

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue #81

January 1950

MR. MULLER IS AT IT AGAIN

(translated from PRZEGLAD FILATELISTYCZNY of 10/31/49)

The older generation of our collectors undoubtedly remember the pamphlet written by Joseph Muller, titled, "The Thirteen Years of Fight for Honor, a Revealing Brochure in the Matter of the Polish Postage Stamps of the Krakow Issue," issued in Bielsk in 1934, and a final one issued in 1936.

In response to a written request by the aforementioned directed to the delegates of the Second International Meeting of Philatelic Clubs of Poland, to form a committee which would investigate the question of the genuineness of the Krakow Issue stamps held and sold by him, the Body appointed a committee which consisted of Messrs St. Krzyzanowski, A. Laszkiewicz and J. Tislowitz.

The Committee investigated among other things the question: "Is it true that the questioned stamps of J. Muller, coming from a separate reprint are genuine?" (Answer of Committee: "No.") "Are statements of Prof. Mikstein as to genuineness of the Krakow Issue stamps based on sufficient foundation and are they well established?" (Answer: "Yes") and there follows fundamental proof (See Ikaros Nr. 43/6 November, 1934.)

It should be noted that Mr. Muller in his pamphlet defended these Krakow Issue stamps which he advertised and sold, stamps which he together with M. Beresta manufactured with the aid of the original forms or settings of the overprints (these are

The ending of the matter was the decision of the Appellate Court at Katowice which affirmed the finding of guilty and the sentence of five

months imprisonment of Joseph Muller for criminal libel against Messrs. Laszkiewicz, Rachmanov, and Tislowitz, which libel "could reduce and result in the loss of reputation (confidence) which is necessary in professional rank and activity" (see Ikaros No. 90/91, June 1939).

It was assumed that with the death of Joseph Muller this matter of his products would also die a natural death.

There is however a rebirth. There remains an heir—Marian Muller.

A Mr. I. M. from the U. S. A. advises that the aforementioned is sending to American collectors of Polish stamps his father's pamphlets with an additional typed card:

"Philatelists in the country and abroad: With regard to obtaining Krakow Issue stamps of Poland please get in touch with the son of the deceased Joseph Muller, who died during the German occupation in Poland—at the following address: Marian Muller, Bielsko, Wyspianskiego 35/2, Poland."

A warning is given our countrymen abroad from purchasing any of these stamps which have no philatelic value.

NEW DISCOVERY

We have seen a copy of Scott #407, the Chopin 3 zl. green stamp, with a filled "A" in the word POLSKA at the bottom right corner of the stamp.

Prospective member Dr. H. Fenigstein of Toronto, Canada, is a 36 year old M. D., formerly of the Dachau concentration camp.

Unmasking A Polish Rarity of the 1860-1865 Era

by W. Rachmanow

In 1930 during the "IPOSTA" International Philatelic Exhibit in Berlin an auction was held by two reputable Philatelic Firms of H. Kohler and E. Stock. During the auction among other things a cover of the period 1860 to 1865 (without date) from Warsaw to Bialystok, franked with a cut out from an envelope of the 10 kop. of the Kingdom of Poland instead of the usual stamp, was put up for sale.

Because this type of franking was not permitted and the existing Postal regulations specifically prohibited this practice, such a specimen could only exist through the oversight of the Postal personnel and was in its kind unique since no other such specimen was known.

Being present in Berlin at the auction I tried to obtain this letter and made bids for it but the owner was present and kept constantly raising my bids until the price reached 600 marks, when I stopped bidding and the letter went back to its owner. After the auction the owner of the letter proposed to sell it to me for 1,000 marks but I refused the proposition, as in my opinion the price was too high.

Now, after almost 20 years, one of the local firms asked me to expertize a Polish cover and much to my amazement the owner of the firm showed me the same cover which I tried to obtain in Berlin. This cover was sent from Switzerland for a sale at one of the local auctions.

At the time in Berlin having had much confidence in the two owners of the firms which arranged the auction I made merely a cursory examination of the specimen, but now being about to deliver a definite expert opinion, I started to examine in detail this "unique piece" with the help of a quartz lamp. Great was my consternation when the rays of the quartz lamp disclosed that I am dealing with a clever falsification. Though the rings of the bulls eye number cancellation of Warsaw were exactly fitted and there was no variance in color, on the inside of the letter in the light of the lamp there was a clear impression of traces of glue from a removed stamp under the present pasted-on cut out. The counterfeiter having unglued the stamp



could not remove the stain and traces of glue of the original stamp which had soaked into the paper of the letter. The lamp disclosed clearly what to the naked eye was not visible, namely that under the cut out there appeared a darker rectangle, the actual size of a postage stamp.

In view of these findings the specimen took a ride back to Switzerland with an appropriate expert opinion; Polish Philately became poorer by one less "Rarity" and I after 20 years have finally quit feeling bad that I did not purchase this letter at the Berlin auction for my personal collection.

Editor's Note: Due to lack of time in having a cut made of the original cover photograph which was submitted with the above article Ye Ed has taken the liberty of inserting a photograph of a similar stamp cut square as the one described in the article itself. However would the reader please imagine a bulls eye cancellation over part of the envelope and part of the stamp perfectly joined together.

LARKING ARTICLES

With this issue of the BULLETIN we begin to reprint the famed Larking articles. By doing so we hope to stimulate collectors to study the Stamps of Poland more thoroughly. We invite any comments, corrections or additions. Should we receive any information not disclosed by Col. Larking, we plan to publish this information in a series of notes.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Member John Waksamanski has been elected by the Precancel Stamp Society as the General Chairman for the National Convention to be held August 3 to 6, 1950.

POLAND

The Postal Issues During and After the Great War
by the late COL. R. N. W. LARKING, C.B.E., F.R.P.S.I.

I. POLAND'S STORY

Before dealing with the postal issues of Poland, it might not be out of place to give a short description and history of this Country. To save duplication I shall omit any historical information which will be embodied in the description of an issue of stamps.

The territory of Poland extends from the Baltic Sea across the continent of Europe almost as far as the Black Sea, and forms the borderland between Western and Eastern Europe. The area at the present day is 155,335 square miles, and the population in 1925 was 30,212,962 inhabitants.

The Polish people sprang from a Slavonic race on the plain between the Baltic and the Carpathian Mountains. Their first historical ruler was Mieszko I (960-992), who embraced the Christian faith in 969. His cautious policy saved Poland from a Germanic conquest. His eldest son, Boleslaus the Brave, succeeded him (992-1025), who, by defeating the Germans, added further territory to his kingdom, notably Silesia.



Boleslaus the Brave and
Emperor Otto III of Germany

On the death of Boleslaus I, his son, Mieszko II became King of Poland (1025-1034). Then followed a series of civil wars and wars with Germany, when territories were lost only to be reconquered, until Casimir the Great came to the throne (1333-1370) and Poland regained her position as a European Power.



King Casimir the Great

In 1341 Red Ruthenia was recovered by the Poles, then in 1386 the marriage of Queen Hedwig (Jadwiga) with the Lithuanian Prince Jagiello effected the union of Poland and Lithuania.



King Jagiello and Queen Hedwig

Reprinted from GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY — Oct. 1929 to Aug. 1932
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The reign of Sigismund I (1506-1546) great grandson of Ladislaus Jagiello, marked an epoch in Polish history. The Prussian Order of Crusaders, who had been a thorn in the side of Poland since 1226, were finally conquered (1525), and the country developed in every way. His son, Sigismund II (1548-1572), the last of the Jagiello dynasty, incorporated the Baltic provinces of Courland and Livonia with Poland (1569).



Sigismund II—the Union of Courland and Livonia with Poland

After the extinction of the Jagiello Dynasty, the Kings of Poland were elected by the nobles. The first king thus elected was the French Prince Henry Valois (1574). He was followed by Stephen Batory (1576-1586) who waged a successful war against Russia, annexing a part of White Russia to Poland.



King Stefan Batory commending a peasant who fought against Russia.

The next elect was a Royal Prince of Sweden, Sigismund III (1587-1632). His reign was marked by a series of wars with Sweden and Russia and

civil disturbances, as were also those of his successors, Ladislaus IV (1632-1648) and John Casimir (1648-1668). During the latter's reign, Poland suffered a great loss of territory through invasion by the Swedes, Russians, Prussians and Transylvanians.

War with Turkey marked the reign of Michael Wisniowiecki (1669-1673) and the ceding of Podolia to Turkey. This war was continued by the next king, John Sobieski (1674-1696), who defeated the Turks. During his reign the Ukraine passed under Russian domination (1676).



King John Sobieski entering Vienna after the victory over the Turks

From now on, the internal situation in Poland went from bad to worse, a period of civil wars ensued, followed by the Treaty of Berlin between Russia, Prussia, and Austria against Poland (1732); Russian influence increased in the country and complete anarchy raged throughout Poland, particularly during the reign of Augustus III (1754-1763).

In 1773, the first Partition of Poland took place, and the country was divided between Russia, Prussia, and Austria. After bitter internal struggles in Poland, Russia again attacked the country and, in spite of the gallant resistance of Kosciuszko and his compatriots, obtained a second Partition between herself and Prussia (1793). Further Polish insurrections followed, the nation struggling to defend its political existence, but these failed, and the third and last Partition of Poland took place (1794). The provinces between the river Bug and Nieman were ceded to Russia, those between the Bug and Pilica to Austria, and the remaining country, including Warsaw, was occupied by Prussia. The final Partition Act provided that the three dividing Powers should never allow

the re-establishment of Polish Independence.

Now followed a long struggle by Poland to regain what she had lost. Polish Legions were formed who allied themselves with the French as part of the Napoleonic army. Napoleon's victory over Prussia and Russia (1806-1807) was followed by the creation of the Duchy of Warsaw as a Constitutional State. The King of Saxony, Frederick Augustus, became the first Duke of Warsaw, and it had its own army under Prince Joseph Poniatowski. Napoleonic victories in Austria (1809) brought back a part of the Austrian territory with Krakow.



Dabrowski, Kosciuszko and Poniatowski

On the fall of Napoleon, all was again lost. The Duchy of Warsaw was ceded to Prussia, and Krakow became a Protectorate under the three Empires. The remaining territories were formed into the so-called Kingdom of Poland, which was united to Russia "for ever" (1815).

The first King of Poland and Emperor of Russia, Alexander I, pursued a liberal policy, which was, however, gradually modified, and the Russian Government of Poland soon became one of reaction and persecution.

After the accession of the Tsar Nicholas I (1828), a Polish insurrection against Russia broke out. The campaign lasted from November 1830 to September 1831, ending with the siege of Warsaw by the Russians and the surrender of the capital to them. As a revenge for this insurrection, the Russian Government repealed the Constitution of the Kingdom, closed down the schools and universities in Warsaw and Wilno, and subjected the Poles to most severe persecution. Other insurrections followed in 1846 and

1848, but were frustrated by Prussia and Austria.



November Insurrection 1830-1831

New hopes arose when Alexander II ascended the Russian throne (1856), but instead of the liberal policy expected, a series of violent reprisals took place, which provoked the long-suffering people to a desperate effort to regain their independence.

A national insurrection against Russia broke out in 1863, which was soon quelled, and a regime of utter violence against the Poles was enforced. Their language was banned, Poles in Government offices were dismissed, the Catholic Church was persecuted, and the schools were ruthlessly Russified. At the same time the Prussian Government followed the same policy as Russia, and Bismarck imposed the most severe restrictions on the people. Only under the Austrian rule were liberties granted.



Insurrection of 1863 against Russia

The year 1913 saw the creation of the "Temporary Commission," representing all Polish secret military organizations, in preparation for the struggle for independence.

The outbreak of the Great War (1914) brought matters to a head. The support of a small Polish army, the so-called Polish Legions, under the leadership of Joseph Pilsudski, was eagerly sought after by both the Central Powers and Russia, both offering many tempting concessions. Finally the Central Powers, by offering Poland complete independence, won the day, and the Polish Legions were placed under their command. But a policy of requisitions and sequestrations enforced by the German Authorities greatly impoverished the country, and this, coupled with the continuous German failures on the Western front, led to dissatisfaction and disappointment in the ranks of the Polish Legions.

In July 1917, the Legions refused to take oath of fidelity to the Central powers, and Pilsudski was arrested.

In the meanwhile, the French Government issued a decree concerning the formation of a Polish army in France (June 1917) under the command of General Joseph Haller. A very considerable number of recruits were obtained from among the prisoners of war held by the Allies. Polish representatives visited the various prisoners of war camps and picked out their Nationals who had been forced to join the enemy forces on the outbreak of war.

In September of the same year, Austria and Germany issued a proclamation establishing the Council of Regency for the Kingdom of Poland. In October the Allied Governments officially recognized the Polish National Committee in Paris, and in January 1918, they issued a declaration in favor of an independent and united Poland.

In February 1918, General Haller's brigade broke through the German lines into Russia and occupied Minsk. In May he defeated the Germans of Kaniow, and in October occupied Krakow.

November 4th saw Austrian Poland freed of Austrian troops.

The Armistice of November 11, 1918, still saw Poland struggling for her territory. In this same month the Ruthenians were driven out of Lwow (Lemberg); and in December, the Germans troops and authorities from Poznan.

In January 1919, Polish troops defeated the Ukrainians at Lwow and the Czechs at Teschen, Silesia.



Jozef Pilsudski, Commander of the Polish Legions at the time of the Armistice Nov. 11, 1918

In February the British, French, and Italian Governments recognized the independence and Sovereignty of the Republic of Poland.

In the meanwhile Polish offensives against the Ukrainians and Soviet Russia still continued, and it was not until March 1921 that peace came to Poland, and not until February 3, 1923 that her frontiers were finally delineated.

II. STAMPS OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

In the early stages of the Great War, as various districts in Poland were entered and occupied by the German Army, all post offices in the occupied areas came under German control. Since it became necessary to study the needs of the civil population in regard to their correspondence, some method of franking letters had to be found. In some of the smaller and outlying districts the German Authorities had special labels printed locally or had recourse to a rubber stamp, but in the larger and more important districts, current German stamps were brought into use, these stamps having been previously overprinted at the Imperial Printing Works, Berlin, for the special area in which they were to be used.

**Russisch
Polen**

The first set of German stamps to be so used consisted of the five values, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 40 pfg., overprinted "Russisch Polen" in two lines in black Gothic type.

(to be continued)

Thaddeus Andrew Bonaventure Kosciuszko

by J. P. Rux

(continued from previous month)



In October, 1794, Kosciuszko again attempted to liberate Poland but after being wounded was captured. By 1795 came the third Polish partition and the country's disappearance as an autonomy until 1918.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko spent the remainder of his life in England and France. He died October 15, 1817 (age 71) from a fall from his horse and his remains were placed by the Russian Czar, Alexander, at Cracow. Until death he spent his energies in a vain endeavor to persuade the Russian rulers to grant a constitution to the Polish people.

During 1933, Congressman Chas. A. Wolverton of Camden, New Jersey, introduced a bill in Congress for issue of a stamp to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the naturalization of Brig. General Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

Congressman Wolverton's bill was passed and Catalog No. 734, five-cent stamp was authorized and issued. It was sold first on October 13, 1933, at Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Buffalo, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Kosciuszko and on October 14, 1933 at Washington and other Post Offices soon thereafter.

The stamp, blue in color, depicts the statue of Kosciuszko by Anton Popiel. The statue stands in LaFayette Park, Washington, D. C. It appears at the right of the stamp, the lettering is at the left, and a single numeral is shown in the lower left corner. The supply was rather limited being about 41,-429,200.

Almost all will agree that Thaddeus Kosciuszko because of his deeds was just as deserving as others of being so honored. It is also agreed that Kosciuszko was: generous, and charitable, wholeheartedly devoted to liberal ideals, of excellent character, unselfish,

and brave; he was a good private citizen, patriot, statesman, originator, proficient military engineer, warrior, and truly a real hero.

The stamps issued in memory of Kosciuszko will be found to be a worthwhile study of value from the point of his life, United States History of the Revolution, and the patriots country, Poland, during the days of its three partitions.

NEW MEMBERS

- Chester Kosiek #395
3521 S. Wood St.
Chicago 9, Ill.
- Robert J. Warpinski #396
Route #2
Green Bay, Wisc.
- Roman W. Siwe #397
1819 N. Linder Ave.
Chicago 39, Ill.
- John Ogradny #398
3119 W. Pershing Rd.
Chicago 32, Ill.
- Rev. Antoni Buchcik #399
Techy, Ill.
- John T. Patalon #400
789 Sycamore St.
Buffalo 12, N. Y.
- Ludwik Zurawicz #401
321 Bunker Hill Ave.
Los Angeles 13, Calif.
- Rev. Dennis Blizniak #402
71 Maple St.
Holyoke, Mass.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Dr. H. Fenigstein
224 Robert St.
Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada
- Thomas Tenczar
1961 Wilmet Ave.
Chicago 47, Illinois
- John M. Snyder
37 Temple Avenue
Winthrop 52, Mass.
- Joseph Lewandowski
75 Ashley St.
Buffalo 12, N. Y.

RESIGNED

- Dr. A. Rackus

At the last two meetings, Beebas were again held. Hot dogs were furnished by Jack Domar, fish by Larry Zieler, cheese and vegetables by John Wendt, and beer by Doc Kozy.

NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar



On the occasion of the Union of the Peasant Parties in Poland November 27, 1949, a 15 zl. green was issued. It shows a worker holding a staff with a large gear and a tractor in the background. The design is by L. Dabrowski and K. Piotrowski, and the engraving by S. Lukaszewski. A previous design by R. Kleczewski—showing a laborer in working clothes shaking hands with a peasant in a historical (Plast epoch) costume, on a background of a tractor and some sheaves of corn—was rejected.

The "Men of the Year" series has also been released. They are a Mickiewicz—10 zl., violet; Chopin—15 zl., reddish-brown; and Slowacki—35 zl., blue.

The project to honor the Polish-Soviet Friendship, the one with Mickiewicz and Pushkin is not yet decided upon.

Nothing is known about the stamp to honor the Czechoslovak composer B. Smetana, whose 125th birth anniversary happened in 1949. Rumors were that a stamp confirming the Polish-Czechoslovak Friendship was to appear.

PRZEGLAD FILATELISTYCZNY

1950 SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITS IN THE CHICAGO AREA

Hobby Show at Navy Pier in Conjunction with the Chicago Tribune—Feb. 10-19 incl.

North Shore Philatelic Society at Edgewater Beach Hotel—Feb. 24, 25 & 26.

Beverly Hills Philatelic Society at Ridge Field House—Feb. 24, 25 & 26.

Polonus Philatelic Society at Falcons Hall—March 3 to 5.

Ogden Hill Stamp Club at Ogden Park Field House—March 18 & 19.

81-4

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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John Wendt

Myron Steczynski

Lithuanian Philatelic Society at Gage
Park Field House—April 1 & 2.

J. P. RUX
Scheduling Service

Stamps for the Wounded



Let's do a little for those who did a lot. Any duplicates, unwanted albums, literature, supplies, would be greatly appreciated. Chicago members please bring material to meetings. Out of town members please send material to Barney Fialowski, 2633 N. Emmett St., Chicago 47, Ill.

At the recent C. P. S. Show Lester Jankowski took a first award with his Austrian Precanceled Newspaper Tax Stamps and Newspaper Wrappers. John Wendt took a third award with his Ireland. Richard Estka came thru with a first award with his Central Lithuania.

MEMBERS MART

Poland Roosevelts—single set \$1.25, souvenir sheet \$2.50.

General Government complete mint or used, 168 values \$8.00.

What else do you need?

Joseph Bieniecki, 2140 Iowa Street, Granite City, Ill., U. S. A.