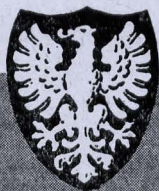


BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Issue No. 29

February 1945

Edited by

J. J. Domar, Chairman Publications Committee
3715 So. Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois

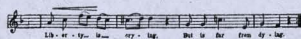
Polpex 1945

We stand again on the threshold of another great Polpex. Through the unstinting efforts of its Director, Dr. M. E. Uznanski, and his Committee, this Polpex has every indication of being one of the finest held by Polonus.

Dr. Haiman and Dr. Wolanin, of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum have done everything possible to insure a successful presentation. In addition to the standard frames, once again the wall cases and the beautiful display tables that first saw use at the New York Worlds Fair are to be used.

The entries received indicate that the material to be exhibited will be of the same high caliber as in the past, — all shown "in a historic setting which will make them live and breathe." As during the 1944 Polpex, many of the historic relics and objects which Poland sent to the New York World's Fair, will be displayed.

There will be the basket of the winning balloon in the Gordon Bennett Balloon races: also the trophy it won, — a life saver from the M. S. Pilsudski, which was sunk by the Germans in the North Sea. In the side wall cases will be shown the exquisite color proofs of the Sobieski stamp #278, the Washington stamp #276, the Vit Stvosz stamp #277, and others, especially prepared by the Polish Bureau of Engraving from the original plates to exhibit in America. There will be the beautiful painting of Pulaski at Savannah, the sculptured bust of Pilsudski, relics of Chopin, Sienkiewicz and Copernicus, all depicted on the stamps of Poland. Last, but not least, the beautiful Paderewski room will be



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Feb. 22-25 POLPEX 1945 Chicago, Ill.

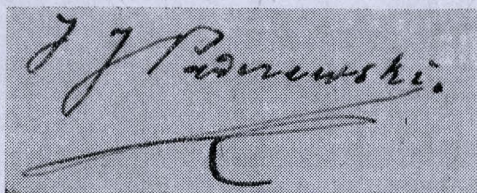
open, wherein will be displayed hundreds of intimate objects associated with Paderewski, — truly an extraordinary setting for a stamp exhibition!

Exhibits have been received from many of our out-of-town members and, unlike Polpex 1944, they have not been restricted to the stamps of Poland. Many fine collections are to be exhibited, so every effort should be made to attend this show.

Dr. M. E. Uznanski, the newly elected President of Polonus, is also the
(Continued on last page)

Paderewski Philatelic Autographs

By Bert Powell



Musical genius, statesman, humanitarian and patriot, the great Pole Paderewski went to his reward with the national anthem of Poland ringing in his ears, and thoughts of his beloved homeland with him to the end. Almost his last act was to summon Charles, a hotel servant, to render this selection for him. When Charles replied that he could not play the piano, the maestro insisted that the servant help him to the instrument, and then he played the inspiring song as he had never played it before. When the last notes of the heroic anthem had ended Charles assisted the maestro to bed and there—at 11:00 o'clock on the evening of June 29th, 1941, the great son of Poland passed away.

Paderewski's likenesses appeared only once on the stamps of Poland. He is depicted on Scott's type A21 for that country, on one of a series of stamps dedicated to the First National Assembly, of which he was the Prime Minister and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The stamp is an inexpensive one, in either mint or used condition, though on cover it is very seldom encountered. It was issued in 1919, is of a brown red color, and is listed as on laid and wove papers. An unlisted copy of the stamp, provisionally surcharged with a rubber stamp for local postage due use, has proved to be of considerable interest to Polish collectors.

Oddly enough, the Polish collectors' interest is centered not so much on the stamp itself as it is in the occasional reports of the maestro's autographs on it, news of which crops out in the philatelic press at irregular intervals. It is mainly with the great musician's autographs on the stamp that this article will concern itself, together with a record of some other Paderewski items of philatelic significance. It isn't known whether the great musician autographed any copies of the stamp

bearing his likeness in Poland, though it seems entirely possible that he may have done so, when it is considered that even in those times, philately was very popular in that country. However since no reports have ever appeared here, concerning the possible existence of such items, and since no knowledge has ever been acquired by this collector about such Polish items in existence, this record will content itself with copies known in the United States or suspected of being in existence here.

The Steinway Collection

For many years Polish collectors were aware that a single copy, autographed by the great master, reposed in the Theodore E. Steinway collection. This particular item has been considerably publicized and is well known. However, not many — if indeed, any — collectors know or are aware of the fact that Mr. Steinway is also the proud possessor of an autographed block of four! In a letter to the writer, Mr. Steinway advises that the block was presented to him in 1941, the year of the great musician's demise. It is mounted on a card and inscribed as follows: "To my dear friend, Theodore Steinway, February 2, 1941." Like the single, previously mentioned, this presentation was made on the occasion of Paderewski's visit to Steinway Hall.

The Savage Collection

Known also to collectors is the Savage block of four autographed diagonally, with the great patriot's name. Some mention of this block has been made in the philatelic press from time to time. Paul Savage, a newspaper photographer and the able editor of a stamp column in the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram and Evening Gazette, came by his prized possession in a most unique manner. His father was an old school mate of Eldon E. G. Joubert, who traveled with Paderewski, caring for his concert pianos. Mr. Savage received

* Reprinted by permission of STAMPS

an assignment to obtain some photographs of the great pianist during one of his concert tours, and after accomplishing his duty, he conceived the idea of obtaining Paderewski's autograph on the Polish Stamp bearing his likeness. He thereupon approached Mr. Joubert and was advised to leave the block with him. He, Joubert, would await an opportune time, and would then ask the maestro to sign the block. Mr. Savage advised that many months went by, and he had almost given up hope of ever receiving the autograph. However, on April 15th, 1933, he received a letter from Mr. Joubert enclosing the block with the desired autograph.

N. B. C. Stamp Club Collection

The N.B.C. Stamp Club is also the possessor of a Paderewski philatelic autograph, although it differs from the previously mentioned items, in not being autographed directly across the face of the stamp or stamps. The item in the club's possession consists of an album page on which two Polish stamps are mounted. The first is Scott's type A45, bearing the likeness of Frederic Chopin, and the other is the Paderewski stamp, type A21. The lettering on the page is as follows: "This stamp of Poland, commemorating the great Polish composer Frederick Chopin.... presented to the N. B. C. Stamp Club by...." and then the Paderewski stamp is mounted. The maestro's autograph is in the extreme lower left hand corner, together with the date of signing, written in the Polish manner, with the day first, the month in second place, and the year date last, thus; 30 V 1938, in other words, May 30th, 1938. It is said that the gift was presented to this organization following one of Paderewski's extremely rare broadcasts, though who was instrumental in arranging for the gift, or under what circumstances it was made, is not clear at this time.

Possible Joubert Possessions

This record would not be complete without at least taking into consideration the possibility of the existence of additional autographed items in the possession of Mr. Joubert's heirs, for he has passed on. As previously stated, Eldon E. G. Joubert was a piano tuner. He was in the employ of Mr. Steinway's firm, and the arrangement seems to have been to loan Mr. Joubert's services to the maestro when he was on concert tour. If Mr. Joubert was at



all interested in stamps, plenty of opportunities existed for him to obtain the desired autograph, because the maestro was most considerate of those who served him.

What lends credence to the supposition, is a recollection of Mr. Steinway's which is mentioned in a letter to the writer. The following quotation is from that letter. "I think that I once saw an autographed block of six (the Paderewski stamp). He (Paderewski) gave it to our tuner, who traveled with him for many years—Eldon Joubert, who gave it to a nephew. Don't know where he (the nephew) is now. Joubert is dead."

Thus, we must recognize the strong possibility of another autographed block existing, unless the block that Mr. Steinway saw was the one destined for Mr. Savage, for it will be remembered that Mr. Savage's block came to him through Mr. Joubert. However, the item in the Savage collection is a block of FOUR, whereas, as Mr. Steinway recalls the episode, a block of SIX was involved. It may well be, therefore, that an autographed block of six does exist, in addition to the known items mentioned.

The Autographed Parrish Cartoon

In addition to the autographed stamps enumerated in this article, there are some additional items of related philatelic significance in which Polish collectors are also interested.

On January 26, 1940, on the opening day of POLPEX 1940, the Chicago Tribune published a very impressive cartoon depicting Paderewski. He was shown in the role of a teacher instructing a homeless waif (Poland) in the playing of the Polish national anthem "Poland is Not Yet Lost." It is said that the Chicago Tribune was literally swamped with requests for reprints, for the cartoonist Parrish had selected a popular subject for instant appeal to Chicago's great Polish population. There were two types of reprints made—a black and white one and also a much larger type which was repro-



duced in tinted colors.

Stanley Falcon, popular Chicago dealer now in the armed forces, donated one of the framed color enlargements as an award for Polpex 1941. It was won by John Bobo, a member of Polonus, for his extremely fine showing of the U. S. taxpays. Various Polonus members immediately suggested to Mr. Bobo the idea of having the maestro autograph the cartoon. At that time Paderewski was recuperating in Florida and Mr. Bobo sent the cartoon to him at that location. After a short time, it was returned to him with the desired autograph, together with a letter of authenticity written in Polish by the maestro's secretary, on the simple, though distinctive Paderewski stationery. Thus, a member of Polonus came into possession of a veritable museum piece which is connected with a philatelic event. In all probability, it was the last autograph of a philatelic type which the maestro signed, for not many months later, he passed away.

Polpex 1941 Souvenir Sheets

The Parrish cartoon also served as a model for Polpex souvenir sheets of 1941. Permission for reproduction was sought by the society and granted by the officials of the Chicago Tribune, to reproduce the cartoon in souvenir sheet form. A likeness of the Paderewski stamp and a bar of the National Anthem comprised other parts of the

design. M. E. Steczynski, at that time a director of Polonus, petitioned Mr. Paderewski for permission to reproduce his autograph across the photograph of the stamp bearing his likeness, in the souvenir sheet. The permission was granted and thus, another Paderewski autograph was added to the philatelic record. The likeness of the signature in this instance, was obtained from an original in Mr. Steczynski's possession, which was affixed to a year book edited by him in 1916, upon the occasion of his graduation from Alliance College at Cambridge Springs, Penn.

Paderewski Launching Cover

In May, 1943, Polish collectors had the opportunity of adding another related philatelic item to their Paderewski collections. A number of covers were prepared for the launching of the Liberty Ship, S.S.I.J. Paderewski, which was originally scheduled for launching on May 3rd, 1943, at Wilmington, California. For some reason the launching did not take place until the next day. Thus while the May 3rd date is incorporated in the cachet design, the covers must bear a postmark showing the May 4th, 1943 date to be correct. It is particularly fitting that the name of this great patriot, who so loved liberty and freedom, should be attached to a ship dedicated to these causes. The naming of an American

ship in the great Pole's honor, testifies to the friendliness existing between the two nations.

Paderewski Memorial Cover

Another related item which Polish collectors like to include in their Paderewski collections, is the memorial cover originated by Chester Mikucki, of Polonus, who is now serving our country in the Navy. It is a simple cover as covers go, but of course to the Poles it represents quite an historical item. It utilizes the design of the Parrish cartoon mentioned previously, but in addition mentions the year of birth, as well as the year of death of the great musician. The whole, is printed in blue on a white cover. It is postmarked on the day that Paderewski's remains were temporarily interred in Arlington Cemetery.

Paderewski Room at P.R.C.U. Archives and Museum

Perhaps the greatest memorial to Paderewski is the room named for him in the Archives and Museum of the Polish Roman Catholic Union in Chicago. Here in the quiet grandeur of historical surroundings, are the maestro's personal effects and mementoes of great occasions in a richly lived life, dedicated to the cause of a nation's liberty. To enumerate the items in this room would require volumes, but one article impressed this writer to such an extent that it seems no record on Paderewski would be complete without mentioning it. It is a pen, artfully wrought of pure gold into the shape of an eagle's feather, on which is mounted in beautiful enamel, a small shield containing the Polish coat of arms, which consists of a white eagle on a red background. The pen was used by Paderewski, when as Premier of Poland, he signed the Treaty of Versailles, and... possibly, may be used again, when freedom comes once more to the land of this illustrious son.

Acknowledgements: Grateful appreciation is expressed to Messrs. Theodore E. Steinway and Paul W. Savage for their extremely kind cooperation as well as to Leopold Sobanski, for the Paderewski launching cover and to Chester Mikucki for the memorial cover.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

- #232. Mrs. C. J. (Anne) Mikucki 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois. Poster Stamps.
#231. Julius Harmel, 641 Aldine Ave., Chicago 13, Illinois. E.P.P. & U.S.

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS

As has been our custom we are again presenting to you short sketches of the newly elected officers of the Polonus Philatelic Society. This is to enable you to know them better and learn to whom has been entrusted the responsibility to further the benefits, accomplishments and achievements of Polonus. Introducing:

President

Dr. M. E. Uznanski, 1530 N. Damen Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois

He is a Charter member of the Society, specializing in the Stamps of Poland. He has also a very fine collection of Russian Locals, Airmails and Red Cross Seals. He has been a member of the Experts Committee since its inception. This is the first time that he has held an elective office in Polonus. He is the present Director of Polpex 1945 and it is largely thru his efforts that we are promised a Polpex true to tradition. He has had previous experience as a leader being a former President of the Polish Medical and Dental Ass'n.

Vice-President

Dr. S. M. Mioduzewski, 1176 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois.

He holds office in Polonus for the first time. Though a quiet retiring person, the Doctor is none-the-less always willing to help, and as his timely suggestions have aided the Society in the past his talents should be of greater assistance in his new position. As a former Editor of the Medical and Dental Ass'n Journal, he should lend valuable aid to our own "BULLETIN." His collecting activities center on Poland and U. S.

Secretary

Mrs. C. J. (Anne) Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

Anne is a new member of the Society but she has always been very active in its past social affairs. Her collecting activities center on Poster Stamps. She is best known as the Directress of

Buy War Bonds & Stamps

all of the former "Beebas" and particularly the last which was held during the S.P.A.-ChipeX Convention. She is the wife of E/M 3/C Chester Mikucki, who is the founder of Polonus and she intends to carry on for Chester while he is away fighting for our country.

Treasurer

J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago 34, Illinois

He has already served two years as treasurer of the Society, and now after an absence of one year he has again been placed in this responsible position. "Jacks" collecting activities are rather general centering mostly around 17 countries which in addition to being treasurer in most of the organizations to which he belongs keeps him rather busy.

Historian and Librarian

Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois

He has been Director of Junior Activities since the founding of Polonus. Polonus' splendid and active group of junior members is a tribute to his exceptional ability for patient and constructive effort. He was Exhibition Director of Polpex 1943. He was in charge of sales of Exhibition souvenir sheets for Polpex 1944 and is acting in the same capacity for Polpex 1945. He was Historian and Librarian last year.

Director

Myron E. Steczynski, 4154 N. LeClaire Avenue, Chicago 41, Illinois

He is a Charter member of the society specializing in the Stamps of Poland. As Chairman of the Experts Committee he succeeded in effectuating many needed changes in the Poland section of Scotts Catalog. He was Historian and Librarian of the Society for two years, as a member of the Board of Directors for one year, Exhibition Director of Polpex 1942, Vice-President, Chairman of the Membership Committee and Editor of the BULLETIN. For the past two years he has been the President of the society.

Director

J. J. Domar, 3715 S. Clinton Ave. Berwyn, Illinois.

He is a charter member of the Society, specializing in the Stamps of Poland. He has been Auction Manager, Vice-President, Chairman of the Membership Committee, President for 1

year and Co-Chairman of Polpex 1940 and for the past two years Secretary. Beginning with this issue of the BULLETIN he has been appointed Chairman of the Publications Committee.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE

Receipts

Membership dues	\$205.50
Frame rental	17.45
Stamp & Cover sales	140.60
POLPEX 1944	256.44
Party & Donations	36.39
Ribbons	.25

Total income	\$700.82
Balance, last audit	170.85

Total receipts	\$871.67
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Disbursements

BULLETIN	\$200.00
Rent 1945	36.00
Postage, etc.	33.81
Staty & Printing	12.23
Parties	125.80
Charter Fee	2.00
Societies dues	3.00
Frame pledge refunds	2.00
Household	21.16
Polpex	15.07
Juniors	5.00
Life Mem. P.R.C.U. Museum ..	100.00
Advert. & Donations	11.50
Auction	3.00

Total Disbursements	\$570.57
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Recapitulation

Total Receipts	\$871.67
Total Disbursements	570.57

Cash on hand	\$301.10
Dated, February 9, 1945	

(signed) J. P. Rux Chairman Auditing Committee

PVT. ALBIN PLONKA

Word has been received that member Albin Plonka was wounded in action, somewhere in France, and is now located in a hospital somewhere in England.

Member Plonka had been in Poland until June of 1941, when he was permitted to come to this country. The German authorities however refused to permit him to take his Stamp collection along. This collection was left behind with Mrs. Plonka. Albin said

that he had many opportunities to use the German occupation stamps and many were in his collection. We wonder what is in his collection of experiences? It is our sincere hope that the wounds which have forced Pvt. Plonka to temporarily halt his endeavors to clean up this mess, are not serious and by the time they are healed, all of the fighting will be over and both his wife and he are soon together again.

PULASKI ELECTS

The Pulaski Philatelic Club of Detroit, S.P.A. Branch #111 announce their 1945 officers which were installed January 21 at a big party at the Polish Veterans Hall.

Ray Bartz, well known Detroit philatelist was installed as president by Charles L. Brisley, who acted as installation officer. Others were, Walter Kolankowski, vice-president, Joseph A. Tarnowski as secretary and Frank A. Jancowski as treasurer. The board of trustees is made up of Joseph S. Kay, John Poznanski and Jacob Wrana.

Pulaski is a small but unusually active Detroit club which has three members in active service with the armed forces. Entertainment by Al Schwartz and Delphine Bartz with refreshments made up a fine afternoon and evening for the club and its many guests, who included the outstanding philatelists of the Michigan area.

STAMPS MAGAZINE

In commemorating the sixth anniversary of the Polonus Philatelic Society, the February 24th, 1945 issue of STAMPS Magazine will once again be a special Polish issue. As all preceding special Polish issues, it will contain a number of Articles on the Stamps of Poland and should be of special interest to the collectors of this country. If you are not a subscriber to STAMPS be sure that you reserve a copy with your local newsdealer.

This issue of STAMPS will be on sale at POLPEX 1945, for the convenience of those desiring it.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

L. A. Kupferwasser,
1631 W. Milwaukee Ave.,
Chicago 47, Illinois.

Capt. L. S. Sluszinski, M.C.O.—4994
1299 Combat Eng.
Camp Bowie, Texas.

POLPEX 1945 SOUVENIR SHEETS

POLPEX 1945 Souvenir Sheet is dedicated to Poland's past glories. The stamp shown, shows King Casimir Jagiello, who was the ruler at the time of Poland's greatest expansion and the map shows the territory under the rule of Poland at that time.

It is printed in purple and green and there is a perforated and an imperforated sheet to a set, plus the descriptive folder. The price of a set is fifteen (15 cents), two for a quarter (25c) and ten cents for each additional set ordered. They may be obtained by writing to Seal Director, Adam Kloskowski, 2528 North Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

POLISH LOCALS

There are a number of uncatalogued issues from various parts of Poland in 1915 to 1920, which have been dismissed as "locals" or deleted because of their having been racketeered and reprinted and counterfeited beyond all standing. Among these some few are really worthy of any collector's attention, for they are modern revivals of what were called in early U. S. usage "Carriers' Stamps." In the case of the issues at Warsaw, Sosnowice, Zawiercie, Przedborz and Zarki were authorized by the then occupying foreign governments, and were brought out by the municipal governments of those cities. They paid usually by postage-due usage, carriage from the nearest effective post office to the city and delivery to the addressee; likewise by ordinary usage that carried letters from these cities to the nearest effective post office. The German and Austrian military post offices when these cities were in or near the fighting zone, were not able to handle local civilian mail.

—Stephan G. Rich—Chambers Stamp Journal.

'THIS AND THAT'

Just a reminder! The Treasurer, Jack Rux, suggested that we remind you that the dues for 1945 are now payable. If yours are not paid, why not

send it in right now and save the Treasurer a little time.

* * *

"Kindly notice the new A.P.O. number, would appreciate receiving the BULLETIN direct. Thank you and please write!" Cpl. Chester C. D. Kozuchowski (Phil.)

* * *

"Thanks a lot for your letter, I am always grateful for the Polonus BULLETINS. Although they come rather late, they are always interesting and most welcome. The stamps you sent are of great interest to the boys, there are some rabid stamp collectors in our outfit, others are getting interested. S/Sgt. Felix Walat, (New Hebrides)

* * *

I have been receiving two copies of the BULLETIN, one from my Mother and the other copy direct from the Society. The BULLETIN is a very interesting reference paper. After this is over and I get back home I am going to bind these BULLETINS into book form with an index and cross index. The "this and that" column is what really holds my interest. It is the first thing I read. I hope to see the BULLETIN enlarged after this war is over and continue its good work.

Pvt. Thaddeus J. Stasik.

* * *

"I received the Xmas card the Society sent and have been getting the BUL-

LETIN right along. I want to thank you for remembering me. I wish you all the best of health, happiness and prosperity for the New Year.

Pfc. Thaddeus Piorkowski (Philippines)

* * *

How about it Service men lets hear from you. Are you getting the BULLETIN?

* * *

Have you considered becoming a LIFE MEMBER? You can, by mailing the sum of \$25.00 to the Secretary, Mrs. C. J. Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

* * *

SNAPSHOTS? Yes! We still are asking for them. If you have not sent yours in, will you do so now. Please.

Polpex 1945

(Cont. from first page)

Director and to him go the honors for this Polpex. He has personally secured all of the beautiful trophies and Participation Certificates and he has spent much time and effort to make this POLPEX a success. The opening night will be Thursday, February 22nd and the exhibit will continue through each evening from six to ten PM o'clock until Sunday afternoon and evening, February 25th. The Polish Archives and Mureum is located at 984 Milwaukee Avenue, corner Augusta Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.