

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 No. 162

September, 1958

GET READY NOW!

Polpex Director Stefan Kochanski asks the members to prepare their stamp collections now for the show Feb. 27, 28, Mar. 1, 1959. Since this will be our 20th Anniversary, Stefan hopes to put up a 200 frame show. He would like more members to participate and asks those members who do not usually exhibit to prepare at least six frames. Let's have the work of **more** members displayed!

TID BITS

Member who attended the Aug. 22nd meeting were treated to some real Wisconsin cheese and pumpernickel bread by member Leo Topolinski who attended from Milwaukee.

The second meeting in November will highlight a lecture on SPUTNIKS by Dr. M. E. Uznanski.

Bad News: Jack Domar had a stroke while attending the A.P.S. Convention at Montreal, Canada. We learned this at the time of going to press with the Bulletin. He is recuperating at a hospital out there.

We received an appeal for U.S. commemoratives and South American pictorials for Polish children in hospitals. This appeal was made by the Polish Philatelic Association at Warsaw. Members wishing to donate stamps please bring them down to the meeting or send them to our Secretary, Roman Strzelecki, 1439 N. Bell, Chicago 22.

Joseph Godlewski, one of the early Polonus members—No. 68, passed on August 4th at the age of 78. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his surviving family.

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

The Defense of Gdańsk Post Office issue will appear in September. Expected also are a set of sport stamps and air mail definitives.

In August a two-stamp set was to have been released commemorating the 350th Anniversary of the First Poles Landing in America; face value 60 gr and 2.50 zł.; size 27 x 41 mm; designed by Seweryn Jasiński; one stamp depicts the historical date "1608" and over it a group of Polish settlers that arrived in that year at Jamestown, Virginia; the other stamp depicts a sailing-boat silhouette from that time. The stamps are printed in monochrome recess from steel engraved plates.

At the beginning of October a set of three stamps will be released featuring the 15th Anniversary of the Popular Polish Army; designed by Cz. Kaczmarezyk. They depict the Polish Military Orders:

- 40 gr. — the Partisan Cross, quantity printed: 4 million,
- 60 gr. — the Virtuti Militari Cross, quantity printed: 4 million,
- 2.50 zł. — the Grunwald Cross, quantity printed: 500,000.

Their size is a novelty among stamps, being small squares with a 27 mm. side; printed in 3 or 4 color rotogravure.

In October, 1958 a set is to be issued commemorating 400 Years of the Polish Post, comprising of five stamps. Also, a 2.50 zł. stamp is to be printed in sheets of 6, on the occasion of the 4th Centenary Exhibition.

—FILATELISTA

The Third Philatelic Exhibition in Hrubieszow

By MARIAN DUNSKI

From October 13th to the 23rd, 1957 at the Cultural Center for Youth in the Youth Palace, Hrubieszow staged its Third Philatelic Exhibition. It was organized by the Philatelic Workshop of the Youth Center ("Pracownia Filatelistyki Domu Kultury i Dzieci i Młodzieży"). Taking into consideration the fact that this was strictly a local affair, this was a fine and successful exhibition, which gave the visitor a pleasant surprise.

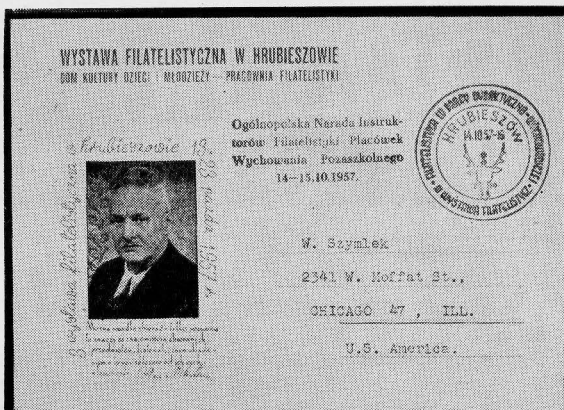
Looking through the Juniors' exhibits one could admire collections that were well worth exhibiting not only in national exhibition, but international as well. The exhibition committee left nothing undone in making this show a pleasing affair to everyone—in line with their motto: "By playing—we are learning!" ("Bawiąc—uczymy się!")

There were 73 entries and among them fifteen were those of yours truly—the representative correspondent of the **Polonus Bulletin** Marian Duński.

The Souvenir issues were as prolific as they were artistic:

- 1) Exhibition catalog of 30 pages
- 2) Catalog of the "inside post" of the Youth Center, 24 pages.
- 3) Postal card
- 4) Cacheted cover—"Over the stamp album"
- 5) Cacheted cover with the likeness of Prof. St. Mikstein
- 6) The "Inside Post" issued three souvenir sheets, one portraying Prof. Mikstein
- 7) Two different commemorative cancellations:
 - a) "Wystawa Filatelistyczna Domu Kultury Dzieci i Młodzieży"
 - b) "Filatelistyka w pracy dydaktyczno wychowawczej."

In the exhibition program were included:



Cacheted cover with likeness of Prof. St. Mikstein

A Convention of Philatelic Instructors from Education Centers for out-of-school training and guidance (which used its own commemorative cancel "14 - 15 X. 1957")

A Conference of the Province (Województwo) of Instructors in extraneous education.

Some description of the juniors' exhibits is in order as this most likely would interest the readers of the **Polonus Bulletin**, because it reflects the interest shown by the young collectors in Poland and demonstrates the wide scope of topical collecting and individual initiative in finding new ways of presentation, including individual ideas of albums for stamps.

Exhibits for competition in the junior class (by titles) were:

- 1) Pomorze on postage stamps.
- 2) Presidents of Czechoslovakia.
- 3) Famous people.
- 4) Catalog of stamps, Album for sport stamps, History of the Peace Race, Famous people, The Post in Woldenberg.
- 5) Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia—Folk costumes, animals, armies, maps, people with beards, camps birds, flowers.
- 6) Famous people.
- 7) Warszawa.

Continued on Page 162-6

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 7

August 1958

The long awaited publication of Part II of Gibbons has now been made and I am able to tell you briefly what the significant changes have been in the listing of Poland since the previous edition two years ago. First of all, however, I would like to explain a little about the catalogue which I know is not used very widely in the U.S.A.

The catalogue is published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. — one of our oldest firms of stamp retailers in this country — and has come to be regarded by English collectors as the standard work, in a very similar way to which you regard Scott. All advertisements in the philatelic press, for example, carry S.G. numbers and in cases of dispute about dates of issue, perfs., colours, etc. the non-specialist collector always turns to Gibbons list for his answer. It is a semi-specialised listing and, although it has many imperfections from a specialised collector's point of view, it is still useful in providing a basic list of the stamps of each country.

There are two Gibbons catalogues. The "Simplified" edition, which covers the whole world in one volume and to do so has to omit all references to perfs, watermarks and so on, and the "Big Gibbons" which is issued in three parts, I, II and III. Part I appears annually and covers the stamps of the British Empire; Part II, published every two years, deals with the stamps of Europe and its Colonies, and Part III, also published every two years but in alternate years to Part II, covers the rest of the world, i.e. Africa, America and Asia. The three parts are always referred to by colours of their bindings, which are Red, Green and Blue respectively. The one which has just appeared is the Green Gibbons—Part II.

In this, the Polish listing remains unaltered from the point of view of content, but there are the usual additional new issues, amounting this time to nearly three pages and including 78 stamps. Most noticeable is the upward trend in prices: an average rise of about 25% on the previous edition. Whether

this indicates increased demand or not is doubtful. Experienced observers in the trade over here attribute it largely to the increased attention being paid to topicals, and it is true that the upward price trend is noticeable throughout the catalogue and not only in Poland.

The 1860 10 k. stamp is now priced at £20 (\$56.00) against £15 (\$42.00) previously and a price of £500 (\$1400.00) is now quoted for a used copy of the same stamp imperforate. In the last edition no price was given for this. In the wartime "London" issues, mint prices have remained the same while used prices have moved upward slightly. The exception being the 1944 Warsaw Rising issue (Scott 3KB1) where both mint and used prices have dropped. Nearly all other pre-war and post-war issues have moved upwards in price. The prices quoted for the most recent issues appear to be based on their face value, adopting a rate of 1 zloty = $\frac{1}{8}$ d (24c) approximately.

The catalogue, which has 1373 pages is published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.2 at 27/6d (\$3.85), postage extra.

— RON NEGUS

REFLECTIONS

A club is a group of people gathered together who want to do the same things. To put it in another way, all in a club like to do things together.

A club has many activities and even though no one takes part in all activities, still everyone is interested in all the activities because the club is doing them. If you belong to a club you will be proud of it. If you belong to a club you will want to do something for it, because it is part of you and you are part of it. If you belong to a club you will talk about it and brag about it, because it is "your club." You, in a word, belong. If you belong to a club you will protect it against those who have no love for it, because a blow against the club is a blow against you. A club is wonderful because no one who is selfish joins a club: a selfish person says, "Me first"—a club member says, "The club first."

POLISH MADONNAS BEHIND BARBED WIRE

By EDWARD NOWAK, SR.

(Reprinted from LINN'S WEEKLY of 2/24/58)

One of the most interesting groups of Polish stamps is composed of those made in prisoner of war camps during World War II. They are eagerly sought by orthodox general collectors, Polish stamp specialists and those who like religion on stamps as their avocation . . . all groups having very interesting and instructive, and often, unbelievable stories in their stamps.

The most provoking fact is that these fascinating bits of paper should be recognized as "locals" and not treated as labels or seals. The adhesives were actually used for inter-camp prepayment of mail.

"Whether the stamps will be recognized as such or not, the fact is that those who have them will not part with them for the love of money; those who can not get them, pretend not to be interested or question their validity . . ." quotes one of the renowned philatelists who made a deep study of the subject in discussion, namely, Father Aloysius S. Horn, President of St. Gabriel Philatelic Academy.

"Most of the copies," states Father Horn, "are still in the hands of former inmates of the concentration camps who procured them during their incarceration. Many of these adhesives were lost in a long forced march which started January 25, 1945 due to the advance of the Red Army."

The transfer to "a safer" barbed wire enclosure meant a journey of 994 miles . . . the last 310 on foot during bitter cold of winter. No prisoner in such state cared to save the adhesives for posterity.

Four Madonna stamps were designed and printed at Woldenberg (Dobigniew) in the section known as OFLAG IIC and one at Murnau at OFLAG VIIA.

The letters OFLAG stand for Oficiery Lager; the word "Lager" meaning a barrack. Camp Woldenberg, at one time, contained 7,000 Polish Army officers . . . and it was here that the

prison camp postal service was born and maintained.

"Our Lady of the Camp" was the first Madonna stamp produced in the prison post office at Woldenberg, and the idea spread to other camps where Polish nationals were incarcerated. The 5-pfennig, ultramarine adhesive represents the interpretation of a statue of a Madonna and Child carved in wood by war prisoners which later found its way to an honorable place in the chapel of the camp.

In the lower left background of this design are the likenesses of two war prisoners, heads bowed in prayer. The initials in the upper left corner of stamp stand for "Fundusz Wdów i Sierot" (Widows and Orphans Fund).

A special body, elected by prison inmates, was in charge of the fund created through sale of the stamps. The committee was also responsible for money sent to Poland to relieve needy families of the Poles in prisons at Woldenberg and elsewhere.

These 5pf. Madonna and Child adhesives were handprinted between September 15 and October 30, 1942 from wood dies carved by 2nd Lt. Marian Puchalski. Of the 2347 copies printed on thin paper and 2570 copies printed on heavier paper very few escaped for posterity. The stamp was recalled from sale by the prison commission June 15, 1943.



The next Madonna stamp issue at Woldenberg was the famed Holy Virgin of "Ostra Brama," printed from wood dies hand-carved by 2nd Lt. Puchalski. There were two printings of this stamp; the first on thin paper produced 3062 copies. The second printing struck 3126 copies on thick newspaper margins. "The Madonna of Ostra Brama" stamps were also recalled from sale June 15, 1943.

The beautifully colored issue of stamps, bearing the likeness of this same Madonna, was printed by the Vatican Post Office to close the Marian Year. The first stamp (Scott No. 189) saw its first day on December 7, 1954.

The third adhesive issued at Woldenberg camp—also the project and die carving of 2nd Lt. Puchalski—bears the image of the well known "Polish Black Faced Madonna," also known as "Our Lady of Czestochowa."

There were also two printings of this stamp, the first on thin paper in the amount of 2436, the second on paper from newspaper margins, in the amount of 2032 copies. The 5, 10 and 20pf. items are described in Protokol No. 9 in the catalog issued in the Woldenberg prison camp. Their issuance was authorized by the camp elder, Captain Szalewicz. This series was likewise recalled from sale June 15, 1943.



In the "Jasna Gora" (the bright mount) church in Czestochowa the original picture rests in the main altar. The first crowning of the picture was in 1717. It is notable that this picture of the Madonna—with one exception—

was the first so honored in all of Europe. The crowns were the gift of Pope Clement XI. They were stolen in 1906 and never recovered.

The present crowns according to Church records were sent by Pope Saint Pius X. At the solemn crowning by Bishop Stanislaus Zdzitowiecki of Wroclaw, Poland, the garments looted earlier were restored.

Soon after World War I, following the resurrection of Poland, the 8th Meeting of Polish Bishops was held in Czestochowa in July 1920. There the newly created Cardinal Kakowski and Cardinal Dalbor were present and heard 800,000 Polish people renew their vows and proclaim the "Black Faced Virgin" as the "Queen of Poland."

POLPEX 1958 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ads & Postage	\$137.50	\$ 4.36
Awards		
Donation — C. Schafer	4.00	
Gold Stamping		4.85
Trophy, medals & engraving		15.56
Frames		56.33
Engraving		4.06
Box & Plate Carving		25.00
*Frames, photos & ribbons		15.46
Carving & Lettering		14.00
Total Awards		139.26
Beeba	9.80	
Bourse & Postage	180.00	
Entries & Postage	138.25	13.29
Frame Glass		15.33
Trailer		15.33
Patrons	55.25	
Printing, entries, seals		244.55
Hall Rent & Storage		105.00
Souv. Shhets & Covers	269.55	
Design		12.00
Postage		19.13
Watch & Janitor Service		40.00
TOTAL	\$794.35	609.78
NET PROFIT	\$184.57	

*This item was paid by the Society Treasurer because of the 5 year quantity purchase.

NEW MEMBER

Stanley J. Straszinski
2901 West 25th Place
Chicago 23, Ill.

THE GEN. GOUV. FRANK ISSUE

by Lt. Col. H. L. Halle

Reprinted from STAMP WHOLESALER of 12-10-57

The well known German Michel catalogue, under General Gouvernement brings a listing of a propaganda stamp showing the portrait of Frank. The value of the stamp has been set at 150 DM (appr. \$35.00) mint, and a cool 1,000 DM on cover (appr. \$250.00). The catalogue further states that these stamps were produced by the British intelligence service AND USED BY THE POLISH UNDERGROUND FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROPAGANDA MATERIAL. There is a further notation that stamps on cover should only be purchased when expertized and accompanied by a certificate. The big question as to who is qualified to expertize this item, is left unanswered. It must be for the following reasons: This stamp was completely unknown in Germany during the war, even though it was supposedly issued in 1943, with some claims placing the date of issue even earlier. Propaganda stamps are issued in large quantities, still until after the war no one had ever heard of this issue. To date all writings dealing with this stamp lack logic. It is claimed that letters with propaganda leaflets were distributed and also included was a mint Frank stamp.

Question number one: How, if these stamps were produced in Great Britain, did they get to Poland? And the into the hands of the underground. The underground is then supposed to have filled the envelopes with propaganda material and have forwarded same to numerous individuals. Certainly the underground had more pressing things to accomplish.

Question number two: Why, if the purpose was to distribute propaganda material, frank with a stamp that is designed to call attention and not by regular issue which, at least for a time, might find delivery through postal channels without detection? It stands to reason that recipients of these letters, singled out as they were, would receive "invitations" by the Gestapo for questioning. It must also be remembered that during the war the possession of propaganda leaflets was a

major offense and severely punished. As president of the German Philatelic Society, I have repeatedly warned against these issues, which also include the Witzleben stamp and Himmler stamp, especially when considerable cash outlay is demanded. To date no documentary proof of production by intelligence services has been offered, as has been for the "legitimate" propaganda forgeries of the Hitler stamps.

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Amsterdam, New York

C. B. Russell, 358

933 E. Broad St.

Columbus 5, Ohio

THIRD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN HRUBIESZÓW

Continued from Page 162-2

- 8) Album for stamps, Viewcards from sports, Stamp newspaper.

In the adult class for the first time in Poland were shown all the **Souvenir Sheets of the Polonus Philatelic Society, catalogs and all commemorative covers and cards of Polpexes from 1940 to 1957.** In the non-competitive section the Wrocław Museum of Posts and Telecommunications featured its exhibit "How a stamp originates" (Jak powstaje znaczek). The Youth Center featured "Past year's achievements." These two were best among others.

Your correspondent received a commemorative certificate for his exhibits.

The commemorative cancel features the Coat of Arms of Hrubieszów: a horned head of a stag and two crosses; bestowed on Hrubieszów by King Zygmunt August.

TID BITS

Midway Stamp Club will hold its Auction Sale on Wed., Oct. 15th, at 5718 South Archer Ave., Chicago. All Polonus members cordially invited. Over 100 lots will be auctioned off.

Member W. Kollakowski has been appointed as general manager at the New York stamp firm of Frank Warner, as a result of the death of Mr. Warner, founder of that firm. Their address is at 109 Nassau St., New York 38, N.Y.

Polonus Bulletin, September 1958

THE FIFTH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT KATOWICE, 1957

By MARIAN DUNSKI

In conjunction with the 25th Anniversary celebration of organized philately in Silesia the "Polski Związek Filatelistyczny" (Polish Philatelic Association) Katowice chapter held its Fifth Philatelic Exhibition at Katowice in the Youth Palace. Chairman of the Exhibition Committee was Mgr. Eng. Jerzy Zadurawicz, Bytom. Mgr. Zadurawicz is well known to Polish philatelists, as he published a philatelic periodical without interruption from 1924 till September 1939, the "Kurier Filatelistyczny" 1924 to 1928, and with the name changed to "Ilustrowany Kurier Filatelistyczny" from 1928 to 1939. It was published at Lwów, Kołomyja and Tarnowskie Góry.

Diplomas of participation were designed by Fr. Szlachciec, Gliwice.

The commemorative medal and canceller by Eng. Jan Sobczyk, Gliwice. A photographic reproduction of the medal is featured on the commemorative covers, sold at Exhibition. For the 5th Philatelic Exhibition at Katowice the following was issued:

POLAND

No. 754 Olympic 60gr. Imperf	\$7.50
C34a Warsaw Air sheet Imperf	5.00
Roosevelt Airmails San. 32/34 mint	2.00
Roosevelt Airmail Souv. Sheet mint	3.50
General Government Hitler 15 val. Imperf	15.00
All new issues MINT or First Day Covers at lowest prices.	
1957 Filatelist magazine in bound volume	postpaid \$3.50

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for anything in Poland
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- 1) A Catalog of the Exhibition — "1932—1957", of 13 pages.
- 2) "Filatelist Śląski"—a pamphlet for the 25th Jubilee of organized philately in Silesia. Edited by Jerzy Zadurawicz.
- 3) A Cover featuring the likeness of the commemorative jeton with the appropriate inscription "V. Wystawa Filatelistyczna Katowice — 8 grudnia, 1957".
- 4) A Commemorative Cancel.

The exhibits were set in two halls. A total of 93 exhibits were shown, subdivided into four groups. Many exhibits were tied to the history and memory of Silesia—stamps, cancellations, proofs and pre-philatelic material.

As a whole, the Exhibition had a high degree of artistic skill and philatelic know-how and made a very pleasant impression. The Exhibition was well attended.

BULLETIN ADS — PRICE LIST

For Polonus Members Only

Full Page	\$12.00
Half Page	7.00
Quarter Page	4.00
One inch ad	1.50

The War has ended
— But the Maladies
linger on . . .

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SEND US YOUR BEEFS!

It is usually after the Polpex that the Society receives "beefs" from the members in regards to the show. This was wrong, there should have been a special class for topical exhibits, the judges give to much emphasis to the amount of frames, etc.

Polpex Director Stefan Kochanski is preparing the prospectus now. Send him your complaints now. Mail should be sent to him at 4030 W. Carroll Ave., Chicago 24, Ill.

* * *

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

Every year at Polpex time, we try to stimulate interest in Polish philately by having articles by members on Polish stamps, appearing in other publications. To write such an article takes much time and planning. In the last few years we've had a wonderful showing of such articles and we'd like to continue doing so. Among our members there are many who have specialized studies of certain issues and who are capable of writing a good article.. How

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about working on one now. We'll get it published for you.



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