

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 75 AT ST. JAMES FEB. 22nd & 23rd

The POLPEX 75 Stamp and Coin Exhibition will be held on February 22 & 23 at St. James Auditorium, Mango & Fullerton, Chicago, Ill. The theme of the show will deal with American-Polish explorers and early settlers prior to the American Revolution.

Chester Schafer, Polpex Chairman, announces that the show will be limited to 100 frames devoted to philately with possibly 20 frames of numismatic material exhibited by members of the Polish American Numismatic Association.

An auction is planned for Sunday afternoon, February 23rd.

Chairmen of the various committees are as follows:

Entries Alfred Szebel
Bourse ... Roman Strzelecki
Set-Up John Bartczak
Beebe Walenty Poniecki
Publicity Tom Gobby
Auction Ed Link
Finance Al Rybarski
Sales Mitchell Wozny
 and Chester Mikucki

A U.S. Postal sub station will operate on the premises with a special Polpex cancellation.

Entry applications will be sent to members along with the next "Polonus Bulletin".

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are asked to notify us immediately. Failure to do so is costing the Society unnecessary expense. Please mail the notice of change to C. J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill, Norridge, Ill. 60656.

P.P.S.C.-74 AT VANCOUVER

The Polish Philatelic Society of Canada held their annual philatelic and numismatic exhibition P.P.S.C.-74 on October 26 & 27 in downtown Vancouver,

Member John Bartczak exhibited his "Galicia" which earned him a first award gold medal.

The club has available seven different souvenir covers related to Copernicus. One sells at 50c, one at \$1.00, the others 3 for \$1.00. Copernicus medals are also available at \$8.00 each or two for \$15.00. Write to Wm. C. Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer, 4827 Water Lane, Caulfield, West Vancouver, B. C., Canada V7W 1K4.

IN MEMORIAM



ALEXANDER WYROSKI
RT. REV. MSGR. I. J. BIALDYGA

HOBBY REFLECTS ECONOMY

By STAN SHOWALTER

Reprinted from "Linn's Stamp News", Oct. 7, 1974

Countries with a healthy economy nowadays are about as rare as the British Guiana magenta, but this week's column focuses on a European nation where the economy is not just fair, but growing by leaps and bounds.

That country is Poland. The dockworkers' strike of several years ago, which brought down Premier Gomulka, brought to power Edward Gierk. Gierk modernized and Westernized his country, and encouraged the investment of huge blocks of Western capital.

Unemployment is practically nonexistent in modern Poland, we are told, and there is a fantastic amount of construction taking place, including the rebuilding of the national palace, an event in which most Poles have the warmest interest.

The point is that the Polish economy is very much alive and living to its fullest, a condition difficult to rival either in Europe or here in America right now.

Good economies are good for philately, and what is good for philately is good for stamp investors. The hobby, I am told by correspondents, is not just doing well — it is growing tremendously every year.

The result has been the disappearance of many of the better, more difficult to find stamps, and now dealers there are scouring the countryside hunting for goodies, while a similar search continues in the United States, which boasts some 10 million Poles, many of whom collect stamps of the family's mother

country.

So this week let me direct your attention to just a few of the many fine Polish stamps which could disappear into your investment folio.

Although Scott does not list it and barely mentions its existence, the 1147-50 souvenir sheet of 1963 honoring the 28th World Fencing Championships at Danzig is a fine possibility. It is not impossible to find yet, but topical collectors are also in the pie, and the present retail price of about \$15 (up a dollar from last year) cannot hold true for long.

I think that the 657-59 Kosciuszko set which marked the 160th anniversary of the 1794 insurrection is another charmer. Take a close look at its involved design, and then note its present retail price of only about \$1.25. When you consider the demand for this set and the low printing figure of 220,500 complete sets, you realize that this could become a key set one day and that a dozen or so of these tucked away might be well worth their small outlay.

Another souvenir sheet I like is the B29. It was issued in 1938 to support the Fifth Philatelic Exhibition held in Warsaw. Fifty thousand of the souvenir sheets were printed, and I am told that demand there at the exhibition was very heavy.

Last for this week is the C11-12 air issue overprinted "Challenge 1934." Only about 222,000 were available, and I am told that strong demand for this one has sent prices leaping in the past year. Get it soon if you can.

POLISH LEGION FIELDPOST IN U.S.A. 1915-17

By JERZY KUCHARSKI

PART 2.

POLISH LEGION PICTURE CARDS REISSUED DURING WORLD WAR I IN THE U.S.

Before describing fig. #12 and 13, some information about post cards used for correspondence in Legion mail is worth mentioning.

Normal field post cards printed in German or Hungarian, sometimes with inscriptions in 6 languages, including Polish, were given legionnaires free of charge.

For patriotic reasons, Legion headquarters issued post cards with eagles and Polish inscriptions (or Polish-German). There are about 40 such field post cards listed in Berek's catalog, some waiting to be listed. Legion's soldiers could buy them for a small charge, 1 or 2 Hellers. For that reason these cards were used less than normal field post cards and are now scarce, postally used or mint.

Besides these two kinds of field post cards, many illustrated post cards were issued for patriotic reasons or for propaganda for the Legion. Some also used to collect funds for the Legion and the widows. Some were issued officially by N.K.N., some by local Committees in Vienna or Lublin, some by Units like the 1st and 4th Infantry Regiments, and some by private individuals or editors. All these illustrated post cards are not listed in Berek's catalog, 1968. All these post cards depicting war scenes, groups of soldiers, commanding officers, Legion life in trenches, etc. are interesting for the history of the Legion. Some represent paintings and drawings of

famous Polish artists like: W. Kossak, Z. Rozwadowski, A. Axentowicz, St. Janowski, J. Ryszkiewicz, L. Gottlieb. As some of the paintings were lost during the last war, these post cards are also important for the study of Polish art of that period.

N.K.N. issued about 26 sets of post cards (each set contains 5 to 12 cards), devoted to different parts of the Legion campaigns or units. Some sets are not accounted for, and perhaps were never issued, since six numbers are not represented in the "J. Piłsudski Institute" in N. York. It is here where I was working during the last two years to arrange the collection of over 200 post cards.

Some of these official and private issues were reprinted in the U.S. for propaganda and financial reasons. So far I can present names of "sets" and lists of cards from each known set:

1. The Polish Legion in the European War 1914 (printed vertically on address side with Polish translation). Under each picture in one line: "Legiony Polskie - 1914" (The Polish Legion - 1914) and description of each picture, so far 8 are known (fig. #11):

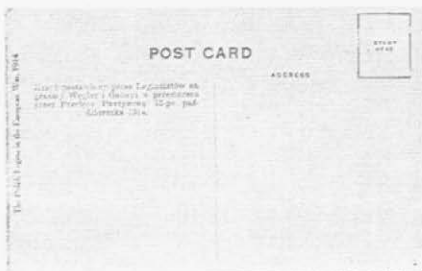


Fig. 11

a) Cross erected by the Polish Legion - Pantyr Pass.

- b) Staff Officers of the 2nd and 3rd Regiments.
 - c) Group of Cavalry Officers of the 2nd Uhlands.
 - d) Field hospital in Zielona.
 - e) In their trenches near Na-dworna.
 - f) Field Mass before the Bat-tle of Rafajłowa.
 - g) Hospital and supply train passing Bystrzyca.
 - h) Engineering Corps Polish Legion building a road.
2. The same title on both sides as number 1. In the previous set were "photos by a Polish Officer". In this set are 'drawings from life, by the well known painter and cavalry officer Josef Ryszkiewicz". So far, 3 pictures are known: fig. #12.



Fig. 12

- a) Fighting line in Bitków.
- b) Patrol of Uhlans in Cucy-lów.
- c) Russian prisoners escorted by Uhlans fig. #12.

Both series have on the picture side the small imprint: "M. H. M. 1915", which undoubtedly gives the printers' name and year of issue.

3. Printed only in Polish on ad-dress side: Nakład Biura De-legacji NKN - 400 West 118th St., New York, N.Y. Poczłówka (Postcard, above address lines). This set has pictures of early semi-official issues with patriotic or anti-Russian pic-tures edited by "Spółka Echo

Legionów" in Kraków. So far these are known as fig. #13:

- a) Kozak (the Kossack - wise guy).
- b) Mur (the wall) fig. #13.

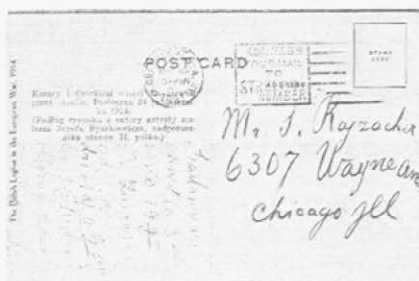


Fig. 13

- c) Do moich kochanych ży-dów (to my dear Jews - Tsar's manifesto).
 - d) Apoteoza (Apotheosis)
 - e) granice wolne (no more border line).
 - f) Ćwiczenia tyralierskie (In-fantry field exercises).
 - g) Grupa z bronią (soldiers with rifles).
4. "Nakładem C.K.O.N. w Ame-ryce" as fig. no. 14 (issued

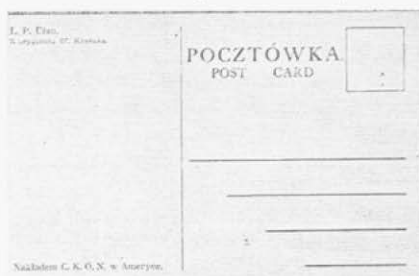


Fig. 14

by CKON in USA and expla-nation that paintings are by W. Kossak). Under each pic-ture is a description in Polish and English:

- a) J. Piłsudski, commander of the Polish Legion.
- b) Staff Officer and Orderly.
- c) Artillery.
- d) Infantry.
- e) The Uhlan.

f) Gendarmerie Officer and Chaplain.

Picture a) is not known in any NKN or any semi-official issue, but the rest are exact copies of *Seria III* (Set nr. 3) NKN issue, which was originally printed in black and white, instead of color, as in the U.S. reprint. Since *Seria nr. 3* has only five post cards — Pilsudski's picture was added probably from a different source.

Underlined pictures are on cards fig. nos. 12 and 13. These post cards show that they were used in the mails in the U.S., so the purpose of propaganda of the Polish Legion was fulfilled.

Unfortunately they have no full philatelic value as the postage stamps were taken off each card, but clear date-stamp Chicago or New York shows, that each card was mailed in 1916 or 1921 respectively.

Especially the post card dated Chicago, Ill., on April 19, 1916, (fig. #13) is most interesting, because it proves that "reprint" of Polish issues was undertaken in the U.S. promptly! Cards a) — d), from set 3. were issued in Poland semi-officially, before NKN started to work, as the name "Strzelec" not "Legion" is mentioned. Also some cards are dealing with the Kielce period. It means that they were printed in the early fall of 1914. So the "reprint" did not take too much time, because in the spring of 1916 such post cards were in regular postal use. Considering the war, and communication problems it was quite fast. Some of the cards were postally used in 1920's and 30's — but this is not important. Only early dates, as they can determine the period of reprinting, are significant.

I will be very much obliged if readers could supply the *Polonus* Secretary with more details regarding post cards written from the Polish Legion to the U.S., especially with U.S. postage due stamps and U.S. postal markings. Also I will be very glad if anybody could give me the names of more NKN cards reprinted in the U.S. — names of picture cards and edition please!

Maybe some more cards or sets will be discovered?

CAMEROON HONORS COPERNICUS

The United Republic of Cameroon noted the 500th birth anniversary of Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus with a 250-franc airmail stamp released on Oct. 15, according to Theodore Champion of Paris, France.

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MEDALLION CONTEST

The Polish American Numismatic Association of Chicago announces an open contest for a medallion commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of the United States. This contest is open to all artists.

The medallion committee of the P.A.N.A. will award the sum of \$700.00 in cash for three selected entries: First place \$400.00, 2nd: \$200.00, and 3rd: \$100.00. The contests' winner will be publicly announced and notified by mail. There will be no entry fee, but all submitted designs become the property of the P.A.N.A.

The medallion committee reserves the right to introduce changes in the selected work (after previous consultation with the artist). The medallion will be around 2.453 inches (62 mm.) in diameter and a .200 of an inch (5 mm.) thick.

The entries should be presented in a graphic technique with shadows indicating the proposed depth. The design of both sides should be 6 inches (15 cm.) in diameter. It is approximately 3 times as large as the proposed medallion. This could be placed on hard paper 8½ x 11 inches (21 cm. x 27 cm.) in dimension. No signature, initials or identifying marks are allowed on the entries. The contestant's name and address must be affixed on the back of the entry in a sealed envelope. The winner's name or his initials can be placed on the coined medallion, subject to committee approval.

The theme of the medallion must be connected with the history of the U.S.A. and Poland of 200 years ago. It should point out the historical, ideological cultural, scientific, technical or military connections between the two

countries. On one side of the medallion the following inscription should be made: "Polish American Numismatic Association of Chicago" or an abbreviation for instance: "Polish Amer. Numis. Assoc. Chicago".

On the other side of the medallion the artist has to put the following: "200 Years of U.S.A. 1776-1976" or "200th Anniversary of U.S.A." or "Bicentennial of U.S.A." or something similar.

The written explanation of the design is welcome but not mandatory.

The entries must be received not later than January 31, 1975. The entries should be mailed to:

Polish American Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 1873, Chicago, Illinois 60690 with the annotation: MEDAL CONTEST.

Contest winners will be announced no later than April 30, 1975.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Bulletin of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of N.Y.

Their July, 1974 edition features details, specialized articles with informal short notes of membership; short comment on Specialized Catalog of Lithuania in the making and information on coming Jan. 15, 1975 Auction. Members mail sale; ads. Also continuing is the manuscript of Catalog of Lithuanian D.P. Camps; chart of cliché characteristics of second printing of the 3 d. Kaunas type-set issue.

The publication is mimeographed, five issues cost \$3.00. Walter E. Norton, Editor, 2647 Eddington St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19147.

A REMINDER — HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1974?

NEW ISSUES

10th International Chess Festival

Two values were issued on July 15, 1974 commemorating the 10th International Chess Festival in Lublin. The 1.00 zł. shows the title page "Chess" by Jan Kochanowski. The 1.50 zł. value shows the engraving "Education" by Daniel Chodowiecki. 15,000,000 sets were issued. Offset printed in three colors by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps. Designed by Andrzej Heidrich.

30th Anniversary of Polish Peoples Republic

Three 1.50 zł. values were issued in August, 1974. Two stamps designed by T. Jodłowski, show a face in the contours of the map and the inscription: "30 Years of Work and Achievements of us each and the whole nation." Multicolor printed in rotogravure by

PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps. Quantity issued: 8,000,000 sets.

—RUCH

AIRPOST STATIONERY ERROR

By Artur Lewandowski, A.P.S.
"The American Philatelist", Nov. 1974

The 4.90 zł. Poznan Exhibition airpost envelope had at least three different printings dated "VI-73", "VIII-73" and "X-73". Poznan exhibition airmail card, multicolor imprint, dated "V.73", 100,000 cards. Poland's missing feather, a spectacular error of the 3.40 zł. airmail envelope of 1968 has been found, with the "feather" missing, two different dates, "VII-68 and "1.69".

ANNUAL DUES INCREASED

As of January 1, 1975 dues of the Polonus Philatelic Society will be raised from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

POLAND UP TO DATE

NEW ISSUES

	MINT	USED	FDC
Zbowid & Victory(2)	.20	.10	.60
Mutual Economic Aid(1)	.10	.05	.30
Football Championship(2)	.75	.35	.90
Football Souvenir Sheet(1)	1.50	.90	.70
Sailing Vessels—Sport(5)	1.05	.40	1.45
Chess Festival(2)	.20	.10	.60
30th Polish Anniversary(3)	.35	.15	.65
Lazienkowska Highway(1)	.10	.05	.30
Fruits & Flowers(8)	1.40	.60	1.75
30th M.O. & S.B. Anniversary . . .(1)	.10	.05	.30
Stamp Day 1974—PTGS(8)	1.45	.70	1.85

Complete Year 1972(90)	13.95	7.50	23.50
Complete Year 1973(64)	15.50	9.90	24.50

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, December 13, 1974:

Special meeting to be held at Club Bagatela Hall, 1122 Milwaukee Ave. at 8:00 p.m. Election of Officers will be held. Program to follow. All members are asked to bring along a trophy, medal, or award they had received and be prepared to say a few words about what it was given for, etc. This being the last meeting before Christmas, it will also be a 'Stamps For The Wounded' Nite. John Bor will be on hand to accept donations of stamps or cash for this worthy cause. A Beebe will follow.

No meeting will be held December 27th. Our next meeting will take place on January 10th, 1975 at Weisz Stamps & Coins.

DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Government Printing Office has maps of Poland for sale. They are multi-colored relief maps produced by the C.I.A. The map indicates transportation networks, ports, airfields, and major urban areas. Inset maps provide additional information concerning population density, vegetation, land use, economic activity, and ethnic groups. The price is .70c per map.

Japanese collectors are rapidly buying material of Poland. Specifically postal history of the W. W. II era — P.O.W., concentration camps, General Government, etc.

Poland, especially the older issues and postal history, is a hot country with European collectors. A lot of material appearing in the auctions is going back across the Atlantic. Many collectors have standing orders to buy anything that comes across the dealers counters.

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 \$4.00 —

Scott catalog sure did boost prices for Poland. Some really dramatic increases. Many were recent issues, especially topicals.

It seems that the longer one delays in buying that desired stamp or cover the more it costs. Inflation has really hit everything. The prices for some Polish material once considered common have really surprised us. We would appreciate hearing from our out of town members on their experience with Polish material. We would also like someone to report on the New York and Detroit Auctions that feature Polish material. Let's hear from you guys.

When you see material offered in an auction catalog with proviso "as is" — watch out. Always be sure before bidding — and clearly understand the terms of the house as they can and do vary widely. Your best bet is to deal with an established, known, and honest house. That also goes for dealers.

—T. J. Gobby

ATLANTA SHOW WINNER

At the 1974 Atlanta Philatelic Exhibition, John Kowalski of Woodstock, Ga., won third place with his Semi-Postals of Danzig.