

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Fri. at Jan Beyzym Memorial House, 6965 Belmont, Chicago

Issue No. 318

Price 40c

January, 1974

WITOS MEDALLION AWARDS AT POLPEX 74

Cold temperatures and record breaking snows has not slowed down the Polonus Philatelic Society as it prepares for its annual philatelic exhibition POLPEX 74 on March 9-10 at Saint James Auditorium, Mango and



Fullerton, Chicago. Polonus has been running its exhibition almost continuously since 1940, and these shows have proven to be exceptionally popular with Chicago and Midwestern collectors. With frequent international exhibitors each POLPEX has featured exceptional material, especially in the Polish area.

POLPEX 74 honors the 100th anniversary of Wincenty Witos, founder of the Polish Peasant Party and thrice premier of Poland in the early 1920's. The ex-

hibition is the first of several celebrations to be held honoring this patriot and statesman in 1974.

Awards, including special Witos commemorative medallions, will be presented to winning exhibitors at the Beeba on Saturday, March 9, 1974.

Entries Chairman Stefan Czarniecki, 1511 So. 59th Ave., Cicero, Ill. 60650 reports that entries are coming in and those interested in exhibiting should contact him at once.

Continuing its policy of special souvenir sheets for each POLPEX Polonus will again issue a special set. In addition to the sheets there will be cacheted covers and labels.

A 20 dealer Bourse will be at the show to serve the collector in filling his philatelic needs. The U.S. Postal Service will operate a sub-station offering current U.S. issues at face value and a special commemorative cancellation for mail and collectors.

POLPEX 74 Co-Chairmen Messrs. Joseph Migala and Walenty Poniecki remind collectors to mark their calendars for March 9 and 10, 1974 as the dates for this show.

—T. J. Gobby

NEW ADMINISTRATION

Newly elected Polonus officers for 1974 are:

Chester A. Schafer....President
Alfred Szebel.....Vice President
Thomas J. Gobby.....Secretary
Al Rybarski.....Treasurer
Librarian.....John D. Bartczak
Stanley Dobrzycki.....Director
Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz...Director
Walenty Poniecki.....Director
J. P. Rux.....Director
Roman H. Strzelecki .. Director

ITALIAN COPERNICUS CANCEL

A special "Copernicus" cancellation was used in *Legnago* (Italy) from Nov. 24 to Dec. 2, 1973 during a philatelic Exhibition in which the best Polish Copernicus collections coming from "POLSKA 73" in Poznan were exhibited. Two "Copernicus" cachets were also issued during a Thematic Exhibition in *Noale* (Italy), Nov. 5-7, 1973. Both the Legnago and Noale cards can be obtained thru our Italian member Nino Barberis, Viale Famagosta 24 — 20142 Milano, Italy, for one dollar, postage included.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Polonus Philatelic Society
Mr. Chester Schafer, Pres.

The Stamps for the Wounded Program wants to thank all the Members of Polonus for the wonderful response at the Stamps For The Wounded Nite held December 14th. We did receive quite a generous amount of very nice used and mint foreign stamps plus cash donations.

God bless you all and a Most Happy New Year!

Stamps for The Wounded
John Bor,
Regional Director
J. P. Rux,
Treasurer

PLEWACKI POST ALPEX 799

The Plewacki Post Stamp Society will stage its annual Stamp and Coin Exhibition on April 5, 6 and 7th of 1974.

The exhibition is open to all exhibitors. Request for a copy of the prospectus should be sent to the show chairman: Mr. Leonard Empric, 385 Paderewski Dr. Buffalo, New York 14212.

The exhibition will feature a Bourse of 20 stamp dealers plus 12 coin dealers.

Awards will include: first and second place trophies in each class plus a "Grand Award" for best in the show. There will also be made an award for the best picture post card exhibit.

The exhibit will also feature a U.S. Post Office Exhibition Station, a United Nation Postal Station as well as a Canadian Post Office Station. More information regarding these postal systems and their special cancellations will be released at a later date.

COPERNICANA EXHIBIT IN WEST GERMANY

Through the efforts of a Polish journalists syndicate in Monachium, West Germany a philatelic exhibition featuring "Copernicus In Philately" was held on October 19-20, 1973 at the Haus der Begegnung. A commemorative Copernicus cancellation was applied on special envelopes and souvenir cards were issued. Official exhibition covers are available at \$1.25 and souvenir cards at 50c postpaid from

Stanisław Szymczewski
8 Munchen 90
PSchKonto: Mü 22612-803
West Germany

If currency is sent please use registered mail.

Planned But Unissued Stamps For Upper Silesia

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG

In late 1918 the Polish Government planned to issue special stamps for the Polish part of Upper Silesia. The graphic artist Gogolewski submitted the design and the printing plant of Kopytowski & Co. in Warsaw made trial dies and printed design, denomination, and color proofs. The Polish Government meanwhile decided that special stamps were not necessary for this area, the planned stamps were never issued. (*)

The rectangular designs exist in three sizes: 17 x 22 mm., 19.8 x 24.7 mm., and 29.7 x 39 mm. The denomination, without specifying currency, appears in each corner. An ornamented square frame surrounds the eagle of the Piasts on a patterned background. In the top part of the frame is the inscription "POCZTA", in its bottom "POLSKA." All are imperforated and ungummed; all are printed typographically.

Numerous Design Variations were printed in several colors:

1. Size 17 x 22 mm.

The denomination numbers "15" are white on solid color circles surrounded by Rosettes in squares. The eagle is without a crown and its background consists of a pattern of Rosettes. This type exists in green on medium paper of three slightly dif-

ferent thicknesses or on a thin white paper, and in different shades of red on thin yellow wood fiber paper, on normal paper, or on very thick enameled paper. (Fig. 1) In addition this



FIG. 1

design appears in brown violet on thin yellowish paper, in violet on thin white paper, in ochre on very thick, vertically laid beige paper (or rather thin cardboard) and in black on medium-thin white paper. The design in red is also printed on thick and on medium white paper with an underprint over the entire paper surface consisting of interlaced yellow circles 4.7 mm. in diameter. (Fig. 2.)



FIG. 2

These proofs were all printed from single dies. The red (with and without underprint), green and dark violet must have also

(*) I have not seen these proofs mentioned anywhere in the literature. The information in this paragraph is taken from a handwritten note by an unknown author. This note was apparently accidentally enclosed with these proofs when I obtained them from England some time ago. Except for those in my collection I have not seen any other similar proofs.

been printed in sheets because blocks of 4 and pairs exist. The horizontal and vertical distances between these stamps are 5.3 mm.

A variation of this design is printed singly in red on a very thick white paper. Here the background of the eagle is formed by a "bead curtain" design; the ornaments surrounding the numbers differ from those in the previous design.

II. Size 19.8 x 24.7 mm.

These are printed only from single dies. Here the eagle wears a crown; its background consists of Rosettes and the numbers are surrounded by circular ornaments. All are printed in negative and in mirror image in red ink on yellowish paper and in violet on thick white paper. The denominations are different in each corner: NW-10, NE-5, SW-40, & SE-20. (Fig. 3).



FIG. 3

III. Size 29.7 x 39 mm.

All proofs are in several shades of red and are printed only from single dies.

TYPE I.

The design resembles that of the 17 x 22 mm. size but the background of the crownless eagle consists of interlaced circles instead of Rosettes. The denomination is "15". These proofs are on rough, yellowish-medium paper or on enameled thick white paper. (Fig. 4.)



FIG. 4

TYPE II.

Denomination proof die: The numbers are white on solid color surrounded by circularly shaped ornaments. The numbers are different in each corner: NW-5, NE-10, SW-20, SE-40. The eagle is crowned, the paper is grayish-yellow & thick (Fig. 5).



FIG. 5

Besides these proofs, two pieces of printer's waste show printings from several single dies on both sides of each piece. One piece is printed in red, the other in violet.

Kingdom of Poland Arrival Time Markings

BY MIROSLAW A. BOJANOWICZ, R.D.P.

Reprinted from POSTAL HISTORY INTERNATIONAL

Despite the fact that the philately and postal history of the Kingdom of Poland has been the subject of intensive study for many years, there is still a great deal to be discovered, classified and set down in print. Recently, for example, while examining a number of covers relating to the period of Poland No. 1 (1860-65) I realized that there was more to the arrival time markings than had previously been considered.

These markings have long been known and recorded, but so far as I am aware, no attempt has been made to devote serious study to these marks as such. As a result the standard hand-book of Polish philately and postal history (Polskie Znaki Pocztowe Vol. I) makes a reference to the arrival time markings, but in light of my recent examination of these covers, I find that the information hitherto published on this subject is insufficient.

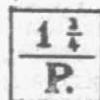
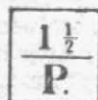
Surprisingly, no-one appears to have conducted any research into the actual mechanics of mail delivery in Poland in the mid-nineteenth century. Thus we are unable to state whether letters (in the larger town at any rate) were delivered to the houses of the recipient, or whether the people had to go to the post office to inquire for letters. In either event it was obviously a useful safeguard to the post office to record the actual hour of the arrival of a letter so that the recipient could note for himself how long the letter had been in transit.

This system of marking the time of arrival on incoming letters seems to have been established in or before 1847, since examples of such marks have been noted on dated entries of that year onwards. These marks were usually struck in red (a few are known in black) on the back flap of the letter. Square marks with a horizontal dividing line were used to denote the hour of arrival in the afternoon; the letter P (Południe=afternoon) appeared in the lower half and numerals, indicating the hour, appeared in the upper half. A curious feature of the earliest marks is the odd fractions— $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{3}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{4}$, $6\frac{3}{4}$ and $12\frac{3}{4}$ —which are expressed. Indeed "round figures" do not appear until much later. It is perhaps significant that, prior to the inauguration of the railway line in 1861/62 the mails came to Warsaw by mail-coach and the horses tended to arrive at odd hours! These numerals, in conjunction with the letter P, would of course correspond to 13.30, 13.45, 14.45 and 18.45. $12\frac{3}{4}$ P would have indicated 12.45.

The "P" markings can be divided broadly into three groups chronologically and the dimensions and other characteristics follow a certain pattern.

A. Small (12 X 12 mm.), times include fractions, stop after P

$1\frac{1}{2}$ (1848), $1\frac{1}{2}$ (), $1\frac{3}{4}$ (),
 $2\frac{1}{4}$ (1848), $6\frac{3}{4}$ (),
 $12\frac{3}{4}$ (1847).



B. Medium (14 X 14 or 15 X 15 mm.), times given in whole numbers, stop after P 3 (1868).

As above, but no stop after P 1 (undated, but with Poland No. 1), 3 (1862), 5 (1868), 7 (1868), 12 (1869).



C. Large (18 X 18 mm.), times given in whole numbers, no stop after P

1 (1859), 3 (1862-3), 5 (1859)



It must be emphasized that year-dated entries are scarce and therefore it has not been possible to assign a year to a number of these marks. In general, however, the "fractional" marks belong to the pre-adhesive period of the late 1840's the large type came into use more or less simultaneously with the adhesives (first Russian then Polish) while the medium came into use during the currency of Poland No. 1 (circa 1862) and continued in use until 1869, after Polish adhesives had been suppressed and Russian stamps re-introduced.

In passing I should like to mention an entire of 1859, from Siedlce to Warsaw, and franked with a Russian 10 k, in which the Siedlce date-stamp has had the date-plug altered (from 25?) to 26 in manuscript—while the

"1" of the Warsaw arrival mark has likewise been cancelled by a pen-stroke and the time corrected in manuscript to 4. This indicates how punctilious the Warsaw postal officials were in ensuring that the exact hour was shown.

At a comparatively late date (1854) circular time marks to denote a morning arrival were introduced. These marks, also struck in red, bear the capital letter R (rano=morning) in the lower segment, and a numeral in the upper part. In appearance they are not dissimilar to the Bishop marks used in Britain and the colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; though, of course, giving an hour rather than a day and a month.

Small R marks have been recorded with the following hours:

7 (1864), 8 (1860), 8½ (1856), 9 (1864), 10 (1855) and 11 (1854-5). Until recently 8½ was the only fractional mark known,



but I have unearthed an example, on an undated cover, with the numerals 12½. There are some interesting variations in these R marks. In some cases the diameter line does not touch the circumference, but in others the line and circle are contiguous. Two sizes of 9 R are known. The earlier one (recorded in the late 1850's) has a diameter of 22 mm., with contiguous lines, while the later one (1864) has a diameter of 19 mm., (and the diameter does not touch the circumference). The mark 8 R has also been found on covers

of 1860, (from Kalisz), with a narrow double circle—though in many cases over-inking has filled-in the intervening space.



These time marks were only used in Warsaw, and their use was not rigorously applied by any means, since many entries of the period 1847-69 are known without them.

I should be pleased to hear of any additional information, particularly in noting other times and extending the periods of usage in each instance.

1974 DUES REMINDER

At the beginning of this month your membership fee of \$4.00 for 1974 became due. We need this revenue to continue the publication of our Bulletin, for meeting hall rental, supplies, postage, and other expenses incurred by the Society.

To save us the expense of mailing you notices, and to oblige our Treasurer, would you be so kind as to send in your dues at your earliest convenience? He is not compensated for his work but too must pay his dues. This cooperation on your part will save him much time and work. Mail your \$4.00 to Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, Ill. 60171.

BULLETIN AD RATES

Full page ad.....25.00

Half page ad.....15.00

Quarter page ad...10.00

Send copy for ad with your check to the editor.

"DRACULYA" TEPEŠ

Reprinted from LINN'S STAMP NEWS

Alexander Wyroski, Sr. of Chicago, Ill., Polonus member #960, who has been collecting stamps since 1905, found John Semeniuk's feature article on Vlad Tepes (Draculya) in *Linn's Stamp News*, Nov. 26 edition interesting and has supplied *Linn's* with a photograph showing busts of Tepes and his wife.

"Here is the real 'Drakula', Vlad Tepes, ruler of Wallachia, and his beautiful wife", writes Wyroski. "Looks like he is not fiction," he added.

Tepes lived in a castle in the Carpathian Mountains from 1431 to 1477. Semeniuk's article, which described stamps which have featured Tepes' likeness, also pointed out some of the more bloody activities of Tepes and the fact that Tepes sometimes signed his name as "Draculya."



Wyroski noted the busts are 30 inches high by 15 inches wide. He says there are emblems-stars on the ruler's head and emblems on his chest. The bust also is set with cut stones (possibly diamonds) and other emblems engraved in bronze.

"The uniform is trimmed with what resembles fur and old time century buttons in metal," Wyroski advised.

BE A POLPEX PATRON!

Every dollar counts! Send a dollar or more and be a POLPEX Patron. Your money will be used toward making POLPEX 74 the success that it deserves to be. Just fill in the enclosed remittance envelope, enclose your check or money, seal it, affix a stamp, and drop it in the mail. We will see to it that your name is printed in the Polpex program Catalog.

—Chester J. Mikucki
Patron Chairman

Philatelic Literature Review . . . "POLSKIE ZNAKI POCZTOWE VOLUME V"

After a long lapse of time Volume V of this RUCH publication was released at Warsaw. This volume continues with Poland's postal markings from 1960 and on. Part 1 of this volume deals with stamps. In part 2 entire—envelopes and postal cards are catalogued. Commemorative cancellations in great length and detail are listed in part 3. Airmail stamps and labels issued non-postally are covered in part 4. As in the previous four volumes, all parts of Volume 5 are profusely illustrated.

—H.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 25, 1974:

Business meeting — 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 8, 1974:

Program meeting with eminent philatelist Dr. James J. Matejka as guest speaker. His topic will be: "Die Proofs of Czechoslovakia" but the talk will emphasize the presentation of the collection. Starting 8:00 p.m. Beeba to follow.

Friday, February 22, 1974:

Last meeting before POLPEX.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Thomas J. Gobby, Secretary
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

Al Rybarski, Treasurer
P. O. Box 82, River Grove, Ill. 60171

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, Ill. 60622

T. J. Gobby, Publications Chrm.
5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

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 \$4.00 —

Friday, March 8, 1974:

Mounting Party at St. James Auditorium.

Saturday & Sunday, March 9-10:
POLPEX 74!

LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR
A SUCCESSFUL POLPEX 74!

NEW MEMBER

Robert F. Hochmuth
2766 Colvin Blvd.
Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150

K-LINE PAGES FOR POLAND



Supplement #17/72 — \$2.45

Plus 55c postage

Supplement #16/71 — \$2.55

Plus 50c postage

Write us for a special price on
complete Poland pages

K - LINE PUBLISHING, INC.

Geo. C. Kobylka
Box 159, Berwyn, Ill. 60402