

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave

Issue 148

March 1957

Historical Fragments of the Polish Postal System

By JOSEPH A. BORKOWSKI

Reprinted from STAMPS of 2/23/57

October 18, 1958, will mark the 400th Anniversary of the introduction of the Polish Postal System by King Sigismund Augustus.

When his wife Bona died in 1557 and left a large estate in Italy, it was rather imperative that a reliable communications system be maintained with the administrators of the estate. Consequently he entrusted one Propser Provana with establishing a postal service between Kraków, Poland and Venice. Exclusively used was the pony-type of service, with the king meeting all the maintenance expenses. He also directed that private individuals could avail themselves of the service to the points traversed by the couriers. Post director Provana proved himself a rather successful promoter until he met with pressure on the part of the Thurn-Taxis combine which had the monopoly of all European routes.

King Sigismund Augustus under the Thurn-Taxis pressure, was left with no choice but to transfer the successful franchise to Christopher Taxis, one of the directors of the Taxis family.

Contract and Basis of Operations

The terms of the contract were signed on July 11, 1562, at Wilno. It permitted Christopher Taxis to charge a fee of 3 groszy for each half-ounce for all private letters from Kraków to Vienna. He was permitted to keep all such moneys he collected. However, all king's

mail and that of the members of his court enjoyed "free" delivery, for which the king agreed to make an annual payment of 1,500 thalers towards the management and upkeep of the Polish Postal System, as well as for courier service to Italy.

As long as the Thurn-Taxis family remained a cohesive unit, the mail service in Poland was remarkably well advanced and efficient. However, it started to deteriorate when an open conflict took place among the members of the clan as to the disposition of the profits, and reluctantly they gave up the franchise, which again became the property right of the Kings of Poland.

As soon as King John Sobieski III ascended his throne he started to salvage whatever he could of the postal system, and on September 18, 1694, he reached an agreement with Saxony in matters of "Postal Runs" from Dresden (Capital of Saxony) via Wrocław (Breslau) to Warsaw. Subsequently there were many fundamental changes made and routes introduced, especially between Poles and Saxons who showed special interest in Polish domestic affairs.

Modernization of the Polish Postal System

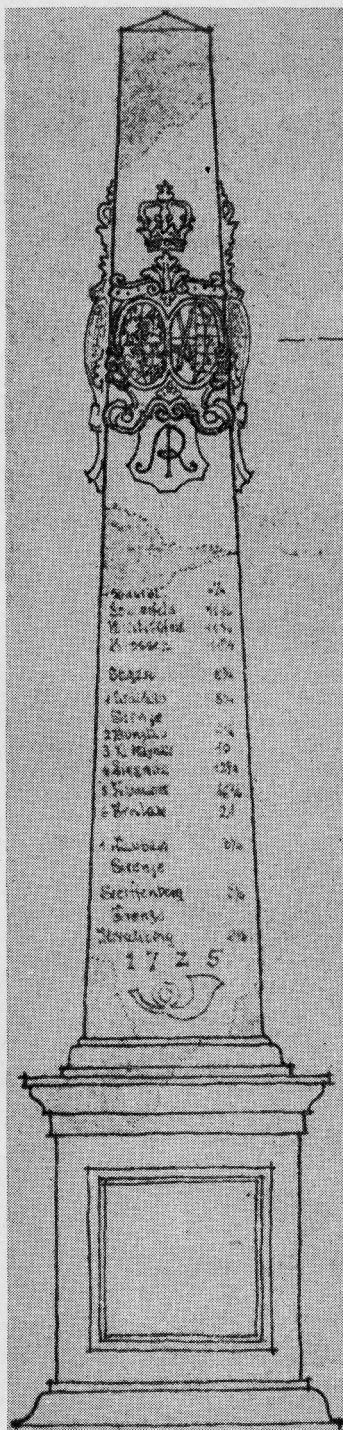
When in 1697 Frederick Augustus II the "Strong" ascended the Polish throne, he sought without much ado

King Frederick August II considered that an expeditious and efficient mail service was an integral part of a successful reign. To realize this he employed Adam Frederick Zurner, a Polish and Saxon road commissioner and cartographer. Zurner proved himself a well qualified and rather ingenious individual. He personally supervised the improvement and construction of the postal roads, and determined the exact distances between postal stopping points. To accomplish this in the most accurate manner he constructed what he termed a "geometric wagon" and which was officially referred to as VIATORUM.

CONCLUSIONES



Polish and Saxon coat of arms surrounding the obelisk—sign post (side view). (Cuts courtesy STAMPS.)



The Viatorium contained specially constructed calculating and measuring instruments to determine the distances between cities and towns, as accuracy was of prime importance in calculating correct fees for the distances covered.

On all routes leading from Saxony to Warsaw, specially designed, dimensional post road signs and stone posts were placed under his direction at mile, half-mile, and quarter-mile intervals. The type of stone post varied with the distance between stopping points and the number of roads radiating from a particular city. The largest of the three sign posts, which was of an obelisk type, was usually located before the gates of large cities, giving all pertinent facts as to name of towns and distances.

The Obelisk of the Niska Region

One type of Obelisk as constructed by Zurner was recently found by a group of Wrocaw Conservatorium archeologists engaged in diggings near the old town of ZGORZELEC, Nizka Luzyczek region, Poland. This obelisk was slightly damaged at the top, but otherwise in good state of preservation for identification purposes. As described by Edmund Malachowicz, one of the engineers of the project, "it was executed from sandstone patterned to a degree to an upright, monolith of square sections, tapering upwards very gradually and evenly." The upper part of the obelisk is surrounded by three Polish Coats of Arms of the Republic of Poland and only one of Saxony. Immediately beneath the Coat of Arms one readily sees the initials of the Polish Reigning King, viz: A (Augustus) and R (Rex) which stands for the Polish King, known as Augustus the Strong. The Coat of Arms is topped with the Polish Royal Crown. Below the Polish and Saxon Coat of Arms, we find the Polish and Saxon towns giving the exact distances in miles from boundaries of respective towns named thereon. The year of "1725" marking the erection of this obelisk type sign-post and the opening of the route is discernible as well as is the traditional Post Horn. These postsigns were at times referred to as "orientation posts" which to a degree described their true character and the purposes for which they were created.

THE TREASURER SAYS:

"Time is precious in these days
Use it daily in many ways
To write dues notices is a joke
When other matters he could stroke.
Send to him your check by mail
In return your card will sail
And the Bulletin too we'll forward,
Take no chance to lose out
For the articles you look toward.
Yes, if your dues we have got
Those whose dues are now paid
Thanks to you, you're ahead,
Those who didn't—please take heed:
Send your check to meet a need.
If you're paid for '57
You've a mark right up in heaven."
In other words, you are being asked
to pay your dues including 1957 to be
up to date. Why not now?

Send payment to J. P. Rux, 6136
Addison St., Chicago 34, Ill.

IN MEMORIAM

From Clement A. Pulaski we learn that member Jerry Marianski passed on March 5, 1957. He was stricken with a heart attack at the end of December. He appeared to be on the way to recovery when suddenly an attack of coronary thrombosis caused instant death. Survivors are his wife Barbara and two children.

Member Pulaski also informs us that he has been asked by Mrs. Marianski to liquidate her late husband's 30 volume collection of Poland. Send correspondence to C. A. Pulaski, Box 267, Drexel Hill, Pa.

NEW MEMBERS

Brother Martin Szala, O. Carm.
6415 So. Woodlawn Ave.
Carmelite Priory
Chicago 37, Ill.
Gustaw Kokocinski
1641 N Paulina
Chicago 22, Ill.
Henry J. Stromberg
5419 S. Dorchester
Chicago 15, Ill.
Leonard J. Bukowski
2501 N. Bernard St.
Chicago 47, Ill.
Stanley Dobrzycki
917 N. Rockwell St.
Chicago, Ill.

POLPEX 1957

Myron Steczynski won the Grand Award with his Kraków Overprints — a presentation of plating, covers and study. This was a very unique and extraordinary display of some of the rarest stamps in Polish Philately.

A very close second was Chester W. Makowski with his exhibit of Polish Postal History. The Third Award was given to Chester J. Mikucki for his study of the Local Postage Due Stamp used in Southern Poland.

John C. Crimlisk of Yorkshire, England received the Poland Fieldpost Trophy. "A.K." issues of Alfred Szebel claimed the Novice Award. The trophy for Research — the Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz Trophy — was not presented.

Gold Medal Winners: Derek Palmer of Santiago, Chile (Fieldposts) and Dr. M. E. Uznanski (Marienwerder).

Silver Medals: Z. J. Obara (Allenstein) and Stephen G. Rich (Transvaal Postage Dues).

Bronze Medals: Joseph Scheer, Montreal, Canada (Upper Silesia), Emil R. Mrugacz (Poland Scott 163-169B) and Dr. Conrad P. Straub (Postwar Official Stamps).

Winners in the Stamps Unlimited Section were Zdzislaw Wagrowski and John Bobo.

Dr. M. E. Uznanski is responsible for furnishing the Society with a huge and beautiful "Polonus Philatelic Society Grand Award Perpetual Trophy." It stands 36 inches tall and its base is 18 inches in diameter. A Polish eagle perched on top of a globe of the world adorns the top. On the urn is the inscription "Polonus Philatelic Society Grand Award Perpetual Trophy." The urn is held up by four pillars at the base of which is another globe with the American eagle on it. On each side are two figures holding wreaths symbolic of victory. A walnut base contains 40 plates for names of winners of future Polpex Grand Award winners. At the center of the base is a plate with the following inscription engraved on it: "Polonus Philatelic Society Organized February 26, 1939" at Chicago, Illinois." The permanent residence of the trophy will be at the



Polish Roman Catholic Museum except during the Polpex Exhibits when the trophy will be displayed at the show.

The unveiling of the Grand Award Trophy took place on Friday night March 1st on the stage of the exhibition hall at Polish Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago. As Doctor Uznanski lifted the cover expressions of awe were heard over the hall. Bourse dealers agreed they had not seen a stamps show trophy as large nor as impressive as this one.

On the stage in the background was white and red drapery with large letters at the top spelling out "Polonus." At the front was a large fern appropriately decorated with white and red streamers. On stage were also the other trophies and awards of Polpex. The trophies were very different this year as compared with those of other years, cup designs were in abundance, with extra heavy gold plating. The Society was indeed grateful to Dr. Uznanski for doing a fine job as Trophy Chairman.

Attendance at Polpex 1957 was outstanding, in fact, it was the largest crowd ever to view a Polonus show. Representatives from every stamp organization in the Chicagoland area were in evidence.

Our Beeba was subscribed to standingroom only. This affair is usually run for non-profit but because of the large crowd and generous donations a net profit of \$58.00 was realized.

Seal Director Adam Kloskowski reported he sold 165 sets at the door, over 300 by mail with orders still coming in.

A great deal of the success of Polpex 1957 as to attendance and seal sales is due to the fact that our publicity was out early this year. STAMPS magazine carried our articles a week before the show and Jack Domar did a grand job of supplying all the major publications with Polpex advertising. Walter Szymlek did a powerful job with publicity in the Polish language publications. Never before have they carried so many articles about our show.

Under the leadership of Roman Reinowski, a most dynamic Exhibition Chairman, Polpex 1957 goes down in Polonus history as a huge success.

The Officers and Members of the Polonus Philatelic Society wish to thank the many editors for their wonderful cooperation, without which our Polpex would not be.

POLPEX ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to those members whose names were mentioned in the Polpex Catalogue list of Beeba donors, Dr. Sigismund Galaskiewicz gave a cash donation.

The preparation and serving of the food was done by Mr. and Mrs. E. Kot, Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Kochanski, Mr. Frank Rizzo, Mrs. Anne Mikucki, Stanley Kucharz, Mr. and Mrs. John Bor, and Zdzislaw Wagrowski. Cleanup work on the tables was by the sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. Mikucki and Mr. and Mrs. Zdzislaw Wagrowski.

APPLICANT PENDING

Roman Strzelecki
1439 North Bell Avenue
Chicago 22, Illinois

NEW MEMBERSHIP NOS.

Zdislaw Jankowski, 581
Bro. Martin Szala, 585
Gustaw Kokocinski, 584
Leonard J. Bukowski, 582
Stanley Dobrzycki, 583

NEW COMMITTEES FOR 1957

The Chair appointed the following Committees:

Reception — Roman Reinowski and Zdzislaw Wagrowski

Membership — Chester Mikucki and J. J. Domar

Publications — Chester Schafer and Walter Szymlek

Publicity — J. J. Domar and Lester Jankowski

Entertainment and Program — Alfred Szebel and Zdzislaw Wagrowski

Seals and Other Publications — Adam Kloskowski

Frames and Easels — John Skotnicki and Sig Bor

Experts — Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, J. J. Domar, Myron Steczynski, H. Block, V. Rachmanov, J. Gapinski, and F. Wolosewick

Special Committee of History on Poles in USA and Issuing a Commemorative Stamp on the Anniversary of 350 yrs. of Landing of Poles, October 1958 — J. J. Domar, Lester Jankowski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Myron Steczynski, Leo Topolinski and Dr. M. E. Uznanski.

1957 Picnic—Roman Reinowski, Frank Rizzo and Zdzislaw Wagrowski

Central Federation of Stamp Clubs — John Bor and Frank Rizzo

CORRECTION

Issue 147: From Walter A. Manck, 226
To Walter A. Franck, 226

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

2/Lt. Robert A. Dybas, 394
420 S. Philadelphia Blvd.
Aberdeen, Md.

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Chicago 47, Illinois

W. Schumacker, 225
2252 McDonald
Regina, Sask., Canada

Marion Wasowicz, 564
12919 Short Ave.
Modesto, California

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

POLAND'S UNFINISHED BUGLE CALL

By EDWARD NOWAK, Sr.

Reprinted from STAMPS of 2/23/57

Ever since the thirteenth century, from the tower of Saint Mary's church at Krakow, a song to the Mother of Christ has been sounded by a bugler, every hour, night and day. Centuries have passed. Buglers have lived, died, and been replaced with others who hourly sound the "Hejnal." Even today, in this terrible era of religious intolerance in Poland, the "Hejnal" is sounded hourly, and the only time the bugle was silenced was during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Then, by

explicit orders from Hitler, the call was forbidden.

Philatelic research has revealed that in the thirteenth century a young Krakow trumpeter, under oath to remain on his post under all circumstances, was shot dead while playing the "Hejnal." An arrow through the heart, sent from the bow of a Tartar invader, ended the song. In memory of him the bugle call today abruptly ends on the note when his song was silenced.



The large reproduction pictures the incident of the arrow piercing the heart of the bugler and the bugle falling from his hand. In the stamps superimposed below are seen: (top center) reproduction of the original altar panel of St. Mary's Church, Krakow; (second row) overprints with the rare and little known copy overprinted in black, type 2 mm. higher on right; (bottom) Nazi issue showing the outside of the church, with the German Eagle and Swastika hovering over it.

(Cut courtesy STAMPS.)

The church of Saint Mary is located in the heart of historic Krakow. It is the most beautiful edifice in Poland. The interior of the church was decorated by Poland's greatest painter, **Jan Matejko** (1838). The most famous work of Matejko is the painting of King Jan Sobieski fighting Tartars at Vienna. The painting is presently housed at the Vatican.

The famous main altar of the church measures 40 x 33 feet. It was carved by the noted Polish sculptor, **Witold Stworz**, and the modern figures are so realistic that they seem to be alive. The altar is so constructed that the side wings, or panels, can be closed or opened as the occasion requires. The main part of the altar shows the Virgin with Her Apostles and Her coronation. The side panels swing on hinges; they represent the life of St. Mary and Christ.

On orders from Hitler, during the invasion and subsequent occupation of Krakow, the historic altar was dismantled and carried off to Germany. After the defeat of the Nazis, the altar was found by the American Army and returned to Poland, together with other irreplaceable items of art.

During Poland's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the death of **Witold Stworz**, she issued a beautiful stamp showing the central panel of the main altar carved by Stworz. The stamp is known as Scott's No. 277. Of the ten million copies printed, only three million were used in their original state. The balance of them were overprinted due to changing trends in the monetary field. The overprinted copies are known as Scott's No. 285.

The accompanying illustration depicts the thirteenth century bugler as the arrow pierces his heart and the bugle falls from his hand. Superimposed on this illustration we show the 80 gr. stamp from the original printing. Below it are seen copies of the overprints with the rare and little known copy overprinted in black; type 2 mm. higher, on right. The stamp at the bottom depicting the Church of St. Mary, with its two towers, was issued by Hitler during the occupation. It shows the German Eagle and Swastika hovering over the famed Polish church.

MEMBERSHIP IN P.Z.F.

OPEN TO ALL

By **Walter Szymlek**

The administration of the "Polski Związek Filatelistów" has received a flow of requests for membership. In response, the Presidium of the P.Z.F. created a special Circle, which may be joined by citizens of other countries, and Polish citizens living permanently abroad.

The following by-laws (regulamin) were set to govern the activities of this group of members:

Regulamin.

1. On the basis of article 48 of the P.Z.F. statute, at the Main Administration of the P.Z.F., a Circle of members abroad was created, to which may be admitted citizens of other countries and Polish citizens residing permanently abroad.

2. The acceptance of members to the Circle will be made by the Presidium of the Main Administration of the P.Z.F.

3. The Circle has no governing media derived from elections, prevised in par. 47-51 in the Statutes of the P.Z.F. The Circle activities will be directed by a conductor, appointed by the Presidium of the Main Administration and responsible to the Presidium and other statutory powers of the P.Z.F.

4. Members of the Circle are entitled to all rights of the P.Z.F. except the active and passive election rights.

5. Members could receive distinctions of the P.Z.F. and could wear the membership insignia of the P.Z.F.

6. The rate of annual membership dues will be set by the Presidium of the Main Administration of the P.Z.F. in Polish zlotys or foreign currency—in accordance with Poland's official exchange rates regulations. The membership dues will include the subscription price to "Filatelista."

—FILATELISTA, 3/1/57

From March 1, 1957, the postal rates in Poland were raised sixfold. In connection with this I would be pleasantly surprised if the Ministry of Communications did not break out with a rash of new overprints of the current stock of low denomination values—this time from "groszy"—back to zlotys!

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

ZIĘBICE, DOLNY ŚLĄSK OVERPRINTS

By **MARIAN DUNSKI**

For those interested in provisional "nationalized" stamps of the years 1944—1945, so called revolutionary stamps of Poland, I have written a series of articles, published in:

"Wiadomości Filatelistyczne"—London 1947—48.

"Filatelista Polski" — Poznań 1947 50.

"Filatelista" Edinburg — 1949—53.

Unpublished yet is the last article of these series, dealing with the stamps of Ziębice, Dolny Śląsk.

These stamps came up to see the daylight, first in 1951. A supplier from Ziębice was sending me various offers during the years 1948—1949, but never offered any overprints from Ziębice. It was not until July, 1951 when I received a revealing "special offer."

A typewritten circular, under item 5 reads:

Rarity!!! Local Post Ziębice, Dolny Śląsk!

- 1) A. Overprint on German postage stamps "Ziębice — Polska"
Stamps on cover
15.00 zł. per cover.

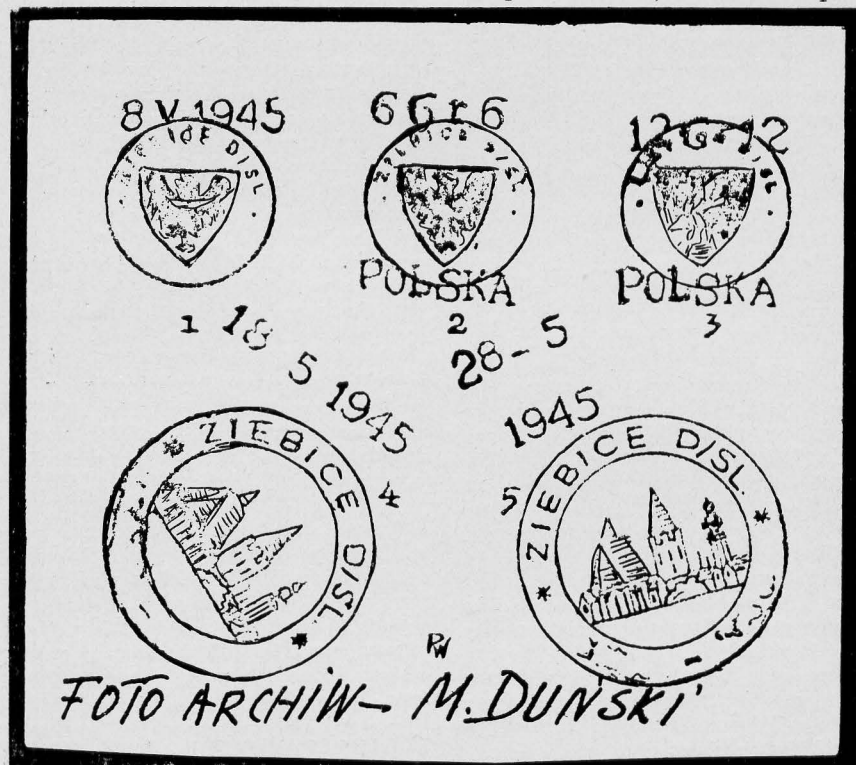
Attention! There are two types of cancellations.

Type I. Circular inscriptions "Ziębice," with the view of the city. (Illustration Nos. 4 and 5).

Type II. This is a special cancellation with the inscription: "Ziębice, D. Śl." and the historic Coat of Arms — the Piast Eagle, — Polish symbol of that emblem. Without date. (Illustration No. 1.)

The above described covers were mailed in the period between May 8 and June 1, 1945. Some covers also have additional testimonial inscriptions:

"Powrót Ziębie do Polski — 8. V. 1945" (The return of Ziębice to Poland). — Still other covers bear the stamps of Poland, without overprint



and cancelled with these cancellers, in usage till June 1, 1945.

I am offering covers, bearing the Polish postage stamps on covers, with these special cancellations for 8.00 zł per cover.

2) Overprint: "Polska — 6 gr 6" "12 gr 12" (Illustration Nos. 2 and 3.) Overprinted in aquarelle, color black.

That these postage stamps and cancellations are fantasy products — verifies the following facts:

1) From this source I have a cover with a Polish postage stamp, value 50 groszy from the series of "Kraków Liberation" 15. I. 1945, — **WITHOUT** Wilczyk signature, **which is from the second printing** — of October, 1945. This cover is dated 28. V. 1945, cancellation No. 1.

Here is, where the creator of these fantasy products "goofed"! — From where did he get the postage stamps in May, 1945 — which the Ministry of Posts did not issue till October 1945, — which is five months later?

2) I am in possession of the following letter from the Ziębice Post Office, dated 18.7.1951, answering my inquiry concerning these postage stamps and cancellations:

"The Post Office has no knowledge of the German postage stamps bearing the overprint "Polska" nor of any

special cancelling stamp "Ziębice, D. Śl." Very likely there is some misunderstanding. Employees present at the opening day of the Post Office, on my inquiry stated, they also have no knowledge of such postage stamps or the use of the special canceller.

The city of Ziębice was liberated May 9, 1945 and the Post Office was set in operation in July, 1945."

That much is official from the Post Master of Ziębice.

Hence — the "Ziębice local" — stamps and cancellations could be described only as a fantasy emission — speculatively designed for the unfamiliar collector.

Illustrations of overprints and cancellers by W. Piątek. English translation by Walter Szymlek.

TID BITS

March 22nd was Auction Nite at Polonus. Philatelic covers sent to the Society from Poland were sold and brought in \$23.00. Philatelic folders were donated by members Alfred Szebel and Roman Burkiewicz during the bidding. Some members bid and got covers, and donated them right back to be sold again. Pres. Stefan Kochanski asked for donations for U.S. Commemoratives to be sent to children at the Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Rabka, Poland. \$15.00 was collected for this purpose.

Members wishing to contribute U.S. Commemoratives for these unfortunate children, kindly send material to Stefan Kochanski, 1920 N. Fairfield Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

After the auction two Polish stock books donated by Joe Bieniecki were raffled off as a door prize.

* * *

Jan Ryblewski is continuing Prof. Mikstein's work on Kraków Issues. We wish him success and eagerly await his work on these issues which are so popular among Polish collectors.

* * *

At a recent meeting, discussion took place about the different classes and trophies for competition in our Polpex shows. It was agreed that these classes and their trophies should be better defined in our prospectus — and steps will be taken to do just so.

Give Your Old
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2952 No. Avers Ave.
Chicago 18, Illinois

STAMP OR LABEL?

By STEFAN KOCHANSKI

Reprinted from STAMPS of 2/23/57

On May 23, 1954, the **Polish Philatelic Union** at Warsaw held its third convention, and in conjunction with it, the Polish postal administration issued a souvenir sheet, Scott C-34, perforated 12 x 12½, gray-green in color, in the denomination 5 zloty plus 2.50 zloty, total 7.50 zloty.

As a special concession to the **Polish Philatelic Union**, the postal administration issued 5,000 copies of the same sheet, only imperforate and not in (as Scott says) "gray-green" but in blue. Scott catalog does not list this sheet.

Now here is the question: Is this a stamp or only a label? This question arose in the last few months, when it was discovered that (1) many of the sheets are fakes, and (2) that this sheet is not a postage stamp, but only a souvenir sheet without any postal value.

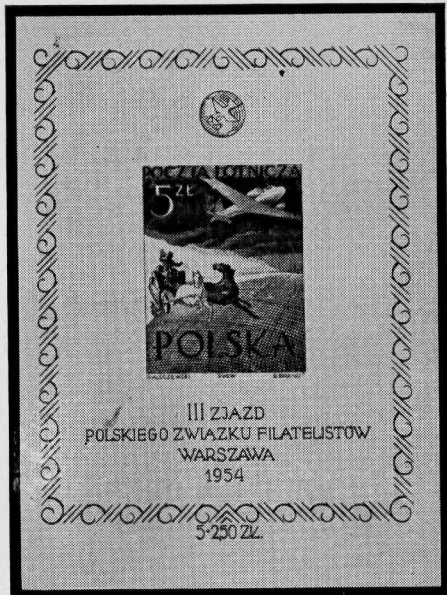
Through the last two years, many of the stamp dealers advertised in the philatelic press that they have this block for sale, and the price, about \$12.00. This is quite a bit of money, and if someone did buy it, some other collectors plainly called him a sucker.

Going back to the first discovery of the forgery of the sheet, the **Polish Philatelic Union** printed in the English language in the October 1956 issue of **Filatelista**, their monthly publication, the information which is herewith reprinted:

FORGERY OF THE BLUE UNPERFORATED MINIATURE SHEET ISSUED ON OCCASION OF THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE POLISH PHILATELIC UNION

A communique by the Experts' Section, Scientific Research Commission, Polish Philatelic Union:

The Experts' Section hereby communicates that for several months there have been continued talks as to the appearance of forged "Blue Miniature Sheets of 1954," a great number of these having appeared abroad and in this country, especially at Cracow. After having carried out detailed re-



searches, the Experts' Section has stated that there is really a skillful forgery of the above-mentioned miniature sheet.

The length of the inscription "PWPW"	2,4	2,8
Encadrement	50x61,5	48,5x61
Diameter of the globe over the stamp	6	6
The distance between the stamp and the inscription "R. Kleczewski PWPW — Brandt"	0,2	0,1

The letter P of "Polska" at the bottom does not touch the line shading touches the globe

In the word "Warszawa" Z and A are connected at the bottom not connected at bottom

In word "Filatelistów" diff. cut

In "5+2,50" of letter W a diff. cut of the first numeral 5

In "5+2,50 ZŁ"

a different
cut of let-
ter Ł in ZŁ

The forgery is recess printed by the steel plate engraving process, but shows a number of details differentiating it from the genuine miniature sheet.

Here are a few comparative data of the genuine and forged miniature sheets:

	Genuine	Forged
	mm	mm
size of the stamp	21x27	20,6x26,4
The length of the inscription "Polskiego Związku Filatelistów"	38	37,2
In "Polskiego"		diff. cut of letter G
Color	dark blue	dark blue-grey
Paper	white with slight yellowish, shade	white
Gum	yellowish, slightly rippled	white

Distinct differences in the globe with the dove and in the inscriptions under the stamp are given in the fig. 2 and 3.

The Experts' Section inform that, in order to eliminate the forgeries from the collection, they have undertaken expertising of the miniature sheets as the fee of zł 10, postage extra. Persons wishing their miniature sheets to be expertised are required to send them under the following address: — Zarząd Główny Polskiego Związku Filatelistów, Warszawa, Widok 22.

For the Experts Section

Zbigniew Mikulski

Chairman

So much for the forgery. Now to the second point of order: Is this a stamp or a label?

In this same publication, **Filatelist**, of December 1956, **B. Mulewski** brought up the question, "Is this an issue for postal use or is it only a 're-issue'?" After checking with the orders of the Polish postal administration he definitely establishes it as a re-issue. The postal authorities declined any postal value of these blue imperforate souvenir sheets.

In the January 1957 issue of **Filatelist** the Science and Experts Committee of the **Polish Philatelic Union** stated that there is a great difference

between a re-issue and a plain label. An official re-issue, they state, is an issue of a stamp of the same value, and (1) is issued only after the original one is taken out of circulation, and (2) in the same color, or the nearest shade of color.

What I would like to know is: Why is the color different from that of the postal value sheet and why was the first day issue the same for both?

Today the blue imperforate sheet is accepted as a souvenir sheet and its value depends on the collector. He may be willing to pay only 10 cents, or perhaps he will pay the \$12.00 which some dealers have asked for it. As far as I am concerned, it is a label; and for your information, I have one of these blue sheets (see illustration). I was a sucker too, but not for \$12.00. I paid only \$11.95.

NEW ISSUES

by **J. J. Domar**

The set previously reported that was to be issued honoring the United Nations Organization was released on February 26, 1957. Three values 5 gr., 15 gr. and 40 gr. — all printed on a white background. Not previously announced is that the set was released both perforated and imperforated.

Issued also was a souvenir sheet of 1.50 zloty in practically the same design as the 40 groszy value except that the stamp has a blue background on a multicolored sheet. Size 5½mm x 7 mm.

Prices quoted for the mint set were 15 cents a set. No price on the imperf and 20c for a first day cover. The miniature sheet is priced at \$2.00.

Why the miniature sheet is priced at two dollars with a face value of 38 cents — based on a 4 zloty for dollar rate is beyond my understanding.

To me there seems to be some monkey business going on with this issue because along with the notification a notation stated "The list of orders is already closed because UN stamps and miniature sheets are printed in very small and limited quantities." WHY? Are not the collectors' interests considered? Who are in the group that will benefit from this action?

Here is an example already — A

New York dealer advertises the mint sets at \$1.15, a First Day Cover at \$1.65 and a Miniature Sheet first day cover at 5.85, and NO price quoted on the imperforate set. This is a disgusting maneuver and one which can very well kill the popularity of Polish stamps.

Gentlemen, please reconsider your action and print an additional lot if necessary, so that all collectors have an equal opportunity to secure this set at reasonable prices.

The miniature sheet to be issued commemorating the VII Polish National Philatelic Exhibition of 4 zł. + 2 zł. face value (surtax being for the benefit of the Polish Philatelic Union) has not yet made its appearance.

It was stated "a limited quantity is to be issued" which will insure this stamp a special position among our issues, similar to that of "BIE" and Roosevelt sheets.

Are these gentlemen aware that because of similar action in the release of the "BIE" and Roosevelt sheets, they are not listed by Scott. — Do we

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

want this to happen to this set?

Quantity printed is to be 200,000 stamps and 30,000 sheets, by bi-chrome rotogravure process. Both stamp and miniature sheet were designed by Seweryn Jasinski.

On the occasion of the skiing competition for the Br. Czech and H. Maruszarzówna XII Memorial to be held March 20-27th, 1957 there will be released a 60 gr. commemorative stamp on March 20th, 1957. Designed by Sława Gospodarek. The stamp depicts a skier in a full-speed down-run.

Printed by monochrome rotogravure process, size 25.5 x 31.5 mm. quantity, 1 million.

—Filatelista, Warsaw
ARS. Polona

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NEW POLAND PRICE LIST

For the first time in the United States, a price list devoted exclusively to the stamps of Poland and associated countries, has been compiled and published (at a great expense) by member Roman Burkiewicz. Stamps are listed by Scott's and Grzyzewski's Catalog numbers. It is designed for the Poland specialist and makes a valuable reference, guide and want list. The layout and system is simple to grasp. It's free for the asking. Write to Roman Burkiewicz, 3553 W. Shakespeare, Chicago 47, Ill.