



MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

By: Hank Bieniecki

Enclosed with this Bulletin are the following:

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY & SASE

PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY UPON RECEIPT AND RETURN IT IN THE SASE.

At the National Meeting held in February at Expo 2005 the members said that it was important to be able to contact other members of our Society in order to share their collecting interests. To accomplish that objective and to determine what is important to our membership, Bob Ogrodnik and Sam Ginsburg agreed to prepare the Membership Survey Form with input from all of the officers and members of the publication committee.

Your responses will be entered into the Polonus database and used to determine the future direction of your Society. None of this data will be shared with other organizations. Please take the time to complete and return this survey ASAP.

POLONUS

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FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

By: Chris Kulpinski

We had a very successful meeting and exhibition in St. Louis, but it is now time to focus on 2006. In March 2006 we will be meeting and exhibiting at the Garfield Perry Show, Cleveland, Ohio.

This is one of the top 5 philatelic shows in the country. It is so popular that the frames are usually sold out by the end of the year. Frames are not reserved for participating Societies. They are awarded on a first come, first served basis. To avoid missing the opportunity to exhibit you need to submit your application as early as possible. I have all the application forms available. Email me at chris@kulpinski.com or call me at (480) 585-7114 and I will immediately send you an application.

You received a report of what happened in St. Louis in our separate mailing and the last Bulletin. Our Society has a renewed momentum as the result of a number of members having stepped up to provide ideas and spearhead projects. This does not mean that we do not need your participation. Your officers want and need your participation. I realize that not all of you are ready to write articles, or exhibit, but each of you has ideas. Please share them with me and let's see if we can incorporate them, and facilitate the expansion of our Societies services to its membership.

The front page of this Bulletin provides you with details about the Membership Survey that is being mailed to all members with this Bulletin. Please complete this Membership Survey and return it to Bob Ogradnik in the enclosed SASE today, while it's fresh in your mind. This data will be used to help your Society better serve your needs, help members with similar interests communicate and possibly form Study Groups to further their areas of interest. It makes no difference what area you collect, or your level of intensity. The purpose is to help you better enjoy your collecting interests and get more value from your membership in Polonus.

ESSAYS OF "THE POLISH KINGDOM" FROM 1917-PART I.

Hans Reimann, USA and Adam Kielbasa – Schoeni, Switzerland.

With new information added by the authors.

*Translated by Stanley T. Włodek from "Przegląd Filatelistyczny"
No. 9, 2004, page 12.*

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

In the initial phases of World War I, the offensive by the Central Powers resulted, by the middle of September of 1915, in the complete occupation of the Russian controlled part of partitioned Poland. The conquered territories were divided into two areas: one under German control, one under Austrian. The German controlled region, through the direct decision of Emperor Wilhelm II, was organized on August 24, 1915 into the "Generalne Gubernatstwo Warszawskie" (Gen-Gouv. Warschau) headed by General-Governor Hans von Beseler (Figure 1) who reported directly to the Chancellery. A change in the political situation was created by the agreement of November 5, 1916 between the Emperors: Wilhelm II of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Francis-Joseph I, actually signed by the General Governors of: Warsaw – Hans von Beseler, and Lublin – Karl von Kuk, creating a Polish state [1]. The document was very general. It did not define the boundaries of the new Polish state, but simply promised its creation, at a future but unspecified time, on a part of the lands seized from the Russians as an independent hereditary constitutional monarchy.

The immediate consequence of the November 5th proclamation was limited to the creation of a Polish army. The possibility of creating an independent state was intended to appease the Poles and encourage their service in the armies of the central Powers.

The text of the proclamation announcing the future formation of a Polish Kingdom read:

"To the inhabitants of the Government of Warsaw. - His Majesty the German Emperor and his Majesty the Austrian Emperor and

Apostolic King of Hungary, sustained by their firm confidence in the final victory of their arms, and guided by the wish to lead to a happy future the Polish districts which by their brave armies were snatched with heavy sacrifices from Russian power, have agreed to form from these districts an independent State with a hereditary Monarchy and a Constitution. The more precise regulation of the frontiers of the Kingdom of Poland remains reserved.

In union with both the Allied Powers the new Kingdom will find the guarantees which it desires for the free development of its strength. In its own Army the glorious traditions of the Polish Army of former times and the memory of our brave Polish fellow-combatants in the great war of the present time will continue to live. Its organization, training and command, will be regulated by mutual agreement. The Allied Monarchs confidently hope that their wishes for the State and national development of the Kingdom of Poland will now be fulfilled with the necessary regard to the general political conditions of Europe and to the welfare and security of their own countries and peoples. The great western neighbors of the Kingdom of Poland will see with pleasure arise again and flourish at their eastern frontier a free and happy State rejoicing in its national life.

By order of his Majesty the German Emperor von Beseler, Governor-General".

The Russian protest was soon forthcoming:

"The German and Austro-Hungarian Governments, taking advantage of the temporary occupation by their armies of a part of Russian territory, have proclaimed the separation of the Polish districts from the Russian Empire and their constitution as an independent State. The object of our enemies is evidently to obtain recruits in Russian Poland to supplement their armies.

The Imperial Government regards this action on the part of Germany and Austria-Hungary as a fresh and gross infringement by our enemies of the fundamental principles of international law, which prohibit the population in militarily-occupied territory being forced to raise armies against its own country. The Imperial Government re-

gards this action as null and void.

Russia, since the beginning of the war, has already twice expressed her views on the whole Polish question, and her intention is to create a complete Poland embracing all Polish territories, which will enjoy the right when the war is ended of freely regulating their national, intellectual and economic life on a basis of autonomy under the sovereignty of Russia, and of maintaining the principle of a united State. This decision of his gracious Majesty the Emperor remains unshakable."

In the USA, on November 12, 1917, Ignacy Jan Paderewski (Figure 3) announced his memorandum, which thanks to his personal prestige, President W. Wilson included as the thirteenth point [2] of his proposal for the peace treaty to end World War I.

COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The German civilian administration commissioned the Warsaw Society of Artists (Warszawskie Towarzystwo Artystyczne – WTA) to organize a competition for the design of "Polish stamps". The goal of the competition was to develop the designs for the first postage stamps of the "Polish Kingdom". The deadline for the submission of the proposed designs was November 1 1917. By January 1918 the competition's jury and invited experts produced color copies of the winning designs for the proposed first stamps of the Polish Kingdom. The rules of the competition were announced in three languages: Polish, German and French. Compared to the German version, the Polish and French versions did not include the important statement that: ".... *All prize winning and purchased works become the sole property of the civilian administrative authorities.*" Shortly thereafter there appeared a catalog "Polskie Marki Pocztowe (Polish Postal Stamps)" containing the designs purchased by the Competition Judges, approved by the German Censors ("checked and approved by the Imperial German Press Office Warsaw, January 30 1918").

THE CATALOG OF "POLISH POSTAL STAMPS" ("POLSKIE

MARKI POCZTOWE").

The catalog contains either 42 or 43 pages, printed on one side, stapled together and placed between covers. The dimensions of all of the pages are 133 mm high and 121 mm wide, with 10 mm of the left side of each page allocated to the binding. Except for the description of the rules, which were in both French and German, all other text was only in Polish. The covers were made from cardboard of various colors.

The catalogs that contained the essays reproduced in brown were bound in a brown cover with the title in dark brown (Figure 4). If the essays were in green, the cover was white with a yellowish tinge and the title was dark green. Essays printed in blue had a brown cover with a dark blue title. The covers of catalogs containing the essays reproduced in black were olive grey with the title in black (Figure 5). Other color combinations of the bindings may exist but are not known to the authors.

The inside of the rear cover has the imprint of a purple hand stamp: "WARSZAWSKIE/TOWARZYSTWO/ARTYSTYCZNE/TREBACKA No 10" (Warsaw's Society of Artists No. 10 Trebacka Str.)

THE SUBMITTED WORKS

In agreement with the rules, the artists submitted their designs in groups containing four drawings, which were reproduced on the same page of the catalog with the author's name and page number added (Figure 6). Many exceptions, however, did occur. Some of the catalog pages contain as few as three designs (page 28), and some (See Figure 7) up to eight (page 26), all by the same artist. Others illustrate the joint submissions of two artists (pages 10 and 32). Page 35 shows the works of four artists, one design from each, and page 31 illustrates the work of an artist that remained anonymous.

The submitted works were reproduced in the catalog in one of four colors: blue, brown, green, and black. This means that each catalog contained, with the exception of the award winners, all the essays reproduced in just one of the above colors. For better image

ESSAYS - PT. 1

contrast the illustrations were printed on a yellow-grey background. The catalog also contains a page with an alphabetical list of the artists with their entries, on the back of which there is the list of the winners of the first prize. These entries are reproduced on the first three pages of the catalog. The first prizes were awarded to Bartłomiejczyk (page 1), Husarski and Tom (page 2) as well as Trojanowski (page 3). To summarize, we can assume that all the prizewinning essays were published in the catalog. As required by the regulations, 30 of the submissions consisted each of four essays; 24 of the entries were published as single essays. Individual artists submitted from 1 to 14 entries. Jan Ogorkiewicz sent in the most, 14; Edmund Bartłomiejczyk 12. Josef Tom and Edward Trojanowski each submitted 10 while Ludwik Gardowski, Edmund John and Ludwik Sokolowski each entered 8.

CENSORSHIP

Page 8, which is missing from the catalogs, presented a peculiar problem. This page originally contained a submission of Ludwik Gardowski, but it was removed from the catalog and authors index.

Originally on this page Gardowski's work presented views of: Kruszwice, Gniezno, Krakow, and Warszawa (see figures 8 and 9). It is most likely that the Polish character of these views proved too Polish for the German occupier. It is necessary to add that the first three towns of the censored essays were in territories that the occupier regarded as generically German (Kruszwica and Gniezno), or Austro-Hungarian (Krakow) lands. The occupier most certainly had no intention of including these lands in any future "Polish Kingdom".

Only the work that contained the view of the royal castle in Warszawa was not censored and was included in page 17 (Figure 10). It is very rare to find a copy of this catalog in the philatelic market place that contains 43 pages, meaning including page 8 (Figure 9).

Catalogs that contain page 8 also contain page 17 but in the authors index page 8 is still missing. As to any additional suggestions on the subject of the selected works one can mention the entry

of E.Trojanowski on page 3. This work was definitely not designed to form a series, the nominal values of the stamps being, as shown in Figures 11 and 12, not in any order.

In a collection at the Postal Museum in Wrocław [3] we can read: *"The submissions were censored and page 8 was confiscated. The catalogs were sold without page 8. Twenty years later, Anton Suchanek discovered the unsold catalogs, and separately a bundle of the separated page 8's, in the basement of the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts"* (Towarzystwo Zachęty Sztuk Pięknych - TZSK) the successor of the Warsaw's Society of Artists.

The recently sold at auction Grabowski collection [4] included a complete booklet of the blue essays that included page 8 neatly inlaid, without being stapled into the booklet.

References:

1. Nowa Encyclopedia Powszechna PWN (c), Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN SA.
2. Wilsons 13th point foresaw an independent Polish state with access to the sea.
3. Dudzinski, "Prewar Issues of Poland 1918-1939", Stamp collection in the Postal History Museum of Wrocław. The holdings of the museum are not yet cataloged. The collection was accidentally discovered by one of the authors (AKS).
4. "Wojciech Grabowski Collection of Poland", Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers, New York NY, October 20 2004 Auction, Lot 67.



Figure 1. Hans v. Beseler (1850-1921)



Figure 2. Post card issued on the occasion of the Prussian and Austro-Hungarian announcement of a "Polish Kingdom" 11/05/1916.



Figure 3. Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941).



Figures 4 and 5. The covers of the catalog, with the design according to the project of E. Trojanowski.

LUDWIK SOKOŁOWSKI



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Figure 6. A typical page from the catalog.



Figure 7. A different page from the catalog.



Figure 8. The essays created by L. Gardowski present views of: Kruszwice, Gniezno, Krakow and Warsaw. The first three designs were censured and not admitted to the competition.



Figure 9. Page 8 of the catalog, which was removed by the censor.

APOLONJUSZ KĘDZIERSKI



LUDWIK GARDOWSKI



Figure 10. The accepted work of L. Gardowski appeared on page 17.

EDWARD TROJANOWSKI



Figure 11. The designs of E. Trojanowski from page 3.

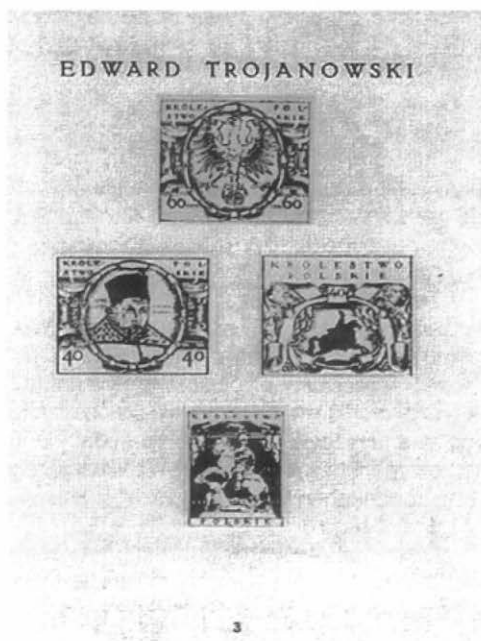


Figure 12. The designs of E. Trojanowski from page 6.

POLONUS NATIONAL EXHIBITION/ MEETING SCHEDULE

March 2006: Held in association with the Garfield-Perry March Party, Cleveland Ohio. This is one of the top 5 APS shows.

November 2007: Held in association with ChicagoPex, Chicago, IL. This will be a Joint Pan-Slavic exhibition.

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Wanted: Beg, borrow, buy, or barter: Przedbórz No. 1, type 2. Will settle for 1200 dpi scans. *Sam Ginsburg, Berkeley, CA, 510-525-3906 or samgins@esquared.net*

Wanted: Members for a Przedborz Study Group. If interested please contact *Sam Ginsburg, Berkeley, CA, 510-525-3906 or samgins@esquared.net*



The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization which was incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. Its objective is to promote Polish philately via the dissemination of Polish philatelic information in English. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Members receive the Polonus Philatelic Bulletin quarterly, have full access to www.polonus.org and participate in the events and activities of the society. Annual dues are payable in US funds before the end of March of each calendar year. Membership categories are as follows:

Regular Member: \$25.00 payable in US funds

Retired Member: (retirees with restricted incomes) \$15.00

Junior Members: (under age 16) \$10.00

Charge Card Payments: Members that pay their annual dues using a charge card will be assessed an additional \$4 banking fee.

New members will receive all the "Bulletins" for the year in which they join. All memberships are based on the calendar year.

(1) Dues, (2) Article for publication, (3) Changes of address, (4) Inquiries regarding and Applications for memberships, (5) General matters or complaints pertaining to the Society should all be sent to:

Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2, Maryville, IL 62062

POLONUS PURLS

(Polonus Philatelic URLs)

By: Sam Ginsburg

This is a continuing series that will be written by different authors in varying styles. It continues the series, Philatelic Websites Worth Visiting by Erv Mrotek in issues 514 and 515. As Erv noted, Polonus doesn't endorse or vouch for these sites, some of which may even have moved when you try them.

I seem to find three types of web sites. First, there are a few that I keep track of and use reasonably often. Second, there are the many that I use once or twice, enjoy, and promptly forget about until I'm reminded in a column like this. Third, there are those I've never heard of which I find useful. Hopefully you'll find some that are of varying degrees of value to you in this and subsequent appearances of this series.

Worldwide Experts and Forgeries: www.filatelia.fi

This is one of the most fascinating sites around, if you have any interest in learning about forgeries. The site is maintained by G. Kock of Helsinki. It has a list of 1700+ expertizers including about 700 scans of their marks. There are also lists of forged stamps, a bibliography of books about forgeries, and related links. In addition there are examples of forgeries from around the world, although the necessary annotations are still to be added. Mr. Kock has also published a World Forgery Catalog which is a bibliography of reference material. The Catalog is out of print, but a new edition is being prepared.

Foreign Exchange Rates: <http://www.exchangerate.com/>

Buying stamps from Poland or Peru? You might want to know the exchange rate when it is being offered in another currency. Exchangerate.com seems pretty comprehensive, although a search

for Forex or FX rates will turn up others which are probably just as good, and perhaps don't have that annoying pop-up quiz.

Wayne Fulton's Tips on Scanning: <http://www.scantips.com/>
And Peter Aitken's Tips on Scanning: http://www.pgacon.com/tips_on_scanning.htm

Most of us can use a scanning tutorial or refresher course. These two sites were mentioned in a March 2005 article in Linn's. Between them, a lot of basic and advanced scanning info is provided. Check them out if you ever struggle with how to scan a particular item.

Polonus Philatelic Society: <http://www.polonus.org/>

Click on "Guests Enter", then "Krakow Supplement" (This is counter-intuitive, but until the site is revised, entry is only available via "Guests Enter") Michael Melnichak has created a step-by-step example of how to use scanning and photo-editing software to check for forgeries of Krakow issues. His approach is particularly helpful because of it's "I did this here, you can try this there" personal approach. This provides a refreshing immediacy that keeps you awake when other "how-to-scan" sites might put you to sleep.

Stamp Domain: <http://www.stampdomain.com>

This domain is registered to Mr. Jan Kosniowski in Great Britain. It provides **organized** links to a wide variety of philatelic information. Click on Country Resource Pages, then Poland, and you'll find a list of societies, web pages, books, experts, and museums. Mr. Kosniowski is apparently a dealer in Postal History, and you can browse his inventory, but his commercial interests are barely noticeable. I like the layout - it's clear and uncluttered.

Note: I have volunteered to accumulate suggestions for web pages that deserve to be published in this series. Later may of these links will be provided on our Polonus website. So please send your favorites to me: samgins@esquared.net. I'd also appreciate your feedback on any of the sites listed here.

MASTER ENGRAVER AND ARTIST LEAVES A PHENOMENAL LEGACY

By Hank Bieniecki

On 17 March 2005, Czeslaw Slania, Master Engraver and Artist, died in Poland at age 83. He achieved international fame for both the exquisite quality of his engravings and the incredible number of engravings he produced for stamps issued by over 30 countries.



Self portrait in stamp format engraved by Slania for his 60th birthday.

Slania was born in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie, near Katowice, Poland on 22 October 1921. He moved with his family to Lublin, Poland at age 6. There he discovered his artistic abilities and developed a love for drawing horses. He engraved a large number of stamps depicting magnificent horses. Later in his career Slania produced a series of large format art engravings of horses in both steel and copper.

After WW II Slania attended the Academy of Arts, Krakow Poland. He graduated with honors in 1950 after submitting his seminal diploma work "The Battle of Grunwald" based on the painting by Jan Matejko. The Polish Post considered using this engraving as the basis for a stamp. Slania prepared a similar engraving in stamp format with a 90 Gr. value. The Post produced a limited "essay" printing of perforated stamps from this engraving, but the stamp was never approved for issue. This very scarce "essay" printing (see Figure 1) is the "holy grail" for Slania collectors.



Figure 1. Battle of Grunwald "Essay" Printing

After graduation, Slania joined the department of stamp design and engraving of the National Security Printing Company (PWPW). He designed 20 stamps and engraved 24 stamps for the Polish Post. In 1956 he escaped from Poland to Sweden and worked in various jobs (waiter, etc) until he was hired by the Swedish Ministry of Posts. In 1960 he engraved 6 stamps for Sweden and began his journey to become the court engraver of Sweden in 1972. He was subsequently appointed to the same position for Denmark and Monaco.

Although he had incredible talent and drive, Slania was not an overnight success. During the period from 1956 into the early 1960's he created a portfolio of engravings in stamp format including a series of 23 boxers and various world leaders, family members and movie stars. I had the good fortune to have him as my guest for a number of private meetings and dinners at Expo 2000 in Anaheim, CA. During the course of those meetings I had the opportunity to learn that in Poland he had been fascinated with Hollywood. As a result Slania engraved stamp format portraits of Marilyn Monroe (see Figure 2), Sophia Loren, Brigitte Bardot and Doris Day. The portrait of Monroe is so filled with life that I commented that he must have really had strong feeling for her. His response was a nod and a big smile. The next day he realized his life long goal of taking a tour of Hollywood and seeing the homes of many of the stars he had dreamed about in Poland. A few days later after a pleasant dinner and some fine wine, I inquired if it was true that he had engraved the "forgery" of the Scott # C34 Blue Imperf issued in 1954, in retaliation for not having been given that assignment by the Polish Post. He answered with a laugh that it had certainly been done by a very talented engraver. To the best of my knowledge Slania never acknowledged that he had engraved this scarce forgery. Today in Poland this forgery is attributed to Slania, is sought after by collectors, and sells for

more than the genuine Imperf issue.

Over the course of his career he engraved a phenomenal 1070 stamps which includes the world's largest engraved stamp (Scott 2374) for Sweden in 2000. In 1993 Slania came full circle when he



Figure 2. Marilyn Monroe engraving in stamp format

was retained by the Polish Post to engrave the Legend of the White Eagle SS for the Polska 1993 Philatelic Exhibition in Poland. It was his first engraving for Poland in 37 years. He continued to engrave additional stamps for Poland between 1993 and his death.

It is impossible to present the full scope of this Master Engraver and Artists phenomenal achievements in the context of an obituary. I hope I have been able to provide not only background information but also a little flavor of this most unique and talented gentleman. For those that wish to learn more about Slania, I would refer you to the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, Box 1382, Milwaukee, WI 53021, and to the web site www.slaniastamps.heindorffhus.dk.

MARCH 2006 POLONUS NATIONAL EXHIBITION / MEETING

March 24-26, 2006: Make plans now to attend the Polonus National Exhibition/Meeting which will be held in association with Garfield-Perry in Cleveland Ohio.

For additional information contact Chris Kulpinski at chris@kulpinski.com or call him at (480) 585-7114.