

## BULLETIN OF THE

# POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue No. 111

Feb.-March, 1953

### The Story of the Danzig Postal Employees Who Perished in the Defense of Their Country

by Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz

Thirteen years have gone by since German Nazis shot 41 employees of the Polish postoffice in Danzig at the outbreak of the war in 1939. The armed Polish resistance in the Free City of Danzig and its tragic consequences are to us Poles a heroic and painful memory of the past war, and can be added to the heroic defense of Warsaw which cannot be easily forgotten.

The heroes of this tragedy were Polish employees of the Postoffice in Danzig, but in majority local citizens of Danzig (Kaszubs). These so called Kaszubs were defending their own land at Danzig, Westerplatte, and Kępy Akwieskie, and not only their dear Poland.

Poland had a government postoffice in Danzig. On the first day of the war, the government issued arms to its employees and ordered them to protect the postoffice in case of need. This the postal employees carried out per orders. Here I give you the ordeal at the main postoffice in Danzig, in September 1939 as per an account in book form by Włodzimierz Wnuk published in Warsaw in 1952 entitled "Spring on the Moltow."

"Early morning on September 1, 1939, the postoffice in Danzig was attacked by Danzig Police and SS troops. The members of the postoffice answered with rifle, machine guns, and hand grenade fire. The attack at first was repulsed and the aggressors



suffered dead and wounded. At the postoffice the Polish leader Konrad Guderski was killed and his assistant Alfons Flisykowski was wounded. At 10 o'clock the Nazi re-attacked with tanks and armored cars, but this also was frustrated. At 3 p.m. the third attack took place but this time with the help of artillery fifty meters from the postoffice. With this pressure the occupants of the postoffice fled to the basement and from there kept on the defense. At this time the Nazis poured benzine on the building and pounded mortar fire into it. At 7 p.m. after fourteen hours of steady fighting, the Polish defenders hung out a white flag. In these final moments the Danzig Directors of Posts and Telegraphs Jan Michon and Józef Nosik were killed. In all, six defenders were killed and six others who were seriously wounded died in a few days. Forty-one were court martialed by the Nazis and were shot. Twenty

others died in concentration camps. In all, 79 employees of the postoffice perished. The full complement of employees of the postoffice was 110 people, so the remainder who were able to get out of the flaming building were placed in concentration camps."

From this we have two conditions arising:

1st) That the Nazis destroyed all those who possessed firearms immediately or even a month later after taking them prisoner—disregarding International Law. The Nazi press called these defenders "bandits, traitors and collaborators" which as we can see is not so. It is not true that these people were traitors to their government because they were citizens of Poland and citizens of the Free City of Danzig. The citizens of Danzig were not the aggressors. The Nazis were the aggressors for it was their government that proclaimed the absorption of the Free City into the German Reich, on September 1, 1939. Thus we see the reason for the defense of the postal employees who not only defended their postoffice but also the Free City. This brutal attack was premeditated and a part of an aggressive plan of the German Reich for the first day of the war.

2nd) The Poles had a right to defend themselves at Danzig, but it was bad to do so with overwhelming odds against them. The Polish Government should have foresaw this and not allowed any firearms in the postoffices. The officials who ordered the defense certainly failed to weigh the situation and are guilty for such orders to have been issued.

#### NOTICE!

One of our members, Mr. R. Barkiewicz, 2558 Iowa St., Granite City, Illinois, together with our old standby, J. Bieniecki, have offered to conduct a sales and exchange circuit. They feel that there are many members who are interested in medium price stamps that offer opportunity for study of papers, perforations and shades, and also have excellent stamps to exchange.

Any member interested please write

to Mr. Barkiewicz so that he can judge whether the undertaking will be worth the effort.

Another member has offered for sale a 5 volume set of the Kohl Handbooks. Three are beautifully bound, the other two in the original pamphlet form—anyone interested write to J. J. Domar, 3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

Member Domar is interested in purchasing Prof. Mikstein's pamphlet on the Krakows, "Die Postmarke", #9 published in Vienna in 1933.

#### FROM THE TREASURER

We mentioned in our last Bulletin that a resolution was introduced to increase the dues to \$2.50. The resolution was passed by those attending without a dissenting vote so it seems most of you do realize that you cannot operate an organization on peanuts.

We must all of us thank those members who donated so generously last year. It was thru their generosity that we were able to balance the budget. At the show we will have an auction of some of the lots which were donated. Roman Reinowski still has many more which he is planning to auction later (those of you who donated lots and didn't see your name this is the answer). This will bring some more revenue, but this method was not very satisfactory—only a few carried the load, so it was felt that increasing the dues would guarantee a balanced budget. Of course if one feels very generous I'm sure your new Treasurer will be most happy to accept any gift.

Dues are now payable, \$2.50. Please make it easier on your Treasurer and mail it in at once. Thanks for all of your help.

#### A POLPEX PATRON

A member who answered our appeal to help POLPEX 1952-53 but whose dollar arrived too late for the printing of the Catalogue was Jan Konwinski of Route 1, Ratcliffe, Arkansas. Better late than never!

# Auxiliary Provisional Handstruck Rate Stamps for Local Delivery of Mail in Warsaw

Oct. 20, 1916 to Nov. 16, 1918

by Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz

During the German occupation of Poland in the first world war the occupants had the posts functioning only to the general postoffices. Since no home delivery was instituted, the Citizens committee of Warsaw undertook to organize a system to deliver the mail and made a charge by affixing a stamp to the mail on delivery by the postman. This began on Sept. 20, 1915. On Oct. 19, 1916, the Germans forbid the use of the current stamps, so the committees had to find some other way of collecting for the service of house delivery.

No foreign catalogs list these auxiliary and substitute franks so this information from various sources is hereby offered to the Polish philatelist.

After the capitulation of the Central Powers and the restoration of Polish postal service there was a shortage of regular stamps or of only some of the denominations that were more frequently used. At a later date various stamps were used up. The fee

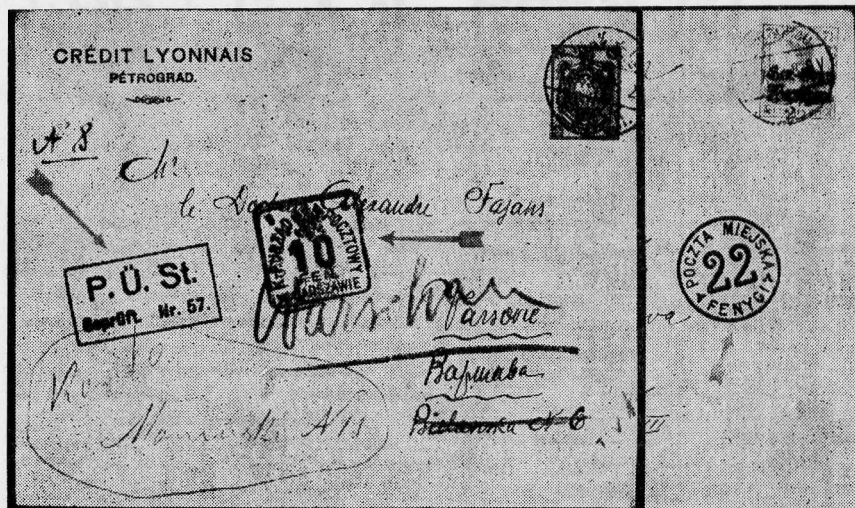
was collected and notations were made on the covers in the following methods:

- 1—Use of express, newspaper, postage due and revenue stamps.
- 2—Bisected stamps.
- 3—Receipt of payment (without stamps), with only a notation by ms. or the use of a rubber hand-stamp.

Here we will not discuss the use of stamps of the Central Powers during these trying times but limit this article to the use of the rubber hand-stamps of Warsaw only, although other cities as Alexandrow, Czeladz, Czenstochowa, Lodz, Otwock, Pruszkow, Siedlce, and Sosnowiec also had rubber hand-stamp franks.

## Warsaw

During the period the Warsaw locals stamps were used (from Sept. 25, 1915) the city posts for a short time used, instead of stamps, a special hand-stamp for telegraph dispatches which was a framed rectangular 57x



Two covers from the collection of Dr. Wozakiewicz showing the handstruck rate stamps used on mail to Warsaw.

35 mm. with rounded corners inscribed "K.O.m. st. W / Poczta MIEJSKA / ornament / 20 groszy / za dostarczenie depeszy". This hand-stamp in red was used from Oct. 23, 1915, to noon of March 4, 1916. From this date to Oct. 19, 1916, two 10 groszy Warsaw local stamps replaced the hand-stamp.

When the Central Powers forbid the use of stamps by local city posts (Oct. 20, 1916) the posts used a hand stamp on letters and dispatches as a charge for delivery. The charge was designated by 4 different handstamps, A—Triangle, for printed matter.

B—Square, regular mail and permits. C—Octagon, letters more than 250 grams.

D—Circle, dispatches and express.

#### Type I

October 20, 1916. "POCZTA MIEJSKA" and the amount of charge in groszy.



a—2 grosze

b—6 Groszy

c—10 Groszy

d—20 Groszy

Until Jan. 11th, 1917, the handstamps were in red color, from this date on the morning mail was in red and the afternoon delivery was in violet. This was done to control the mail carriers and correspondence.

#### Type II

April 26, 1917. Only three handstamps of the Type I were changed for increase in charge:

b—7 Groszy

c—11 Groszy

d—22 Groszy

This came about because the Ger-

man Authorities on the Occupied territory changed the monetary system from the then existing Russian to German at the rate of 100 rubles to equal 216 marks. This compelled the City post to revise the charge for delivery from—

6 Groszy to 7 Groszy

10 Groszy to 11 Groszy

20 Groszy to 22 Groszy

The City Post Committee not wishing to drop the Polish Groszy to the lowest standard, decided to only cut out the numerals 6, 10, 20 and replaced them with 7, 11 and 22, and left the wording and Groszy in the former hand stamp. In one handstamp somehow an error developed by "22 GROSZY" instead of "22 GROSZE".

The triangle handstamp "a" was not changed and was used for printed matter as before.

These handstamps of Type II were used barely 4 days and are rare and scarce, especially "c" and "d".

#### Type III

May 1, 1917. Same as previous types only the word "fenygi" replaced the word "Groszy".



a—2 Fenygi

b—7 Fenygi

c—11 Fenygi

d—22 Fenygi

This change became necessary due to the confusion of the public and mail carriers. City postal officials changed the handstamps to conform to the German moneys.

#### Type IV

Dec. 1, 1917. The handstamps same as Type III except for change in numeral:

a—5 Fenygi

b—10 Fenygi

c—20 Fenygi

d—30 Fenygi

This series was brought about by raising of wages of the mail carriers. The charge was raised accordingly.

### Type V

July 1, 1918. The wording of this handstamps is "K. P. (Krolestwo Polskie) URZAD-eagle-POCZTOWY wWarszawie"



- a—5 Fenygi
- b—10 Fenygi
- c—20 Fenygi
- d—30 Fenygi

On this date the City magistrate relinquished the city post to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the new Polish governing Regency as per decree article 24 of Jan. 3, 1918, published in No. 1 "Dziennik Praw Krolestwa Polskiego" of Feb. 1, 1918. In article 40 of this decree the government departments were officially to have the title "Krolestwo Polskie" and for this reason changed the hand stamps and Type V was used.

### Type VI

Sept. 8, 1918. Same as Type V but instead of "K-P. URZAD POCZTOWY" it was "POCZTA MIEJSKA"



This change came about because the German authorities differed categorically in the use of "Krolestwo Polskie Urzad Pocztowy," because they considered the post in Warsaw only an independent city post which assisted the German Post, and for this reason (after only one and half days) the ministry had to recall these handstamps Type V. From noon of July 2, 1918, the Type IV continued until the appearance of Type VI on Sept. 8, 1918.

This hand-stamp was used until Nov. 16, 1918, when the posts on this

day became a government institution and an additional charge was unnecessary for delivery.

It is noted that during the life of local stamps or handstamps, the sender could pay for the stamps, or handstamps, and on delivery the receiver did not pay. This was designated by a variety of additional hand-stamps to denote payment in advance as:

- a—Rectangular framed, single line wording "WRECZENIE OPLACONE". Size fo frame 100x17 mm.
- b—Same as "a" but 79x6 mm., same wording.
- c—Oval 37x21 mm. three line "WRECZENIE / P.M. / OPLACONE" and two ornaments.
- d—Rectangular frame 37x13 mm. and two line wording "WRECZENIE OPLACONE".
- e—Rectangular frame 37x12½ mm. two line wording "DORECZENIE / BEZPLATNE", and on each side the letters "P and M".

The handstamp "e" was used to notify the receiver who could not be contacted to make the regular delivery at his home, to come to the City post office for his mail. It is understood that the receiver had to pay the carriers charge at the postoffice.

### AUCTION NOTES

Lots donated by members which were not listed in the Polpex Auction will be auctioned off in May and the balance in the Fall Auction.

Auction Chairman Roan Reinowski announces that the next Polonus Auction will be held May 22nd, 1953. A listing of the many U.S. items and Polish material will appear in the April Bulletin of the Society.

### OFFICERS FOR 1953

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| John S. Bobo          | President  |
| Anthony A. Banasiak   | Vice-Pres. |
| Adam Kloskowski       | Secretary  |
| John Skotnicki        | Treasurer  |
| Matthew Pristika      | Librarian  |
| Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz | Director   |
| C. W. Makowski        | Director   |

## POLPEX 1952-53

For the second time, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz walked off with the Col. Larking Trophy—Grand Award, the only member to do so thus far. He won with his exhibit of Poland Stampless Covers, No. 1s, and "Gen-Gouv" Issues.

Polpex 1952-53 consisted of 102 frames, well represented with Poland. Practically all phases of Polish philately were shown, from Stampless Covers to Post War Issues.

The Dr. Kozakiewicz Research Award Trophy went to Jack Domar who showed specialized Sower Types. Frank Wolosewick received the Special Trophy for his Krakows. The Medals were awarded as follows:—Chester Mikucki—GOLD—For Poland Revenues; Myron Steczynski—SILVER—For a Detailed Classification of Poland Varieties; and Lester Jankowski—BRONZE—For Jozef Pilsudski Topical Collection.

In the Other Than Poland Class Barney Fialkowski was awarded the Special Award Trophy for his Albanian Collection. The Silver Medal went to Thomas Tenczar for his Hejaz, and the Bronze Medal to John S. Bobo for his U. S. Revenues.

Our industrious Polpex Chairman

Barney Fialkowski is credited with a successful show. The Committee members chipped in willingly to put up the exhibits and then to take them down. The traditional Beeba was held Saturday night. Matt Pristika, Mr. Bor, Tony Banasiak, John Bobo, etc., saw to it that the guests were well fed but ran into one obstacle—no sugar. Food for the Beeba was donated by the members.

An attractive souvenir sheet, designed to meet the standards set by the Society with its sheets of previous years, was printed in light blue and dark blue. It shows twelve stamps issued by the United States and by Poland to honor each others heroes and events, and Polish persons whose lives are tied in with America, thereby cementing a friendship which bound the two countries throughout the years. Price per set including descriptive folder is 25 cents and may be obtained from Seal Director Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Avenue, Chicago 47, Ill.

## NEW MEMBERS

Robert Lerner (Associate Jr.)

160 W. 95th St.

New York, N. Y.

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P. O. Box 254

Fergus Falls, Minn.

Roman R. Sowakowski

P. O. Box 757

London, Ontario, Canada

Rev. R. J. Berendt

4600 S. Honore St.

Chicago 9, Ill.

Jacob Gaska

1 Marquette Row

Yonkers 3, N. Y.

## APPLICATIONS PENDING

George Earl Myers

5843 Vickery Blvd.

Dallas 6, Texas

Joseph Krzyzecki

216 Broad St.

New Britain, Conn.

H. George Wolfe

35-16 76th St.

Jackson Heights, N. Y.

Theodore Light

3053 Sunnyside Ave.

Chicago 25, Ill.



## NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

As reported in the Jan. 1953 Issue #110 of the Bulletin, of the Fourth Quarter 1952 releases, additional sets have appeared:

1. Issued in Commemoration of Polish Miners Day.

Date of issue: December 4th, 1952.

Values: 45+15 gr. black and 1.20 zl. +15 gr. brown.

Perf.  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ . Gum: White. Paper: White unwatermarked.

Recess engraved at P.W.P.W.

Size 25.5x31.25 mm.

Designed, E. Konecki; Engraved, St. Lukazewski.

2. Issued in connection with II International Violin Competition in commemoration of Henryk Wieniawski.

Date of issue: Dec. 5th, 1952.

Values: 30 gr. + 15 green and 45 gr. + 15 violet.

Perf.:  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ , Gum: White, Paper: White unwatermarked.

Rotogravoured, size 25.5x31.25 mm.

3. Passenger Car Factory in Zeran.

Date of issue: Dec. 12, 1952.

Values: 45 gr. + 15 gr. gr.-green and 1.15 zloty brown.

Perf.  $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ . Gum: White.

Paper: White unwatermarked, Process, Engraved in P. W. P. W.

Designed and engraved by Cz. Slania.

Size: 31.25x25.5 mm.

4. Not previously reported: 2 stamps in commemoration of the Congress of Nations in the Defense of World Peace in Vienna.

Date of Issue: Dec. 12, 1952.

Values, 30 gr. green and 60 gr. blue.

Perf.  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ , Gum: White, Paper, White unwatermarked.

Process: rotogravoured.

Size: 25.5x31.25 mm.

Varimex

J. Bieniecki

## APPRECIATION

Our sincerest thanks to the National Stamp News, Stamps, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Weekly Philatelic Gossip, and Linn's Weekly

Stamp News for Polpex publicity carried in their publications and for sample copies of their publications for distribution at our show.

The following members donated toward the Polpex Beeba: John Bobo \$10.00, Dr. Uznanski \$5.00, J. Domar \$5.00, C. Mikucki \$2.00, S. Kucharz \$1.00, M. Pristika \$1.00, S. Bor \$1.00, and Dr. Kozakiewicz—Food.

## TID BITS

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Myron Steczynski and his family, and to Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz and his family upon the death of both members' mothers.

A guest at our Polpex who really came from afar was Mr. Januszewski of England.

Anyone collecting U. S. will welcome the publication of S.P.A. Handbook No. 4 entitled "Types of the 2¢ and 3¢ Washington Series of 1912-21." Its text was compiled by Alfred Diamond and illustrations by W. V. Kenworthy. It is regularly priced at 25¢ but may be purchased by members for 10¢ from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

Sigmund Bor exhibited his Poland collection at the Chicago Gage Park Show and won a Special Award.

Appointments by the new administration were made at the March 14th meeting. Anthony Banasiak took over the Program Chairman's job and Society Publicity. Adam Kloskowski was placed in charge of Frames and Leo Topolinski of Milwaukee was appointed to the honorary post of Travelling Ambassador. The tedious job of auditing the Society's books for 1952 was given to J. Domar, S. Kucharz, J. Rux and C. Mikucki.

Seal Director Adam Kloskowski mentioned that he still has some Opening Day Covers from the last Polpex on sale at 20 cents. The Groszy Overprint booklet by W. Kolakowski advertised in the last Bulletin is also available, at 75 cents plus postage.

Member Barney Fialkowski who handles "Stamps for the Wounded" for the Polonus Society, received a letter from the regional director of our area which we reproduce as follows:

"Dear Barney:

"Please thank your Polonus members Adam Kloskowski, Anthony Bansiak and Matthew Pristika for their donation of covers and magazines handed to me for hospital distribution by you on Wednesday evening. Your continued help is greatly appreciated. I was able to give one of our Polish boys a set of Lublin and Cracow overprints last week which seemed to please him very much.

### POLAND

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Established in England from 1946

### POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Adam Kloskowski, Secretary  
2528 N. Drake Ave.

Chicago 47, Ill.

John Skotnicki, Treasurer

1036 N. Wood St.

Chicago 22, Ill.

#### Publications Committee

Chester W. Makowski, Chmn.

2215 W. Cortez St.

Chicago 22, Ill.

Chester A. Schafer, Editor

2144 W. Potomac Ave.

Chicago 22, Ill.

#### Associate Editors this issue

Jack Domar

Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz

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.

"Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

W. V. Kenworthy"

We renew our appeal to you to  
Give Now and to Give Generously!  
The war is not over for those men  
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Send your donation now to Stamps  
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**THE WAR IS OVER . . .  
BUT THE MALADIES LINGER ON**