Worldwide Postage Stamp Catalogue 1973-76" compiled and edited by W. Z. J. Nowicki, a 128 page book, has 50 pages of these in full color. It describes all stamps issued with authentication details and document illustrations, notes on forgeries, non-postal stamps, handstamps relating to F.D.C.'s. For information write to Copernicana Ltd., 40 Ansell Rd., London SW17 7LS England.

MEMBERS MART

Member N.E. Bentkowski in the Michigan-Detroit area is also a dealer in stamps of Poland. Those interested my write him at 20711 Country Club, Harper Woods, MI 48225.

BE A POLPEX WELL WISHER!

AT OUR FEB. 24th MEETING

Bud Hennig announces that at our Feb. 24th Joint Meeting three speakers from the German Philatelic Society will present talks.

IN OUR MAILBOX

Chicago, dnia 20 stycznia 1978 r.

Szanowna Redakcjo!

Jestem zaskoczony treścią listu p. pkk. dypl. Jana ZE Berka, zamieszczzonego w Nr. 357 Biuletynu Klubu Polonus, a zwłaszcza wysuniętymi w nim zarzutami braku rzetelnych wiadomości, odnośnie działalności polskich Klubów filatelistycznych za granicą.

Współpracuję z Biuletynem Klubu Polonus jako autor prawie 30 lat, i na swoim koncie mam u Was wydrukowanych chyba więcej materiałów, niż którykolwiek z Polonusów miejscowych, i jak dotąd nigdy nie spotkałem się z zarzutem braku fachowości.

Wiadomość o działalności filatelistycznej p. płk. dypl. Jana ZE Berka zaczerpnąłem z artykułu p. mjr. M. W. Zebrowskiego na łamach KOMUNIKATU FILATELISTYCZNEGO — Organu Związku Filatelistów Polskich w Wielkiej Brytanii. Rocznik VI Nr. 68 (sty-

czeń 1963) str. 11 wiersz 1—3 od góry,
w dosłownym brzmieniu:

"O tym że ZAŁOZYCIELEM Związku Filatelistów Polskich w Wielkiej Brytanii i od 5 lat jego prezesem jest płk. dypl. Jan ZE Berek przemilczano..."
a powinno to być wiadomym nie w Polsce, nie Redakcji Biuletynu Polonusa (bo te wiedzą), a przedwzyszystkiem panu płk. Janowi Berkowi, JAKO NACZELNEMU REDAKTOROWI wspomnianego KOMUNIKATU FILATELISTYCZNEGO.

Dyplomu zaś na siłę nikomu nie zamierzamy wręczać, zwłaszcza, że powody jego odmowy leżą chyba gdzieś indziej.

Sądze, że na tym chyba zakończyć należy tę jałową dyskusję. SAPIENTI SAT — czyli po polsku "mądrzej głowie dość po słowie". Komentarze też chyba są tutaj zbędne. Jedynie co, to chyba należałoby polecić lekturę IV Księgi "Pana Tadeusza" z Wojskiego opowieść o polowaniu.

Proszę w imieniu prawdy-obiektywnej o zamieszczenie niniejszego sprostowania (możliwie po polsku) na łamach Biuletynu.

Z poważaniem

Dr Mieczysław A. Lipiński

Honorowy Członek Polonus Nr. 292

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JAN HANIEWICZ

611 E. 39 St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203

UPCOMING PHILATELIC EVENTS

Friday, February 10, 1978:

"Frame-Fix Up Party" — Bring hammers, screw drivers and yourself. Refreshments will be served! Party starts 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 24, 1978:

Joint Meeting with the German Philatelic Society, they will provide speakers. Beeba to follow.

Sat. & Sun., March 3-4, 1978:

MILCOPEX Annual Exhibition and Bourse, Ramada Inn Airport, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Fri. & Sat., March 18-19, 1978:

POLPEX 78!!!

Fri. & Sat., April 1-2, 1978:

Rockford Stamp Club Annual Exhibition, now a National Show, at Clock Tower Inn, Rockford, Ill.

NEW ISSUES

World Council of Peace Congress

A tri-color stamp was issued May 6, 1977 in connection with the Congress of the World Council of Peace May 6 to 11 in Warsaw. The dove of peace is shown. Offset printed by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 30 stamps on chalky paper. Quantity: 10,000,000 printed. Designed by W. Freudenreich.

Endangered Species of Animals

A set of four topicals were issued May 5, 1977 from the "Preservation of Environment" series.

- 1.00 zł—Loup - treated as a pest 10,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zł—Bustard - victim of insecticides. 10,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zł—Kestrel - victim of insecticides. 10,000,000 issued
- 6.00 zł—Otter - vanishing because of flood control. 1,300,000 printed

Rotogravure printed in multi-color by PWPW Warsaw in sheets of 50 on chalky paper. Designed by Helena Matuszewska.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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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 —

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Av., Norridge, IL 60656. This will insure your receiving the Bulletin promptly and avoid Polonus the expense of postage dues.

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