

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 239

February-March, 1966

"THANK YOU, MR. POSTMASTER"



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239-1

Polonus Committee Instrumental In Successful Drive For the Polish Millennium Stamp to be Issued by U.S.

Washington, D.C.

Postmaster General Lawrence F. O'Brien today announced plans to issue a postage stamp to commemorate 1,000 years of culture in Poland, in 1966. Date and place of first day issuance ceremonies will be reported later.

Ten centuries elapse this year since Poland came into existence as a state and joined the Western world. To mark this anniversary of the Polish people—whose traditions and attainments have become part of our own national heritage—the United States will issue a commemorative Polish Millennium postage stamp.

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The above bulletin was released by the Post Office Information Service February 26, 1966 at 6:30 p.m. This news was happy tidings to the Polonus Philatelic Society and Poles all over America.

A dream that Polonus had at a meeting last summer became a reality. It was then that Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alfred Abramowicz appeared before our members and expressed his wish that Polonus select a Chairman for a U. S. Postage Stamp for the Polish Millennium of Christianity and conduct a concerted drive to ask the Postmaster General to issue such a stamp. Myron E. Steczynski was chosen for the job and undertook it with great enthusiasm.

Letters suggesting the issuance of the stamp were also sent by the Millennium Committee of Philadelphia, the Millennium Committee of Buffalo, by Charles Rozmarek, President of the Polish National Alliance, and by the Polonus Philatelic Society Committee of which Myron E. Steczynski is Chairman.

Three sketches, properly expressive of the Millennium and of Pol-Am observances, were artistically designed by Sister Mary Geraldine, Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, Hamburg, N.Y. These suggested patterns and models for postage stamps were officially presented to Postmaster General Lawrence F. O'Brien, and to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory



MYRON E. STECZYNSKI

Chairman of the Polonus Committee to Honor Poland's Millennium of Christianity with a U.S. Postage Stamp in 1966.

Committee by Cong. Thaddeus J. Dulski of Buffalo, chairman of the Postal Operations Committee, for due consideration and possible approval.

The first official attempt in Washington, D.C. for suggesting the stamp was made by Congressman Edward J. Derwinski who received a negative reply from the Stamp Advisory Committee. Action was then taken by all nine Polish-American Congressmen re-emphasizing the endorsement of a U.S. commemorative to honor Poland on its Millennium this year. This action received a more favorable reply.

The Polish daily newspaper "Dziennik Związkowy" carried the news already on February 24th that the Postmaster General notified all the Polish-American Congressmen that a special stamp honoring Poland's Millennium of Christianity soon will be issued. Letters from O'Brien to that effect were received by Congressmen: John C. Kluczynski, Dan Rostenkowski, Roman C. Pucinski,

Edward J. Derwinski of Chicago; also Clement J. Zablocki of Wisconsin, Lucien Nedzi of Michigan, Henry Helstoski of New Jersey, Thaddeus J. Dulski of New York, Alvin E. O'Konski of Wisconsin, John D. Dingell of Michigan, Bernard F. Grabowski of Connecticut, and Sen. Edmund J. Muskie of Maine.

The official notice carries the news that the stamp is issued to honor a thousand years of Polish culture. The design of the stamp, as well as the time and place of issuance are not yet determined.

Myron Steczynski is in Washington at this writing and phoned us that the wording will most likely be the one suggested by Mr. Krawiec on the front page of this Bulletin, although the design will be entirely different.

* * *

LETTER FROM THE NINE POLISH CONGRESSMEN TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

Jan. 25, 1966

Honorable Lawrence O'Brien
Postmaster General
U. S. Post Office Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Postmaster General!

We are writing to you to express our conviction that the Post Office Department should issue a U.S. commemorative stamp honoring Poland on its Millennium.

From the time of its beginnings, Poland has preferred to face West, despite being trapped in a geographical position which has brought it frequent invasion and grief. The observance of this Millennium should inspire wider appreciation of Poland's unique contributions to Western civilization in philosophy, social justice, arts and sciences.

Your approval of this highly deserved stamp will carry with it far more than routine significance. Not only will it recognize 1,000 years of Polish history and culture, but it will also acknowledge and strengthen the close bonds which have existed for centuries between America and people of Polish blood.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration and action.

Cordially,

John D. Dingell
Thaddeus J. Dulski
Bernard V. Grabowski
Henry Helstoski
John C. Kulezynski
Lucien N. Nedzi
Roman C. Pucinski
Dan Rostenkowski
Clement J. Zablocki

* * *

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPLY TO THE CONGRESSMEN

Jan. 26, 1966

Dear Congressman:

I appreciated receiving the letter signed by you and eight of your colleagues in the Congress, re-emphasizing your endorsement of a United States commemorative stamp to honor Poland on its Millennium this year.

Your letter certainly makes a persuasively want you to know that we are giving this matter very serious attention because, as you stated, this event is of far more than routine significance.

I was especially impressed with the statement in your letter that a commemorative stamp would recognize not only 1,000 years of Polish history and culture but would also acknowledge and strengthen the close bonds which have existed for centuries between the American people and the people of Poland.

Let me assure you that this matter is receiving my personal attention and that I will keep you advised.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence F. O'Brien

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LETTER TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL FROM POLONUS

Feb. 9, 1966

The Honorable Lawrence F. O'Brien
United States Postmaster General
Washington, D. C. 20261

Honorable and Dear Sir:

You are already familiar with efforts urging you to issue a U. S. Commemorative Stamp to honor Poland's Millennium of Christianity. You have before you resolutions in the Senate and House including

S.2646—Senator J. Caleb Boggs, (R),
Del.

HR.11654 — Hon. Henry Helstoski, M.C. (D), N.J.

HR.11787 — Hon. Clement J. Zablocki, M.C. (D), Wis.

HR.11812 — Hon. Edward J. Derwinski, M.C. (R), Ill.

HR.12597 — Hon. Bernard F. Grabowski, M.C. (D), Conn.

In order to round out the file of material that our nationwide committee distributed, we are attaching for your records our letters of October 15, 1965, January 13, 1966 and *Polonus Bulletin* No. 236 for November 1965 which give the full story of the Millennium of Poland as far as a Commemorative Stamp is concerned.

We hereby add a strong plea that you direct such a stamp to be issued. Poland has always been identified with West European culture and with its significant part in helping America to be free and prosperous. The people of the two countries always fostered the same aims of freedom and opportunity. They regard each other as staunch friends.

To further the people to people's program which is being promoted by your administration, His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, is coming to America late this summer to tour cities with a large Polish population, among them, Chicago, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York, Newark, Buffalo, Syracuse and Boston. At all points he will be received by our Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, by others of the Clergy, and, of course, by multitudes of the faithful. The tour will extend from Aug. 24th to Oct. 9. The Polish people embraced by the Cardinal's itinerary would make a sizeable country in themselves.

The focal point of the Cardinal's trip will be in Chicago on Sunday, August 28, 1966 when the Polish Americans of the region will gather in Soldier Field to overflowing. It is anticipated that for this event a multitude of over a quarter million people will swamp the stadium, the same as was done for the Eucharistic Congress and for the Marian Year programs. It is here that a great Prayer of Thanksgiving will be lifted, this, the 1000th Anniversary of Poland's conversion to Christianity.

If we may offer a suggestion, it appears that the first day of issue be scheduled for Chicago on Saturday, August 27th to coincide with the Millennium crowds and with POLPEX 1966, the Millennium Stamp Exhibition of the *Polonus Philatelic Society*. It would be our wish that we be honored by no less a personality than the Postmaster General of the United States, the same as we enjoyed for the first day of issue of the Polish Flag Stamp on June 22, 1943 when Postmaster General Walker honored us. At that time Chicago was the only city outside of Washington to be given first day honors for any of the 13 Overrun Nations Flag stamps largely because it was then as it is today, the largest "Polish" city outside of Warsaw.

Besides celebrating the first day of issue in Chicago with appropriate ceremonies, significant postal cancellations, etc., it appears only propitious to provide each city on the Cardinal's itinerary with a small strike or cachet, say

VISIT BY THE PRIMATE OF POLAND

or
MILLENNIUM OF POLAND
CEREMONIES IN AMERICA

for the duration of the Cardinal's stay in America from August 24 to October 9th. During the Cardinal's very presence in the respective cities the cancellations could be in red, but this should conflict with established practice, a small additional 'insigne, slogan or design' could be provided in black.

During this period the Polish organizations and publications would urge their people to buy the stamps and to affix them to envelopes, many with letters, to their friends and relatives in Poland and in other countries. Such a flood of letters to Poland, reminding the people that their Cardinal is celebrating the Millennium of Poland in America, and that America issued stamps for the occasion, will strengthen the bonds of friendship between our peoples. America must take this step to counteract negative activity which need not be brought up here.

Issuing the Millennium Stamp is by far the cheapest and most effective way to promote the cause of world understanding and you may rest assured that

you will thereby reap the rewards of a loyal and grateful segment of our population.

The response to the Millennium appeal is unbelievable. At the Millennium Dinner at McCormick Plaza in Chicago, over 7,700 persons paid \$25.00 per plate to attend!

We are looking forward to a favorable reply, so that at a later date, we may submit suggestions for a design and for other details of issuance.

Respectfully submitted,
Myron E. Steczynski,
For the Stamp Committee

* * *

LETTER OF GRATITUDE TO MR. CHAS. ROZMAREK FROM POLONUS

Feb. 21, 1966

Dear Mr. Rozmarek:

We are more grateful to you for your splendid letter to Mr. O'Brien urging him to issue a U.S. commemorative stamp for the Millennium of Poland. Your eloquent appeal and authoritative office are of the greatest possible value in striving for this objective. Need I say, that the Polonus Committee, of which you are a most esteemed member and which acts as a clearing house in the matter, firmly believes that your letter carries sufficient weight and influence in itself to convince our Postmaster General that the Polish Millennium stamp should be issued.

The last letter of the Polonus Committee suggests that the stamp be first placed on sale at Chicago on August 27th and we trust that you are in accord with this supplementary idea.

One assurance in conclusion, Mr. Rozmarek. Your letter brought high hopes and untold joy to every Polish heart. You have earned the gratitude of many.

Most sincerely yours,
Myron E. Steczynski,
For the Stamp Committee

BULLETIN ADS — PRICE LIST

For Polonus Members Only

Full Page — \$12.00
Half Page — 7.00
Quarter Page 4.00
One Inch Ad 1.50

TELEGRAMS FROM POLONUS

Feb. 25, 1966

Postmaster General
Lawrence F. O'Brien
Washington, D. C.

News about the Millennium of Poland stamp electrified the membership at our meeting. Everyone is thankful to you. We look forward to have you with us on the first day of issue in Chicago.

Col. Josef Bentkowski, U.S.A. Ret.
President, Polonus Philatelic Soc.

ANOTHER TELEGRAM

Honorable Lawrence F. O'Brien
United States Postmaster General
Washington, D. C.

Your decision to issue a stamp for the Millennium of Poland earned the gratitude of the Polish people throughout America. God bless you, Postmaster General O'Brien.

Myron E. Steczynski
Chairman Stamp Committee
Polonus Philatelic Society

PAN SLAVIC PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America will hold its Annual Exhibition on April 2nd and 3rd, 1966 at the CSA Building, Cermak Road and Lombard, Cicero, Ill. Entrance to exhibition at 2138 South 61st Court.

Polonus was invited to exhibit and five members responded with entries.

As the theme is a Pan Slavic Show this year, they plan on having Czech, Polish, Russian, and other Slavic nation's stamps on display.

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RESIGNED

Stanley J. Bykowski

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLPEX CHAIRMAN . . .

Our coming Millennium POLPEX is shaping up nicely. With the U.S. stamp honoring Poland's Millennium to be issued, we are hoping to get the first day of issue at Chicago and if possible at our POLPEX on Saturday, August 27th, 1966.

Our members responded very well to my first call for exhibits. Preliminary entries are already coming in from out-of-town and from abroad. Since the amount of frames have to be limited, avoid disappointment and let us know as soon as possible what you plan to exhibit. Send exhibit titles and description to the Entry Chairman Roman H. Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622. Official applications will be mailed out as soon as they are ready.

This year, invitations to join us in our Millennium POLPEX are being sent to Chicagoland philatelic clubs asking them to exhibit Poland material.

As every year, I would like to appeal for articles. We need plenty of them for our Bulletin, for national philatelic publications, and later for our special Millennium POLPEX program catalog. Published articles on Poland stamps are the best way to promote Polish philately. Send articles directly to our Editor Chester A. Schafer, 864 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

Let's all start working on POLPEX 1966 early enough. Especially in this Millennium year must it be successful and an outstanding event.

—Alfred Szebel
Polpex Chairman

VATICAN CITY TO ISSUE POLAND MILLENNIUM SET

Polonica collectors will be pleased to learn that Vatican City will issue a set to commemorate Poland's Millennium of Christianity.

IKAROS PUBLICATIONS

Several books published by the pre-war periodical IKAROS are still available. For information write (in Polish or English) to:

V. HERMANOWSKI

1343 N. California, Chicago, Ill. 60622

"POLSKA 1000" PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN OCTOBER

The Polish Philatelic Federation is participating in the celebration of the Millennium of the Polish State by organizing a philatelic exhibition which will be held in the Palace of Culture and Science, Warsaw, October 16 thru 30, 1966. The most prominent worldwide collections of Polish stamps will be shown.

Collectors of Polish stamps from all nations are cordially invited to participate. Information and details concerning the above may be obtained by writing: POLSKA 1000, Pałac Kultury i Nauki, Warsaw, Poland.

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS IN TORONTO, CANADA

On Jan. 22nd, three Polonus members residing in the Toronto area, namely Dr. H. Fenigstein, J. Hodgson and A. H. Stokes, gathered at the home of Dr. Fenigstein, in order to discuss their collecting interests.

Dr. Fenigstein showed examples of Prisoner of War Mail, from Polish prisoners in various camps of the World War II era, Mr. Hodgson showed a comprehensive collection of "Groszy" overprints, with many on cover, and Mr. Stokes closed with a fine showing of Warsaw City Post, Zarki and Przedborz Locals, with some fine covers. Also in attendance were three guests who were not Polonus members, but nonetheless had a great interest in Polish philately, and it is hoped that they will become sufficiently interested to become members.

It is the intention of the members in the Toronto area to have a similar get-together every 6 or 8 weeks, for an exchange of views.

—Joshua Hodgson

FIRST POLISH TRUE ROCKET MAIL

The next issue of the Rocket Mail Catalog will recognize and list the last Polish Rocket Mail VI as the first rocket mail of Poland. (Prior rocket mail I to V, was experimental.)

—Dr. M. A. Lipiński

PLEWACKI POST STAMP SOCIETY SPONSORS ANNUAL EXHIBIT

The Plewacki Post Stamp Society of the Adam Plewacki Post No. 799, American Legion, Buffalo, N.Y., will sponsor its 10th annual stamp and coin exhibition on April 1, 2, and 3. The exhibition and dealers Bourse known as "ALPEX-799" will be held at the Plewacki Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, N.Y.

The event will mark the tenth anniversary of founding of the club.

Temporary post offices of the United States and the United Nations will be on the premises with a special show cancellation. Admission is free.

A set of three covers is offered at 25c; a souvenir sheet is priced at 25c. Direct payments and orders to the Plewacki Post Stamp Society, Plewacki Post A.L., 385 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

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POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF BUFFALO

One of the first items of business facing the newly elected and installed officers of the Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo, N. Y. is the planning for the annual exhibition later this year. It will help celebrate the fifth anniversary of the group.

Serving a second term as president is Cristopher Wloch. Others of the official family are vice president Leonard Zakowicz; secretary Edwar Pluta; treasurer Stanley Bialik.

Meetings are scheuled for the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month at the A. Mickiewicz Hall.

STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED

Send your old stamp catalogs, albums, magazines and your duplicates to John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago. Ill. 60647.

NOTES FROM THE BOSTON CLUB

The Polish Philatelic Society of Boston held its exhibition recently and winners were: Best in Show — M. Kalawski; First in Poland — Joseph M. Pirog; Second in Poland — Edward Nowak, Sr.; First in Topical — Rev. Jerome Holubowicz; Second in Top'cal — Louis C. Bakula; First in Foreign — Norman Porter; Second in Foreign — Lawrence Hayes; Philatelic Knowledge — Stan. Bykowski.

The society publishes a monthly bulletin edited by Stanley J. Bykowski, 14 Cleveland St., Hyde Park, Mass.

TID BITS

Alfred Szebel will be a guest speaker at the North Shore Philatelic Society on Monday evening, March 28th, 1966. The meeting will be held at Loyola Park Fieldhouse, 1230 Greenleaf Av., Chicago. He will speak on and show DO.X Flight Covers. Polonus members are invited to attend.

* * *

Among the winners in the recent Western Electric Company Stamp and Coin Exhibition, Kearny, N.J., were Polonus member Edward Cieckiewicz of Jersey City, N.J. and Anthony Organek of Bayonne, N.J. Mr. Cieckiewicz was awarded the Best in Show Trophy for his Polar Exploration exhibit. As a result, he retired the Ben K. Ford Trophy, since his exhibits had been judged as Best in Show for the third time. Mr. Organek received First Prize in the Court of Honor for his "Famous People of Poland" collection.

POZNAN FAIR BALLOON MAIL

Four balloons took part in flights at the 34th International Poznan Fair: Polonez, Syrena, Katowice and Poznań. Special covers were printed for each balloon in the amount of 15,000 each.

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ATTENTION ALL CHICAGOLAND MEMBERS!!!

From Oblong, Ill. Dr. M. D. Miodus will journey to Chicago to attend the March 25th Polonus Meeting. If none of his patients have a baby and if nothing befalls him on the way, he intends to be at the Falcons Hall that Friday night with color slides and tape recorder to give a talk on WARSAW. His talk is adapted from the article by Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan which appeared in the December issue of our Polonus Bulletin.

The Doctor will show 78 color slides of stamps and will give his talk with music in the background.

It promises to be quite an evening with a Beeba scheduled to wind it up.

NEW ISSUES

In commemoration of Henryk Sienkiewicz's 120th anniversary of birth, and the 50th anniversary of his death (1846-1916), the Polish Postal Administration will release a 60gr. stamp on March 30, with his portrait.

Tadeusz Michaluk is credited with the design. It was reproduced from engraved plates in stamp from at the State Printing Works for Securities in Warsaw.

Sienkiewicz was born on May 5, 1846 in Wola Okrzejska in Podlasie district. Educated in Warsaw, a graduate of the Warsaw University, he was in the course of his life a member of the Academy of Sciences and Letters in Cracow, and the Academy of Sciences in Petersburg.

He died on November 15, 1916 in Vevey, Switzerland. In October 1924, he was buried in the basement of the Arch-cathedral of St. John in Warsaw.

H. Sienkiewicz, the outstanding novelist and short story writer, wrote a lot of historical and contemporary novels: Quo Vadis, Teutonic Knights, With Fire and Sword, The Flood, Mr. Wolodyjowski, are only a few of them.

"Quo Vadis", the novel which was translated into many languages, brought its author popularity all over the world. In the year 1905 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

1966 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW!

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

JOS. Z. RYCAJ, Treasurer
2817 W. Logan Blvd. Chicago, Ill. 60647

CHESTER A. SCHAFER, Sec'y. & Editor
864 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60622

WALTER SZYMLEK, Publications Chairman
2344 W. Moffat St. Chicago, Ill. 60647

The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by the authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

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Youngstown, Ohio 44505

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Chicago, Ill. 60647

Joseph F. Seliga
Windswept Drive
Washington Township
Trenton N.J. 08690

Charles E. Cwiakala, Jr.
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Elmer Feldman
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Kenmore, N.Y.

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