

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 228

January 1965

POLPEX 1965 Honors Copernicus and the Space Age

Once again our Society approaches the time of the year when we present our Polpex Show. This year the Exhibition will be held on March 5, 6 and 7, at the Polish Museum of America, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, U.S.A.

Preparations for this year's Polpex are being made a little later than usual, but there still is enough time left to put it over. By working just a bit harder, the Polpex Committee can still make this show a successful one.

The year 1965 will see many significant anniversaries, in history, culture and philately.

POLPEX 1965 will honor one of the most outstanding astronomers, Nicholas COPERNICUS and the Space Age. This man, Copernicus, had the knowledge and found the courage to "stop the sun and move the earth."

The theme of our show is associated with philately. Today's trend is toward topical collecting and especially popular is Space philately.

The ground work for POLPEX 1965 is under way. We have already mailed announcements of the show to dealers and others interested in advertising in the Polpex program catalog.

The Committee urges all members to participate in this year's Polpex.

Exhibits

Out-of-town members are especially invited to submit exhibits. Why not flood the Polpex with ALL out-of-town exhibits? Let's try it!

Program Catalog

As we normally do each year, a special souvenir program catalog will be printed. We plan to have a number of interesting philatelic articles.

Advertisements

Every member should make an extra effort to send in at least ONE ad. Our program catalog is much sought after. It is attractive and widely circulated. Advertisers will benefit from new acquaintances and your ad will serve to remind the old acquaintances. Rates are very low: Full page \$20.00, Half page \$12.00, Quarter page \$7.00. Send your ad copy and remittance to Stanley Kucharz 4324 S. Spaulding Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60632.

Patrons

A special patron page in the program catalog will list supporters of the show. Your donation of \$1.00 will help to defray some of the many expenses connected with the show.

Souvenir Sheets

A set of beautifully designed souvenir sheets with a descriptive folder, telling of the life and achievements of Copernicus will be issued and sold at 25 cents per set.

Bourse

Our Polpex attracts a large number of dealers. They come from distant places, even from other countries. Some have already announced that they will bring a good stock of material to sell.

Awards

A large number of awards and the limitation of six frames per exhibit

will permit more exhibitors to win awards.

Publicity

Arrangements are being made to obtain all possible publicity both nationally and locally. Philatelic magazines and local papers will carry announcements and interesting articles before and during the show.

Invitations

Personal invitations will be sent to all stamp clubs in Chicagoland, inviting their members and families to attend the show.

Beeba

Our popular Beeba will be held on March 6th, 1965 in the lower hall of the Polish Museum. John Bor and his associates are very capable at preparing steaming "kapusta" and "kielbasa" along with a lot of other Polish goodies. The highlight of the Beeba is the presentation of awards, a colorful ceremony conducted by Lester Jankowski, with all the award winners gathered together.

Philatelic Articles

This is quite a big project Polonus undertakes. We are always in need of interesting articles which could be used in the philatelic press or our program catalog. Should you have something to write about, of interest to other philatelists, on the theme of our show or on some other phase of Polish philately, please send it to the Editor.

WITH YOUR HELP ONLY CAN
WE MAKE THIS A GOOD SHOW.
Wont you help us make POLPEX 1965
a most outstanding philatelic and cultural event as it has been in the past?

Roman H. Strzelecki,
Polpex Chairman

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POLAND

Important Facts Are Disclosed on Polish Constitution Issue of 1921

By Edward Nowak, Sr.

(Reprinted from the "Postal History Journal")

In the early years of Poland's Independence when the country was fighting inflation and monetary instability, lack of printing machines, paper and postal equipment, there were few facilities with which to produce postage stamps. But that does not mean records were not kept on stamp emissions; nor that philatelic history was not recorded.

Some of these important records, in files of prominent Polish philatelists, only now are making their way into print to be translated and shared with those stamp collectors who find the language barrier difficult to overcome.

New Information Available

The very newest—and heretofore little known—philatelic information pertaining to stamps of Poland, dating back to 1921, came to light recently. It concerns the seven-stamp set known as the "Constitution Issue."

On orders of the Postal Ministry, published in "Dziennik Urzędowy" (Official Daily) dated March 1921, the issue was placed for first day sale May 2, 1921, and the stamps were recalled from circulation by the same official medium dated June 13, 1922.

The stamps, issued to commemorate the birth of the Polish Constitution (voted upon by the "Sejm" on March 17, 1921), were printed in Poland's



Fig. 1. Rare photo, by permission of the Polish Postal Ministry, of competitive winning designs by E. Bartłomiejczyk for "Constitution Issue of 1921." From designs zinc cuts were made and essays were produced in various colors. Essays are displayed in the Polish Postal Museum in Wrocław.

Graphic Institute (Zaklad Graficzny) by typography on smooth, white paper. Designs measure 22 by 28 millimeters with lineal perforations of 11 or 11½ gauge. Denominations are 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 25 and 50 Marks.

Of interest to stamp collectors is the fact—revealed in “Polskie Znaki Pocztowe,” published by the “Ruch” organization in Warsaw—that only the 4 Mk. adhesive is listed officially as existing in two differing colors. The Polish listing states that the 4 Mk. stamp exists in (a) red ink and (b) carmine.

According to revealing philatelic articles—penned by Zbigniew Mikulski, published in “Filatelista” magazine in Warsaw—the “Constitution Issue” designs were obtained through a national competition under the auspices of Poland’s Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

From the originals, submitted by prominent Polish artists, the Ministry officials chose three drawings as a “basis” for future issues.

The artist’s drawings for 2, 3 and 4 Mk. stamps depict an oval framework with the inscription “Pro Publico Bono” (later changed to Konstytucja) in the upper section. At bottom of the frame, ornaments and a postilion’s trumpet tied with ribbons appear. In the oval itself the rising sun lights-up the date of the new constitution. All three denominations are the artwork of E. Bartlomiejczyk (Fig. 1).

Stamps of the 6 and 10 Mk. values picture two walking female harvesters carrying sheaves of wheat. The upper left corner contains the dates of the First and Second Constitutions 3/V/1791—17/III/1921. These two adhesives also were projected by Bartlomiejczyk.

Stamps of 25 and 50 Mk. show a sitting female resting her right arm on a tablet with a three-line inscription “17, III, Konstytucja 1921.” In her right hand she holds a sickle with the implement pointing toward the soil. At the bottom, in the right corner, is the stamp’s value. These two adhesives were drawn by W. Huzarski (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Rare essays from zinc plates produced from W. Huzarski's contest winning drawings for the 1921 Constitution stamps. By permission of the Polish Postal Museum.

Five sketches for “Constitution Issue” stamps, submitted by E. Bartlomiejczyk, were used to produce five zinc cuts for conception purposes. From these cuts, proof impressions were pulled in the following colors: dark green, dark chocolate, dark blue, red, brick-red, orange, gray-olive, black and indigo.

Some of these were placed on exhibition in Poland’s Philatelic Museum. But, since Hitler’s occupation, their fate or whereabouts is not known. Like many other such items they may suddenly turn up on the stamp market.

The drawings submitted by W. Huzarski also are known to have reached a zinc cut stage. Four presentation essays were submitted to the Postal Ministry in the following colors: lilac, brick-red, orange, blue-green, dark green and



Fig. 3. Essays from zinc plates produced from sketches by J. Tom for the 1921 Constitution issue. By permission of the Polish Postal Museum:

blue-gray. The essay of the 6 Mk. sketch was actually used for printing the 25 Mk. and 50 Mk. stamps of the issue.

Recent philatelic research discloses that sketches and drawings submitted by J. Tom received a special award from the Postal Ministry (Fig. 3). Tom's projects also reached the stage of zinc printing plates. The 6 Mk. cut made from Tom's drawing represented a likeness of Marshal Stan. Malachowski and it was used to produce essays in 15 different colors, but the color registry has been lost to posterity.

The final printing forms were composed of 100 subjects. Colored guide lines appeared in top and bottom margins but sheets of the finished product did not contain accounting figures.

From the completed forms proof impressions were taken for final approval before actual printing. Prints (100 stamp cuts in each form) were produced in black ink on white carton of the 2, 3 and 10 Mk. denominations. A gray, coarse paper of medium thickness was used for the 6, 10 and 50 Mk. values.

Delving into notebooks of recognized Polish stamp specialists (Z. Mikulski and Dr. J. Tislowitz), it was established that impressions of these 100 stamp forms also were made in "officially adopted colors" of the final product. These impressions, on white, smooth paper of medium thickness with wavy water lines, were of the 3, 4, 6, 10, 25 and 50 Mk. denominations.

All of these impressions in complete sheets, according to philatelic authorities, were ungummed and unperforated.

It is a fact (recently confirmed through philatelic research) that impressions of the 25 Mk. denomination in complete sheets also were pulled in orange and red inks.

Like most rare and interesting material carried off to Germany by Nazis, who systematically looted Poland's National Philatelic Museum in Wroclaw, this, too, is probably lost to posterity.

There are no known color varieties with the exception of the 4 Mk. stamp printed by mistake in carmine ink. But these carmine-colored stamps never reached post office windows.

Only a few examples of these issues—perforated or imperforate—are known to exist in the hands of collectors. These probably were bought, after the war, from former Nazi officials. But no records, on Poland's Ministry of Post books, show the number of stamps printed as sets nor the amounts sold for legitimate postal use.

Bibliography

- "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe," Vol. 1. Warsaw 1960.
- "Filatelista" articles by Z. Mikulski and T. Hampel.
- "Poland. The Postal Issue etc." Gibbons Stamp Monthly 5/1930.
- "Polskie Znaczki Konstytucyjne," Fil. Pol. 3/1921.

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NEW ISSUES

Garden Flowers

Previous issues of Polish postage stamps devoted to nature depicted, as a rule, objects under protection. This time the Polish Post is preparing an issue of 12 stamps with popular garden flowers:

- 20 gr. Persian cyclamen
6,000,000 issued
- 30 gr. Gardening fraesia
6,000,000 issued
- 40 gr. Rose "Monique"
8,000,000 issued
- 50 gr. Peony
6,000,000 issued
- 60 gr. Royal lily
8,000,000 issued
- 90 gr. Oriental poppy
4,500,000 issued
- 1.35 zł. Tulip "Orange Wonder"
4,500,000 issued
- 1.50 zł. Narcissus "Fortune"
4,500,000 issued
- 1.55 zł. Begonia
5,000,000 issued
- 2.50 zł. Carnation
4,000,000 issued
- 3.40 zł. Iris "Rubin"
1,500,000 issued
- 5.60 zł. Japanese Camelia "Elegans"
1,300,000 issued

Designed by Alojzy Balcerzak; Printed by Polychrome rotogravure at the State Printing Works, Warsaw. First day of issue Nov. 30, 1964.

* * *

Space Research

On Dec. 30, 1964 the Post issued a set of eight stamps devoted to space research. The designs show:

- 20 gr. future interplanetary spacecraft
6,000,000 issued
- 30 gr. launching of a space rocket
6,000,000 issued
- 40 gr. Łajkat, the first "cosmonaut" dog on the background of a launching tower
8,000,000 issued
- 60 gr. Lunnik III and a picture of unseen side of the Moon
8,000,000 issued

1.55 zł. an artificial satellite examining the ionosphere
5,000,000 issued

2.50 zł. the satellite Elektron II examining radiation belts,
4,000,000 issued

5.60 zł. the capsule "Mars I" examining the space between the orbits of Mars and Earth
1,500,000 issued

6.50 zł. + 2 zł. J. Gagarin, the first cosmonaut of the world, in the cockpit of the space capsule
1,300,000 issued

Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk; Printed by Polychrome offset at the State Printing Works, Warsaw.

* * *

20th Anniversary of Warsaw Liberation

On Jan. 17, 1965 Warsaw celebrated the 20th anniversary of its liberation. To commemorate this event the Post issued a 60 groszy green representing the Siren of Warsaw on the back ground of ruins, surrounded by sixteen small pictures of edifices recently erected or reconstructed within the 1945-1965 period. Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk; Printed by Steel engraving at the State Printing Works, Warsaw. Quantity issued: 5,000,000.

* * *

Prehistoric Animals

In Feb. of 1965 the Post will issue a set picturing the mysterious and fascinating world of the prehistoric fauna.

20 gr. Edaphosaurus, living in the Carboniferous and Permian periods, its remnants were found in Europe and North America
6,500,000 to be issued

30 gr. Cryptocleidus, a predatory animal living in the seas of the Mesozoic Era
6,500,000 to be issued

40 gr. Brontosaurus, the most known dinosaur of the Jurassic period
8,000,000 to be issued

60 gr. Mesosaurus, living in the waters of the south hemisphere in the Permian period
8,000,000 to be issued

- 90 gr. Stegosaurus whose remnants were found in the Jurassic layers of North America
5,500,000 to be issued
- 1.15 zł. Brachiosaurus, living in the Jurassic and Cretaceous period, it was discovered in the Jurassic marshes of Colorado and in Africa
4,500,000 to be issued
- 1.35 zł. Styracosaurus, found in the layers of the Cretaceous period in Alberta, Canada
5,000,000 to be issued
- 3.40 zł. Corythosaurus, living in the Cretaceous Period; its remnants were found in North America, Holland, England, Transylvania, Siberia & China
4,000,000 to be issued
- 5.60 zł. Rhamphorynchus, living in the Mesozoic era; its remnants were found in Europe and Africa
1,700,000 to be issued
- 6.50 zł. Tyrannosaurus whose remnants were found in the layers of the Late-Cretaceous period in North America.
1,500,000 to be issued

Designed by Andrzej Heidrich; Printed by Polychrome offset at the State Printing Works, Warsaw.

— Ruch

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 8th, 1965:

Nomination of Officers for 1965.

Regular Business Meeting.

Friday, January 22nd, 1965:

Election of Officers. Past Presidents

Nite. Beeba to follow.

Friday, February 12th, 1965:

Installation Nite.

Friday, February 26th 1965:

Last Meeting before Polpex.

March 5, 6, and 7, 1965:

POLPEX 1965.

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