

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue 237

December 1965

Happy  HoliDays



POLPEX 1966 TO HONOR POLAND'S MILLENNIUM

The year 1966 is especially memorable to Poland and to Poles all over the world. In 966, one thousand years ago, Poland became christian and was united under Mieszko I as a nation. Millennium celebrations will take place wherever you will find Poles living.

In the United States, Chicago is the center of Polish activities because next to Warsaw it has the largest Polish population. The Chicagoland Committee for Poland's Millennium of Christianity is planning a great manifestation at Soldiers Field on August 28th with the visit of His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski of Poland.

The annual POLPEX is normally held in late February - early March, but because of the Millennium it was decided that POLPEX 1966 be held on the week-end of the manifestation, August 26, 27 and 28 at the Polish Museum of America, 984 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. As there will be many visitors in town that week-end for the celebration, the time should be ideal.

To emphasize the historical significance of the event, the Polish American Numismatic Society has been invited to join in a combined exhibit of stamps and coins of Poland. The exhibits will be limited to Polish and related material.

Because of the expected throngs of visitors, the exhibits should be carefully planned and prepared. We would like to show the history of Poland through stamps in such a way that would be easily understood and appreciated. We have enough time to look through our stamps and covers to be able to set up an appropriate exhibit — but don't put it off till later, start now!

POLPEX exhibitions were always outstanding events for the Polonus Philatelic Society, but in the coming Mil-

lennium year we should have an exhibit like we never had before. Because of the historical nature of our theme, the exhibition will be open to all collectors of Polish material in the United States and abroad, regardless of the fact that they are not Polonus members.

There are many irons in the pot at this time and we will keep you posted of further developments by way of our Bulletin and the philatelic press.

— Alfred Szebel,
Polpex Chairman

NEW MEMBER

Walter J. Kuznarowicz, Jr.
108 Knight Street
Woonsocket, R.I.

APPLICANT PENDING

Jerome Greswood
9917 S. Spaulding Ave.
Evergreen Park, Ill. 60642

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THE 700th ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW IN THE MIRROR OF PHILATELY

By Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan, Poland



Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan

This year, Warsaw, the capital of Poland, celebrated three important festivities: the 20th Anniversary of its Liberation From Nazi Occupation; the 700th Anniversary of Its Founding; and the 50th Anniversary of Warsaw's Philatelic Movement. The 20th Anniversary of The Liberation was commemorated by the issue of Scott's 1296, the 700th anniversary by a set of eight and a miniature sheet, Scott's 1339-1347.

In December the 50th Anniversary of Warsaw's Philatelic Movement will be celebrated with a conference on Polish Philately, a philatelic exhibition illustrating the yield of the activities of Warsaw's philatelists.

Among the exhibits will be the collection of a ten year old boy, Darius Lipinski — "The Song of My Beloved Warsaw," which will illustrate the story, beauty, the destruction and rebuilding, as well as the political, economic and cultural life of Warsaw.

The first historical information that we found about the little castle on the left bank of the Vistula river was listed under the year of 1262 in the Wolynian annals ("Latopis Wolynski").

In 1338 the settlement adopted municipal laws (Magdeburgian Law on Town Foundation). The city probably grew around the castle built in the 13th Century (Scott's 949) by a duke of Masovia. In 1379 it became the capital of Masovia under Trojden's son, Ziemovit III.

St. John's, St. Mary's, Augustine and Benedictine churches were built in the latter times of the reigns of Masovian dukes (Scott's C30). After the death of the last dukes of Masovia: Stanislaus in 1524, and John IV in 1526 (Scott's 1341), Masovia became the inheritance of the king of Poland. It was here that the queen-mother, Bona Sforza, built a castle for her son, King Sigismund Augustus (Scott's 374, 454, C30, C41).

In 1595 after the fire of the king's castle in Cracow, Warsaw took its place as the Polish capitol. Under the reign of King Sigismund Vasa III the flourishing evolution of this city began. The castle was rebuilt during 1598-1619 and many new churches of the Dominicans, Jesuits and Clarisses were built (Scott's 949, C30).

During the reign of his son Vladislaus Vasa IV a number of famous churches and buildings were erected — palaces of the Kazanowskis, Bożyczkos, Fu-kiers, Dzianotas, as well as the famous Sigismund monument (Scott's 231, 374, 454, 670, C30) in the castle square, in memory of his father. The monument which was destroyed by Nazis in 1944 and rebuilt in 1949, is one of the distinguished landmarks of Warsaw.



Sigismund Monument, Scott's 670



Sobieski Monument, Scott's 235

John III Sobieski, famous for the battle at Vienna (Scott's 235, 278, 286, 373, 738, Austria B115) built the Maryville and Vilanov palaces and the Capuchin and Sacrament churches. It was in this period that the Krasinski palace was erected (Scott's C30, 1347).

It temporarily fell to the Swedes under Charles X (1655-56) and Charles XII (1702).

The spontaneous development of Warsaw diminished up till the time of the reigns of the kings of the Saxonian Dynasty — Augustus II and Augustus III, when a new modern city was planned, with large squares and streets, modern public gardens, and a large number of prominent palaces. Among them were the Saxonian palace, Bruhl's palace (Scott's N71, N73, NB31), Bielinski's and Czapski's palaces as well as the famous palace under the Tin Plate where later, lived Prince Joseph Poniatowski, the nephew of the last king of Poland, a general commanding Polish troops in Napoleon's first campaign against Austria and Russia in 1806-1813 (Scott's 329).

The election of 1764 placed Stanislaus II Poniatowski on the Polish throne



Stanislaus Poniatowski, Scott's 329

with the support of Catherine II of Russia and Frederick II of Prussia.

Opposition to increasing Russian domination resulted in the formation of the Confederation of Bar, which in 1768 was defeated by Russia despite Turkish help. A famous confederate of this period was Casimir Pulaski, hero of the American Revolutionary War (Scott's 267, 450, US. 690. Ruch 489-91, 489b-491b). Fearing that all Poland might fall into Russian hands, Frederick II of Prussia proposed the partition plan to Catherine II of Prussia and Marie Theresia of Austria.

In those years of national degradation however, a new spirit began to make itself felt. It manifested itself in a thorough, though belated constitutional reform in 1791 for the then-still-independent part of Poland, and above all in the heroic revolt led by Thaddeus Kosciuszko in 1794 (Scott's 242, 267, 319, 329, 358, 363, 657-659). His headquarters at Cracow were moved to Warsaw. The local uprising in Warsaw was led by Colonel John Kilinski, a Warsaw shoemaker (Scott's 675).

During the reign of King Stanislaus II and a scientific and cultural renaissance, a Polish theatre under the direction of Wojciech Boguslawski, was opened in 1865 (Scott's 399, 406, 408).

The Polish national opera "Halka" by Stanislaus Moniuszko was presented at this Grand National Theatre in 1865 (Scott's 832). After its destruction by the Nazis in 1944, it was rebuilt and restored as the most modern theatre and opera house in the world. The grand opening took place on the actual 200th anniversary of the first opening, November 20, 1965, with Moniuszko's national opera "The Terrible Court."

At this time King Stanislaus II built the famous "Łazienki" (Scott's C39), the scene of the famous Thursday luncheons of famous writers, scientists, painters and sculptors.

The Commission of National Education with Koñarski (Scott's 194), Piramowicz, Staszic (Scott's 511) and Kołłataj (Scott's 542, B72, 1221, three stamps and a souvenir sheet not listed in Scott's) formed the first public education movement, reorganized the Ja-

giellon University, and under the leadership of Staszic, instituted Polish mining education.

Others, on the treshold of the Third Partition of Poland and the loss of independence, proclaimed the first democratic constitution (Scott's 329).

In the Third Partition of Poland, Warsaw passed to Prussia. In 1806 it was liberated by Napoleon I who made it the capitol of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. In this city the diet proclaimed the the re-establishment of Poland in 1812; in 1813, however, it fell to the Russians, and in in 1815 the Congress of Vienna awarded it to the Russian Crown along with the theoretically self-governing Kingdom of Poland.



Belweder Palace. Scott's 298

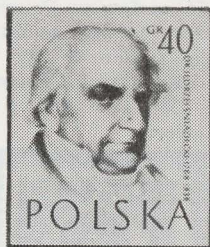
At this time Warsaw had many fine palaces, churches, monuments and public buildings, like the famous Belvedere (Scott's 1K30, 298), the Palace of Paes (today the Health Ministry), Raziwill's Palace (Scott's C30), Staszic's Palace (today the Polish Academy of Science — Scott's 1346), Mostowski's Palace (today the Peoples' Militia Headquarters), the Polish Bank destroyed in 1939 (Scott's 3K2), City Hall (Scott's 376, 385), Holy Church (Scott's 379, 388), Casimir's Palace (today the University, (Scott's 815), monuments of Prince Jos. Poniatowski (Scott's 739) by Berthel Thorwaldsen, a famous Danish sculptor (Denmark 264-266), destroyed by the Nazis and restored as a gift of the Danish People to Polish People in 1950, — and — the Nicolaus



Copernicus Monument, Scott's 672

Copernicus monument (Scott's 672) with the Staszic Palace in the background.

It was in this period that among Warsaw's citizens numbered Wojciech Bogusławski, father of the Polish theatre (Scott's 397, 406, 412a), the world famous Polish pianist and composer Frederic Chopin (Scott's 243, 396, 401, 412a, 465, 524-525, 644-646, 664-665, 907, B106, Czechoslovakia 389-390, Hungary 1169, Romania 1377, Russia 2324, Red China Yv. 999), and his music teacher Joseph Elsner (Scott's NB22), and Dr. Jędrzej Śniadecki — the father of Polish chemistry and later professor at the university in Vilna (Scott's 771).



Jędrzej Śniadecki, Scott's 264

Warsaw led the Insurrection of 1830 (Scott's 263-266), 373) against Russian domination. At first successful, Polish troops were defeated at Ostrołęka and the Russians re-entered Warsaw whic surrendered in 1831. Many famous Poles migrated to different countries. Chopin went to France, Jozef Bem, the artillery commander, went to Hungary (Scott's 256; 489, Hungary 914-916, C89).

After the January Uprising of 1861 (Scott's 389) against Russian tyranny, the Polish constitution was suspended. The Kingdom of Poland was liquidated and incorporated into the Russian Empire as the Vistulan country ("Przylanski kraj"). Warsaw lost its political importance, and remained as a commercial center between Vienna, Berlin and Moscow. Thousands of Warsaw residents migrated abroad, mostly to Paris, which became the center of Polish revolutionary activities, where Jarosław Dąbrowski (Scott's 499) was one of the leaders. A great number of patriots were killed on the walls of Warsaw's Citadel including Romuald Trauttt (Scott's 331, 341, 362, 1362) Many were deported to Siberia including Gen.



Roman Traugutt, Scott's 331

Charles Kaczkowski (Scott's 246-248) chief of military health service during the uprising, and Benedict Dybowski (Scott's 775) a famous Polish physician and zoologist, as well as Edward Ciołkowski, the father of the theoretical rocket, and Konstantin Ciolkowski (Russia Scott's 1582, 1991, 2021), the astronautic pioneer.



General Kaczkowski, Scott's 248

After crushing the Polish revolt, the Russians began an intense program of russifying the Polish people. This was described in the writings of Żeromski (Scott's 1265).

Despite the Russian campaign, the next 10 years saw such famous Poles as the poet Maria Konopnicka (Scott's 543, B71, 1063, 1105, 1110), novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz (Scott's 257, B-88),



Henryk Sienkiewicz, Scott's 257

novelist Bolesław Prus (Scott's 400, 409), painter Harry Rodakowski (Scott's 852), painter Alex. Gierymski (Scott's

854), painter Ant. Grottger (Scott's 389), painter J. Malczewski (Scott's 853), writer Jos. Kraszewski (Scott's 541), physician T. Chalubinski (Scott's 772), and the founder of Esperanto, the international language—Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhoff (Scott's 861).

World War I gave Poland an opportunity to recover its independence. Efforts of Polish nationalists were against Russia with Pilsudski's Legions fighting alongside Germany and Austria. In 1916 Austria and Germany proclaimed an independent Kingdom of Poland with Warsaw as the capitol (Scott's 11-14 and the unlisted local municipal issues), but when Germany, which occupied the country, retained control of the government, Pilsudski resigned and was imprisoned.

Poland regained independence with the armistice of November 11, 1918. Warsaw grew, and new buildings were erected, including the United States Embassy (Scott's 3KI), Army General Staff Headquarters (Scott's 378-379) the General Post Office (Scott's 377, 386).

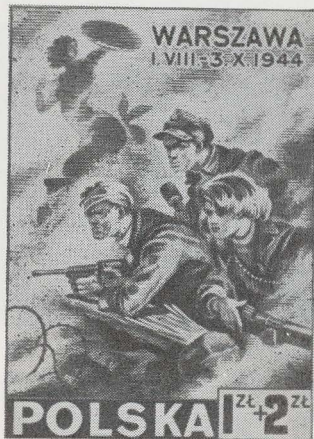
On September 19, 1939 Germany invaded Poland. On September 17th Soviet Russia invaded Poland from the East — hurling nations into World War II. The Germans advanced rapidly and viciously attacked Warsaw. The war destroyed 82% of the buildings of Warsaw (Scott's 374-388, C13-18). Despite its stubborn resistance the city fell to the Germans on September 27th.

German authorities proceeded methodically to exterminate a large part of the population by massacres, starvation and extermination in camps as Majdanek (Scott's B45), Oświęcim, Brzezinka, Bełżec, Tremblinka (Scott's 1050-1052), and others.

The population of Warsaw was severely annihilated. The Jews were sealed in the Ghetto which the Germans completely isolated from the rest of the city. It contained about 500,000 persons in 1942. In reprisal for Jewish armed resistance the Germans liquidated the 40,000 Jews who had survived (Scott's 418, 1132).

The Nazis established a special exterminating camp ("Sonderlager") called Tremblinka near Warsaw for the dispo-

sal of Warsaw's inhabitants Scott's 1052). This camp was established in the middle of 1942, near Warsaw, between Siedle and Malkinia. At this exterminating camp nearly the whole population of Warsaw's ghetto as well as other Jews from other Nazi liberated countries lost their lives. Up to the time of its liquidation in 1943, during the 14 months of operation, over 750,000 humans were killed and murdered by the "Teutonic Knights" under the swastika banner.



Heroic Warsaw Defenders, Scott's 3KB1

The Russian entry had been preceded by a 63 day battle between the Polish underground and the Germans while the Red Army idly stood by just across the Vistula river in August-September, 1944 (Scott's 1253, 3KB1).

The terrible and horrible Nazi yoke utterly destroyed Warsaw, Buildings, palaces, churches and monuments were bombed or totally burned by military fire-divisions (Scott's 374-388, C13-C18).

After the liberation of the city on January 17, 1945 (Scott's 349, 383-388, 397, 1296) the Poles returned to rebuild their capitol. (Scott's 471, 497, B58). The university was reopened in 1945 (Scott's 815)). The chemical and automobile industries were revived (Scott's 815). Garment factories, foundries, food and commercial activities were started.

At first they rebuilt the official public buildings (Scott's 456), apartment buildings, schools, the Marienstadt (Seco. 582-583). the Old Market (Scott's 597), Marszałkowska Dzielnica Mieszkaniowa

(Scott's 595-596) and others (Scott's 528-532). Later the palaces, churches, squares and monuments were erected (Scott's 668-675, 737-739).

The new architecture of Warsaw makes this one of the most modern cities in the world, a center for European and international conferences, festivals, congresses, etc. (Scott's 433, 467, 486, 498, 584-586, 622-623, 676-679, 687-692, C32-C33), as well as various sport events (Scott's 575-577, 628-632, 699-704, 766-767).

One of the outstanding international events, was the Bicycle Races Warsaw-Berlin-Prague. The event is followed enthusiastically by millions of people in many countries (Scott's 419, 547, 570-572, 620-621, 680-681, 727-728, 777-778, 1053-1055, Dem. Germany 98, 148-150, 208-209, 239-240, 289-290, 346, Czechoslovakia 588, 747, 796-797, Roumania 1153-1154, Russia 1956).



Frederic Chopin, Scott's 644

International Chopin Piano Festivals were held here (Scott's 644-646, 666-667, 9006-907), as well as International Philatelic Exhibits (Scott's 251, 829, 1214-15, B1-10, B29, B-105-05, B107, C25, CB1).

Warsaw is famous for the many writers that lived there: Sienkiewicz, Żeromski, Prus, Świątochowski,; the famous actress Helen Modrzejewska (Scott's 242-243, 253-254, 282-283, 287-291, 315, 332); the renown pianist Ign. Paderewski (Scott's 131, 932, U.S. 1159-1160). warriors like General Ben, General Charles Świerczewski (Scott's 537, 1065, 1155) as well as heroes like Janusz Korczak (Scott's 1098, 1103) who was exterminated together with his pupils at the Nazi crematory; or the young governess Jadwiga Wawrzyńska (Scott's 742-743) who lost her life saving three children from a burning home.

Warsaw today proudly takes its place among the great cities of the world.

JOHN BOR HELPS VETS IN HOSPITALS WITH STAMPS FOR THEIR COLLECTIONS

Polonus member John E. Bor is mid-west regional director of Stamps for the Wounded, a volunteer service committee which works with the American Red Cross and the Veterans Administration to encourage and promote stamp collecting in V.A. hospitals.

Bor's organization is endorsed by the American Philatelic Society, American Air Mail Society, Society of Philatelic Americans, The Chicago Federation of Stamp Clubs and all Chicagoland stamp clubs. It receives its support from these groups and from volunteer contributions of money, stamps and albums. At present, the society serves veterans in 130 different hospitals. It has been doing this work for 23 years. The national chairman of Stamps for the Wounded is Ernest A. Kehr of New York City.

"I've been a collector myself since I was 16," Bor said, "but I got interested in volunteer work with the boys in the hospitals about six years ago. I became regional director when Barney Fialkowski, who did the work for years, moved to California.

"At first I was worried that I would have trouble facing some of the boys who were in pitiful condition, some from serious injuries, others from serious mental or emotional problems.

"But, as time went on, I was surprised to find that I got along fine with them all. Many of these men are really interested in stamp collecting.

"In my own collection," Bor told us, "I specialize in stamps of the United States, Poland, and the United Nations, so it was not very hard for me to take over as regional director to keep the program going in the Chicago area."

The Red Cross and the Veterans' Administration help Bor and his fellow volunteers contact the men in various wards who want to start collecting stamps, or who are collectors and want to keep up with their hobby. Stamp collecting is, in many cases, a useful form of therapy, in that it helps, as Bor explained it, "to get their minds on something else besides their ills and aches.



JOHN E. BOR

"If you members ever went to any of the veterans' hospitals, you would know how time drags for these boys," Bor said, "especially those who have no relatives close by to visit them.

"Of course, we cannot expect to get the very expensive or rare stamps to our boys, but there are plenty of the cheaper stamps we get on everyday mail from around the world. At present, we have over 235 advanced collectors and 345 beginners in the 18 different V.A. hospitals we try to take care of in this area.

"Last year we distributed over 85,000 stamps to these boys, thanks to the Austin Philatelic Society, Hawthorne Stamp Club, Polonus and other clubs, and thanks to J. P. Rux, Lester Janowski and hundreds of others who are so kind to us with this volunteer work. "A few words though," Bor added, "to all members, who want to help. Do not send or save the common or small 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 cent stamps. Just save the large denominations and commemorative stamps, and any foreign stamps that you may get.

"You might have a partly completed collection you may once have started and lost interest in. We'd see to it that a disabled veteran who would be especially interested in that country or topic, would get it.

"Whenever possible, we use cash funds to supply the boys with stamp albums, stamp hinges, and catalogues. Last year, the American Legion Women's Auxiliary donated over 40 new albums to our cause, God bless them!

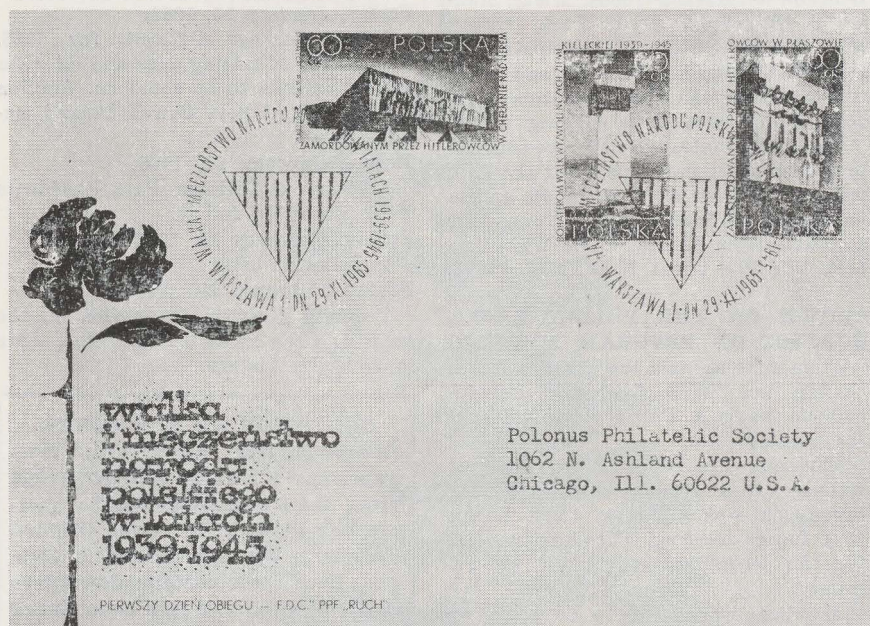
"So, fellow members, keep the stamps rolling to me, and I'll see that they are sent out to the boys at Hines, Great Lakes, and other Veterans' hospitals around here. Of course, if you wish, you can send some current mint

U.S. stamps to help with our postage. It will be greatly appreciated."

Members who want to aid in this work can write John Bor at 1810 N. Richmond Street, Chicago, Ill. 60647. Telephone DI 2-1675, Area Code 312.

TID BITS

*According to member W. Kolakowski, in 1964 there were approx. 783,000 people who had an interest in Polish stamps. In 1965, news about Polish issues created an upsurge of interest, adding about 35,000 additional people, so that there are over 800,000 philatelists who bought either one collection or one stamp of Poland.



Polonus Philatelic Society
1062 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60622 U.S.A.

First Day Cover of the "Monuments of the Struggle and Martyrdom" Series.

In continuation of issues of stamps showing the Martyrdom of the Polish Nation, a set of three 60 gr. stamps were issued on November 29, 1965.

Steel engraved on common paper, at P.W.P.W. Warsaw. Printed with tabs bearing the inscription "Walka i Męczeństwo Narodu Polskiego w latach 1939-1945." The two vertical stamps are printed in sheets of 56 stamps and 14 labels and the horizontal stamp is

printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 10 tabs. The stamps show memorials erected in the Saint Cross Mountains in memory of the heroes of independence struggles in the Kielce Region; and memorials in Płaszów and Chelm-on-Ner in memory of Poles murdered by the hitlerites in 1941-1945.

Special postmarks were used on the first day of issue.

(Cover courtesy "Ruch")

BEST POLAND ARTICLE OF 1965

Polonus member Fabian Bura's article "1944 Unofficial Olympic Games of POW's at Woldenberg and Grossborn" was selected as the top prize winning article on Polish philately in 1965 in the Annual World-Wide Contest conducted by member W. Kolakowski of Great Neck, N.Y.

The article appeared in the "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" on February 22, 1965, in the Sports Stamps Journal, and in our Polpex 1965 Program Catalog. The author has already received many congratulatory letters from Olympic topical collectors the world over.

Judges in the contest were W. E. Bentkowski, Harper Woods, Mich.; Stanley J. Bykowski, Hyde Park, Mass.; Mrs. Watson Pianka, Philadelphia; the Polonus Philatelic Society and your editor. All of the above mentioned receive Polish stamps as judging prizes.

The 1966 contest is now open. Members wishing to participate for the first prize of \$100.00 must write an article on Polish philately. Entry forms are available from Annual World-Wide Contest, Box 394, Great Neck, N.Y. 11022.

CROWN ON THE POLISH EAGLE SUBJECT OF PROGRAM MEETING

From time to time the question keeps coming up, "Why does the Polonus emblem have a Polish eagle without the crown?"

This question popped up again just recently at a Polonus meeting and a suggestion was made to trash it out at a future meeting. The date was set for the second meeting night in February.

Members are asked to do some research on this subject and find out why the crown appears on the head of the Polish eagle in some periods of history, and why it does not appear in other periods. Bring your findings down to the February 25th meeting.

Out of town members who can contribute some information are asked to write to the Secretary. Their letters will be read at the meeting.

RESIGNATIONS

Louis Bakula 745, A. Labencki 757, A. Krzyniec 597, Rev. V.J. Raith 572, and J. Wojda 742.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 14, 1966:

Nomination of Officers for 1966. The matter of raising dues and ad rates in the Bulletin to be acted on. Auction of few lots of Bert Powell Poland material.

Friday, January 21, 1966:

Election of Officers, Past Presidents Nite. Beeba to follow.

Friday, February 11, 1966:

Installation Nite.

Friday, February 25, 1966:

Program Meeting. Discussion on the subject of the crown on the Polish eagle in Poland's history.

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