

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO ALL POLONUS MEMBERS

It is again my honor and privilege to serve Polonus and its members. And I remember that it is a privilege that deserves your trust and my best. Our society is on the threshold of a major event, its 50th anniversary. But while we plan and look toward 1989 with great anticipation we cannot forget that we must get through today, tomorrow, and many more tomorrows before we get there.

Today is our reality. Our society is only as good as its members. Strong, cooperating, and contributing members make a good society. Weak, contentious, and selfish members do not make a good society, or a good anything else for that matter. I believe that we have good members who are strong, cooperate and contribute. Some do it naturally. Others will if given the chance or asked. Today you can say you have that chance and consider yourself asked.

To get to 1989 we have to do a lot of hard work — you and I. From where I sit this is what I see.

1. Membership. We are a relatively static Society. Our roll has about 400 members, a number that hasn't changed much in several years. Given the number of Poles, and the number of Poles who collect stamps, and non-Poles who collect the stamps of Poland, logic says that we are missing a lot of potential members. Now I ask you if each of our 400 members recruited a new member, we could double our ranks. What do you think?

2. Finances. We have been relatively fortunate up till now. That famous Polish frugality produced some surpluses in earlier years that help to carry us now and meet our expenses. Financial accounting will be part of my pledge to you. One thing that a society, any society, does not want to do is raise its members' dues. Honest!

Polonus is a chartered not-for-profit Illinois organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law. All not-for-profit societies, groups and agencies depend heavily upon contributions. Fund raising is never easy nor always pleasant, but it is necessary. Any of you out there who have done it or do it, know what it is like.

It is one of my objectives to try to obtain an IRS 501(c)3 designation for Polonus. If there is an attorney among you, familiar with the necessary procedures and you are in the Chicago or Springfield area, please contact me — I need your help. A 501(c)3 designation will help us with many potential funding sources and private individuals.

3. The Bulletin. While not all of our members can be at our meetings, all members share in our bulletin. But it takes a lot of hard work, time, and contributions from you to make it worthwhile and meaningful. How?

You say you don't see articles on your area? I suggest that you might want to write one and submit it. Or write and tell us what you'd like to see in specific areas.

One thing for sure is we'd like to know what you out-of-Chicago members are doing. Tell us about your exhibits, awards, collections, philatelic achievements. A clear, sharp photo wouldn't hurt either.

4. Study Groups. An old idea that won't go away. What does it take? At least two collectors, preferably three or more, who have a common interest. They dig, they probe, and they publish and share their research and findings with their fellow collectors.

A study group can be the source for a handbook or monograph, something which Polonus has done quite well over the years.

A good example of strong study groups are those of the Germany Philatelic Society. All it takes is some willingness.

5. Some other thoughts. What do our members in the east, west, and south of the U.S.A., Canada, and other countries expect of or like to see from Polonus? What do they want Polonus to do? Would a questionnaire be helpful?

Would more cooperation with other philatelic societies be something for which to strive? Especially with societies that have overlapping collecting interests such as the German, Russian, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian philatelic societies? And here my stress is on **philatelic!** Nothing else. We need to know.

There is more, but this is what I wish to lay out now. Our priorities are to be a strong society, one which earns your respect and accords prestige, and which gives you a return in knowledge, pleasure and being a better philatelist.

Together we can do it. There is no other way because there are no others who are us and the Polonus Philatelic Society. Together. One step at a time. One day at a time.

—Thomas J. Gobby

Please let us hear from you. Write to us in care of the Bulletin, and we'll do two things: 1) Share your thoughts with the members, and 2) work to improve Polonus based on your thoughts and suggestions.

MIKUCKI, POLONUS FOUNDER DIES

On May 15th, 1987, The Polonus Philatelic Society lost its founder and great friend — CHESTER MIKUCKI.

It was Chester who, in those late days of the Great Depression, placed an ad in the Polish newspapers in Chicago and called for collectors of Poland to come together. And they did.

On February 26, 1938, 54 collectors of Polish stamps met at the Polish Veterans Hall on Wood Street on Chicago's north side. From that meeting the Polonus Philatelic Society was born.

The achievements of this Society, founded by Chester are many: a continuously published bulletin since October, 1939 — first a mimeographed sheet, then the Polonus magazine (13 issues), and then this bulletin which you now read. With a few exceptions the Society has had an annual exhibition, POLPEX, the largest showing of Polish material in the USA each year. And it has been instrumental in the issuance of US stamps honoring Poles as well as the selection of First Day sites for such stamps.



Chester, and his wife, Ann, were responsible for beginning the "beebe's," the Polish table of hospitality, that have become the trademark of Polonus, particularly the evening presentation of awards at each POLPEX. The "beebe" continues to the present.

During World War II Chester served with the U.S. Navy and participated in the invasion of the Philippines. Even in distant waters he kept abreast of Polonus. His wife served as an officer of the Society during the war years.

Chester returned from the war and was elected President in 1948. A serious stroke nearly took his life, but demonstrating the strength and courage for which he was known, he carried on his duties.

Chester loved everything about Poland, especially the stamps that told her story. He was a frequent exhibitor and award winner, and was known for his Polish postal history and Polish revenues. He always had time for his fellow collectors, old or young, advanced or beginner. Right up until the end, he devoted his energies to Polonus. Children who visited POLPEX-87 were given packets of stamps prepared by Chester.

God bless Chester. We all miss him.

—Thomas J. Gobby

DISCOVERY OR FORGERY?

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

While in Copenhagen in July, 1965 a sheet of the 20 pf ultramarine overprinted "Gen. Gouv. / Warschau" (Poland Scott #N13) with the "Gen. Gouv. Warschau" HAN H312-315 in the bottom selvedge beneath positions 93/94. The portion of the sheet purchased included positions 21/22, 31/32, 41/42, 51/52, 61/62, 71/72 and 81/100. My reason for the purchase was to have a reference copy of the overprinted stamp for comparison with the scarce 20 pf ultramarine overprinted "Poczta Polska" (Second Provisional Issue - Scott #21a).



As is well known, the basic Germania stamp was printed by rotary press in the first printing, and according to German and Polish authors and catalogs, deep black ink with high gloss was used for the "Gen. Gouv. / Warschau" overprint.

The accompanying photograph of positions 83/84, 93/94 shows the HAN correctly positioned but the ink used in the "Gen. Gouv./Warschau" overprint is reddish black with a high gloss. There is no mention of this variety in any of the catalogs I have seen.

The distance from the bottom of "Warschau" to the top of the HAN is 9.76 mm and the first "3" is below the "s" of "Warschau." If anyone has any copies of the 20 pf ultramarine overprinted "Gen.-Gouv. / Warschau" please check this measurement as well as the kind of ink used in the overprint. As stated earlier, Polish experts could not confirm the reddish-black overprint, and no German author has indicated such a printing. Is this a new find or a forgery?

■ ■ ■

POLONUS MEMBERS WIN AT CAPEX-87

There were more than 3,000 sixteen page frames of exhibits from collectors in North, Central, and South America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa. The event — CAPEX-87 — the International Stamp Exhibit held in Toronto, Canada from June 13 to 21 under the sponsorship of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the patronage of the FIP. A number of Polonus members exhibited and won awards. Following is a listing (as of presstime):

Bernard Hennig	Large Gold	Danzig, 1587-1939
Fred Blau	Large Gold	Airmail History of Holy Land
Dr. James Mazepa	Gold	Poland Air Post to 1939
Fred Blau	Gold	Allied Military Airmail, WWII
Dr. Jozef Kuderewicz	Vermeil	Disinfected Mail: Austro-Hung.
Thomas J. Gobby	Large Silver	Poland & Its People, WWII
Dr. Miet Kamienski	Large Silver	Poland: 1720-1923
Mieczyslaw Lubinski	Large Silver	Imperial Russian Censorship
Alfred Szebel	Silver Bronze	Philatelic Profile: Pilsudski

Our congratulations to these collectors and exhibitors. Their time, trouble, and efforts have paid off — first, for themselves, and second, for sharing the fruits of their work and knowledge with other collectors.

Any of our other members who are exhibiting locally, nationally or internationally are asked to let us know about it too. For that matter, anything in the field of philatelic achievement.

—Thomas J. Gobby

New Members

Wachalowicz, Marek #1337
83-75 118th St., Apt. 3-G
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
Blicharski, Edward F.
2219 N. Mango Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639
Borucki, Jerzy
4700 West 20th St.
Cicero, IL 60650



**YES, WE WANT
NEW MEMBERS!**

This 'n That

David Stefancic's "Polish Legions of Pilsudski" received the Wisconsin champion of champions gold at the WISCOPEX '86 Show.

David wrote an extensive article on Pilsudski in Philately. The first part of this work will appear in the next issue of the **Polonus Bulletin**.

■ ■ ■
The Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston, Mass., a suburb of Boston, is considered to have one of the most complete stamp collections in the United States. Dedicated in 1964, the Museum is located on the campus of Regis College.

A portion of the Vatican City collection was on exhibit at one of our previous Polpex shows.

Poland, Scott No. 21

by Stanley Kronenberg

Blue 20-pfennig German stamps overprinted into German occupational stamps during World War I and after the armistice of 1918 into Polish stamps, are some of the most difficult stamps to classify in the already difficult collecting area of Poland. Numerous misunderstandings often result in wrong descriptions in collections. Due to the inadequate description of these stamps in the *Scott Catalogue*, common

The correct description is as follows: "Gen. Gouv./Warschau" stamps of five editions were overprinted typographically "Poczta Polska" in sheets of ten by ten stamps with two different overprint forms, described in Figure 1. The table above lists all existing nine varieties of these stamps with German and with Polish overprints.

The very rare Scott 21a is listed in the first line of the table.

BASIC GERMAN 20 PF. STAMP		OVERPRINT: "GEN. GOUV. / WARSCHAU"		POLISH OVERPRINT
COLOR	PRINTING METHOD	COLOR	PLATE NUMBER	
ULTRAMARINE	ROTARY PRESS	LUSTROUS DEEP BLACK	H 3123.15	FORM II
PRUSSIAN BLUE	FLAT PRESS	SEMIGLOSSY BLACK WITH A REDDISH HUE	H 3930.17	FORM I, FORM II
SAPPHIRE BLUE, NUMEROUS SHADES	ROTARY PRESS	SEMIGLOSSY VIOLET BLACK	H 4312.17	FORM I, FORM II
LIGHT BLUE	FLAT PRESS	SEMIGLOSSY BLACK WITH A REDDISH HUE	H 4821.17	FORM I, FORM II
VIOLET BLUE	FLAT PRESS	DULL BLACK WITH A REDDISH HUE	H 3093.18	FORM I, FORM II

and inexpensive stamps often are offered for sale as being the elusive, rare, and valuable Scott No. 21a (ultramarine).

Rotary press and flat press printings can be distinguished in stamps with attached sheet margins. Rotary press-printed stamps

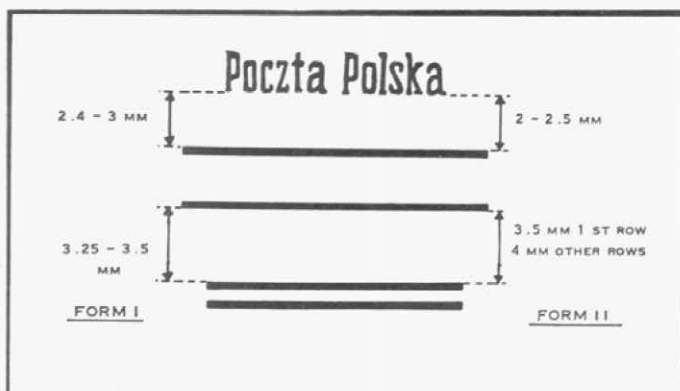
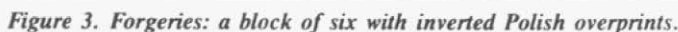


Figure 1. Distinguishing dimensions of the two Polish overprint forms.

Reprinted from AMERICAN PHILATELIST

Forgeries of these stamps are plentiful and are often offered for sale as genuine items. This applies most often to errors; e.g., inverted or double Polish overprints. These stamps thus should be authenticated by a competent expert. The expertization of these stamps is facilitated by the fact that most can be exactly plated by observing details in the lettering, interruptions in lines crossing out the German overprint, and by detailed measurements of the Polish overprint. Full sheets of stamps overprint-

Figure 3 shows an example of a forgery: a block of six of the violet blue stamp, flat press printing (H.A. Nr. H 3093.18) with inverted Polish overprints imitating the overprint Form II. The basic stamps are positions 1, 2, and 3, and 11, 12, 13 in the ten by ten sheet. Thus, the Polish overprints, being inverted, should be from positions 100, 99, and 98, and 90, 89, 88. Detailed measurements and interruptions in the lines do not agree with these positions. This forgery appears to have been made by means of the original Form II overprint matrix which was stolen from the printing shop, reworked, and then used to fabricate numerous forgeries, which are often difficult to distinguish from genuine stamps.



"VILNIUS"

By T. GRYZEWSKI

Historical & postal background.

During the first few weeks after the Germans entered Wilno on June 24, 1941, there was complete chaos in the civil administration of the City and the district.

Taking advantage of the fact that the Germans had no precise idea at that time regarding the political future of the City, the Lithuanians, well organized in that district, created a Citizen's Committee of the City of Wilno, with the permission of the German authorities.

Thanks to the endeavors of this Committee, the question of reopening of postal communications in Wilno and the Wilnian district, which had been closed since the German occupation, and that of overprinting Soviet stamps with the word VILNIUS for postal use, was settled favorably by the Commander of the German Occupation Forces (Letter No. 418/1941).

In consequence, a postal department was created and on July 11, its Director appointed two Commissions to deal with these two problems.

The post offices organized by the Citizens' Committee were opened at and active from the following dates:

July 16th:

Wilno (Vilnius) 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10
Szumsk (Sumskas)

July 17th:

Wilno 8
Niemenczyn (Nemencine)
Dziewaniszki (Dieveniskes)
Soleczniki (Salcininkai)
Juodsilai

July 19th:

Podbrzesie (Poberze)
Majszagola (Maisiogola)

July 21st:

Nowowilejka (Nauioi Vilnia)

July 22nd:

Troki (Trakai)
Salcininkeliai
Ponary (Peneriai) **
Biala Waka (Baltoi Voke) **
Rukojme (Rukanai) **
Miedniki (Medeninkai) **
Dukszy (Duksto) **
Alioniu **

July 24th:

Swiecziany (Svencionys)

July 28th:

Widze (Riese)

July 30th:

Turgiele (Turgeliai)

**) Postal Agencies

In majority of these post offices, old Lithuanian date-stamps were in use, in others, the bilingual (in Russian and Lithuanian) Soviet date-stamps.

According to the German "Feldkommandantur" Order, dated July 13th, 1941, and notification of the Citizen's Committee No. 521, issued on July 15th, the overprinted stamps were to be issued and used for correspondence on and from July 16th, 1941. At the last moment, however, the "Feldkommandantur" intervened, ordering the sale exclusively to members of the "Wermacht" & German officials, at one set per person. Due to intervention of the Committee, this order was invalid on July 25th, and from that date the stamps were attainable to anyone, except the value of 80k. & 1 r. sold out by that time already.

The stamps remained in circulation till August 31st, and could be obtained, in any of the listed post offices.

After that date they were forbidden for further postal use, with the remaining stock confiscated by the Germans.

The overprinted Stamps.

The overprinting was done at the local "Spinulis" printery between July 12th and 14th.

The following values and quantities of Soviet Stamps were used for overprinting:

Value and Color	Printing
5 k red	80,000
10 k blue	80,000
15 k green	80,000
20 k green	40,000
30 k blue	80,000
50 k brown	30,000
60 k carmine	40,000
80 k red & carm	8,000
1 r. black & red	5,000

Immediately after the completion of this, the forms used for overprinting were officially destroyed and the overprinted stamps checked and accounted by the Commission under the supervision of Mr. Tomaszewicz.



The first seven values were overprinted typographically from a plate containing 100 types of the word: VILNIUS, 12 mm. long, in black, with a semi-gloss, slightly grayish tinge.

Due to uneven lay-out of the ink, the color and the semi-gloss of the overprint were not uniform.

The 80 k. value was overprinted in black from a form containing 50 types; the word VILNIUS measuring 19.9 x 3.9 mm. The identical type was used for overprinting the 1 r. value, in matt green, from the third form of 50 types, adapted to a different lay-out of the sheet.



Besides many irregularities, such as thin or broken "S", errors of the printing exist of which the most interesting are:

5 k. 20 k. and 80 k. (each 100 stamps) - inverted overprint.

5 k. - 10 stamps from right side of the sheet imperforate on right.

10 k. and 15 k. - double overprint.

80 k. - letters "L" and "N" wide apart on stamps 7, 17, 27, 37, 47.

80 k. - letters "I" and "U" wide apart on stamps 19, 29, 39, 49.

1 r. - one pair known with stamp pos. 100, without overprint.

The overprints are known with more or less pronounced shifts in all directions.

Forgeries

Shortly after the series was withdrawn from circulation, manufactured in Wilno, "VILNIUS" forgeries appeared.

Two types of these forgeries are known.

Type I known on all values and on 5k and 80k. inverted overprints measured 11.75 mm. in length in-

stead of 12 mm., and in the case of 80k. and 1r. 19.4 mm. x 3.5 mm., instead of 19.9 mm. x 3.9 mm. The forgery lacks the semi-gloss of the original. The letters are of irregular shape and do not show on the back of the stamps any trace of typography. In 80k. the letters "IU" are not parallel to the first "I". The 1r. value is overprinted in slightly darker shade.

Type II known on 80k. and 1 r. is very dangerous. This typographic overprint measures 19.65 mm. x 3.75 mm. instead of 19.9 mm. x 3.9 mm. but shows no gloss whatsoever on 80k. whilst the 1r. is of lighter shade than the original, and glossy.

WILNO is a city that never ceased to occupy a prominent place in the heart of every Pole.

Reprinted from POLISH PHILATELIC REVIEW the official bulletin of the Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain.

Winner's Circle

Tom Gobby wins three Awards at ROMPEX-87

Tom Gobby, whose "Polish-Soviet War" exhibit took the Grand Award and Gold Medal at the POLPEX-87, won three awards at ROMPEX-87 in Denver.

Tom won a gold medal, the APS research award, and the Samuel Schlesinger award for best historical exhibit. ROMPEX, one of the major western shows, featured 230 frames (Ameripex) of exhibits.

Also exhibiting was Andrew Wacinski, who won a Vermeil for his "General Gouvernement."



Tom Gobby is presented with the Samuel Schlesinger Award for the best historical exhibit at ROMPEX. Pauline Schlesinger, widow of the noted Denver philatelist, made the presentation.

■ ■ ■
**EVERY MEMBER BRING IN
A NEW MEMBER TO THE MEETING**

WAYS TO KILL THE SOCIETY

Don't attend the meetings, but if you do, arrive late.

Be sure to leave before the meeting is closed.

Never have anything to say at the meeting; wait until you get outside.

When at the meeting, vote to do everything; then go home and do nothing.

The next day, find fault with the officers and the other members.

Take no part in the society's affairs.

Be sure to sit in the back, so you can talk freely to another member.

Get all the society will give you, but don't give the society anything.

Once out of office, lose interest in the society.

Never ask anyone to join the society.

At every opportunity, threaten to resign, and try to get others to do so.

Talk cooperation, but don't cooperate.

If asked to help, say you haven't got the time.

If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service to it.

Never accept an office; it is easier to criticize than to do things.

Don't do anymore than you have to, and when others willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the good cause along, then howl that the society is run by a clique.

POLAND Collection FOR SALE

Pristine condition. Send LSSA for Scott No. inventory. Will sell as a complete collection only.

ED BERNAT

112 Breakspear Road
Syracuse, NY 13219

OUR NEXT POLPEX

At the May meeting, Art Walinski was appointed by the President as Executive Chairman of Polpex 88. The theme of next year's show will be the 10th anniversary of the reign of Pope John Paul II.

JOURNAL EXPANDS

The Trumpeter, quarterly stamp and coin journal of the Croatian Philatelic Society is expanding its coverage to the entire Balkan area and Central Europe. Eck Spahich, journal's editor, said the reason for the expansion is due to increased interest in Balkan-Central Europe philately and numismatics.

"The Balkan area has become a fertile ground for collectors" Spahich said. "In order to satisfy the needs of our readers, we publish articles on all phases of Central European & Balkan postal issues, postal history, coins, medals, currency and other collectibles."

From a philatelic and numismatic standpoint, the area continues to interest specialists, historians & many general collectors, he said.

Sample copy of the latest issue of **The Trumpeter** is available for \$2 or 6 international reply coupons from Editor, **The Trumpeter**, 1512 Lancelot, Borger, TX 79007-6341.

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NEW ISSUES

Sacred Architecture

Six different values were issued December 28, 1984, showing religious worship buildings of different denominations built in Poland over the centuries.

- 5 zł.—The Protestant Church in Warsaw built in 1777 - 81, the project of Szymon Bogumil Zug. Destroyed in WW II; rebuilt under architect Teodor Bursze. 8,000,000 stamps printed.
- 10 zł.—St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Cracow, founded by Sieciech in the 11th Century. 8,000,000 printed.
- 15 zł.—A Greek Catholic Church "Opieki N. P. Marii" built with wood on a foundation of split stones with bricks. Walls covered with shingles, roof & tower covered by iron-plate. 5,000,000 printed.



- 20 zł.—Metropolitan Orthodox Church of St. Mary Magdalene built in 1868 - 69 by Palicyn, after the project of Syczew after Byzantine architecture. 8,000,000 printed.
- 25 zł.—Tykocin Synagogue built in 1642 in the historical jewish quarter of Kaczorow. 3,000,000 printed.
- 31 zł.—Kruszyniany Tartar Moslem Mosque built at about the end of

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the 18th cent. Made with wood, covered with shingles. Rebuilt in 1956 and again in 1976. 2,000,000 printed.

Multicolor rotogravure printed on chalky paper at PWPW Warsaw. Designed by Janusz Wysocki.

—ARS Polona