

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

Issue 129

June 1955

PUBLICITY THROUGH STAMPS OF POLAND

By Ronald Wolosewicz, Holy Trinity High School, Chicago

This essay was first prize winner in the recent 1955 Polish Arts Club of Chicago Essay Contest open to all Polish descent high school students of Chicago.

In 1939 the Chicago Polonus Philatelic Society was organized. This small group of American philatelists of Polish extraction has done remarkable work in publicising, promoting Polish history and culture, not only through its widely circulated **Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society**, devoted to the postage stamps and other imprints of Poland, but principally through the issuance of commemorative Polpex Souvenir Sheets, for their annual Exhibit and Bourse (Polpex).

Although these annual Polpex exhibitions normally attract national and international attention through carefully planned programs, it is their yearly Souvenir Sheets which most strikingly keynote Poland's historical events, traditions, customs, and outstanding personages. Participation in this presentation is not restricted to professional or amateur Polish American postage stamp collectors of the Chicago area or of the U.S.A. Philatelists of other national origins, from foreign nations can also participate and often do.

These spectacles are not held in exclusive hotels, but in the heart of Chicago's Polonia, in the "Sokolnia". They are climaxed with a "Beeba", which for some has become like a by-word in the English language, that in part describes the social and gayer side of the American Polish philatelists.

Every annual Polpex represents not hours, but years of careful planning, painstaking study by the participants, who vie yearly for the top prizes in "Polish Research", "Best Poland", "Novice", and other classes. These exhibits are usually well stocked with albums and cases of first day issues, commemoratives, covers, imprints, cancellations, post marks, seals, stamps and other rare postal items directly or indirectly associated with Polish philately.

Guests visiting the 1955 and 16th annual Polpex, saw among other displays the Austria-Poland pre-stamp covers, Galician cancellations, Austrian occupation of Russian Poland and Etappenpostmark postmarks, comprehensive studies of Poland's 3 mk on 40 f Provisionals, rare covers and cancellations of the Warsaw Insurrection of 1944, Polish prisoner of World War II collections, Port Gdansk issues, Polish air and fieldpost sets, etc. Besides numerous Polish exhibits, many foreign collections were also shown. Outstanding among these were the Israeli, Vatican sets, and U.S. Revenues groupings.

Truly, the 1955 Polpex was a memorable and instructive one. For in addition to seeing large varieties of postal collections, young Polish Americans like myself, had the opportunity to read letters addressed two or three hundred years ago to kings, queens, and other nobility, whose names were connected with Polish history and lore. For this, without doubt, our Polish American philatelists deserve a generous vote of gratitude for preserving such priceless treasures for present and future generations.

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Polpex Souvenir Sheets

Although the Polonus stamp exhibit is a very large and impressive one, in the opinion of this writer, the Polpex commemorative sheets annually are the top attractions of this Polish American philatelic group. Because they so often present Polish history and culture in a most graphic and symbolic form, are printed in limited lots, sold at a very nominal price, the demand for these sheets is always large. Some former issues already are classified as "rare collector's items."

Whether consciously or not, these annual Polonus Philatelic Society emissions often portray the Catholicity, devotion to duty, and willingness to sacrifice, so characteristic of the Polish people. Through these yearly prints, no doubt, many persons receive very favorable impressions of Poland, her religion, history and culture.

The first annual Polpex commemorative issue was a very inconspicuous one. Printed in red and white color in 1940, it depicted a galloping "Husarz"



(Hussar), the forerunner of the modern panzer division. It was the charge of the "Husarzy" which halted the Swedish Army besieging Warsaw, in the early part of the sixteenth century. It was also the "Husarzy" who again showed their true worth under Sobieski, in the Battle of Vienna, as they saved Europe from the Turkish hordes.

These "Husarzy" were not ordinary men. They were the elite, the bravest fighting men that Poland could produce. Their battle dress was modern

even for their times. They were distinguished by feathered wings strapped to their backs that in combat often seemed to add extra stimuli to the horse and rider.

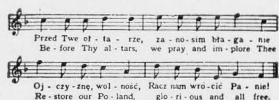
The Polpex imprint of 1941, features Ignacy Paderewski, the Polish internationally known pianist, composer and statesman as portrayed by the American cartoonist John Parrish. It



was reprinted through the courtesy of the Chicago Tribune. The central theme depicted Paderewski at the piano encouraging a homeless and seemingly hopeless boy (symbolic of Poland) to perseverance and visions of a better future by reminding him of Poland's anthem "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginęła."

The 1942 commemorative piece underlines religious worship in Poland. The cover emphasizes, that even though countless churches of that country were mutilated or destroyed by World War II, the Poles still display a strong and fervent devotion for their Catholic faith. This is very graphically highlighted by the use of a popular Polish religious hymn, in English and Polish, at the top of the sheet. The tune is the one often used by the Poles during their years of oppression following the Third Partition of 1795. It expresses their fervent hope of liberty and freedom:

"Przed two ołtarze, zanosim błaganie,
Ojczyznę wolność, racz nam wrócić
Panie."

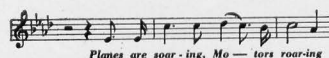


During the 1943 Polpex, another religious theme was used. On this annual issue the 80 "Grosze" stamp of Poland, depicted the wood carving by Wit Stwoszcz of the main altar in St. Mary's church in Cracow, Poland. Above this stamp is a sketch showing the Trumpeter of Cracow, playing the "Heynal." Tradition relates that in the thirteenth century, a Polish trumpeter was slain by the Tartars at the very time when



he was using his musical instrument to warn his city of an imminent attack by the enemy. For this reason the "Heynal" tune since that time always ends abruptly on a half note in tribute to that hero.

In 1944 one of the stamps of the Polish Exiled Government in London, that paid tribute to the Polish Air Force of W. W. II, was reproduced on the Polonus yearly exhibition number. It focused particular attention upon the Polish air squadrons that fought so successfully in the "Air Battles over Britain"; units that partly were instrumental in conquering a supposedly invincible Nazi Luftwaffe.



Kosciuszko. — Pulaski.

Two years later in 1946, Polonus honors Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a champion of Liberty and Equality. A Pole by birth, an American by adoption, Kosciuszko not only fought with valor for his native Poland, but was equally a hero of the American War of Independence. The Polonus commemorative sheet for this year reproduced a duplicate of an unofficial imprint of Poland. It pictured Kosciuszko flanked on the right and left by flags of Poland and the United States. At the

top of the photo was a bar of music popular in Poland: "Patrz Kościuszko na nas z nieba" (Kościuszko, gaze upon us from heaven). At the bottom of this same sheet is found a poem by William Palmer, stating:

"His dust in Poland rests
His urned heart a shrine,
Poland, he is thy son,
Columbia, also thine!"

POLONEZ KOSCIUSZKI



Patrz Kos ciusz ko na nas z nie ba Jak w brwi



BORN FEB. 12, 1746
200TH ANNIVERSARY

"HIS DUST IN POLAND RESTS—
HIS URNED HEART A SHRINE!
POLAND! HE IS THY SON!
COLUMBIA! ALSO THINE!"
—WILLIAM PALMER

**OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX, 1946**
FEB. 9, 10, 11, 12 CHICAGO, ILL.

In 1948 the Polish American philatelists of Chicago in their annual design again saluted another of Poland's military men, on the two hundredth anniversary of his birth, in the person of Casimir Pulaski. Although Pulaski's fame is enshrined in Poland and America, few persons in the United States are aware of the fact that he trained and developed a cavalry corps that listed Polish and other volunteers from several European nations, called the "Pulaski Legion." This group served the Revolutionary Army of Washington with great valor and distinction. It thereby greatly aided the cause of the American colonists in winning a long desired Independence from British rule. This event is noted by the 1948 Polpex sheet when it reproduced a painting by Batowski that illustrates a wounded Pulaski leading his "Legion" against the British at Savannah.

POLPEX 1948




Polonus Philatelic Society
Feb. 12, 13, 14 Chicago

Chopin. — Sienkiewicz.

In 1949, on the tenth anniversary of the Polonus Philatelic Society, the annual commemorative print is dedicated to Fryderyk Chopin, an immortal Polish composer and world reknown pianist. In the brochure which accompanies this memento are the following lines: "Chopin loved Poland" above all else, and because of that love, was able to give it a national heritage. He was endowed by his genius to express the soul of his people, and by his music helped to preserve the feelings and characteristics of the Polish spirit."





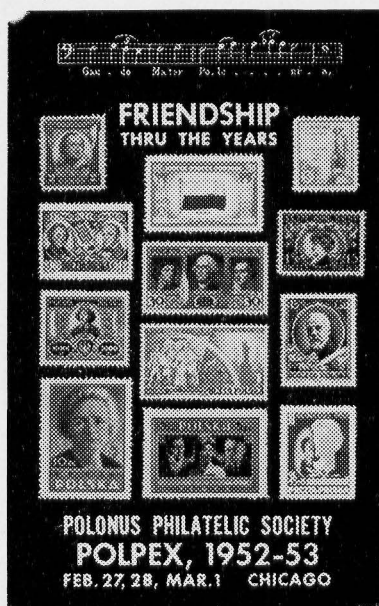
Chopin



**OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX, 1949**
MARCH 4, 5, 6 CHICAGO, ILL.



The 1951 annual exhibition is dedicated to Henryk Sienkiewicz, a Nobel prize winner, author of *Quo Vadis*. Again here on the cover is a picture of the honored individual, appropriately framed with a bar of music, a prayer to the Almighty, "Pod twoją obronę," with an additional marker, namely a map of the state of Texas. Thereby

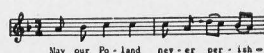


also was noted the centennial of Panna Maria, the oldest Polish colony in America.

One of the most striking designs of Polpex was one that featured the tenth anniversary stamp issued by the United States honoring Poland. On this yearly souvenir issue are all of the most prominent postage stamps of America and of Poland. It included portraits of the various personages prominent in the history of both nations. The theme song of the print was "Gaude Mater Polonia", a thirteenth century hymn, the Alma Mater song of the University of Cracow. It was very popular during the time of Copernicus.

Mickiewicz. — Marian Year.

The 1954 Polpex exhibition collector's item is dedicated to Adam Mickiewicz, the Romanticist period national poet of Poland. This design marks a stamp issued by Poland honoring the poet laureate. It shows a group of soldiers, as described by the bard, in the Polish epic poem "Pan Tadeusz." Written following Poland's disastrous tripartite Partition, Mickiewicz by it helped keep alive the waning hopes and aspirations of the Poles by predicting a glorious destiny for the Fatherland, in the not too distant future.



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX 1954

Since 1954 was declared a universal Marian Year by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, Polish Archbishop Joseph Gawlina suggested that the Vatican issue a set of stamps in honor of this event. Subsequently, the stamps issued by the Holy See at the close of the Marian Year used the Madonna at the Holy Gate of Wilno, Poland, as their central figure. Recognizing the significance of this fact, the Polonus Philatelic Society, in conjunction with their 1955 Exhibit and Bourse, reproduced a facsimile of the historic stamp and the Holy Gate that houses the miraculous Madonna of Wilno on their annual commemorative sheets. The selection was timely, for again it emphasized the Poles loyalty and devotion to the Catholic religion, and especially to the Blessed Mother of God.



The above comments do not pretend to tell the entire story of the Souvenir Sheets issued by the Chicago Polish American philatelic society. For the sake of brevity, much detailed information was omitted, facts and ideas were limited.

In conclusion and by way of summary, the **Polonus Bulletin** and especially the annual commemorative sheets, in the opinion of this writer,

vividly demonstrate that Polish American philately is progressive and instructive. By focusing its attention on Poland's history and culture they have not only made that country better known, but also have made outstanding contributions to the art and science of philately in general. Little wonder that recently similar societies have begun to adopt the Polpex theme. While their choice of subjects may seem limited, the Polish American organization demonstrates unlimited possibilities.

Now that even many prominent statesmen of the world are philatelist, who knows, perhaps these Polpex studies may yet in part be instrumental in bringing the much desired freedom and independence to a now Communist enslaved Poland.

TID BITS

The May 27th Program Meeting consisted of a Question and Answer Night. A panel of experts—John Gapinski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz and Chester Mikucki sat at the table and questions were fired at them from the floor. Z. Obara acted as moderator. This turned out to be one of the best program meetings ever held.

We were honored with a request from the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club to become a Chapter of **OLONUS**. This stamp club is one of the oldest in America and has its home in Cleveland, Ohio.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Rev. David Balla, O.P.
2905 Federal
Denver 11, Colorado
Robert A. Mason
741 Robert St,
Utica 4, N.Y.
Dr. Zigmund W. Kosiecki
1222 N. State Pkwy.
Chicago 10, Ill.
William R. Jusack
10510 S. Whipple
Chicago 43, Ill.
Stanley Pyczynski
18030 Gruebner
Detroit 34, Mich.

REINSTATED

Leo Haska - No. 429
3523 N. Octavia
Chicago 34, Ill.

SIXTH NATIONAL POLISH STAMP EXHIBITION, POZNAN, 1955

During the Poznan International Fair the Sixth National Polish Stamp Exhibition will be presented by the Polish Philatelists Alliance, philatelists from all of Poland will participate. The exhibit will open July 7th at the Higher School of Economics and will last thru July 24th.

The motto of the Exhibition reads: "PHILATELY: an aid in education, swordsmen in the fight for peace, the herald of our accomplishments."

In the show will be stamps of the Polish People's Republic, U.S.S.R. and the Peoples' Democratic Countries, plus other nations. Interesting displays of collections illustrating the organization of Socialism in Poland, the rebuilding of the nation, and youth exhibits will be shown. Some of the exhibits are titled:

- 1) Warsaw—the Unconquerable City
- 2) Our attainments in the Peoples' Poland
- 3) Six Year Plan
- 4) Peoples' Poland Care for the Health of It's Children
- 5) Peace Contest
- 6) A Billion Signatures for Peace

The coming Exhibition is arousing great interest among the youth, and several fine exhibits by youths will be shown.

Undoubtedly the Sixth National Philatelic Exhibition will contribute greatly to promoting friendlier relations among the nations. The Exhibition will be carried over to the Fifth Youth Festival at Warsaw.

Silver, gold and bronze awards and souvenir certificates will be awarded. A special post office will be active at the Exhibition using a special cancellation, selling two miniature sheets, and the special series issued for the International Fair. Also, during the Exhibition, the Fourth Convention of the Polish Philatelists Alliance will take place.

NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Shields
1535 North Sierra Bonita
Hollywood 46, Illinois
Stanley J. Blazewski
451 Franklin Street
Elizabeth, N. J.

PROGRAM MEETING — JUNE 24th

Chicagoland area members are invited to attend the Friday, June 24th meeting at Falcon's Hall. Myron E. Steczynski, advertising manager for Bastian Blessing Co., will speak on the different types of printing. Myron is responsible for most of the souvenir sheets described in this issue of our BULLETIN and is well qualified to talk on this subject.

A REVIEW

Thru the kindness of Harry Weiss, publisher of the "Weekly Philatelic Gossip" I received a complete set of articles written by Marian Carne Zinsmeister "From My Polish Scrapbook."

I was very agreeably surprised at the wealth of information Marian was able to accumulate. It must have taken a great deal of effort and time to secure, translate and arrange. It is true that some corrections and additional information could have been included, however, in my opinion what is missing would probably be of interest only to a specialist.

Anyone with a desire to "write-up" their collection will certainly find a wealth of material in her articles.

To you Marian for writing and to Harry for publishing — the collectors of the stamps of Poland salute you.

The articles in question can be found in the "Weekly Philatelic Gossip" Nos. Nov. 8, 1952 to August 11, 1954.

— J.J.D.

NEW MEMBER

Lt. Norbert J. Walczak
Add. Bldg. 451
Aberdeen Proving Grounds
Maryland

TWIN-EAGLE CIRCUIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to my relocation to the Chicago area, circuit activities will be temporarily withheld.

The Circuits will again be resumed in early Fall. All correspondence regarding circuit matters should be addressed to the Circuit Manager:

ROMAN J. BURKIEWICZ
3553 W. Shakespeare
Chicago 47, Ill.

DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW!

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Polish-USSR Treaty of Friendship and mutual assistance, a set of four stamps were issued on April 21, 1955.



Nominal values are: 40 gr red; 40 gr light-brown; 60 gr blue; 60 gr sepia.

They are perforated $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11$ on white, unwatermarked paper. The gum is white and it is printed by rotogravure. Size of stamps: 25.5 mm x 43 mm.

On April 25th a set of two stamps was issued to commemorate the 8th International Cycling Race of Peace-Prague to Berlin to Warsaw.



The values are 40 gr brown-violet with coat of arms of Prague-Berlin-Warsaw, and 60 gr blue.

They are rotogravured on white unwatermarked paper, perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ — gum: white — size 25.5 x 31.25.

A set of eight stamps are to be issued picturing various Warsaw monuments as follows:

5 gr Siren; 10 gr F. Dzierzynski,



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Associate Editors this issue
J. J. Domar, Ronald Wolosiewicz,
Chester Makowski

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.

15 gr King Zygmunt III; 20 gr Brotherhood in Arms; 40 gr Nicholas Kopernik; 45 gr Maria Curie-Skłodowska; 60 gr Adam Mickiewicz; 1.55 gr Jan Kilinski.

To date only three have been released the 20, 40 and 60 gr values. They are steel plate engraved on white unwatermarked paper perf. $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ size 25.5 x 31.25.

— "Prasa i Książka"

SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY JULY 24th

Program & Entertainment Chairman Zdzislaw Obara announces that our 2nd annual Picnic will take place on Sunday July 24th, at Doc Kozy's resort in Powers Lake, Wisconsin. This all day affair includes such activities as swimming, boating general picknicking with games, prizes music and free goodies for the kiddies. Transportation by autos as last year. Dinners can be bought on the premises. See Mr. Obara for reservations and other information.

Roman J. Burkiewicz, formerly a partner in the Twin-Eagle Stamp Co. located in Granite City, Ill., has moved to Chicago and as of April 1, 1955 is no longer associated with the Twin-Eagle Stamp Co. Joseph Bieniecki will continue the business as before at 2140 Iowa, Granite City, Ill.