

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLAND PERSPECTIVE

We still recall our first trip to Chicago back in the good old days. We were visiting Jack Domar, and that evening he took us to meet Dr. Kozakiewicz. Doc Kozy, you may recall, was one of the first collectors who started to specialize in Poland #1. The going price at that time was around nine dollars. At that time, even Doc Kozy didn't yet know there was a "blue circle" variety.

Today, Poland #1 is on many want lists and has become a subject of many philatelic studies. The Scott catalog now lists it at \$550 mint and \$200 cancelled. The 1980 Ruch lists it at 12,000 zloty mint and 5,000 zloty cancelled. You can therefore expect to pay up to full Scott for a very fine mint copy and up to full Scott for a very fine used copy. You will have to agree that there has been quite an increase in price since Doc Kozy began his collection. With the increase in value, it has become profitable for the stamp "restorers" to repair damaged copies. Every copy should be examined with a high powered magnifying glass and handled with caution. You might even get lucky and find a copy with

the blue circle, which is actually the oval around the eagle. There are also numerous plate flaws to search for. Prices on good covers are increasing much more. Good copies on clean covers will start at \$500.00 and up.

Poland's first issue of 1918, Scott #11/14, was originally meant to be a Warsaw City local post, and is listed in Ruch as M-III/VI existing as both perf and imperf. 1980 Scott lists #11/14 at \$6.60 mint and \$4.90 used. Ruch lists it at 200 zloty mint and 130 zloty used. Present retail is around \$5.70 mint and \$3.70 used, so prices are getting close to full Scott. Complete sets of 11/14 inverted are quite rare; only the 10 fen is readily found. The 25 fen overprint is also known on the 5 fen, and if our information is correct, only one sheet was known. There is also a printing variety, Po'e'zta occurring on each value in position 12 of the sheet. Other printing flaws also exist. The original issue without overprints is often listed in auction catalogs as #11/14 imperf and has been sold at unrealistic prices. Based on the Ruch catalog valuation at 200 zloty, it should sell for about \$6.00. —Joseph Bieniecki



EXPERTIZATION OF POLISH POSTAGE STAMPS

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Many philatelists have expressed to me a need for a general article dealing with forgeries of Polish stamps. This collecting area is riddled with forgeries, which makes serious collecting of Poland one of the most interesting and challenging areas of philately.

This article is a brief summary of the content of a book of the same title which I am now writing.

Avoiding forgeries

Many philatelic publications on this subject state that the best way to avoid forgeries is to acquire stamps only from reputable sources. I disagree! A "reputable" dealer will not sell a forgery *knowingly*. But since most dealers are not stamp experts, they are able to reject only the most obvious forgeries. Size does not guarantee honesty, as is illustrated by the following example:

Some time ago I sent a successful bid on Poland Scott J11 to one of the largest and best known U.S. auction houses. It proved to be an obvious forgery. I returned the stamp with an explanation and my money was promptly refunded. Nevertheless the next auction catalog offered the same stamp again; undoubtedly it has been purchased by some unsuspecting collector who owns it with pride. Advertisements by large stamp companies appear daily in the *Philatelic Press* offering as genuine Poland material which exists only as forged (e.g. imperforate issues of Zarki, or Scott 78 with an inverted overprint, or full sets of "Laki Szlacheckie" overprints of 1944). It must be stressed that some stamp dealers, particularly those who specialize in a small collecting area, know their wares reasonably well and do their best to protect their customers. European (but not U.S.) stamp auctions also are generally careful to avoid counterfeits.

Another way to avoid forgeries is through experts' signatures on stamps or covers. Most of those expertization marks, though, are meaningless. The marks of well-known experts are very often forged, sometimes in a most deceptive way as illustrated in Fig. 1. Sometimes the reliability of the expert is in question. For example, Krakow issues with the signature "Berest" are often forged; the rubber stamps "Filatelja Krakow" or "Filatelja Lwow" occur on both genuine and forged Polish stamps.

Somewhat more reliable is an authoritative "certificate of authenticity" with photographic identification, but even these exist altered or forged. Fake A.P.S. certificates are often more deceptive than the forgeries which they describe.

The most reliable way to avoid acquiring forgeries is the opinion of a qualified expert each time a stamp or cover changes hands. Such an opinion should not be restricted to a statement that the item is "genuine" or "forged" but should include the evidence on which the opinion is based. For example, in the case of a genuine Krakow issue stamp with typographic overprints, their position in the ap-



Figure 1. Genuine (left) and forged (right) expertization marks of Prof. Mikstein. While most other forgeries of Mikstein's signature deviate from the original this particular forgery cannot be distinguished. It is placed on the reverse of an obvious forgery of J3 (overprint height 9.75 mm!) and thus could not have been imprinted by Prof. Mikstein by mistake. (Compare e.g. with "Polonus Bulletin" 1949, J. Gapinski and F. E. Wolosewicz, p. 73-4).

plicable overprint plate must be given. This may seem difficult, but it is the only way to be reasonably sure that an investment is not being wasted. Considering the high value of some rare items, the cost and inconvenience of expertization are negligible.

Expertization Procedures

The expertization is only as good as the knowledge, skill and experience of the examiner. Regardless of the different wordings stated in certificates of authenticity, what the examiner really does is to check all criteria known to him against those of similar items known to be genuine. In addition he examines possible alterations (e.g. repairs, removed cancellation, regumming, reperforation etc.). This of course requires a thorough familiarity with the material based on experience and knowledge of the literature. Fortunately a voluminous and high quality body of literature exists in the area of Poland philately. Most of the important works, though, are written in Polish and are not easily accessible to most Americans. Some important literature, for example back issues of the "Polonus Philatelic Society Bulletin" and most works of Professor S. Mikstein is also available in English or in German respectively. Trying to develop criteria for expertization without relying on previous work by others is impossible. Beware of "experts" who check stamps "by intuition" or who invent expertization criteria on the spot! As in the sciences, the literature must be studied critically and with a grain of salt; some books and articles contain wrong information (e.g. "Forgeries of Poland Overprint Issues" (in German) by Herman Stallberg). It is up to the student of Polish philately to learn how to separate the wheat from the chaff, but it can be accomplished only through experience and diligent study.

While knowledge is the basis of stamp expertization, it must be supplemented in two ways:

1. Material for comparison

Very few stamps can be expertized without being compared directly with other stamps known to be genuine. For example to successfully expertize stamps of the Krakow issue (Scott 41-60, J1-J12 and P1-P5) sheets (whole or reconstructed) of the typographic overprint forms I and II and at least several large blocks of the lithographic overprint forms are needed. It is also desirable to have sheets or large blocks of the several derivatives of the form II and sheets representing both early and late printings of all forms because the descriptions and illustrations in the literature are as yet insufficient for reliable plating.

2. Instruments and gadgets

- a. A good measuring magnifier which *measures distance with 0.05 mm.* are made by Bausch & Lomb among others.
- b. A "continuous" perforation gauge: a very good one is "Instanta" made by Stanley Gibbons, England (patent 573065).
- c. A transparent circle gauge to measure diameters of circles (e.g. cancellations) where only a part is visible: I do not know of one on the market, and made my own set myself.
- d. An ultraviolet lamp: a must for checking types of inks and papers, as well as for detecting alterations and repairs.
- e. A color chart: the best one is available from the U.S. National Bureau of Standards.
- f. A watermark detector: available from any philatelic supply dealer.
- g. A microscope: it should have magnifications of about 20X and 100X.

In addition, there are sophisticated tools and techniques which are occa-

sionally of great value. Some of these are: soft x-rays, Rutherford backscattered electrons, flicker comparators (borrowed from astronomy), paper thickness gauges, and infrared scanning spectrographs. Most of these are not generally available to stamp experts.

Types of forgeries

Forgeries are privately made imitations of officially issued postage stamps.

Forgeries made to defraud the postal service are of considerable philatelic value and are not a subject of this article. There are many such forgeries in Poland philately, such as of "Scott" numbers: 148, 233, 260, 265, 272 and 1919-1929.

Philatelic forgeries are made to defraud philatelists.

Total forgeries are reproductions of an entire stamp. They are difficult to execute accurately and are therefore often easy to recognize, by differences not only in the design but also in paper type, printing technique, ink, perforation etc. Most were made in large quantities and are plentiful both on the market and in collections.

Partial forgeries are genuine stamps which were altered to significantly enhance their value. These include forged overprints, added or removed perforations, forged or removed cancellations and forged details. These are usually much easier to forge thoroughly and therefore are generally much more difficult to recognize. It is fortunate that forgers rarely are experts and are motivated more by a desire for quick profit rather than by artistic pride. They work with the materials and techniques most easily available to them and therefore often use a wrong printing technique or often overprint the wrong type of a genuine basic stamp. There exists, however, a small number of forgeries which are very well made indeed;

these require all the skill and knowledge of an expert. Very deceptive are often those counterfeits where the forger imitated a specific plating position of an overprinted stamp. Figure 2 shows such (in this case the harmless) example of "Scott" J. 11. Its overprint clearly imitates position 9 or position 100 of the overprint form I of the Krakow issue as is visible from the details in both "A". It is an obvious forgery because J. 11 were never overprinted with the form I. However if the same overprint had been imprinted on another Austrian stamp (e.g. 90 h. regular issue, which were overprinted only with form I), the situation would be more deceptive. Even in that case positive determination that it is a forgery would have been easy because shifts between the lines and details in other letters do not agree here with the genuine position 9 or position 100 of the Form I.

Most dangerous are the instances where an original official overprint form or an overprinting device was used surreptitiously to produce more of the overprinted stamps, sometimes



Figure 2. Forged overprint imitating the position 9 or position 100 of the Krakow issue overprint form I.

using even the original type of ink. Such stamps are forgeries (not reprints!) but many cannot be distinguished from genuinely overprinted stamps. In the case of Poland there are a few instances of these forgeries. These are ("Scott" numbers): 15-26, 30-40 (overprint form VII, without the bottom line which changes the denomination), Central Lithuania 13-22 (only 4 Mk. and 10 Mk. overprints), Upper Silesia 0.1-0.31. Of these consistencies only the Lublin issue (No. 30-40) were made using original ink. While many of these stamps cannot ever be positively confirmed as being genuine or forgeries, most genuinely used stamps can be expertised, but their expertization is difficult indeed. The bottom half of the Krakow issue overprint Form I was abused to create forgeries but here the changes caused by reassembly (Form V) make expertization easy.

Genuine stamps on forged covers and all stampless covers are usually difficult subjects of expertization. They are not mass forged but are custom made, and must be dealt with on an individual basis. One must seek inconsistencies and anachronisms which are often difficult to recognize although some are obvious (e.g. an 19th century cover addressed with a ball point pen!)

A thorough knowledge of cancellations is needed in expertizing covers. This is a difficult area because an enormous number of cancellation varieties exists. While it is probably hopeless to have a complete reference collection of cancellations needed for expertization, the descriptions and illustrations in the literature are excellent and sufficiently detailed. A quite thorough job was accomplished in this area by pioneers of Poland's philately. Examples are: A. Myslicki: Catalogue of Polish Commemorative Cancellations

"Ruch" Warsaw 1975 (in Polish), Edwin Mueller: Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria, Collectors' Club Handbook New York 1960, Steinbach: Galicja Cancellations, Filatelista 1958 p. 129 (in Polish), S. Mikstein: Postal Seals in Polish Lands in the 18th Century, "Ikaros" 1936 (in Polish).

The golden age for the forgers of Polish stamps began toward the end of World War I and lasted until the mid 1920's. The demand for the contemporary issues of Poland was very strong particularly in Germany. The originals of the "back of the book" issues such as local overprints, city mails and military mails were very scarce. Little was known about them, making expertization uncertain. Forgers went to work enthusiastically, producing countless fakes, often very soon after the original stamps were issued. They advertised their wares widely in the contemporary philatelic journals, with the result that these forgeries became distributed worldwide. Even though most are easy to recognize they are still with us, and appear to remain on the market for the foreseeable future, thanks to the gullibility of stamp dealers and collectors. This invalidates the perennial argument of disappointed collectors: "but this stamp *must* be genuine, because it is from grandfather's collection which he assembled in the early 1920's".

The end of World War II produced a second but lesser boom in the forgeries of Polish stamps. Again it was caused by high demand for rare material. The echoes of this boom are still with us. Among other World War II issues, the Polish Officers' P.O.W. Camp stamps were forged, crudely at first but with increasing refinement. For example, the early primitive fakes of the stamps issued in Camp Mur-

now were recently improved to the point where their identification often poses serious problems.

In addition to forgeries there exist privately made stamps which do not imitate any officially issued stamps. They are referred to as "fantasy issues". Figure 3 shows two examples.



Figure 3. Examples of "fantasy" Polish stamps: "pro Juventute" of 1921 and "Polska Poczta/Olkusz" overprint on an Austrian occupational stamp.

Checking for forgeries yourself

These descriptions of detecting forgeries may sound discouraging to many collectors but were not meant to be. Ensuring that stamps are genuine is indeed often a very difficult procedure. On the other hand, rejecting the common fakes is easy and can be done by everyone who knows what to look for. Most purists advise against describing forgeries, and advocate accurately describing only genuine stamps. However, by knowing the characteristics of commonly occurring forgeries, it is easy to detect about 95% of them without the help of an expert.

To assist the collector in doing so,

I have prepared the following table. The numbers are restricted to those from "Scott". Stamps which are not mentioned are rarely or never found to be forged. Characteristics of some common forgeries are described or illustrated in this table. Keep in mind that satisfying the criteria of authenticity described in this table is necessary for a stamp to be genuine but it is not sufficient.

This table does not include Polish stamps unlisted by "Scott": city mail issues, locally made nationalizing overprints, semi official air mail stamps, POW issues, local postage dues, military mail issues, postal stationery and other similar Poland material. Almost all those stamps have been forged at one time or another, and forgeries both in collections and on the market outnumber genuine material. Both common and dangerous counterfeits of these issues are plentiful.

Unusual stamps of all issues such as errors, proofs, and essays as well as all stamps unlisted in catalogs should be suspected of being total or partial forgeries and should always be expertized.

In conclusion it should be emphasized that almost all Polish postage stamps and covers can be successfully expertized and positively authenticated.

Comments on Forgeries

Scott No. 1—Forgeries exist but are very rare. However beware of altered, repaired and otherwise "doctored" stamps.

Scott Nos. 11-14—Overprints on imperforate stamps are forged.

Scott Nos. 15-26—Well made forgeries exist. In addition 21a is most often misidentified because misleading color shades of 21 exist.

Scott Nos. 27-29—In addition to well made fakes all typographic overprints are forgeries; all genuine overprints are printed lithograph-



Eagle from a genuine overprint. Varieties exist due to the (lithographic) printing technique.

Eagle from a forgery. Numerous varieties exist.

Figure T. 1. 30-40 (2nd Lublin issue).

ically.

Scott Nos. 30-40—The same applies as for 27-29. Often the design of the forged eagle differs. See Fig. T. 1. The outside diameter of the circle surrounding the eagle should measure 11.4 mm; it varies in forgeries. Scott Nos. 41-60—Forgeries range from excellent to most primitive. Typographic overprints: on genuine overprints the overprint height (with the exception of several positions in Form IIB (No. 58, 59, J11 and part of 51) should be close to 9.25 mm. Lithographic overprints: no simple characteristics can be given.

Scott Nos. 67-71—Several kinds of fakes exist. In the most common type the dots marking the place for separation between stamps are large and pronounced. In some other forgeries the width of the stamp differs from 21.7-21.8 mm.

Scott Nos. 77-78—Very difficult stamps. Forgeries, some very deceiving and some easy to recognize are plentiful. 77 with lithographic overprint and 78 with typographic overprint are obvious forgeries. No.

78 with inverted overprints are forgeries.

Scott No. 213—In forgeries the distance from the left frame to the first "M" measures 2.8 mm. (should be 2.3 mm.)

Scott No. 214—Two types of forgeries known. I - length of "MK 2.000.000 MK" measures 24.5 mm. (should be 23.5 mm). II - height of "P" in "Pocztą" - 1.6 mm. (should be 1.9 mm).

Scott No. 251—Originals are engraved (intaglio printing); fakes are printed typographically.

Scott Nos. 280-281—Some forgeries have irregular printing with overprint height less than 10.1-10.2 mm as it is the case in originals. Other forgeries are very well made.

Scott Nos. 306-307—In most forgeries the "1" of the "1936" is below the period after "30". Improved forgeries also exist.

Scott Nos. 341-343—Several types of forgeries abound. In some forgeries the orientation of the "grid" of the design is 67 degrees while in genuine stamps it is 45 degrees.

Scott No. 346a—A very difficult

stamp, always needs sophisticated expertization.

Scott Nos. 347-356—Some forgeries are overprinted in greenish blue ink, all genuine in blue.

Scott Nos. 362-364—The same applies as for 341-343.

"Groszy" overprints—A difficult collecting area. Forgeries are not often seen but are generally deceptive.

Scott No. 829—Souvenir sheets on white paper have been chemically altered.

Scott No. 958—Forged Souvenir Sheet (blackprint) is printed lithographically, originals are engraved.

Scott Nos. B11-B14—Genuine stamps are always perforated 9.

Scott No. B54—Dangerous forgeries exist, sometimes on original covers.

Scott Nos. C1-C9—In forgeries often the right inner frame line is interrupted or missing, the loop of the ribbon with "LOTNICZA" is filled. See Fig. T. 2.



Figure T. 2. C1-C9.

Scott Nos. C19-C20—In many forgeries the diagonal line in both "L" joins the vertical line in the middle, in genuine overprints at the base.

Scott No. 34—Intaglio printed forgeries of the blue imperforate souvenir sheet can be recognized by details in engraving as illustrated in Fig. T. 3.

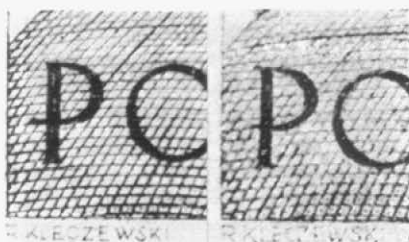


Figure T. 3. C 34 (blue, imperforate souvenir sheet).

Genuine stamp: the base of "P" is between two horizontal background lines

Forgery: The base of "P" touches a horizontal background line.

Scott Nos. J1-J12—Same as 41-60.

Scott Nos. J13-J34—Genuine are perforated 11½, fakes, 11.

Scott Nos. J35-J39—Most forgeries have glossy overprints; all genuine overprints appear dull.

Scott Nos. P1-P5—Same as 41-60.

Scott Nos. N30-N55—Very well made forgeries exist (difficult to expertize).

Scott Nos. 1K1-1K32—Numerous types of forgeries exist. Lithographic overprints are forged.

Scott Nos. 2K1-2K12—Genuine 1st edition overprints show bright yellow fluorescent edges under ultra-violet thus only forgeries of the 2nd edition ("reprints") are of concern.

Scott Nos. 2K13-2K19—See Fig. T. 4.

In addition overprints in black ink are forgeries (genuine are brown). Central Lithuania 13-22—Difficult stamps to expertize. Numerous for-



genuine



forgery

overprint on: 1, 2, 3, and 4 Mk.



genuine



forgery

overprint on 6, 10, and 20 Mk.

Figure T. 4. 2 K 13 - 2 K 19.

geries exist many with forged expertization marks.

Upper Silesia 10-13—Forged overprints exist but are difficult to expertize.

Scott Nos. 32-37—Different forgeries exist. Some can be recognized by the details in "9" (see note in "Michel" Germany Specialized). Forged red overprints are often fluorescent under U.V. while genuine appear dark violet.

Scott Nos. 01-031—Very difficult stamps. Forgeries are plentiful. A note in "Michel" Germany Specialized describes how to distinguish "reprints."

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As you can see by the xerox copies, both souvenir sheets are identical, except that Jankowski could not take the space flight with a Russian, however Moraczewski has.

—Submitted by Eugene Dreger

COLLECTING POLAND TODAY

By JAMES MAZEPA

Several years ago at a *POLPEX* Exhibition I was admiring a display of Poland postal history put up by one of our members. Along with me was an "old-timer" and we were commenting on the exhibit. After some time, we noted all the pros and cons of the collection, the scarcity of some of the covers, and what we thought could be added to improve the exhibit. Finally, he said, "It's nice, but it's not like the collections we used to have. You just don't see those kind any more."

His comments have remained with me since then, for certainly, we all hope to have a reasonable collection with some degree of completeness. But the more I thought about it, I found a bit of truth in his statement. It is impossible to duplicate the great collections of the past. We may never see collections to the depth and breadth of those belonging to the great old-time philatelists. And this is as one would expect. The philatelic times have changed, just as the rest of the world has changed. There are more collectors making demands on material that was limited to begin with. For example, there were 1300 of the 90 heller Krakow issue, of which probably 800-900 exist today. Even if everyone who collects Poland wanted one copy, there would not be enough to go around. Secondly, much of the material has increased in price faster than inflation and our incomes, thus placing it beyond our means. Good stamps and covers are valued now not only by philatelists but also by investors, and this has contributed to the dramatic increases over the last several years.

Does all this mean it is impossible to have an excellent collection of Poland today? I don't think so. I believe that a key factor is to remember that

great collections are formed over the years with great amounts of searching, patience, and perseverance. Here are some thoughts on how to go about this:

1) **GET ORGANIZED.** Keep your philatelic material in order. There are several preprinted albums which can help us including Scott, Minkus, and K-Line. Blank pages are available for extras or covers. Other stamps should be classified and kept on stock pages or glassines. There can be nothing so dismaying as a shoe box full of stamps, and nothing so pleasing as leafing through your albums to view your "treasures."

2) **GET A CATALOG.** Fortunately, there is the Ruch Polish Catalog, which is very inexpensive and includes all the information you will probably need. It can be easily used, even if one doesn't read Polish. If it is not feasible to buy a Scott catalog, borrow one from your local library and xerox the pages for Poland (one copy for personal use does not violate copyright laws). If one is more advanced, he might want to look into the German Michel catalog.

3) **BE REALISTIC AND COLLECT WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD.** Few can begin to collect numeral cancels on #1, so set your limits. This may mean mint post-war and used pre-war, or some other combination.

4) **BEGIN A SPECIALTY COLLECTION.** This will be in addition to your general collection and will be in an area of special interest to you. There are many possibilities (as discussed further), but the idea is to find something that YOU like and would want to know more about.

5) **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT POSTAL HISTORY.** Often we think of Postal History as the "old stuff." What is forgotten is the development

of the post in the first part of this century, and even in the post-war period. This material will be the treasures of the future, yet so little is being saved today.

6) **DON'T FORGET THEMATICS.** Poland especially lends itself to collecting thematics, both because of the stamps it has issued with popular topical themes, and because of the potential of other themes such as *Polonia*.

7) **GET TO KNOW A DEALER AND STICK WITH HIM.** Philatelically, he will be the best friend you have once he knows your interests. If he is working to find material for you, don't complain about the price. In the long run, you will come out ahead.

8) **GIVE YOURSELF A STAMP BUDGET.** This will help you stay within your means and help keep your marriage together.

9) **BUY THE MOST EXPENSIVE STAMP YOU CAN WITH THE MONEY YOU HAVE.** If you have \$5.00, buy a \$5.00 stamp; if \$25.00, buy a \$25.00 item. Expensive stamps only get more expensive; cheap stamps usually stay the same.

10) **IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN SOMETHING BEFORE, AND YOU CAN AFFORD IT, BUY IT.** And do so even if the price seems high. There is a reason you have not seen it, and you may never see it again. Pride of ownership will always offset the pain of the price—after the first few days!

11) **COMPLETE PREWAR POLAND.** Prices, especially in Europe, are climbing rapidly. These are, for the most part, still available here and will be really scarce items in the future.

12) **ATTEND PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS AND MEETINGS.** You will meet some very nice people, and maybe even find someone who collects your interest.

13) **SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND INTERESTS.** Always bring one

cover or stamp to a meeting to show others.

14) **SUBSCRIBE TO A NATIONAL PHILATELIC PUBLICATION.** There is much contained within the pages of *Linn's*, *Stamps*, and *Stamp Collector*, to suggest just a few. Eventually, something of interest will be found, and it will be well worth the price of subscription.

15) **TRY YOUR HAND AT AN AUCTION.** If you have never done this before, ask a friend who has. It is a lot easier than you might think.

16) **DO SOMETHING NEW.** You can get more out of your hobby if you try your hand at something new. Perhaps writing an article, exhibiting, or getting on the organizing committee of the next show will add that extra spark. There are others who will gladly help you get started if you are unsure of what to do.

17) **COLLECT FOR FUN AND ENJOYMENT, NOT FOR PROFIT.** If one buys wisely and carefully, money will not be lost, but nor should it be the motive for what we buy, unless we are strictly investors.

18) **FINALLY, OUR COLLECTING SHOULD PREVENT HEART ATTACKS, NOT CAUSE THEM.** It should also enhance our family lives, not disrupt them. It is okay to re-evaluate what we are doing from time to time and to see how it affects our lives and the lives of those around us.

These are some ideas of how to begin or how to continue to build an excellent collection. If you have any other ideas, jot them down and send them in. Others would like to hear from you!

NEW MEMBERS

Ron Kwiatkowski
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Henry Wasielewski
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POLPEX 81

Plans are being made for the 1981 exhibition POLPEX '81 to be held at SWAP Post 90 Veterans Building, in Chicago on March 28-29. From the various themes submitted by members that of "Sports On Stamps" was selected at the last board meeting. Artist Leon Kawecki of California is working on designs of the cachet for covers of the show. Fred Szebel is in contact with Medallie Arts of Danbury, Conn. regarding the striking of special award medals. The Polish American Numismatic Association will again take part with coin and medal exhibits.

Polonus participated at the Polish American Community Fair held October 5 in Calumet City, Illinois. A 16 frame stamp exhibit was shown. A US postal station was on the premises, using a special postmark to cancel mail. Polonus members distributed past Polpex souvenir sheets, of which we have an excess supply, free of charge to those attending.

Al and Fran Rybarski report that souvenir cards and covers from our last POLPEX 80 with the Pope John Paul II theme are rapidly selling out. This will be the first time Polpex material ever went so fast.

The October 29th meeting included

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

— Annual Dues are \$7.50 —

a talk by John Moohr of the Roosevelt Philatelic Society. Mr. Moohr gave an excellent presentation on how to mount pages for exhibition purposes. His talk lasted an hour and 15 minutes and it was filled with many humorous injections. The November 28th meeting has another good speaker scheduled: "Bud" Hennig, whose topic is judging at philatelic exhibitions.

NEW BULLETIN AD PRICES

As of the Board Meeting of July 11, 1980, prices for ads in the *Polonus Bulletin* have been increased to:

\$50.00 for a full page

\$30.00 for a half page

\$20.00 for a quarter page

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