

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 238

January 1966

A FEW WORDS ABOUT POLPEX 1966

Christmas and the festivities of the New Year are already a memory to us. Every new year brings its own happenings. The year 1966 is very special and memorable to us since this is the year of Poland's Millennium of Christianity and birth as a nation of Western Civilization.

Polonus will join with Poles all over the world in celebrating. Our philatelic exhibition, POLPEX 1966, will be held on August 26, 27 and 28 at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Illinois.



We have already been asked by the Museum to leave the exhibits open for an additional week, after the official three day week-end, to accomodate the throngs expected for the Chicagoland planned Millennium festivities.

This would extend our exhibition to the Labor Day week-end, during which the Complex is to be held at Hotel La Salle in Chicago.

In view of this large amount of expected visitors to Polpex, our exhibition must be well-planned. We would like to show all phases of Polish philately, from its beginning to date — historical and religious material, covers, stationery, locals, fieldposts, etc.

Because of the size of the Museum, the amount of frames will be limited.

We would therefore like to know in advance, what you would like to exhibit. Give us the title and a short description of your exhibit. This will enable us to coordinate the show and avoid duplications. If you already know what you would like to exhibit, please inform me immediately. Official entry applications will be mailed you at a later date.

Out of town members are especially welcome to join us at POLPEX 1966 as well as non-members willing to exhibit worth-while Polish material. We plan to send invitations to other Polish philatelic societies in this country and abroad to join us in the celebration of Poland's Millennium. We hope for the support and cooperation of all philatelists in presenting this historical POLPEX 1966.

The Polish-American Numismatic Association will join us in a combined exhibit showing "for the first time" in an open exhibit — coins, medals, decorations and numismatic literature of Poland.

POLPEX 1966 may be seven months away but we must plan now for an extensive publicity campaign. Help us to promote Polish philately like it has never been promoted before. We are in need of interesting articles for our Bulletin, the philatelic press and our Millennium program catalog. Articles about stamps in relationship to the history of Poland are especially welcome. Send them directly to me or to the Editor.

—Alfred Szebel, Polpex Chairman
9041 Emerson Street
Desplaines, Ill. 60016

NUMBER 1 OF POLAND

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF MR. T. GRYZEWSKI'S
ARTICLE IN "POLONUS" — JULY-AUGUST, 1965

by I. Gust

Many articles were written about the Number One of Poland. Many research students are still trying to find an answer to the unsolved problems and Mr. Gryzewski is endeavoring to clear some of the puzzling points. It is not



my intention to deal with all the questions, but only one — were there two distinct issues or only one. Mr. Gryzewski asserts that two plates were made because he found differences in the size of the frame. He then goes on to explain the plate, one which had a frame of 16.75 x 22.75 mm. (used in 1860-63) and plate two size 16.5 x 22.5 mm. (used in 1864-65). He arrived at such conclusion mainly on the basis of studying two enlarged photos and a cover. An interesting observation which also puzzled me because many of my stamps show several differences in the size of the frame. At his instance I went through carefully, my lot of 165 stamps and found the following varia-

tions in the size of the frame: 16.75 x 22.75 mm., 16.75 x 22.5 mm., 16.5 x 22.5 mm. and finally 16.5 x 22 mm. To accept the theory that each variation in the size of the frame suggests a new plate we would have to agree that **Four** plates were made to print 3 million stamps. No one suggested that this was the case. Further on I found that the most widely used frame had the size 16.5 x 22.5 mm. Why then the difference. A simpler explanation was needed. It is well known that the first Polish stamps had to be an exact replica of the Russian stamp (except the words which were in Polish and Russian). It had to conform to color and size and the Russian stamp had a frame measuring 16.5 x 22.5 mm. This is basic. Hence the straight variation in size (a tenth of a millimetre) probably occurred in the process of producing the plate. No one knows how many in the sheet but probably a few to cause future philatelists a headache. The soft metal used could account for such slight imperfection. I am sure that when Mr. Gryzewski checks all the stamps he has investigated he probably will arrive at the same conclusion. The picture is clearer by analyzing the 165 stamps of mine. Frame 16.75 x 22.75 mm. — 5 stamps; 16.75 x 22.5 mm. — 31 stamps; 16.5 x 22.5 mm. — 128 stamps; and 16.5 x 22 mm. — 1 stamp. The covers in my collection tell a similar story.

Size frame

1. Cover with a pair, blue-carmine backstamped 28 Nov. 1862. .16.5 x 22.5 mm.
2. Cover with single, pale blue-rose undated 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
3. Cover with single, dark blue-carmine, Aug. 1860.....16.75 x 22.75 mm.
4. Cover with single, pale blue-rose, undated 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
5. Cover with single, deep blue-carmine, undated.....16.5 x 22.5 mm.
6. Cover with single, pale blue-rose, August 1863 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
7. Cover with single, deep blue-carmine, July 1862 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
8. Cover with single, blue-carmine, undated 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
9. Cover with single, blue-carmine, undated 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
10. Cover with single, blue-carmine, undated 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
11. Cover with single, deep blue-carmine, undated 16.75 x 22.5 mm.
12. Cover with single, deep blue-carmine, 5.12.1860 16.75 x 22.5 mm.
13. Cover with single, pale blue-carmine, 8.6.1864 16.75 x 22.5 mm.
14. Cover with single, blue-carmine, undated 16.5 x 22.5 mm.
15. Cover with single, blue-carmine, 7.3.1863 16.75 x 22.5 mm.
16. Cover with single, deep blue-carmine, undated 16.75 x 22.5 mm.

From this small lot of covers it is clear that the majority have a frame size of 16.5 x 22.5 mm. Does a clearer picture emerge? It is safe to assume that only **One** plate was used with the size of the frame 16.5 x 22.5 mm. and the odd change occurred in the making of the plate.

As a second method of identification of the so-called "second" plate Mr. Gryzewski suggests "the measurement of the oval opening of the blue plate." This method is even more unreliable than the first because the small difference (a ¼ mm.) is found in many stamps irrespective of the size of the frame. For the same reason, I feel, that his ascertainment that the blue oval variety belongs to the first printing (meaning frame 16.75 x 22.75 mm.) is inaccurate. My six stamps with this variety all have a frame measurement of 16.5 x 22.5 mm.

Mr. Gryzewski suggests that the first printing lasted from 1860-1863 and the second from 1864-1865. My cover No. 7 is dated July 1862 and has a frame of 16.5 x 22.5 mm. On the other hand, cover No. 13 is dated June 1864 with a frame measurement of 16.75 x 22.5 mm. I suggest that this theory is highly improbable and the division is arbitrary not based on wider observations. Admittedly, he had two important collections of No. One to study in Poland but he does not indicate the number of covers and stamps he has checked. It would also be highly interesting to know how many stamps in these collections had the frame variations.

Mr. Gryzewski has done a valuable job in rising this issue. Let us hope that we can clear up the matter of a single plate once and for all. For this the assistance of the other holders of large stocks of Number One is needed. They can help clarify this issue by carefully examining the size of frames of their stamps.

In 1960 a commission was elected to further the study of Number One and Mr. T. Gryzewski was elected Secretary. Since then Mr. M. Bojanowicz has made certain discoveries. The writer has also published his findings of printing varieties and Mr. Steczynski has published his observations. The question

is asked why are these not listed either in the P.Z.F. or Ruch catalogue. The missing "10" variety is still shown only in the left bottom corner while it is known that two other positions have been identified. Namely, top left and right corner. Also the extra stop after the right hand "Kop" is not listed. The elected commission should be able to express its opinion.

FROM THE BUFFALO MILLENNIUM STAMP COMMITTEE

(Reprinted from the Polish American Journal)

Very Rev. Norbert Zonca, O.F.M., Conv., chairman of the Buffalo Millennium Stamp Issuance Committee, announced that Congressman Thaddeus J. Dulski, Democrat of Buffalo, presented three colorful sketches for Polish Millennium stamp to Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien and to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

The sketches, expressive of the Millennium Event and of Polish American Observances, have been artistically designed and executed by Venerable Sister Mary Geraldine, F.S.S.J. of Hamburg, N. Y.

Arrangements are now being made for Father Zonca and representatives of the American Polonia to meet President Johnson and the U.S. Postal Authorities to discuss the question of Polish Millennium stamp.

In the meantime Father Zonca urges all Polish-American organizations and all Pol-Ams to write to the U.S. Postmaster General in Washington, D.C., requesting issuance of the Polish Millennium Stamp.

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A TIMELY SUGGESTION

by DR. M. D. MIODUS

The chance of my attending a meeting of the Polonus Philatelic Society is extremely rare. Consequently I am utilizing this article as a means of expressing some of my opinions and to offer a suggestion to the society.

I have collected stamps of Poland on and off for the past 40 years, being introduced to them by my maternal grandfather, Felix Cienciara. During World War II, I turned over my stamp collection to my father, the late Dr. Saturnin Mioduszewski, who as some of you may remember was at one time prominent in the activities of the Polonus Philatelic Society prior to his leaving Chicago to live in Oblong, Illinois.

I was too busy during the war years and immediately after them to indulge in collecting stamps. Also, father enjoyed the stamps and I really started to consider the stamp collection as his, not mine. After my father's death in 1961 I started to look over the stamp collection that I had given to him 20 years previously. He had concentrated heavily on Polish stamps together with those of the United States and the United Nations.

Little by little my interest in stamps grew and in 1962 I started to reorganize his collection and at the same time filling in some of the gaps. Also at that time I became interested in Topical Collecting, and started to collect stamps pertaining to Medicine. Although I still kept up with my Polish stamps it was my medical collection that grew and grew as I became more and more interested in these stamps, or rather to be honest, in the information that these stamps offered to me.

Topical collecting gave me an entirely different slant on Philately. The stamps were not just pretty little pieces of paper or so much cash on the barrel head, but were instead a very pleasant informative and illustrated history of medicine. When Poland issued its physicians set I was able to gleam information about these Polish physicians that was not listed in any history book of medicine.

It appears to me that any stamp, regardless of the issuing country, has three values. First, its postal value — what it costs to send a letter from one place to another. Second, — its philatelic value, what it costs either to buy or to sell the stamp and, Third, — (in my opinion the most important value) its historical value, the amount of information that one is able to gleam from the stamp. Almost all civilized people, including even children know its first value, and almost all philatelists quickly get to know its second value, but it is surprising how few people, and that includes many philatelists, realize its third value, the value which in my opinion is the stamp's greatest value — that is the information that the stamp itself contains.

In the community in which I live and practice, a physician is often called upon to give talks, usually of a medical nature, to various lay groups, similar to what they do in Chicago, or perhaps anywhere else in the world. Besides collecting stamps, I have a few other hobbies, one of which is photography. Consequently, I photographed some of my medical stamps and in my talks used them to illustrate two fields of medicine — one a quick history of medicine as portrayed on postage stamps, and the second which I entitled, in a polite fashion, "The Illegitimate Children of Medicine" (in my own mind I call them The Bastards of Medicine), which deals with people who were M.D.'s or who had received medical training, but who are famous for their exploits outside the field of medicine.

These talks were given to various local groups, and even to physicians, and invariably at the conclusion of this presentation there was marked amazement among the individuals in the audience that a stamp could give so much historical information and that collecting stamps in such a fashion was so much more interesting than just gluing stamps in a printed album. I feel certain that there have been a few individuals in this country that started the hobby of Philately as a result of these talks.

From a personal point of view my collection of a thematic subject gave me a great deal more pleasure than I had ever realized Philately was capable of. Perhaps that is the reason why the American Topical Association is one of the fastest growing philatelic groups. Besides this pleasure there was also of course the amount of general knowledge that the stamps gave to me. In fact, I have enjoyed the stamps pertaining to medicine so much that I have started another project — "The Relationship of the Horse to Human Society and Culture from Antiquity to the Present." This subject was chosen, since I am also interested in horses, having four of these equines in my back yard — another one of my hobbies.

I practise and live in a small town in southern Illinois in a County with a population of approximately 20,000 humans and 20,000 dogs. In this entire county (Crawford County), besides myself, there is only one other individual of Polish descent, a woman originally from West Virginia. It is surprising to me how few Anglo-Saxons understand the history of Poland. This community, and probably other communities without a large Polish population consider Poland and Russia as being one. In fact I sometimes have a feeling that the people in downstate Illinois consider themselves entirely different from the people that inhabit Cook County and the Chicago megalopolis area.

I guess that what I am trying to say is that in the United States as a whole, excluding communities like Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit and New York, the history of Poland, its customs and the part that it played in the history of the world is to most people a completely blank page.

I have an English translation of *The Knights of the Cross*, *The Deluge*, *With Fire and Sword*, and *Pan Michael*. These historical novels I have at intervals loaned to some of the people in this community and invariably when they have completed them I have had the people say to me "I never realized what Poland really was. I never knew it existed before World War I until read that book". This has been told to me by school teachers, secretaries, oil

workers, farmers, housewives and even by some of the professional people.

After this somewhat lengthy introduction I would like to offer a suggestion to the Polonus Philatelic Society. Originally after reading the *Cambridge History of Poland*, I felt that job would be too great for one individual and that I would not be able to do it justice.

I would suggest to the Polonus Philatelic Society that since 1966 will be the year that Poland celebrates its Millennium that the society as a group write the history of Poland as portrayed on postage stamps. I feel that this could be done quite easily by the society (although there certainly will be time involved) since no doubt it has many members who are well versed in Poland's history. Also there is present in Chicago, information readily available for those portions of Poland's history that might need expert advice.

This information could then be sent to various stamp publications such as *Linn's Weekly, Stamps*, and/or *The Topical Digest*. It could also be sent to newspapers, some perhaps dependent entirely upon Anglo-Saxon subscribers and to other newspapers such as the *Polish-American* whose readers are primarily of Polish descent. In fact it is quite possible that this information together with photographs of the stamps that relay the information, might even be published by some of the pictorial magazines such as *Life* or *Look*. Much of this I admit is pure conjecture. However, regardless of where it would be published it would arouse knowledge among the people in the U.S. of Poland's Millennium. Even if it was published in the *Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society* it would give to many of the members, and especially the younger ones, information that could not be obtained in anyone place. Most important it would present to the Anglo-Saxons the history of Poland and the price that it has paid in blood and suffering because of its geographical location.

I feel certain that after this information has been assimilated by the various peoples who read it, that they will realize that the present fraternalism between Poland and Russia is not because of choice but rather because of

necessity due perhaps to a large part by the tragic political mistakes made by the Allies at Yalta and at the end of World War II. I think that once the people understand the agonies that Poles went thru prior to World War I and also of World War II that it is inconceivable that the Poles could ever love the Russians or the Germans. I feel that after Poland's history as a Christian nation is known, that it is also inconceivable too it could replace its Christian spirit with that of Communism.

Naturally what I would personally do with this information would be to photograph those stamps that are used to illustrate such a history and with the information weave a talk around them. This would then present to my two sons, to myself, and to the people of this area a course in Polish History (necessarily brief—1000 years in 100 minutes) in an easy, informative, educational and entertaining fashion.

As a member of the Polonus Philatelic Society I would like to ask the society to write a monogram "The History of Poland as Portrayed on its Stamps to Commemorate the Millennium of Poland as a Christian Nation."

NEW ISSUES

Old Horse-Drawn Carriages

There is a number of interesting museums in Poland that exhibit noteworthy historical objects showing the development of Polish culture. The Łańcut Museum is one of the most visited by Polish and Foreign tourists. Its 18th to 20th century horse-drawn carriages collection attracts considerable attention among the visitors.

To publicize this collection the Polish Post issued a set of nine stamps featuring these old fashioned carriages on December 30, 1965.

20 gr.—a sporting carriage, GIG (the beginning of the 20th century)

used for short rides and for breaking in a colt.

40 gr.—a luxury two passenger coach, COUPE (19th-20th century). It has the elevated right seat for a coachman and the left one for a valet.

50 gr.—a sporting carriage LADIES BASKET (18th-19th century) with a rear saddle seat for a coachman.

60 gr.—a promenade carriage, VIS A VIS (19th-20th century) with leather hood and curtains.

90 gr.—a carriage for official visits, CAB (19th century) for longer journeys with windows to keep out the rain.

1.15 zł.—a gala coach, BERLINKA (19th century) with double springs for important personalities.

2.50 zł.—hunting carriage, HUNTING BREAK (19th-20th century) a long and heavy vehicle with fasteners for guns.

6.50 zł.—a Court carriage, CALECHE A LA DAUMONT (19th century) smart and comfortable, used by important persons.

7.10 zł.—a sporting carriage, drawn by several horses, AN ENGLISH BREAK (19th-20th century) driven by the landlord. Rear seats for a coachman and a footman.

Printed by Polychrome offset by the PWPW, Warsaw on chalky paper. The 20, 40, 50, 60 and 90 gr. are 54 x 27 mm. and are printed in sheets of 30 stamps. The 1.15, 2.50 and 6.50 zł. are 81 x 27 mm. and the 7.10 zł. is 108 x 27 mm. are printed in sheets of 20. Designed by Jerzy Miller.

Quantities issued: 20 gr. 7,500,000; 40 gr. 7,000,000; 50 gr. 6,000,000; 60 gr. 6,500,000; 90 gr. 4,000,000; 1.15 zł. 3,000,000; 2.50 zł. 3,000,000; 6.50 zł. 1,400,000; 7.10 zł. 1,400,000.

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MYRON STECZYNSKI HONORED

Myron Steczynski was invited to display his Cracow overprints of Poland in the Court of Honor of CHIPEX 65 (Chicago Philatelic Society Exhibition at the Hotel Sherman) and was awarded a gold medal for the interesting presentation of a difficult subject. This is another notable award added to Myron's medals and trophies earned at the leading national and international exhibitions.

Myron's specialty is the plating of the various settings in all values and of course this task presents endless study. Some of the values were issued in limited quantities and are catalogued by far above any other stamps of Poland.

The Cracows are listed in Scott's catalog as Poland Nos. 41 to 60, J1 to J12 and P1 to P5, and together with Poland No. 1 are regarded as the classics of Poland. These stamps have risen in value to dignify Polish stamps as worthy of the highest consideration for serious collectors. We have finally lived to see the day when several values of the Cracows bring impressive prices at auctions, having reached a catalog value of hundreds of dollars and even exceed a thousand dollars. No wonder that Myron claims that this issue alone keeps him broke and busy.

Myron is invited to present his Cracows at the Collector's Club, 30 E. 35th St., New York City on Wednesday, March 3, so that Polonus members and others interested in the stamps of Poland and living in the New York City region will have an opportunity to hear Myron's presentation and to see his many years of effort along this line.

We are endeavoring to have Myron present his findings in detail in future issues of the Polonus Bulletin.

TID BIT

Member Alfred Szebel exhibited at Florex in Miami, Florida in November and received a first award trophy for his DOX Pioneer Flights and a second award trophy for his German Fieldpost of World War II.

If you exhibited recently, let us know about it.

NEW ISSUES SCHEDULED FOR 1966

A total of 80 stamps and a miniature sheet, issued in 13 sets, with a total face value of 162.35 zł. (\$12.00) are planned for this year. In 1965 there were 92 stamps issued in 19 sets for a total face value of 173.95 zł.

February

No. of stamps	Face value of set	Description of issue
8	4.80 zł.	20th anniversary of the nationalization of industries

March

9	21.50 zł.	Fossil animals
1	0.60 zł.	50th anniv. of the death of Henryk Sienkiewicz

May

8	25.60 zł.	World Soccer Championship at London
+ 1 sheet		

June

8	20.45 zł.	European Athletic Championship at Budapest
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August

4	5.00 zł.	Millennium of Christianity of the Polish State
3	4.40 zł.	Harvest Feast 1966

September

8	7.35 zł.	Tourist, Definitive issue
9	21.70 zł.	Garden flowers

October

2	3.10 zł.	Stamp Day 1966
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November

9	21.70 zł.	Forest birds
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December

4	5.00 zł.	Archeology
8	21.15 zł.	Space research

—Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 21, 1966:

Nomination and Election of Officers.
The matter of raising dues and ad rates
in the Bulletin to be acted on.

Friday, February 11, 1966:

Installation Nite.

Friday, February 25, 1966:

Program Meeting. Discussion on the
subject of the crown on the Polish eagle
in Poland's history.

THE POLISH POSTAL SERVICE

by **Danuta Karczewska**

(Reprinted from the Polish American Journal)

Postal service in Poland was established on October 18, 1558, by King Sigmund Augustus. The King also established a uniformed rate for deliveries, of letters, 4 groszy per letter, which was the first of its kind in the world. The first Polish postmaster was an Italian - Prosper Prowan.

After the death of King Sigmund Augustus, in 1572, Polish postal service became a private enterprise of an Italian nobleman Sebastian Montelupi.

In 1583 King Stefan Batory reestablished Polish postal service as a public enterprise.

Mail boxes, postmarks and privacy of correspondence were introduced during the reign of Poland's last king, Stanislaus Augustus.

Today there are 7,100 post offices in Poland, 45,100 stamp selling places, and about 60,000 mail boxes.

The philatelic movement was started in Poland in 1893. At present there are about 150,000 philatelists in Poland.

The first Polish postage stamp appeared in 1860 and was in circulation for about 5 years, after which time it was replaced by Russian stamps, as Poland was enslaved.

From 1918, when Poland regained independence, till 1939, when Poland was enslaved again, 400 different postage stamps were issued. After the liberation of Poland from the Germans and until the present, more than 1,300 different postage stamps were issued.

IN MEMORIAM

Stephen V. Zieler

Brother of Larry C. Zieler, passed on in early January. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family.

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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.

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