

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX 77 JUDGES AND SPECIAL CANCEL

Polpex Chairman Edward Link announced that the judges would consist of Bernard "Bud" Hennig, Chairman, Chester W. Makowski, and John G. Ross. "Bud" Hennig is an International Philatelic Federation judge and has served on juries at international exhibitions. Chester Makowski, has won the Polonus Grand Award twice, has many gold medals from exhibiting at international shows and is well acquainted with Polish philately. John Ross, Chicago's foremost stamp dealer, author of the "Stamp Market Tips" column in STAMPS, is our third well qualified judge.

POLPEX 77, to be held March 19 and 20 at the Polish Army Veterans Building, 6005 W. Irving Pk. Rd. in Chicago will honor the "Polish Legacy in the U.S.A." An appropriate cancel has been designed by our artist member from California, Leon Kaweck. He is also preparing a souvenir sheet which is thus far 75% completed.

As they have in the past, the Polish American Numismatic Association will provide a numismat display of several of its members. Since our last Polpex they have issued a bicentennial commemorative medallion part of which is

POLISH LEGACY IN THE U.S.A.



Special cancel to be used at POLPEX 77 shown on the envelope your Bulletin was mailed in.

Deadline for your Polpex entry forms is February 19th. For additional entry forms write to Edw. Link, 4952 N. Nordica Ave., Chicago, IL 60656.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Chester J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Av., Norridge, IL 60656. This will insure your receiving the Bulletin promptly and avoid Polonus the expense of postage dues.

NEW MEMBERS

Edward J. Nyberg, Jr.
Hq 108th Air Defense Group
A.P.O. New York 09227
William Lesh
509 Highland Ave.
Roseville, Calif. 95678
Edward C. Kalendek
29 Silverton Avenue
Little Silver, N.J. 07739

Polish Revenue Stamps Used For Postage

By DR. STANLEY KRONENBERG

Revenue stamps issued in Poland from 1919 to 1939 were not intended to serve as postage stamps but were occasionally used as such. There are multiple and compound reasons for that: shortage of postage stamps at individual post offices, general confusion regarding postal matters (especially shortly after World War I), and ignorance on the part of the public and postal officials concerning which stamps were valid and which were not. Letters franked with revenue stamps were tolerated mainly because in the long run the income from their sale went (like from the sale of postage stamps) to the state treasury.

Stamps and covers of this kind are philatelically most interesting bridging the gap between collecting postage stamps and revenue stamps. They are rare and difficult to obtain. Several such covers are shown and described here as illustrative examples.

This cover addressed to Biała is franked with a pair of perforated olive gray 20 hal. Polish treasury due stamps. A set of 15 values of such stamps was issued in the spring of 1919 for the formerly Austrian part of Poland. The stamps are cancelled: "Bielitz, Ostoberschles. /3c/ 26. V. 19 - 3". The cover was opened by postal authorities and then resealed with the rare brown red postal seal: "Kontrola / zagranicznych listów / w Krakowie" (Foreign letter control in Krakow). I do not know why a domestic letter may have been treated this way, but at that time it was not yet decided what country the Bielsko area should belong to and that may have been the reason for it.

On the back the cover is sealed with a Norwegian charity seal of 1917.

The letter is overpaid by 15 hal. the postage for a regular inland letter having been 25 hal. at that time.

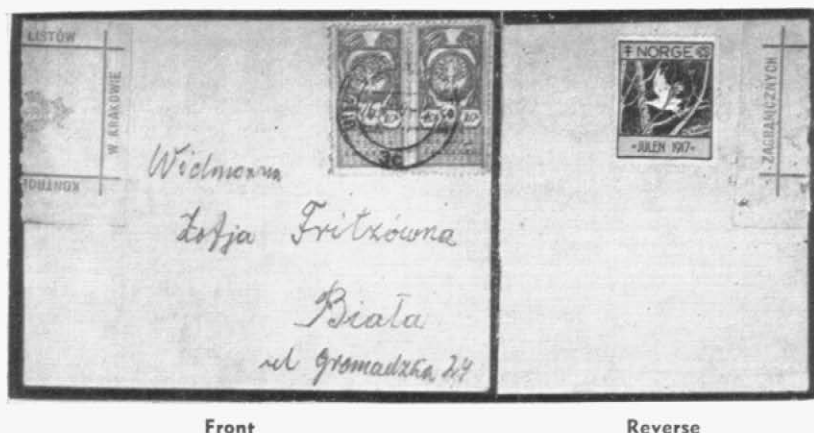


FIGURE 1 — COVER FROM BIELITZ (BIELSKO) OF MAY 6, 1919 (118 x 93 mm.)



FIGURE 2—COVER FROM MYŚLENICE OF MAY 19, 1919 (140 x 97 mm.)

This cover was mailed from Myślenice to Świątniki Górne. The cancellation reads: "Myślenice * B * 19. V. 19-". It is franked with 3 hal. and 2 hal. Liquidation Committee stamps and with the perforated variety of the 20 hal. treasury due olive gray stamp issued in 1919. The postage totals 25 halerzy which was the correct postage for an inland letter weighing below 20 grams from Dec. 6, 1918 to Nov. 1, 1919.

The treasury stamp has been overprinted: "FRANCO" and changed so into a postage stamp. The overprint measures 24.5 x 3.7 mm. and was made in black violet ink by means of a rubber stamp. Such converted stamps must be very rare; this is the only one I have ever seen.



FIGURE 3 — LESZNO COVER OF APRIL 16, 1920 (191 x 128 mm.)

The origin of this cover can be reconstructed as follows: the may-



FIGURE 3 — CLOSER VIEW

or of Leszno near Poznań was mailing a letter to Germany and apparently thought that being an important public figure, his mail should be accepted free of postage. In this spirit, he stamped the envelope in its upper right corner with the official seal: "Starostwo Powiat Leszczyński" (Mayor's Office, District of Leszno) and rubberstamped the lower left corner: "Wolne od opłaty" (Free of payment). At the post office he was told that the letter required postage after all. The mayor gave in and paid the postmaster 1 Mark which between April 15 and September 15, 1920 was the postage for a regular foreign letter weighing below 20 grams. The postmaster then affixed postage consisting of 50 fenigi in current Polish postage stamps and one 50 fenigi revenue stamp. These stamps covered up most of the mayor's seal. The "free of payment" note was crossed out. The stamps are cancelled with the German cancellation: "Lissa, (Bczirk Posen)" dated April 16, 1920, 4-5 PM.

The 50 fen. revenue stamp in light blue is from a set of 12

stamps issued in 1920 especially for the District of Poznań. It is overprinted in black: "50 fen.". Such an overprint has not been previously noted.

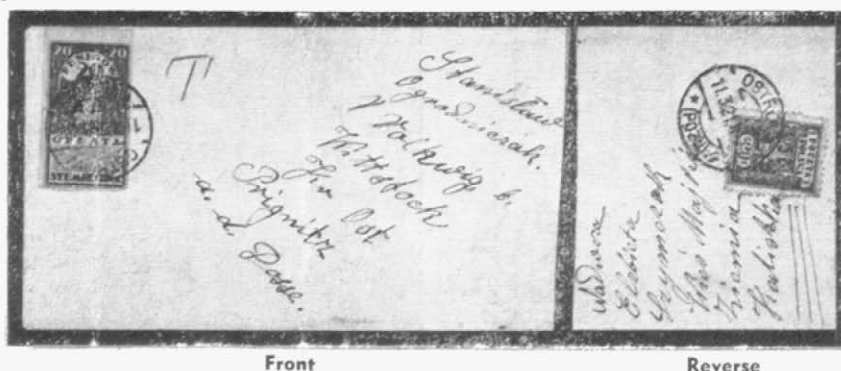
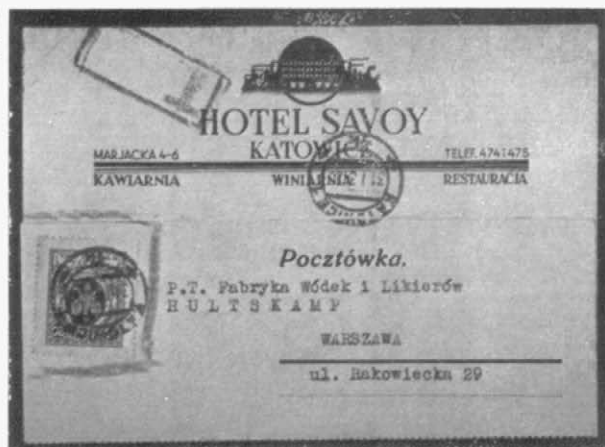


FIGURE 4 — COVER FROM OSTRÓW OF MARCH 11, 1921 (137 x 77 mm.)

This cover addressed to Prignitz an der Dosse (in Eastern Germany) is franked on the front with the imperforated blue 20 fen. revenue stamp of the set of 12 stamps issued on March 16, 1920, and on the reverse side with a 20 fen. Polish postage stamp. Both are cancelled: "Ostrów * (Poznań) *, 11.3.21.6-7". The postage for a foreign letter below 20 grams of weight was 10 Mark between December 15, 1920 and July 15, 1921. This letter being seriously underfranked bears next to the revenue stamp the mark "T" in blue pencil (Taxe — postage due).

FIGURE 5 — BUSINESS POSTCARD FROM KATOWICE OF JANUARY 31, 1934 (145 x 105 mm.)



This business card addressed to Warsaw is franked with a green 20 gr. revenue stamp of the set of 15 values issued in 1937. It is cancelled: "Katowice 1 - 1 K-, 31. I. 34. 20". A red pencil frame was drawn on three sides of the stamp. The postage for a postcard was at that time 15 gr. Apparently some postal official considered the postage incorrect, because a "T" in a rectangular frame (T-Taxe — postage due) was rubberstamped on the card. However no postage due was charged and the card was delivered normally to the addressee.

MY FAVORITE POSTCARD

By ROMAN H. STRZELECKI



1933 TORUŃ PHILATELIC CARD

The above card is not a classic neither is it very expensive, that an average collector could not get. Nevertheless, to me its one of a kind in the world. It has a triple value:

1. Philatelic;
2. Sentimental;
3. My pass into the philatelic world.

I will try to explain in that order its short history.

1. Philatelic Value:

From a pure philatelic angle, this is an official souvenir card issued on the occasion of three various anniversaries:

- a). II National Stamp Exhibition,
- b). 700th Anniversary of the City of Toruń,
- c). 10th Anniversary of the Polish Philatelic Society in Toruń.

The front of the card shows a reproduction of Poland's #275 with an appropriate inscription at the bottom. The back of the

card has three stamps: Scott #: 275, C-10 and B-28. Cancelled with a special Show cancellation, dated May 21-28, 1933, the card was mailed from the Exhibition Postal facilities by registered mail and express.

2. Sentimental Value:

The card was prepared by my father, who is long parted with this world. It was mailed from the II National Stamp Exhibition. The inscription or dedication on the left: "On the Occasion of the 700th Anniversary of the City of Toruń, from the II National Stamp Exhibition for the Little Philatelist."

Because the card was addressed to me personally, I can still remember today, how proud I was, when the card was delivered to me.

To me it was something special. All of my pre-war collection was stolen during the war, but somehow this card remained be-



Picture side of 1933 Toruń Postcard

hind. It was sent to me by my mother after the war.

I had many occasions to sell it, have built and disposed of many collections where this card fit in perfectly, but somehow I could never part with it.

3. My Pass Into the Philatelic World:

I was born in Toruń, and lived there. The year 1933 was a great event in the philatelic world, especially for the Philatelic Society in Toruń. They celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a big show.

I recall very distinctly that I attended the Exhibition twice; once with our School Stamp Club, and a second time with my father. After some discussion at home, it was decided that as a 10-year old, who had been "playing with stamps long enough", I should be "properly introduced to the Philatelic World".

So, on Saturday the 27th of May, my Dad took me down to the Exhibition, to show me what and how to collect. As my father had many friends who were also stamp collectors, I was introduced to many experts and real collectors.

Naturally, I was soon treated like a real philatelist, got acquainted with some juniors, who were already more advanced than I, who already had three or four books filled with various stamps and who already were talking about exchange and swapping.

To me all that was new, but somehow I liked it. Whether I convinced myself, or I became somehow indoctrinated, I do not know. However, that was how it was, my beginning with real philately, and I still have the card.

MILCOPEX 77

MILCOPEX 77, the annual exhibition and bourse of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society is scheduled for March 4-6, 1977 at the Plankinton House Hotel in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The general chairman and his committee have selected "Polar Philately" as the theme for this event. For further information on the exhibition, write to: MILCOPEX 77, P.O. Box 1980, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53201.

NEW MEMBER

Stanley J. Blazewski
519 W. Second Ave.
Roselle, N.J. 07203

BULLETIN AD RATES

Full page ad.....25.00

Half page ad.....15.00

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POLONUS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thirty-five Polonus members and their wives attended the annual Polonus Christmas Party, December 17th. This year the celebration was held at Irena's Restaurant on N. Milwaukee Ave. Traditional Polish drinks and foods were enjoyed as was the dancing music, which continued into the night for those who wanted to enjoy a Christmas dance.



Christmas Party enthusiasts (left to right): Mrs. & Mr. James Mazepa, Mrs. Tom Gobby, Mrs. & Mr. Alfred Szebel.

The party attracted members from throughout the metropolitan Chicago area including some who had not been seen for awhile and as a result many old friendships were renewed — and many were surprised that at a gathering of Polonus members something other than stamps could be discussed. Or could this possibly be due to the presence of so many charming ladies?

In any event, the spirit of friendship and cooperation shown during this holiday season will hopefully carry through into our ventures of 1977.

P.O.W. & D.P. CAMP STUDY GROUP

The September-October Newsletter of the Polish P.O.W. and D.P. Camps Philatelic Study Group carries an article on the Warsaw Ghetto Delivery Post by Dr. Hen-

ry Fenigstein. He covers the history and describes the hand-stamps used on mail from the ghetto. Reports on their successful September exhibition and convention as well as membership meeting are also included in this edition.

Their November-December Newsletter carries a description by the editor of what Christmas holidays were like in war prison camps. Printed also is a write-up on the September exhibition authored by John E. McNally, editor of the Kodak Stamp Club Newsletter, and is very complimentary to this group.

Both editions are 8-pages in length and diligently prepared. Specialists in this field would certainly gain a lot by becoming members of this study group. If interested, write to the editor, Henry F. Zebrowski, 3721 Nile Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Drodzy Koledzy Filateliści - Polacy!

Od dawna starałem się nawiązać wymianę z filatelistami USA, lecz to mi się nie udawało. Zwróciłem się więc do redakcji "Filatelisty". Bardzo się ucieszyłem, gdy przysłano mi adres Waszego Klubu. Zbieram znaczki czyste o tematyce olimpijskiej w kompletnych seriach. Jest mi bardzo trudno zdobyć znaczki Amerykańskie i dlatego chciałbym wymienić Węgierskie, Rumuńskie lub Rosyjskie za Amerykańskie. Korespondencję mogę prowadzić w jęz. Polskim, rosyjskim, lecz słabo znam angielski. Bardzo proszę Polonus Philatelic Society o pomoc w znalezieniu mi partnera do wymiany. Byłoby to dobrym źródłem do kontaktów z Polską - Ojczyznę Polaków. Życzę dalszych sukcesów Waszemu Klubowi i oczekuję na odpowiedź.

Z poważaniem,
Maciej BARTCZAK

mój adres: 62-570 RYCHWAŁ
ul. ŻURAWIN Nr. 8
WOJ. KONIN, POLSKA

GET READY FOR POLPEX 77!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 28th, 1977:

Program Meeting - Walenty Poniński will present a talk on the Field Post of World War II and tell of his personal experiences as a soldier in the Polish II Corps.

Beeba to follow.

Friday, February 11th, 1977:

Clothes-line Exhibit. Members will present three pages from their collection and discuss them. Clothes-line Grand Award will be given.

Friday, February 25, 1977:

James Mazepa will speak on the I Polish Corps in Russia during the First World War.

Friday, March 11, 1977:

Final preparations for POLPEX 77 will be made.

Saturday & Sunday, March 19-20:
POLPEX 77.

Friday, March 25, 1977:

Grand Award/Gold medal winners of POLPEX will discuss their collections.

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

James Mazepa, Secretary
Hines V.A. Hospital, Box 381
Hines, IL 60141

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

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 \$5.00 —

NEW ISSUES

Stamp Day 1976

A set of six commemoratives were issued in October, 1976, celebrating Stamp Day. On the stamps are shown paintings taken from Greek vases in the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw. The 7th Century B.C. vases are from Corinth.

1.00 zł.—sphinx - 10,000,000 issued
1.50 zł.—mermaid - 10,000,000 iss.
2.00 zł.—lion - 5,000,000 issued
4.20 zł.—bull - 4,000,000 issued
4.50 zł.—goat - 2,000,000 issued
8.00 zł. + 4.00 zł.—sphinx -
1,000,000 issued.

Multicolor printed in rotogravure on chalky paper in sheets of 50 by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by H. Matuszewska.

Czekanowski Anniversary

Issued in September, 1976 on the 100th anniversary of the death of A. Czekanowski, noted geologist. Czekanowski investigated the geology, geography and ethnography of Lake Baikal and Yakutia and wrote scientific works dealing with Siberian geology. The 1.50 zł. stamp is multicolor printed in rotogravure on chalky paper in sheets of 50 by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by T. Michaluk. Total printing: 10,000,000 copies.

New Issue info. courtesy R. Burkiewicz

**MINUTES OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING
JANUARY 14, 1977 — Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd.**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Szebel at 8:30 with 18 members and 3 guests braving the sub-zero cold to attend. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. M/S/C Mr. Schafer, Mr. Madro; to accept the minutes as read. Treasurer's report: After all adjustments were added or subtracted we have a working balance of \$734.50 as of December 31, 1976. M/S/C Mr. Schafer, Mr. Styczynski; to accept the report. Mr. Mazepa read the applications for membership: Mr. Edward Nyberg, HQ 108 Air Defense Group; Mr. William Lesh Roseville, Calif.; Mr. Edward Kalendek, Little Silver, N.J.; and Mr. Stanley Blazewski, Roselle, N.J. M/S/C Mr. Wolosewick, Mr. Bor; to accept into membership.

Old Business: Mr. Szebel reported on the success of the Christmas Party. POLPEX 77: Mr. Link reported that the cancellation is already at the Post Office. Only 16 frames have so far been requested but many including most of those present have not sent their forms in yet. The work on the souvenir sheet is 3/4 done. The Bourse is almost sold out. Any club that wants to have a meeting at Polpex is welcome as there is more than enough room.

Mr. Szebel stated that the over-due audit will be completed next week.

Copies of the revised By-Laws are available for those who want to read them. Members will have an opportunity next meeting to read or advise on the revision. If none are received, the membership will vote on them the first meeting of February.

There being none further business before the membership, M/S/C Ms. Zilke, Ms. Bunge: to adjourn.

Philatelic Presentation:

Mr. Mazepa then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. George Trefonas, who spoke on "How to Mount Your Collection for Exhibit." George told us that he would tell us how HE pro-

(Continued on back side)

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gressed in his presentations of his collection and hoped that we could learn from his mistakes. (With all the Gold medals he has, George doesn't make too many mistakes!) First he reminded us that if we seriously enter competition, we will most likely redo our exhibit over and over as we learn how to go about it. Exhibiting is not like putting stamps in an album. The exhibit must tell a story, and tell it in order. The exhibit is for two audiences, the judges and the public who will view it. Some hints: 1). Plan how you are going to tell your story. 2). Make your comments BRIEF. Neither the judges nor the public have time to read everything — when was the last time you read everything at a stamp show? 3). Highlight stamps, not the design of the page or your writing. 4). Don't leave spaces for missing stamps or stamps that you don't have in a set. 5). You can have a title page or not, will not matter as far as the judges go. 6). It is nice but not necessary to put a backing on your stamps/covers. Black is not popular any more. 7). The exhibit should be uniform as to spacing and height. Pages for all occasions should be 8½ by 11". Scott pages are okay, but they cut down on the number you can show. Most frames will hold nine of the 8½ x 11" and only six of the Scott. 8). Use arrows very sparingly. 9). Not all white pages are white. Make sure there is uniformity as to color. 10). Don't put any information that could be found in the Scott catalog, e.g., perfs, color, etc. Thanks George, for a most interesting talk, everyone was awake from start to finish. BEEBA followed.

Respectfully submitted,
James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

COMING PHILATELIC EVENTS

February 4th — 6th, 1977:

A. S. D. A. Fair at the Hyatt
Regency O'Hare.

March 4th — 6th, 1977:

MILCOPEX, Milwaukee Show.
will be held at the Ramada Inn,
Airport, Milwaukee.

March 19th — 20th, 1977:

POLPEX 77

March 26th — 27th, 1977:

ROCKFORD STAMP SHOW at
the Clock Tower Inn, I-90 and
Business 20 in Rockford.

April 15th — 17th, 1977:

Midwest Stamp Dealers Show
at the Palmer House.

April 23rd — 24th, 1977:

PARK FOREST STAMP SHOW

May 27th — 29th, 1977:

COMPEX at the Palmer House.

