

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Polpex Entry Received From Czechoslovakia

The first entry application to arrive for POLPEX 75 came from Prague, Czechoslovakia from member Vojtech Maxa. His exhibit of "Poland's Inflation Issues of 1921-23" will be shown at St. James Auditorium, February 22 and 23, at the annual Polonus exhibition. Entries close February 12th. Entry forms may be obtained from Alfred Szabel, 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines 60016.

Souvenir sheets for the Polpex are being designed by artist V. Gawron and will show explorer John Anthony Sadowski and early Polish settlers. The first Poles to arrive in America were skilled workmen brought in by Jamestown, Va. settlers in 1608.

They set about establishing facilities for producing glass, cordage, flax, masts, pitch, resin, soap ashes and other products. Within weeks the first glass furnace blazed away, and in less than two months, they made enough assorted products to forward a modest consignment to England. Later ships brought more Poles who distinguished themselves both in defending the colony against hostile Indians and in helping it grow in economy.

Articles pertaining to Polish explorers and settlers in early America will be published in the Polpex program catalog which will also contain a list of the exhibits. The expense of printing is covered by the advertisements and patron listings which will be printed in this booklet.

With this Bulletin we enclose a remittance envelope. We ask that you take an ad and/or become a Polpex Patron. For one dollar your name will appear in the Patrons listing in the program catalog.

The highlight of the year for Polonus is the Polpex. It takes a lot of effort to put this show over. Would you help us in whatever way you can?



Drawn by V. Gawron

17th century glass works
operated by Poles

BICENTENNIAL STAMP HONORS POLISH-JEWISH PATRIOT

The U.S. Postal Service will issue a commemorative in 1975 honoring Haym Salomon, a Polish-Jewish patriot and financial supporter of the American Revolution. He will be the subject of one of four stamps in the "Contributors to the Cause" set featuring unheralded persons who played important roles in the American Revolution. Salomon, a Polish-Jewish immigrant, was a broker who has been called the "financier" of the Revolution for raising money to help the bankrupt Continental Army.

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.

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DUES FOR 1975 NOW PAYABLE

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CANADA STAMPEX

GZOWSKI Polish Philatelic Society of Toronto invites the members of POLONUS and all philatelists to support the CANADA STAMPEX-75 by exhibiting, visiting of the exhibition and/or taking part in the Convention of Polish Philately, which takes place during the exhibition.

CANADA STAMPEX, to be held April 25-27, is the largest annual philatelic exhibition in Canada. This year the CANADA STAMPEX will honor Polish philately. The Gzowski Society, as a member of Canada Stampex, was given the privilege to act as co-chairman of this event. Please help us show the vast and diversified field of Polish Philately and make it an unforgettable mark in Canada's philatelic life.

More information and the application forms may be obtained from Mike Lubinski, 8 Attercliff Court, Rexdale, Ont., Canada, M9V 1H7.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

Sincere thanks to Mrs. Connie Polon of Chicago for the donation of philatelic literature from the collection of her late husband, Donald Polon. Thanks also to Mr. Gustave W. Kukiz of Windsor, Conn. for the gift of Volumes I—V of "*Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*", and to Mr. John Bor and Mr. Alfred Szebel for various books and articles.

**BE A POLPEX PATRON. MAIL
ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TODAY!**

THE FIRST POLISH POSTAL ENVELOPES

By S. ZOLKIEWSKI

January 1975 marked 116 years of the existence of the first Polish postal envelope. Its appearance signalized a change in relations between the annexer and occupied Poland, as until then, the postal administration of the Kingdom was entirely subordinated to the St. Petersburg Administration, and only Russian postal requisites were in use.

Envelopes of the St. Petersburg town post (fig. 1) were introduced in Warsaw on January 17, 1858 (first cancelled with Warsaw red datestamp and later with numeral cancellation "1"—today they are extremely valuable rarities), while the rest of the country used ordinary envelopes, prepaid with Russian stamps.

It was mainly due to the endeavors of the marquis Wielkopolski who, in order to save his people, accepted office under the tsar, but by the tsar's decree of

May 31, 1858, the postal service of the Polish Kingdom, while preserving all the necessary links with the St. Petersburg Administration, was handed over to the Governor of Poland, Prince Michael Gorczaków and his Administrative Council. Taking advantage of the new situation, on December 18, 1858, the Postal Administration of the Kingdom suggested the introduction of their own envelopes for letters (3 kop.) and visit cards (1½ kop.), arguing that considering the economical position of the country, the 6 kop. Russian envelopes were too expensive. The Administrative Council submitted the suggestion to the Governor, and record of his approval is to be found in the minutes of the Council meeting of December 21, 1858. This was the first step to Polonize requisites of the Kingdom.



Fig. 1

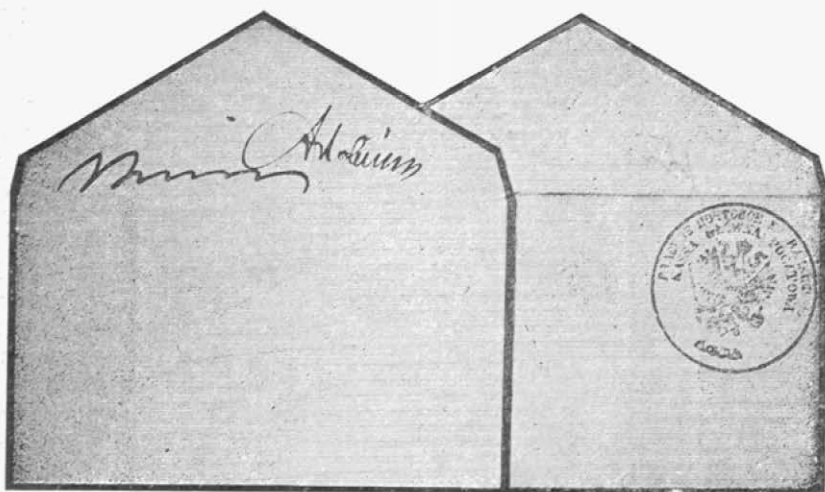


Fig. 2

Willingness to take St. Petersburg by surprise on one hand, and some technical difficulties on the other were the reasons for the appearance of the provisional issue on January 1, 1859. The envelopes, 142 x 86 mm. for letters, and 99 x 58 mm. for visit cards, were made from yellowish white, rough or smooth paper, but 3 kop. envelopes of bluish tinge are also known. In the top right corner on front a hand-stamp in red was applied reading at top in Russian, and at bottom in Polish: "KASSA GŁÓWNA POCZTOWA" with coat of arms of the Kingdom (type 1842) in the center. For control purposes the flaps were provided with signatures of the General Cashier Kurmanowicz and Controller A. Bobinski. Flaps of these envelopes are pointed, but in the case of the 1½ kop. envelope, rounded ones are also known and some of these are signed by Konstanski in lieu of A. Bobinski.

Later, in 1859, a second issue of the 1½ kop. envelopes appeared. It differed from the first in that instead of the Kingdom's coat of

arms of 1842 type, the 1858 type was adopted, with inscriptions at top only (fig. 2). The 1½ and 3 kop. envelopes were in circulation till September 16, 1861.

Reprints of the 2nd issue of the 1½ kop. envelope were produced in 1869, with the stamp placed on the left instead of on the right, and in brown-red. There are no control signatures, flaps are rounded and the size is 102 x 65 mm. (fig. 3).

Cut-cuts from these envelopes, so popular with collectors of the



Fig. 3

19th century, are known forged in both issues, with St. George replacing Polish eagle on the breast of Russian eagle (fig. 4).



Fig. 4

The first definitive issue (3 and 10 kop.) appeared on Jan. 1, 1860. Production of this issue must have been speeded up considerably related W. Polanski, as he had seen an essay of the 10 kop. envelope, in black, on bluish thick opaque paper, printed in beautiful relief, whilst the envelopes eventually issued were printed from a flat bed. Proofs were prepared by Henryk Majer, and the envelopes were printed at the "Polish Bank" printery by Sierpinski, under the surveillance of Director Zabrowski.

Circular No. 13, of Dec. 14, 1959, introducing the new envelopes, ruled also the withdrawal of the current Russian envelopes from circulation as from April 1, 1860.

The 3 kop. envelope was issued for the Warsaw town Post. The stamp in blue, showing the Kingdom's coat of arms of 1858

type, and inscriptions **POCZTA MIEJSKA** (at top) and **ZA LIST I KOPERTE KOPIE: 3** (at bottom) (fig. 5), was placed either



Fig. 5

on the front in the top left corner or on the sharp cut flap. Forgeries of this envelope are known on white ordinary paper and are distinguished by heavy print, slightly different network of the background of the stamp, unsymmetrical placing of the eagle and slightly smaller lettering at the top.

The 10 kop. envelopes were for inland correspondence and to Russia. The stamp in black, showing coat of arms 1858 type, and inscribed in Russian (Cyrillic) **10 КОП: ЗА ЛОТ** (at top) and in Polish **ZA LOT KOP: 10** (at bottom) (fig. 6) was placed similarly as for 3 kop. envelope.



Fig. 6

White yellowish paper used for both envelopes is marked with minute embossed rectangles. Size 148 x 107 mm. Both envelopes were in circulation till February 1, 1865.

Reprinted from "Polish Philatelic Review", London, of March-April, 1960.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with the greatest humility that I assume the highest office of the Society. The position is not successfully filled by one man, but rather requires the cooperation of all the members. With the membership helping, Polonus should be able to scale new heights and both assert and establish itself as authoritative in Polish philately.

Many things must be done in the coming year. As always there are the usual prosaic things which must be done, and the new, hopeful things.

First, POLPEX 75 is rapidly approaching. Other than the payment of membership dues, the Society's other major source of income is the exhibit fees, dealer's fees, ad and sponsor income, and the sale of covers and labels. Help Polonus. Support POLPEX 75!

Second, in the next few months we shall publish a special journal on Polish philately. Under the direction of James Mazepa, we are assembling articles. The response has been international. Again, we need your help to make this publication one of value and quality.

Third, the publication of the membership directory, temporarily delayed, should be accomplished this Spring. This directory should enable all of our members to establish contact with others of a similar collecting interest. And of course it will be helpful to the various study groups.

Fourth, the establishment of a committee to explore the feasibility of Polonus Chapters.

Fifth, the possibility of Polonus meeting in different metropolitan locales on a periodic basis to allow more of our Chicago-

land members the opportunity of participation.

Sixth, the establishment of a permanent catalog committee to act in an advisory capacity with the various catalog publishers on their listings for Poland.

Seventh, the encouragement and active solicitation of new and younger members. No society or group can survive unless it actively brings in new members on a regular basis. If it does not, the result is stagnation and its eventual disappearance. For this and coming years why not pledge to yourself to do what you can to bring in new members.

Lastly, I do not claim to have all the answers and most likely, as all humans, will err from time to time. Your help is needed and will be most appreciated. I both encourage and welcome suggestions, ideas, and recommendations. And of course your criticisms. We have to hear from you if we are to know what we are doing. After all, the Polonus Philatelic Society is you and not any individual or group of individuals. I, and the other officers of the Society, are here for your benefit and service. May we all serve to the best of our and your abilities.

Thank you for your trust and confidence.

— Thomas J. Gobby

CORRECTION TO POLISH LEGION FIELD POST ARTICLE

In the #327 November issue of the Polonus Bulletin appeared the article "Polish Legion Field Post in U.S.A." Part 2 by J. Kucharski. On page 4 the illustrations of Figures 12 and 13 should be reversed. We apologize for this error.

—Editor

COPERNICANA IN DISGUST

I am forced to complain about the latest ill trend in philately.

Almost every special international philatelic event is blown out of proportion gradually due to the greed of certain postal authorities to gain necessary hard currencies, eventual recognition, etc.

Some postal administrations are issuing certain stamps perforate, imperf, in long sets, as souvenir sheets, in exceedingly high denominations, etc. I was trying to collect everything concerning Copernicus but had to give up for the above reasons.

For example, I collected every postal stationery item, cancellation, balloon post, envelope, anything philatelic concerning Copernicus — and in Poland alone I came across approximately 70 different pieces "dealing" with

the POLSKA 73 POZNAŃ exhibition alone. —*Gustave W. Kukiz*

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ODDS AND ENDS

Polonus New York member, J. Kucharski, reported on recent East Coast Auctions. Polish Forces in Palestine covers are realizing good prices. At the Dec. 10 and 11 Auction of H. R. Harmer, Poland #1 covers are realizing over \$100.00 a piece and one cover with "red Warszawa" brought \$425.00. In this auction a Russia #1 on cover realized a fantastic \$1600.00!! Apparently "unexpert" bidders drove up the price as the cancel "Moes & Cie" was a Polish factory stamp and not philatelic. (Editor's note: Know what you bid on or purchase. A little knowledge and precaution can save later disappointment and anguish.)

Mr. Kucharski also reports that he is in the process of authoring a research piece on the Polish 2nd Corps (W.W.II).

The auction market has really taken off as of late. The prices realized for all types of material continue to amaze. Inflation can be considered to be one of the major factors contributing to escalating price rises. Even common material is bringing prices unheard of a year ago. But an important factor is ignorance on the part of many collectors who, all too often, bid up the price on some material out of all relation to its true value or scarcity. We recommend, as always, knowing as much as possible about your collecting specialty. This knowledge would include printing (lithography, engraving, etc.), papers, watermarks, perforations inks, and of course in the case of covers, the history of your area. We maintain that knowledge, and not dollars, is the true foundation for a good collection. And of course the old adage: Know what you buy!

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 —

Can we please hear from you regarding the auction market and availability of Polish material across this country and internationally?

We would also appreciate hearing from you as to what you would like to see reported on a regular basis, and articles in the bulletin. And don't forget the upcoming journal! If you have articles or new research, please contact James Mazepa.

Don't forget your 1975 dues.

Enjoy a good collecting year.

—T. J. Gobby

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Lisiecki
7921 S. Christiana Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60652

Benedict Janczewski
18 Lynch Terrace
Enfield, Conn. 06082

Joseph Mazepa
3112 Michigan St.
Hobart, Ind. 46312

MEMBERS MART

WANTED: Russian stamps, covers, and stationery used in Poland. Also stampless covers of the Kingdom of Poland. James Mazepa, 4800 So. Lake Pk., #2409, Chicago, Illinois 60615.