

## BULLETIN OF THE

# POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 279

April 1970

## POLONUS TO PARTICIPATE IN POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS EXHIBITION

During the course of the coming Polish American Congress Eighth National Convention to be held in Chicago August 14, 15, 16 at the Sherman House, a philatelic and numismatic exhibition is being planned by the Philatelic Committee of the Illinois Division of the P.A.C.

Our honorary member, Dr. Edward C. Rozanski, is President of the P.A.C. Illinois Division and one of our new members, N. Z. Zbyszewski, is Chairman of the exhibition.

The theme of the exhibition will be "Copernicus and Space." However, the exhibition will not be limited to this topic as other historical displays are planned.

At the last meeting Polonus voted unanimously to participate and promised to help in advising the exhibition committee and loaning them frames.

Polonus will show its Polpex sheets, covers, Paderewski, Millennium and other material issued by the society. Zdzislaw Wagrowski will show his "Copernicus In Philately" collection.

In the numismatic segment there will be a Polish coin exhibit prepared by the Polish American Numismatic Association and a military medal display from the collection of Joseph Ciszewski.



To assist Mr. Zbyszewski with the coming exhibit, the P.A.C. has asked aid of Roman Rejnowski, Roman Burkiewicz, Polonus president Chester Schafer, Slavic specialist John Tomcik, and Polish American Numismatic Association secretary Stanley Garczynski.

By way of this exhibition the Polish American Congress will launch the Copernicus Celebrations in the United States which will last through 1973.

### TID BITS

Member Jerzy J. Bialy of LaGrangeville, N.Y. won a first prize for his exhibit at the local DUPEX show.

Get well wishes to Zbigniew Mikulski of Switzerland who is recuperating from a skiing accident resulting in some broken ribs.

Chester Schafer was guest speaker at the Hawthorne Stamp Club April 9th. His topic was "Central Lithuania", the grand award entry at POLPEX 1970.

### APPLICANTS PENDING

Thomas J. Gzerwinski  
160 Forrest Ave., Lot 44  
Springfield, Ill. 62702

John G. Tomcik, Jr.  
924 N. Wolcott Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60622

# THE 1924-25 "GOLD STANDARD" SET

By EDWARD NOWAK, SR.

Reprinted from LINN'S STAMP NEWS

During the early years of Poland's resurrection after World War I, when the nation was in extreme poverty, the abandoned paper currency of German, Russian and Austrian origin was worthless. Most of the adhesives in use at that time were stocks of stamps left behind by retreating enemies who had subjugated the Polish nation over 100 years. These captured stocks of postage were utilized by overprinting for Polish use. Later, some semblance of stamps with Polish motifs and in the native language were produced.

Because of hardships, lack of material and printing machines during the early organization of Postal Service Offices a lot of important philatelic information and records were lost for posterity.

Only now some of the early Polish stamp issues are being authenticated, factuated through the philatelic research and willingness of American collectors who speak the Polish language, to share the newly discovered information with philatelic brethren who know only the English tongue.

In this respect a lion's share of credit is due the American press willing to assign valuable space for publicity and as a public service.

Poland's issue of 1924-26 of the simple and drab looking adhesive in the new gold currency is one of the least written about. The philatelic history of the issue is almost unknown; even the name of the artist who created the motif for the stamp is not known.

Only recently this writer received some new data from Warsaw — from several prominent philatelic historians — and some books (in the Polish language) touching on this issue. The gift was from the government sponsored "Ruch" enterprise.

The facts and information thusly gained is hereby shared with our Polonus collectors of Polish stamps.

The eleven-stamp issue was placed for first day of sale May 1, 1924. The adhesives were typographed in the Poland Graphic Institution. Two types of paper were used for printing: type "X" quality and type "Y" of medium thickness. Polish guage perforations listed are 11½, 11¾ or lineal 10½ x 12½.

The issue consisted of eleven stamps listed (with some variations) in the existing Polish records as follows:

1 grosz light brown; 2 gr. dark brown; 3 gr. orange and b) imperforate; and 5 gr. olive green and b) gray olive.

Also, 10 gr. blue green, and b) dark green; 15 gr. brick red, and b) light red; 20 gr. light blue; 25 gr. brown red, and b) black red; 30 gr. violet, and b) violet blue; and 50 gr. lilac blue.

There are two official proclamations to interest philatelic historians, namely, the decree of the President of the Polish Republic establishing new currency based on the gold standard basis (one zloty equals 100 groszy or 1,800,000 Marks). The first proclamation was dated April 14, 1924 and took effect May 1.

The second official order by the Polish Postal Ministry announced on the pages of a Government Official Publication ("Dziennik Urzędowy") of June 1924, that . . . "a general competition for drawings of new a new stamp issue, based on gold currency, is in force . . ."

None of the submitted drawings accepted and paid for by the Postal Ministry was used for postage stamps although matrices were made and were used to produce proofs.

In order to eliminate an expensive set of stamps, each of different design, the "Ministry of Business and Industry" ordered, April 14, 1924, that a simple one-motif issue be printed in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 45, and 50 gr. This "Polish White Eagle" stamp issue was placed for first day sale May 1, 1924.

The issue was recalled from circulation June 1, 1933 on orders of the Postal Ministry dated February 20, 1933.

Proofs of every denomination, with exception of the 25 and 40 gr. stamps,

were printed in the following array of color: light brown, dark brown, orange, olive green, blue green, carmine red, Prussian blue, violet, and lilac.

The paper used for proofs was white, smooth, ungummed, and imperforated. All proofs were struck on miniature sheets each bearing 3 rows of stamps: recorded in the files of the Postal Ministry as:

First row: 10, 50 and 5 gr.

Second row: 3, 2 and 1 gr.

Third row: 15, 30 and 20 gr.

The miniature sheets containing above register of proofs were submitted



These designs were awarded prizes by the Polish Postal Ministry and matrices were made from them and used to print proofs, but never for the production of actual postage stamps.

for acceptance by the Ministry and after the approval the material was sent to Poland's Postal Museum in Wroclaw.

Some of these proofs — state Poland's eminent philatelists — found their way illegally on the stamp market soon after printing. More of them were dumped on the market by Nazi occupants during World War II.

New evidence came to light recently, verified by Polish stamp experts of the existence of imperforated proofs on sheets of white, thin, ungummed paper bearing one stamp each of the following values: 1 gr. olive, 15 gr. light red and 50 gr. red.

Found in collectors volumes — and verified by experts of the Polish Philatelic Federation — are proofs of two stamps placed horizontally on the same paper, but gummed. These two are the 25 and 40 gr. denominations in brown red ink.

The most recent account in the Polish philatelic press thusly describes a new discovery in proofs of this issue, probably "taken" from the Postal Museum in Wroclaw by Nazis during the occupation of Poland and later unloaded on the stamp market. To quote:

"Horizontal pairs of proofs of the 30 and 2 gr. Eagle stamps printed in violet ink were recently found. The proofs are on white medium thick and ungummed paper. Also 50 and 15 gr.

in lilac and red; and the 10 and 15 gr. in greenish blue and red inks were discovered in an assemblage of a Lublin collector. The stamp pictures of all proofs in this find are separated with a margin that makes the recognition easy . . ."

According to records in the Postal Ministry, the stamps were printed from zinc plates, divided into six sections, each containing 100 stamps. The 50 gr. adhesive printed at the end of 1927, was produced with two-sector plates, each of 100 copies; form III, containing only one sector was utilized early in 1928.

One of the six-sector plates printing the 40 gr. stamps held one matrix of a 25 gr. denomination. This form of a printer's mistake was eliminated after discovery by cutting out the offending matrix and replacing it with a proper 40 gr. copy.

The finished sheets containing that lone 25 gr. among 99 stamps of 40 gr. value were "corrected" by cutting out the offending stamp before delivery to post offices.

Several sheets with the 25 gr. mistake found their way into postal circulation — in some unexplained manner — and form a sought-for philatelic item, especially if united with the 40 gr. adhesives.

Some covers are known to exist with a united pair of 25 and 40 gr. stamps properly cancelled and used postally.



In an error suggestive of the famous United States "5c Red" in a pane of 2c stamps, a 25 groszy stamp was printed in a few panes of the 40 gr. value. The above strip of three from the Polish Postal Museum in Wroclaw shows two 40 gr. and a 25; only eight other such examples exist in private collections in Poland.

The Polish Postal Museum in Wroclaw once had among its collections a complete sheet of the rarity, but during World War II this fine example was lost for posterity, probably destroyed by the Nazi occupants.

The whole issue is free of differences with the exception of 30 gr. adhesives printed on thin paper. In this denomination several sheets were printed in ink definitely violet blue in place of the assigned strictly violet color. A few of these sheets with the mistake in color, were sold for postal use exclusively in Wloclawek and Dawidgrad, and the majority of existing covers show cancellations of the two post offices.

Delving into philatelic writings in the Polish language, it is generally agreed that all the sheets, whether from six-, two- or single-sectors were mechanically gummed after printing. The thickness of the gum is not always even.

The horizontal perforations are recorded as  $10\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  and  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . Perforation other than linear is of the  $11\frac{1}{4}$ :  $11\frac{1}{2}$  gauge.

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Philatelic records compiled on this issue show that a partly imperforated sheet of 30 gr. stamps from the first (original) printing on thin paper was sold at a stamp window of the Lodz postoffice. Adhesives from this partly perforated sheet were used for prepayment of letters and a part to cover postage on parcels.

These postally used and cancelled adhesives, tied to original covers, form today's fine example of philatelic rarity, but such pieces must bear the Lodz cancellation of 1924.

The existing examples of partly perforated stamps, in mint condition, are from the archives of Poland's Philatelic Museum in Wroclaw looted by Nazis during the World War II occupation.

**Bibliography:** Col. Larking, Great Britain, "Poland, The Postal Issues," June 1931; W. Rachmanow, "Wyniki Konkursu Na Nowe Znaki Pocztowe" 1921; "Kurier Filatelistyczny" 1926; and "The National Philatelic Organization Ruch", Warsaw 1960, Vol. I.

#### LITHPEX XIV

LITHPEX XIV has been set for October 23-25, 1970 at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Ave. in Chicago. The show will commemorate the golden anniversary of the Lithuanian Constitution Assembly. Entry blanks may be obtained from Ignatius Sakalas, 7356 S. Campbell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60629.

#### PILSUDSKI AND LITHUANIA

The Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York Bulletin is currently running an extensive historical article on "Pilsudski and Lithuania" by Antanas Ragauskas. Its title is "The Last Act of the Josef Pilsudski Drama" and describes the General Zeligowski Quasi-Rebellion and Central Lithuania. The article is in the English language. It began in July 1969 and has appeared in five editions thus far.

FIELDPOST OF THE POLISH  
LEGIONS — 1914-18

"Pocztą Polowa Legionów"

by Col. Jan Z.F. Berek, London, 1968.

Published by the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain. 95 pages. Completely bi-lingual, English text by Sydney J. Capes.

As a result of a monograph by the author published in 1964 on stamps, postal stationery, and cancellations of the Polish Legion Field Post which began operations in August of 1914, many supplementary markings, cancellations, seals and others collectors' holdings poured into Col. Berek from Poland and other places abroad. This permitted him to expand his original study into a comprehensive and elaborately illustrated treatise which trebled the original number of illustrations. Besides the collection of Col. Berek, four other leading collections were accessible for a full compilation—those of Sydney J. Capes of Great Britain, Mr. J. Kucharski of New York, Mr. W. Rath of Vienna and Mr. A. Szebel of Chicago.

It might be mentioned here that in 1860 the first Polish stamp was issued for that part of Poland partitioned by Russia. After this, there were no more Polish stamps until 1914 when Pilsudski began his March to Freedom with Polish units sponsored by Austria. As these units crossed into Russian Poland, an immediate need was created for the Army's postal service with postage stamps, postal stationery, handstamps, censor seals, and other postal needs. These stamps and markings were under the jurisdiction of NKN — "Naczelny Komitet Narodowy" (Supreme National Committee) which expanded the issues and their applicability as conditions demanded.

The first two stamps, both red, were printed on the same sheet, 4 x 4 of the 5 hal. (white background) for



registered letters at the left, and 4 x 4 of the 10 hal. (red background) for money letters at the right. They were used as the Polish Legion operated in Russian Poland, as Austrian stamps were still valid in Austrian Poland. But to serve the needs of the military, especially in ever-changing situations, various Polish, Austrian and German marks and inscriptions appear.

The use of various post cards, letter cards and envelopes was widespread—Austrian and Hungarian postal stationery of all kinds was handstamped to give it a military character exempt from postal charges. Each military formation had its own markings. There were Polish Eagles of many eras with and without the crown, with and without the shield, some with the initial "L" or "S." The handstamps originated in many bases. All this material serves as documentary evidence of the history and operations of the Legion.

A large portion of Col. Berek's book is devoted to the fieldpost stationery and to the multitude of handstamps, censor marks, and datestamps used by the respective brigades and non-combatant units.

The Legion was disbanded in 1918. Up to this time Legion handstamps still appeared side by side with those of Austrian and Hungarian post offices on communications from the military, auxiliary, staff, hospitals, and other organizations.

— Myron E. Steczynski

ALPEX 799 AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to Polonus member Robert Hochmuth who took the best in the show, Grand Award and President's Award in Buffalo's Plewacki Post Stamp Society ALPEX 799 show.

## NEW ISSUES

### 100th Anniversary of Lenin's Birth

The Polish Post Office will issue three commemoratives on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin depicting scenes from his life from documentary photographs. Steel engraved and typographed on common paper in sheets of 50 by PWPW of Warsaw. Designed by K. Tarkowska. Quantities to be issued:

40 gr. — 6,000,000  
60 gr. — 6,000,000  
2.50 zl. — 2,500,000

First day of issue: April 22, 1970.

## PHILYMPIA NOTE

Following the resignation of Cyril Andrews, M. A. Bojanowicz, r.d.p., has taken over the chairmanship of the Sub-Committee for the Foreign Commissioners to PHILYMPIA. All correspondence regarding the Foreign Commissioners to Philympia should be

sent to M. A. Bojanowicz, c/o Philympia or to: 40 West Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex, England.

## ELECTIONS AT BUFFALO CLUB

Polonus member C. J. Wloch was re-elected president for the sixth term by the Polish Philatelic Club of Buffalo, N.Y. Along with Mr. Wloch, other Polonus members were elected as officers: Theo. Skotnicki, vice-president; John Z. Ordon, secretary; Jerome S. Mazurek, treasurer; Michael Gorinski, librarian; Matt Bartoszewski and Henry Skibinski, sergeants-at-arms; W. Krzewicki, Matt Fuszara and Stanley Makarewicz, directors.

Meetings are held at 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays at Adam Mickiewicz Library, 612 Fillmore ave., Buffalo, N. Y. 14212.

Polonus congratulates the new officers and sends them best wishes for a fruitful year.

## POLISH TOWN CANCELS ON AUSTRIA

Do you have rarities in your collection that you do not know about? Just issued a "Priced Checklist of Polish Town Cancellations" on the stamps of Austria — 1850 to 1883, includes sections for Poland, Bukowina, and Silesia. Written in English with prices and illustrations included for over 4000 different town cancellation combinations. Limited numbered edition available at special Polonus member price of \$3.50 postpaid. Regular price is \$5.00. One cancellation identified could be worth this low cost.

Checklist for Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia under preparation and inquiries invited.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## JOSEPH R. FITZPATRICK

Member Joseph R. Fitzpatrick, Business Manager of Space Craft Covers in Huntington, West Virginia, suddenly passed away. He was a pioneer in Space philately, and his advertisement of Space Craft Covers consistently appeared in our "Polonus Bulletin."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday, May 8, 1970 —**

Business meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 9, 1970 —**

Polonus members will meet in the lobby of Chicago's Main Post Office at Van Buren and Canal Streets at 10:45 a.m. and take part in a ceremony opening an exhibition of stamps of Free China. The Postmaster General of Free China will be the honored guest.

**Friday, May 22, 1970 —**

Program meeting to be announced.

## NEW MEMBERS

- Michael Goc  
1936 N. Harding Ave.  
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- Stanislaw Skrzyniecki  
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Chicago, Ill. 60626
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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

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