

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



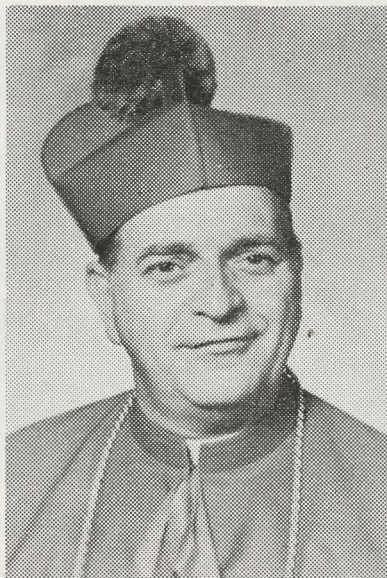
Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 277

February 1970

Bishop Abramowicz Our Honorary Polpex Chairman

The Most Reverend Alfred L. Abramowicz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, will be Honorary Chairman of POLPEX 1970, to be held on February 28 and March 1st at St. James Auditorium, 2424 N. Mango Ave., near Fullerton Ave. in Chicago. He will preside over the opening ceremonies on Saturday at noon.



Most Rev. Alfred L. Abramowicz

Two 1920 events in Poland's history will be honored: the 50th anniversaries of the Miracle of the Vistula and Poland's Union With The Sea. A pair of souvenir sheets will be issued by POLONUS depicting these themes.



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY POLPEX 1970

FEB. 28 - MAR. 1

CHICAGO

One sheet shows a drawing by artist V. Gawron, of Father Ignatius Skorupka, a Polish army chaplain, leading "his boys" against the Bolshevik army. Above are the notes of a patriotic soldier song, "O Sacred Country Of Ours." At the bottom left is a Poland stamp typical of that period.

After World War I, Poland found itself in a state of war with the Bolsheviks who were taking over Polish lands formerly occupied by the Germans. The Bolshevik army advanced right up to the gates of Warsaw on

the banks of the Vistula river. Marshal Pilsudski rallied what army he could to defend the capital city.

Father Skorupka led a charge with the youths of his company. He raised his cross, intoned a prayerful hymn to the Blessed Virgin, and the entire company took up the melody and moved forward. A shell struck and killed Father Skorupka. The Polish forces advanced, and they suffered heavily — 300 were either killed or wounded — but every objective planned for them by the military was attained.

The other souvenir sheet honoring Poland's Union With The Sea shows General Haller at the head of his troops throwing a ring into the Baltic sea as a symbol of the wedding of his country to the sea. To the left is a Poland ship stamp showing the M.S.

Pilsudski in the port of Gdynia. At the bottom are the opening words of a patriotic song, "Our Sea, Our Sea."

A pair of souvenir sheets are priced at 50c plus postage. Two cacheted covers will also be issued and cancelled on the opening day with the special Polpex cancellation used by the U.S. post office at St. James Auditorium. Covers are priced at 35c each and are available from J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison St., Chicago, Ill. 60634.

Visitors to the Polpex will be able to purchase current U.S. commemoratives at face value at the Polpex Post-

(Continued on page 277-7)

In this issue of the "Bulletin" we continue with another segment of the lengthy work of Dr. Rayall de Ragan, "Handbook of Upper Silesia."



POLONUS OFFICERS FOR 1970 ELECTED — On a sub-zero Friday night, the pictured group of members turned out for the annual election of officers which took place at St James Clubroom in Chicago.

First row, seated (left to right): Roman Reinowski, Director; Stanley Dobrzycki, Treasurer; Alfred Szebel, Secretary; Chester Schafer, President; John Bobo, Vice President; Roman Strzelecki, Director; J. P. Rux, Director.

Standing: Stanley Jakubowski; Frances Rybarski; George Jezioranski; Al Rybarski; Walenty Poniecki; Gustav Kokocinski; Thomas Gobby, Assistant Secretary; Al Juszkowicz; Alexander Florczak; Sebastian Styczynski, Librarian; and Mathias Pristika. (Not present on photo: Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz, Director.)

Gum

The most obvious difference between the various printings can be seen in the gum.

First Printing — Brown, gray or gray-brown gum.

Second Printing — Yellow, cream or yellow-gray gum.

Third Printing — Colorless, white or gray-white gum.

The 2½ Pfg. value has brown-gray gum in the first printing, yellow gum in the second printing and white or colorless gum in the third printing.

The 20 Pfg. value has yellow-brown gum in the first and second printings and gray or white gum in the third printing.

Paper

The first printing was done on inferior war quality paper which was gray, thick and porous. Some of the second printings already had white but still thick paper. The third printing was usually printed on thin white or transparent paper.

Errors

The issue was very carefully prepared and printing errors were very few. Most of those that occurred were weeded out before they reached the public. Even with this great care a few notable errors can be found.

40 Pfg.—Imperforate left sheet border (15 sheets).

60 Pfg.—Printed on back, usually third printing (300 copies.)

75 Pfg.—Dark Russian Green. 15 or 20 sheets of this value were accidentally printed in this color.

1 Mk.—Due to a flaw in the printing set up the word MARK appears MAPv.

Quantity Printed

No data exists on the number of stamps printed for each value but information from the Inter Allied Com-

mission balance sheet show a revenue from this issue of 412,375,876. Marks.

Validity

These stamps were in circulation until the dissolution of the Inter-Allied Commission on June 23, 1922 in all of Upper Silesia except the Polish districts.

In the portions of Upper Silesia that were ceded to Poland these stamps were withdrawn on June 17, 1922 with the issuance of stamps for the Polish part of Upper Silesia.

According to Polish postal regulations mixed franking was prohibited and any letters bearing issues of both districts are therefore philatelic or forgeries.

OFFICIAL STAMPS

On April 1, 1920 official stamps were first issued in the Upper Silesia plebiscite territory for use on official mail of the Inter-Allied Commission and other offices under their authority.

The postal system in Upper Silesia was modeled largely after the French system but France had no actual official stamps. Instead, official mail in France was franked with ordinary stamps which had been precanceled. Originally official stamps were not planned for Upper Silesia but since German postal regulations remained in force in the territory it soon became necessary to add them.

Due to the work involved in printing a special official stamp it was decided to use the current German official stamps with the added overprint C.G.H.S. meaning "Commission de Gouvernement de Haute Silesia" (Inter-Allied Commission for Upper Silesia).

The stamps chosen to receive the overprint were the current German official stamps for Prussia, with the numeral 21, and the similar issue without 21 currently used in Germany proper.

Altogether the following 20 stamps received the overprint;

Michel 16-33, 66 and 70.

Scott Prussia O9-O15 and Germany O1-O11, O13 and O15 except O2A.

Overprint Types

The overprinting of the Prussia 21 stamps was done during the last ten days of March, 1920 and they were put into circulation on April 1, 1920. The overprinting was done in the Erdamm Raabe Printing House in Opole (Oppeln) with a glossy, black ink in sheets of 100 stamps. The overprint occurs in eight different positions.

Horizontal

Horizontal inverted

Vertical (letter C at top)

Vertical (letter C at bottom)

Diagonal - C in upper right corner

Diagonal - C in lower right corner

Diagonal - C in lower right corner

Diagonal - C in upper left corner

Diagonal - C in lower left corner

These positions are not errors but were prepared in this manner for control purposes, so that each department would have its own overprint type. The Inter-Allied Commission and its branches were to use the horizontal overprint; the Department of Com-

munications (railroad, mail and transportation) were to use the horizontal inverted; etc.

Due to the hurried application of these overprints and the lack of control of the printing there occurred so many errors, such as double and triple overprints, GHS, CGH, etc., that this plan had to be abandoned as the issuance of the stamps could not be postponed while this waste was sorted out and removed.

All of this waste was put on the market and all was valid for postage which not only caused near chaos with philatelists for *sui generis curiosa* but prompted some enterprising Inter-Allied Commission members to see that not only this issue was overprinted but also the German official stamps without the control numeral 21.

This second overprinting was done in May 1920 and additional values of the 60 Pfg. and 2 Mk. with network watermark were prepared in 1921 and 1922.

The latter was printed only a few weeks before the withdrawal of the Inter-Allied Commission from the plebiscite territory and is strictly philatelic. They are very seldom found on genuine letters.

Description of Values

Official Stamps with 21		Original Stamp		Overprinted Stamp	
Value	Color	Michel	Scott	Michel	Scott
5 Pfg.	dark green	16	O9	D1	O32
10 Pfg.	pink	17	O10	D2	O33
15 Pfg.	lilac brown	18	O11	D3	O34
20 Pfg.	ultramarine	19	O12	D4	O35
30 Pfg.	orange on buff	20	O13	D5	O36
50 Pfg.	red to violet-blue on buff	21	O14	D6	O37
1 Mk.	brick red on buff	22	O15	D7	O38

Official Stamps without 21

5 Pfg.	dark green	23	O1	D8	O39
10 Pfg.	pink	24	O2	D9	O40
15 Pfg.	lilac brown	25	O3	D10	O41

Value	Color	Original Stamp		Overprinted Stamp	
		Michel	Scott	Michel	Scott
20 Pfg.	violet blue	26	O4	D11	O42
30 Pfg.	orange on buff	27	O5	D12	O43
40 Pfg.	pink	28	O6	D13	O44
50 Pfg.	violet on buff	29	O7	D14	O45
60 Pfg.	lilac brown	30	O13	D15	O46
1 Mk.	brick red on buff	31	O8	D16	O47
1.25 Mk.	blue on yellow	32	O9	D17	O48
2 Mk.	blue slate	33	O10	D18	O49
5 Mk.	lilac brown on yellow	66	O11	D19	O50
2 Mk.	watermarked network blue slate	70	O15	D20	O51

The German Official stamp 10 Pfg. orange can also be found with the overprint but is always a forgery.

Sheet Markings

The sheet borders of the original stamps were left intact, so naturally appear as they did on the unoverprinted sheets.

All sheets contain the order num-

ber typical on German issues. This is the so-called Haus Auftrags Nummer (H.A.N.) and consists of a capital H, for Haus Auftrags, a two digit numeral indicating the number of the order, and a two digit numeral marking the year the order was placed. For instance, the marking H 5603.19 means Order Number 5603 for the year 1919.

Issue with 21

Value	Order Numbers		
5 Pfg.	H 5603.19	H 2790.20	
10 Pfg.	H 5604.19	H 2791.20	
15 Pfg.	H 5605.19	H 2792.20	
20 Pfg.	H 5606.19	H 2022.20	H 2793.20
30 Pfg.	H 5607.19	H 2023.20	
50 Pfg.	H 5608.19	H 2079.20	H 2794.20
1 Mk.	H 5609.19	H 2795.20	

Issue without 21

Value	Order Numbers		
5 Pfg.	H 5596.19	H 2796.20	
10 Pfg.	H 5597.19	H 2797.20	H 3209.20
15 Pfg.	H 5598.19	H 2798.20	H 2889.21 H 4190.21
20 Pfg.	H 5599.19	H 3210.20	
30 Pfg.	H 5600.19	H 2078.20	H 3211.20
40 Pfg.	H 4788.20	H 6526.20	H 2324.21

50 Pfg.	H 5601.19	H 3212.20	H 4083.22
60 Pfg.	H 2285.21		
1 Mk.	H 5602.19	H 3213.20	H 4823.20
	H 3433.22	H 4393.22 (rare)	H 5387.22 (rare)
1,25 Mk.	H 3302.20	H 4821.20	
2 Mk.	H 3303.20	H 4820.20	(watermark lozenges)
2 Mk.	H 6858.21	H 7885.21 (rare)	H 4084.22 (rare)
	H 5888.21 (rare)		(watermark network)
5 Mk.	H 3304.20	H 4822.20	H 4565.22 (rare)
	H 7036.21	H 5135.22 (rare)	H 5996.22 (rare)

Quantity of Stamps Overprinted

There is no data available on the number of copies overprinted but, as an estimate, about 1,000,000 copies of each value were probably prepared with the exception of the 2 Mk. value with network watermark of which only about 100,000 were overprinted.

Forgeries

There are a number of forgeries of this issue on the market, mostly originating from Paris. They are recog-

nizable by their dull printing ink and larger letters.

Validity

These stamps were in circulation until the end of the Inter-Allied Commissions jurisdiction in the plebiscite territory on June 23, 1922. In the portion of Upper Silesia ceded to Poland they were in circulation only until June 17, 1922. Mixed franking was prohibited so any such items must be considered as counterfeits.

PLEBISCITE DAY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

To commemorate the day that the plebiscite was taken in Upper Silesia the Inter-Allied Commission issued a special set of commemorative stamps on March 20, 1921.

This issue was created by overprinting some values of the current Second Definitive Issue with the overprint „Plebiscite 20 mars 1921”.



Printing

The small format stamps (10 Pfg. to 40 Pfg.) were overprinted in three lines and the large format stamps (50

Pfg. to 1 Mk.) in two lines. All were overprinted with black ink except the 25, 40 and 50 Pfg. values which received a red overprint.

There are also some trial overprints in the colors, namely the 25 and 40 Pfg. stamps in black and the 15, 20 and 30 Pfg. stamps in red. Two or three sheets of each value of these trial overprints were submitted to the Inter-Allied Commission for color selection.

Two dies were prepared. One for the two line overprint and another for the three line overprint and from each of these a casting of 25 stamp designs were made. These castings were used to make the printing plates of 150 small format and 75 large format stamps.

By this method most errors which characterized the First Provisional
(To be continued)

POLPEX — Continued from page 277-2

office. Some 25 dealers will also be selling stamps and covers in the bourse.

Admission to the Polpex is free. The Committee has tried to plan the exhibits so that thru philately viewers will see the history of the New Poland in the early days of its struggle to preserve its newly won independence.

The highlight of the Polpex is the traditional Beeba on Saturday night. After the Beeba and its Polish foods a program will be held and awards presented.

Chicagoland members are asked to come to St. James Auditorium on Friday night, February 27th, to help setup the exhibition.

See you at POLPEX 1970!

APPLICANTS PENDING

Jerome Mazurek
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TID BITS

Myron Steczynski, at his own expense, donated the two-volume Kosciuszko Foundation edition Polish and English Dictionary to the library of the Collectors' Club of New York, and he did so giving the credit for the donation to Polonus. (Myron, we salute you!)

* * *

Get well wishes to Ray Bialobrzewski who is convalescing at home from a recent illness.

* * *

Jack Rux looks better than ever after his recent trip to Europe.

* * *

Winston Gruszczyk extends a welcome to members visiting in Toronto on weekends. He will invite you for overnight accomodation or will help you to find a hotel. His address is 56 Heathrow Drive, Downsview, Ont. Canada. Telephone (416) 241-8442. By meeting so he would like to exchange views regarding philately. (A wonderful gesture on his part.)

BATTLE IN FRANCE COVERS

The Assoc. of E-Servicemen of the 2nd Rifle Division (Polish) in Great Britain is authorized by the British postal authorities to issue decorated philatelic covers with official cancellations. The covers will mark the 30th anniversary of its June 20, 1940 battle in France, and will include a short history of the division written in Polish, English and French.

Covers are 50c each from Col. F. Raczek, 13 Stonor Road, London, W14, England.

BULLETIN AD RATES

	Non-Members	Members
Full page	\$15.00	\$12.00
Half Page	9.00	7.00
Quarter Page	5.00	4.00
One Inch	2.00	2.00

Send ad copy with your check to the editor.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 27th, 1970 —

Polpex Mounting Nite Party. Bring along a screwdriver, cloth for wiping glass, stamp hinges and other necessities you may think of. Starting at 6:00 p.m. at St. James Auditorium.

Saturday, February 28, 1970 —

Polpex Exhibition opens at 10 a.m. Bourse, U.S. Post Office open all day and evening. Beeba at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 1st, 1970 —

Polpex exhibition opens 10 a.m. Bourse and Post Office open all day. Exhibits to be taken down at 6 p.m.

Friday, March 13th, 1970 —

Program Meeting. Speaker: Polpex Grand Award winner. Topic: his prize winning exhibit. Starting 8 p.m.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Heinz Erwin Jungjohnn
2252 St. Peter Ording
Jahnweg 7, West Germany

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

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RESIGNED

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DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP

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