

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 262

October 1968

WORLD WAR II MATERIAL WANTED FOR POLPEX

With POLPEX 1969 but four months away we urge you to prepare your collection for the exhibition. Don't wait till the last minute.

It was decided to limit this year's exhibits to material of World War II and give the collectors of modern and relatively new material a chance to compete for higher awards at POLPEX 1969, to be held on March 1st and 2nd, at Radio Halls, Belmont and Long Avenues in Chicago.

The exhibition will honor two historical events: the 25th anniversary of the battle of Monte Cassino and the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

It may seem to some that during the five years of World War II not much happened in Polish philately. On the contrary, this tragic and heroic period of Poland's history was very rich in type and variety of philatelic material. To give you an idea of what is in this field, following is a list of possible subjects:

- Postal History of World War II
- Polish Fieldpost of 1939-45
- Fieldpost of the Polish 2nd Corps
- Polish Fieldpost in Russia, "Doj-dziemy" and Gen Berling Issues
- Polish Fieldpost in France in 1940
- Polish Fieldpost in England 1940-45
- Warsaw Uprising 1944 Mail



"Armia Krajowa" issue during the
Warsaw Uprising



Polish 2nd Corps issue honoring the
Battle of Monte Cassino

- P.O.W. Camp Issues of Murnau, Woldenberg and Grossborn
- Internee Camp in Switzerland
- Ghetto and Concentration Camps German, Russian and Lithuanian
- Occupation
- General Government
- Polish Navy of World War II
- Polish Local Issues 1944-45
- Early Polish Cancellations 1944-45

In order to present an interesting cross section of the philately of this period, to co-ordinate the exhibits and

avoid duplication, we would like to hear from you and find out in advance what type of World War II material you would like to show. The exhibition will be limited to 100 frames and they will be allotted on a first-come first-served basis. Please write to A. Szebel, 9041 Emerson St., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016. Describe your material, giving us the size of your album page and amount of frames needed. Our frames are 24" x 36" and take nine 8½" x 11" size sheets or six Scott size sheets.

As every year, we appeal to the membership for interesting and, if possible, unpublished articles for our program catalog and the philatelic press, especially covering the period of Polish Philately during World War II. Send them on to our Editor, Chester Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

We still have time enough to prepare for a successful Polpex but it depends on the participation of our members. Decide now what you will do and let's hear from you!

— Alfred Szebel

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WANT TO EXCHANGE WITH COLLECTORS IN POLAND?

In a recent issue of *FILATELISTA* there appeared a write-up on the Polonus Philatelic Society listing your editor's name and address. As a result, we were flooded with mail from collectors in Warsaw, Poznan, Przemysl, Katowice, Czestochowa, Kutno, Olaszyn, etc. They wrote asking us to publish their name, address and collecting wants in our "Polonus Bulletin."

In view of the large amount of mail received, it was decided by the society not to publish these letters. The letters would take up too much room and leave little space for philatelic articles.

Several members present at the last meeting took some of the letters, but we still have many more letters of collectors in Poland wishing to establish contacts here.

Any members wishing to receive such letters from us, please write to our Secretary, Alfred Szebel, 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

NEW MEMBERS

Mieczyslaw Lubinski
8 Attercliff Court
Rexdale, Ont., Canada

M. Chomiak
26 Galley Ave.
Toronto, Ont., Canada

Kenneth L. Phillips
18 Hotel Drive
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

Arnold L. Shay
205 Haverford Rd.
Wynnewood, Pa. 19151

HANDBOOK OF UPPER SILESIA

In this issue of the "Bulletin" we continue with the lengthy work of Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan in the four-page center section. Editing of this handbook was done by D. R. A. Meinung, Jr. with some help from M. E. Steczynski.

District or Town	Type of Area*	Area Sq. Km.	Population	% Poles	% Votes for Poland
Bytom/Beuthen (town)	M	30	70,730	37.2	25.3
Bytom/Beuthen (district)	M	107	214,210	69.2	59.1
Czerwone Wzgorze/Rosenberg	R	893	57,000	71.4	31.8
Gliwice/Gleiwitz (town)	M	56	77,097	28.3	21.1
Gliwice/Gleiwitz (district)	M/R	851	89,994	69.0	57.5
Glubczyce/Leobschutz	R	692	82,507	6.9	.4
Katowice/Kattowitz (town)	M	42	46,974	16.4	14.6
Katowice/Kattowitz (district)	M/R	213	219,529	66.9	55.6
Kluczborek/Kreuzburg	R	555	52,000	48.2	4.0
Kozle/Cosel	R	663	81,894	59.0	25.1
Krolewska Huta/Konigshutte (town)	M	32	78,736	46.7	25.3
Lubliniec/Lublinitz	R	715	51,592	74.0	47.0
Namyslow/Namslau (part)	R	48	17,650	45.8	33.9
Opole/Oppeln (town)	M	1427	46,000	16.0	5.2
Opole/Oppeln (district)	R		124,220	70.5	30.5
Prudnik/Neustadt (part)	R	254	51,867	77.9	11.9
Pszczyna/Pless	R	1046	143,000	74.1	74.2
Raciborz/Ratibor (town)	M	544	39,000	10.1	9.0
Raciborz/Ratibor (district)	R		79,000	67.9	41.3
Rybnik	M/S	890	159,656	74.1	65.2
Strzelce Opolskie/Gross Strehlitz	R	892	79,932	71.7	50.7
Tarnowskie Gory/Tarnowitz	M/R	591	87,428	67.4	61.6
Zabrze/Hindenburg (town)	M	44	178,995	57.9	48.9
Total				64.5	48.4

*R = Rural area

M = Manufacturing district

The Stamps of Upper Silesia*

PLEBISCITE STAMP FORERUNNERS

Under the direction of the League of Nations, the Inter-Allied Commission arrived in Polish Upper Silesia (Gorny Slask) on February 12, 1920 and quickly organized its government

and administrative departments, including the area's mail service.

At the time the Commission took over the administration of the plebiscite territory the first stamp issue, which was ordered to be printed in Paris, was not ready.

During the period from February 12 to February 19, 1920, the current German stamps were valid for postage in the territory. Covers used during this period, with German stamps and

*A comprehensive treatment of the stamps, overprints and postal stations of Upper Silesia, with names in Polish and in English, is given in Vol. IV, POLSKIE ZNAKI POCZTOWE, 1966, Chapter XIV, pp. 1371 to 1408.

postmarks of the Upper Silesian post offices are quite rare and of exceptional interest to specialists of this philatelic area.

OPOLE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

Genesis

The first postal issue for the plebiscite territory of Upper Silesia were Official stamps, to be used for the official correspondence of the Inter-Allied Commission and for the private correspondence of the Commissioners only.

By order of the Postmaster of Opole (Oppeln), the capitol of the Upper Silesian territory, all such mail was temporarily franked with German stamps with a special handstamped control seal.

Oberpostdirektion
Oppeln
E. 3

Opeln, den 13 Februar 1920

An sämtliche Postanstalten
des Abstimmungsgebietes Obeschlesien

Bis zur Ausgabe der neuen Postwertzeichen werden von den Dienststellen und Beamten u.s.w. der Interalliierten Kommission in einzelnen Fällen deutsche Briefmarken mit dem Aufdruck CIHS verwendet werden. Die in dieser Weise frankierten Briefe sind unbeanstundet einzunehmen und zu befördern.

gez. I. V. Gredziewski
Dienstgesamtsachen: I.K.

* * *

(TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN:)

Postmaster's Office
Oppeln
E. 3

Opole, February 13, 1920

To All Post Offices
in the Upper Silesian Plebiscite Territory

Pending the arrival of the new postal issue, all offices and officers of the Inter-Allied Commission will use the German stamps with the overprint C.I.H.S. for the payment of postage. All letters bearing such stamps are to be accepted and dispatched without delay.

Signed: I. V. Gredziewski

During this period, from February 13 to February 19, 1920, German stamps were continued in use for all other correspondence.

Application of the Handstamp

The issues handstamped for the use of the Inter-Allied Commission were the stamps of Germany from the years 1914 to 1919. These were overprinted with a small metal hand seal bearing the initials C.I.H.S. for Commission Interalliee de Haute Silésie (Inter-Allied Commission for Upper Silesia). These initials are contained in a 9.55 mm diameter circle.



An additional decree by the Inter-Allied Commission limited the posting of such dispatches to the Opole 1 Post Office.

In accordance with these instructions all mail being sent by officials or members of the Commission, whether official or private, must be delivered to a special window at the Opole 1 Post Office. This mail could be brought to the window bearing current German stamps, previously overprinted C.I.H.S. stamps or with no stamp at all. The special clerk on duty there would apply the control handstamp to all letters which did not already have them and only after that would cancel the stamps with the usual date stamp.

These clerks worked in a closed room under the supervision of a Commission official. Besides the dispatching of letters, they had the duty of supplying Commission officials with the overprinted German stamps.

The handstamp seal was applied in blue, violet or red, depending on the color of the basic stamp. Due to the frequent change of ink, the overprint can be found in widely varying shades of the basic color, even though there were two seals used: one for the red and another for the violet ink.

On certain values this handstamp appears to have been philatelically or even speculatively inspired. For instance, the overprint is often found on stamp issues that were never available at the Opole 1 Post Office and had to be obtained from other post offices in Upper Silesia. Certain values, such as the 25 pfg. and 80 pfg. Germania stamps, the 3 M. and 5 M. Wilhelm values and the devaluated 2 pfg. Germania issue with the dashed background, had to be imported from Germany.

Commercial covers, especially those used between February 13 and February 15, 1920, are very rare. Probably 95% of the covers used after this period are purely philatelic productions. In spite of their high catalog values, the mint stamps of this issue can not really be considered as regular issues.

These stamps were in circulation during the entire transition period, from the appointment of the Inter-Allied Commission to the arrival of

the new Upper Silesia stamps, that is, from February 13 to Feb. 19, 1920.

On February 20, 1920 the new Upper Silesia stamps, which had been prepared especially for use in this territory, were issued and the handstamp seals and all remaining stocks of the Official stamps were withdrawn and supposedly destroyed.

There is no proof that these seals were actually destroyed. In fact, for quite some time after these seals were supposed to have been destroyed, large quantities of stamps overprinted with the original seals were still appearing in the market. Most of the largest offers of these stamps came from large stamp dealers in Paris. Detecting forgeries of this type is, unfortunately, extremely difficult.

Description of the Overprinted Stamps

Altogether the overprint was applied to 27 different postage stamps, 3 booklet panes and 6 types of postal stationery, all on various original German issues of 1911 to 1919 as follows:

VIOLET OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Value	Color	Catalog	No. of	Catalog	No. of
		German	Stamp	New	Stamp
		Michel	Scott	Michel	Scott
—GERMANIA ISSUE					
2 pfg.	gray (1918 issue)	102	96	1	01
2 pfg.	gray (1905 issue)	83	80	*	02
2½ pfg.	light gray	98	97	2	03
3 pfg.	brown	84	81	3	04
5 pfg.	green	85	82	4	05
7½ pfg.	orange	99	98	5	06
10 pfg.	carmine	86	83	6	07
15 pfg.	dark violet	101	100	7	08
20 pfg.	blue violet	87	84	8	09
25 pfg.	orange and black	88	85	9	010
30 pfg.	orange and black	89	86	10	011
35 pfg.	red brown	103	101	11	012
40 pfg.	lake and black	90	*87	12	013
50 pfg.	violet and black	91	88	13	014
60 pfg.	magenta	92	89	14	015
75 pfg.	green and black	104	90	15	016
80 pfg.	lake and black	93	91	16	017

*Michel now lists this value as a forgery.

Value	Color	Catalog	No. of	Catalog	No. of
		German	Stamp	New	Stamp
		Michel	Scott	Michel	Scott
—WILHELM ISSUE					
1 Mk.	carmine rose	94	75	17	018
2 Mk.	bright blue	95	76	18	019
3 Mk.	violet gray	96*	77	*	none
5 Mk.	slate and carmine	97	78	*	none

—WAR INVALID SEMI-POSTAL ISSUE

10 + 5 pfg.	carmine	105	B1	23	030
15 + 5 pfg.	dark violet	106	B2	24	031

—WEIMAR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ISSUE

10 pfg.	carmine rose	107	105	19	025
15 pfg.	brown and blue	108	106	20	026
25 pfg.	green and red	109	107	21	027
30 pfg.	red violet and red	110	108	22	028

*Michel now lists these as preparations.

RED OVERPRINTED STAMPS

—GERMANIA ISSUE

5 pfg.	green	85	82	25	020
15 pfg.	dark violet	101	100	26	021
20 pfg.	blue violet	87	84	27	022
40 pfg.	lake and black	90	87	28	023
75 pfg.	green and black	104	90	29	024

—WILHELM ISSUE

1 Mk.	carmine rose	94	75	none	none
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—WAR INVALID SEMI-POSTAL ISSUE

15 + 5 pfg.	dark violet	106	B2	none	none
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WEIMAR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ISSUE

15 pfg.	brown and blue	108	106	30	029
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These listings include a total of 35 new Official stamps created from the 27 German stamps.

BOOKLET PANES

Value	Handstamp Color
5 pfg. + 7½ pfg.	Red
2½ pfg. + 7½ pfg.	Red
10 pfg. + 15 pfg.	Red
10 pfg. + 15 pfg.	Violet

POSTAL STATIONERY

Value	Stamps Design Color	Paper	Issue
—POST CARDS			
10 pfg.	Carminc	Buff	I
10 pfg.	Carminc	Bluish	II
15 pfg.	Violet	Buff	I
15 pfg.	Violet	Gravish	II
15 pfg.	Violet	Bluish	III
—LETTER CARDS			
15 pfg.	Violet	Buff	
20 pfg.	Blue	Bluish	
(To be continued)			

NEW BOOK ON FIELDPOST OF THE POLISH LEGIONS

The Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain published a 96 page book on the Polish Legion Fieldpost **POCZTA POLOWA LEGIONOW**, of the 1914-1918 period. It is the work of Col. Jan Z. E. Berek in the Polish language with English translations by Sydney J. Capes. It is richly illustrated with reproductions of stationery, stamps, cancellations, military markings, labels and other data pertaining to the Fieldpost. Part 1 deals with the N.K.N. (**NACZELNY KOMITET NARODOWY**), Supreme National Committee in Cracow stamp issues used in former Russian occupied territory. Part 2 deals with postcards, letter cards and envelopes issued by the N.K.N. Part 3 covers the handstamps of Legion formations. In Part 4 we see illustrations of date stamps of Austro-Hungarian Field and Base Post Offices. Part 5 informs us about censor stamps in Polish, Austrian and German armies and Part 6 tells us about labels issued by the N.K.N.

The book is priced at \$2.50 postpaid. Send money order to the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, 30 Greencroft Gardens, Flat J, London, N.W. 6., England.

SPAPEX '68

The Society of Philatelic Americans held their annual exhibition on Sept. 6-8 at Detroit, Mich. Gold medals were awarded to Z. Wagrowski for Polish First Flights and to Jos. Jakubecki for Warsaw Municipal Posts. A silver award also went to Jos. Jakubecki for Poland Provisional issues. A bronze medal went to Roman Strzelecki for Poland Postal Cards and to Joseph Jakubecki for Poland Balloon Flights.

The Polonus medal was offered to the SPAPEX Committee and it went to Z. Wagrowski for his Polish First Flights judged to be the best Polish exhibit in the show.

TEMATICA POZNAN 1968

This past summer an International Thematical exhibition took place in Poznan, Poland. Topical collectors from all over the world participated. Visitors from Eastern Europe attended heavily. A wide range of subjects was exhibited: flowers, art on stamps, scouting, music, space, sports, and hundreds of other subjects.

The following Polonus members participated and received medals: Z. Wagrowski a silver for his well-written up Kopernik Space Research; A. Szebel a bronze for U.S.A. Space Achievements; L. Piczara a bronze for Poland's Millennium.

The Polonus Philatelic Society medal was offered to the Tematica jury for the best Polish exhibit and they awarded it to our honorary member A. Laszkiewicz for his splendid presentation of Polonica.

— A. Szebel

AMPOLPEX 68

The Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo held its seventh annual exhibition October 18-20 at the Adam Mickiewicz Auditorium in Buffalo. The theme of the show was Poland's 50th anniversary of independence. A special AMPOLPEX cancellation was used at the sub post office. Special covers and souvenir sheets were issued.

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IN MEMORIAM



JOHN JAWORSKI
Chicago, Illinois

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, November 15, 1968 —

The regular meeting of the society to be held at the Chicago Philatelic Society Exhibition in the Randolph Room of the Sherman House, Clark at Randolph, Chicago.

Friday, November 29, 1968 —

Program Meeting at Falcons Hall. Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz to speak on Upper Silesia.

NEW ISSUES

19th Olympic Games, Mexico 1968

A multi-colored set of eight stamps was issued on Sept. 2nd honoring the Olympics at Mexico. The values and quantities printed were:

30 gr.—men's relay race	5,500,000
40 gr.—boxing	5,000,000
60 gr.—men's basketball	4,500,000
90 gr.—women's jump	3,000,000

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

2.50 zl.—women's javelin 3,000,000

3.40 zl.—parallel bars 3,000,000

4.00 zl.—bicycle race 2,100,000

7.90 zl.—men's fencing 1,100,000

A 10.00 + 5.00 zl. souvenir sheet was also issued showing a runner with flaming torch and a commemorative discus-relief. The 5 zloty surcharge was for the Polish Olympic Committee fund. Quantity issued: 850,000.

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

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