

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

Issue No. 112

April 1953

Warsaw Local Post During World War I

by Stanislaus Rembielinski

(Translated from ILUSTROWANE WIADAMOSCI FILATELISTYCZNE
published in Poznan, Poland, March, April and May, 1934)

"Ilus. Wiad. Filat." Editor's Note:

We were successful in obtaining the permission and the right to print a few of the articles by Mr. S. Rembielinski, well-known and highly respected expert on the Warsaw Locals. This is the first installment of a series of articles. They constitute only fragmentary information taken from chapters of "the Description of the Local Post of Warsaw" by the author.

Now, in as much as Mr. Rembielinski at the same time prepared an article about the Warsaw Locals for the Stamps Catalogue, wherein he was not able to go into too much detail, but of necessity had to content himself with giving the substance of his findings, so these articles will be a valuable supplement to the above mentioned Catalogue. More than that, they should command special attention, since they contain considerable details, which in many instances emphasize what has heretofore been said about his work, and written about.

HISTORICAL PREFACE

The German postal system in occupied territory of the former kingdom of Poland—Warsaw, was organized in such a way, that there generally was (with few exceptions) only one bureau, with headquarters in the county

seat. The mail, destined for the whole district, was directed to the proper post office, and there the village magistrates were obliged to call for the mail addressed to localities within their jurisdiction.

The delivery of the mail to the homes of the addressees, living in the cities, not excluding those which were post office headquarters, was entrusted to the magistrates, or to some local organization, because the German postal authorities did not have sufficient personnel, which could serve as mail-carriers.

The delivery of mail to the inhabitants of Warsaw, and the towns or villages within the district of Warsaw, and in the beginning even other localities within the territory of neighboring districts, was entrusted by the German authorities to the Citizens Committee of the city of Warsaw.

This Committee, whose efficiency during the most difficult times of the Capitol, inscribed in golden let-

Polonus Editor's Note:

It was felt that the story behind the stamps would add to our philatelic knowledge. A previous article appeared in Issue No. 21, May 1944.

The translation of this article was done by a Polonus member who wishes to remain anonymous, however, the staff of the Bulletin wishes to publicly acknowledge its appreciation.—J. J. D.

ters on the pages of history, up until now did not receive its well deserved recognition and acclaim. Therefore, to attempt to write the history of even one of the many activities of the Local Post Office—after twenty years, it would be unfair, yes, unjust, not to start by giving at least a brief description of the institution which organized and directed this Postal system.

First of all we must remember that Warsaw, and for that matter all the cities of the former kingdom of Poland, during the time of Russian rule did not possess or enjoy even the most humble or simple form of home rule. Any decision in the most vital and important matters of the city and its inhabitants rested with the governor, the chief of police, and in some instances even with the Central Powers in Petersburg. If that kind of "supervision" or "protection" over the city brought about deplorable conditions, then during the war it could have been catastrophic. Wherefore, on the day of the outbreak of the war, there was organized in Warsaw an organization—privately initiated or inspired—known as the "Citizens Committee of the City of Warsaw" ("K.O.M.W.") This group was composed of the best known and most representative individuals in the community. The Committee having received recognition of the Russian authorities, began its activities immediately, by looking after the welfare of close to a million population, protecting the families of the reserves who had been called to arms, as well as the multitude of homeless refugees flocking into Warsaw en masse from other parts of the country, directly occupied and concerned with war activities.

Leaving Warsaw on the 4th day of August, 1915, the Russian authorities entrusted all their presently held functions to the Citizens Committee, giving it the Keys to the city in the full sense of the term: including the keys to the Castle of the Kings and the Palace in Lazienki, as well as the keys to all the prisons in Warsaw.

Thus having taken upon its shoulders the full responsibility, in direct

violation of the normal functions of local authorities, the Citizens Committee, as such, functioned until the 10th of May, 1916, i.e., to the time of the organizing of the Local Council by elections. On this day the Committee was dissolved and transferred all its presently held functions to responsible departments of the new Local Authorities.

This brief digression, in my opinion, was necessary in order to show that no one else, save the Citizens Committee and it alone, was called upon to organize and direct the Local Postal System in Warsaw.

The first steps in this sphere of activity were taken by the Committee while the Russians were still in power, namely, the sorting and the delivery of the mails, which were arriving at Warsaw up to the last minute of the Russian occupation, and which the post office personnel, preparing itself for evacuation, failed completely to attend to. The mail was delivered by the school youth and the scouts, to the addresses, who would receive voluntary and free-will offerings in special containers, for educational purposes. The Committee supplied the youths—volunteer mail-carriers, with these special containers.

At the time of the occupation of Warsaw by the Germans—the Committee decided to organize a regular local post office. The motives which prompted this move and the principles which were to govern the system, are clearly indicated in the memorandum—quoted below—which on the 16th of August, 1915, was delivered by the Committee to the occupation authorities. The memorandum follows:

"One of the most important of the cultural needs of a people, and one which would return normalcy to life in such a large city, as Warsaw, is the proper functioning of a postal system in the city and its suburbs.

"The Citizens Committee of the City of Warsaw, intends to serve the city and its suburbs, by organizing a temporary (provisional) local Post office. The plan is as follows:

"Letters—due to the lack of mail boxes—shall be deposited at 64 drug-stores, which agreed to apportion a

suitable section of their establishment for this purpose. Then these letters will be picked up (periodically) at certain hours and brought to the local postal bureaus in the Post Office building at Warecki pl. (today this is called Napoleon pl.—ed. note); here the letters will be sorted and distributed to the homes by duly appointed mailmen, both in the city and in the suburbs. The fees collected for the mail, will be as follows: unsealed letters—5 groszy; sealed letters destined for city limits—10 groszy; while unsealed letters to the suburb—15 groszy. (At that time the “suburbs” were sections which today are located very frequently right in the center, as e.g., Mokotów i Wola.—ed. note).

“The fees to be paid shall be accomplished by affixing of stamps to the letters of two denominations, values 5 and 10 groszy. These stamps will be on sale at the Post Office and in the drugstores. The Post Office personnel and the workers shall be paid from the revenue realized from the sale of these stamps.

“At the head of the local Post Office will be a member of the Citizens Committee, who shall have four assistants. Their duties will be: 1) to supervise the collection of the mail from the drugstores and the delivery to the local Post Office; 2) to supervise the sorting of the mail at the Post office; 3) the distribution of the mail to the mail-carriers and the supervision over their activities in the city; 4) the administration of the cash and to effect the payment of wages to the postal workers. We have over 400 applicants for the work of sorting and delivering of the mails from among the unemployed.

“The organization of the local Post Office in this way, will give employment to a few hundred people, who are presently unemployed and thus earn a living.”

From the text of the above memorandum, it is clear that the Committee had in mind not only to enable the inhabitants of Warsaw to have closer contacts and better mutual understanding, this being made difficult because of the breakdown of the tel-

ephone system, but also gave employment to a very large number of unemployed. That explains why the initiative to organize the postal system came from the Chairman of the Department of Labor, engineer Radziszewski.

The occupation authorities gave their reply to the memorandum only on the 7th of September, and invited Radziszewski to appear and discuss the details. During a series of conferences which were attended by members of the Committee, Radziszewski, one member from the Dept. of Labor, who later became director of the Local Post Office, Carl Jenike, it was agreed as follows:

- 1) in the very near future there will be opened in Warsaw a German controlled postal bureau;
- 2) the sorting and delivery of the mails to the addressees, arriving at this bureau will be entrusted to the Citizens Committee, however, local mail, (addressed from Warsaw to Warsaw) for the time being will not be permitted;
- 3) the Committee, in order to cover the expenses of this service, will collect a fee, by affixing a stamp of its own issue and of proper value, depending upon the kind of mail.

Shortly after these conferences, a German postal bureau was opened on the 20th of September, 1915, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and on the 23rd of September at the 17th hour, the Local Post Office of the Citizens Committee of the City of Warsaw started to function.

(To be continued)

APOLOGIES

In our write-up on Polpex 1952-53 which appeared in last month's Bulletin, we neglected to mention that a Polonus Special Award in the form of a plaque was presented to members John Gapinski and Frank Wolosewick of the Experts Committee for faithful service to Polonus from its very beginning 13 years ago.

Member Ben Reeves (S. P. A. President) presented this and other awards at Polpex 1952-53.

TID BITS

From the publisher of STAMPS, Mr. Harry Lindquist, we received a letter thanking Polonus for sending him seals and covers from Polpex 1952-53. Mr. Lindquist has a collection of all Polonus seals and covers on display at his New York office and these are often looked over and commented on by visitors.

Among the awards in the 1954 C.P.S.-S.P.A. Convention & Show will be a beautiful trophy donated by Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz to be given to the best Slavic exhibit.

Program chairman Anton Banasiak presented a most popular speaker at the Polonus meeting of April 24th. Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz lectured on "Drang Nacht Ostland." Refreshments were served after the meeting.

IN OUR MAILBOX

We print the following letters for the benefit of members who might be interested:

19 Coleridge Walk
Hampstead Garden Suburb
London N. W. 11, England

Editor, Polonus Bulletin

Dear Sir:

Perhaps I should begin by introducing myself to you. I am the widow of Lt. Col. R. N. W. Larking CBE who was of course well known to the Polonus Society and all concerned with it. I hope you will excuse my writing to you—but having still quite a number of my late husband's Poland duplicates, some of which I wish to dispose of — I wondered if you would be so kind as to put me in touch with some collectors known to you in the United States, who might be interested in my stamps. I could no doubt dispatch any required stamps via the British Philatelic Association in London. Of course if anyone of the interested people were to come over to England this year—I should be pleased to show them any particular items they might wish to see. These include most issues before the last war.

With many apologies for any trouble I may be giving you.

Yours truly,
Mrs. H. H. LARKING

4, Hatzevi Ave.
Mount Carmel-Haifa
ISRAEL

The Secretary
Polonus Philatelic Society
Dear Sir:

I am a keen collector of all kinds of postal markings emanating from the former Mandated Territory of Palestine. It is known to me that a couple of Polish Field-Post Offices have been working in this country during the 2nd World War.

For obvious reasons I cannot contact people living in Poland proper to find out what F. P. O.s functioned during this period in this country.

I therefore venture to approach you and to ask for your kind assistance in respect of the query. I am convinced that some publications bearing on this matter have been published and I feel sure that you can advise me about these, as members of your society might be able to do so, too.

To the best of my knowledge the following 3 F. P. O.s have been working in Palestine during the 2nd World War, viz: No. 112, 115 and 141, this latter definitely in Nazareth. But I consider it possible that a fourth one had been established one time or the other in Jerusalem, the number of which is unknown to me.

With regard to F. P. O. 112 I was told that it was located some time in Tel Aviv, while the then officer in charge of the F. P. O. in Nazareth informed me that it was in Kefar Bilu near Rehovot, some 30 Engl. miles south-east of Tel Aviv. I consider that both indications may be correct and depend solely from the respective date. Regarding F.P.O. 115 the above mentioned informant indicated as location the Polish camp at Barbara, in the vicinity of Gaza (Southern Palestine).

F.P.O. 114—I have been told—was at one time at El-Kantara, which is situated on the Suez Canal, maybe this F.P.O. was prior in Jerusalem.

Trusting to be favoured with your detailed reply, I remain, dear Mr. Secretary, with best thanks in advance, yours sincerely,

Dr. E. Bowman

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY AUCTION

to be held

Friday Evening, May 22, 1953—Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago

Roman Reinowski, Auction Manager

9031 West 24th Street, North Riverside, Ill.

TERMS OF SALE

All bids are per lot as numbered in the catalogue.

The right is reserved to withdraw any lot prior to sale.

The highest bidder shall prevail.

Titles shall remain in Polonus Philatelic Society until payment is received and delivery made to the buyer.

Persons known to us, or who furnish satisfactory references may, at our option, have their stamps forwarded to them for immediate payment.

All stamps have been carefully examined and are guaranteed genuine and as described. In the event of any lot proving otherwise, claims must be made within 3 days from date of receipt.

The lots are on exhibition at auction Manager's home up to the time of the sale. Out of town patrons may have lots of convenient size sent for their inspection, provided the request is made in ample time prior to the sale and they agree to return any such lots the day of receipt and pay postage and registration both ways.

The placing of a bid shall constitute acceptance of the foregoing terms of sale.

Advance bids may be sent to Roman Reinowski, 9031 W. 24th St., North Riverside, Ill.

Numbers and Catalogue value refer to 1952 Scott Standard Catalogue.

Stamps on cover and in blocks, strips and pairs are far more valuable than catalogue value indicates. It is for your guidance only that we list approximate catalogue values for these.

SYMBOLS

★ unused

○ used

ABBREVIATIONS

V. F.—Very Fine

Canc.—cancellation

UNITED STATES

Lot No.		Cat.No.	Cat.Val.
1	○ 1851-57, 1¢ blue, type 4, lightly canc., v.f. -----	(9)	7.50
2	★ Mint, no gum, v.f. -----	(11)	5.00
3	★ Mint, no gum, v.f. -----	(11)	5.00
4	○ Very Fine -----	(11)	.40
5	○ Nice sound copy, lightly canc., Type 5 -----	(24)	3.50
6	○ Nice sound copy, lightly can., Type 5 -----	(24)	3.50
7	○ Fine copies, lightly canc. -----	(26)	.45
8	○ Fine pair, McGregor canc. -----	(26A)	2.00
9	○ Very fine, sound copy, lightly canc. -----	(30A)	15.00
10	○ Vf pair, lightly canc. slight tear at top of both stamps--	(33)	22.50
11	○ Very fine, sound copy, lightly canc., Type V -----	(35)	4.00
12	○ V.f. sound copy, lightly canc., Type V -----	(35)	4.00
13	○ Fine, sound copy, lightly canc. -----	(36)	10.00
14	○ Very fine pair, sound, lightly canc. -----	(36)	25.00
15	○ Block of six, double perforation, lower left stamp damaged, canc. Nashville, Tenn., Scarce item -----	(65)	?
16	○ Strip of 4, Target canc. -----	(65)	?
17	○ 2 strips of 3, Target canc., one in blue -----	(65)	?
18	○ 4 pairs, various canc., some with grill -----	(65)	?
19	○ 3 pairs, various canc., some with grill -----	(65)	?
20	○ 3 pairs, various canc., some with grill -----	(65)	?

21	○	9 copies, various canc., some with grill	(65)	?
22	○	6 copies, various canc., some with grill	(65)	?
23	○	Fine sound copy, lightly canc.	(68)	1.50
24	○	Fine sound copy, lightly canc.	(69)	5.50
25	○	Wide margins, slight tear lower right	(70)	12.00
26	○	Nice sound copy, lightly canc.	(71)	8.00
27	○	Fine sound block of 4, scarce item as block, one perf missing upper left hand stamp	(114)	17.50
28	○	Fine sound pair, target canc.	(148)	2.50
29	○	Fine sound pair, Cincinnati, Ohio, canc.	(148)	2.50
30	○	Fine sound copy, green target canc.	(153)	10.00
31	○	Fine sound copy, black target canc.	(153)	10.00
32	○	Fine sound copy, lightly canc.	(163)	6.00
33	○	Fine sound copy, lightly canc.	(165)	4.00
34	○	Fine sound copy, lightly canc.	(165)	4.00
35	○	2 sound copies lightly canc.	(179)	1.70
36	○	3 singles, 2 pairs, nice canc.	(183)	?
37	○	5 copies, lightly canc., shades	(145, 182)	?
38	○	3 copies, lightly canc.	(185)	1.50
39	○	2 copies, sound, lightly canc.	(186)	1.80
40	○	2 fine lightly canc. copies	(188)	2.00
41	○	Very fine pair, beautiful target canc.	(188)	2.50
42	○	Fine pair, perf missing left hand stamp	(189)	4.00
43	○	Fine sound copy	(189)	1.35
44	○	Fine sound copy, Cincinnati, O., canc.	(208)	3.50
45	○	Fine sound pair, fancy canc.	(208)	7.00
46	○	Fine sound pair	(209)	.45
47	○	Fine sound pair, fancy canc.	(209)	.45
48	○	4 fine copies lightly canc.	(209)	.72
49	○	Block and strip of 3 lightly canc.	(210)	.56
50	○	Fine copy, cap on both "2"s	(220c)	.35
51	○	Fine block	(220)	.25
52	★	Fine copy, slight thin spot	(221)	2.25
53	○	3 strips of 3, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
54	○	3 strips of 3, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
55	○	4 strips of 3, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
56	○	5 pairs, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
57	○	5 pairs, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
58	○	5 pairs, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
59	○	5 pairs, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
60	○	5 pairs, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
61	○	7 pairs, cancellations	(136, 207)	?
62	○	4 pairs, 6 singles, cancellations	(212)	?
63	○	25 single copies, 3¢ greens	(136, 207)	?
64	○	25 single copies, 3¢ greens	(136, 207)	?
65	○	27 single copies 3¢ greens	(136, 207)	?

POLAND

66	★	Sheet Dachau	(10)	2.00
67	★	Sheet Dachau	(10)	2.00
68	★	Sheet Dachau	(10)	2.00
69	★	Sheet Dachau	(10)	2.00
70	★	1K33 to 1K36 complete		1.80
71	★	Poczta Polowa (AK) 2 values		?
72	★	Na Biednych, 1917, 8 values complete		?
73	★	Polish Legion Perf., Imperf. complete		?
74	★	Dachau, Poczta Freiman, strip 4 R complete		?
75	★	Poland Postage Dues in blocks, J13-21		1.80
76	★	Wydział Narodowy, Skarb Narodowy Polski face value \$91.00		?

NEW ISSUES

J. J. Domar

Very little has appeared on the American market this past 1st quarter. In fact the only issue we can report upon is one we received during the latter part of February. It was not reported previously as being on the agenda so it came as a surprise.

It is 25 mm x 37½ mm, printed in a greyish-blue. The design shows a soldier carrying a red banner in his left hand while in the right hand he is carrying an automatic weapon. It is of 80 gr. value which is shown in small letters in the upper left corner. In the upper right corner is the legend: X Rocznicza/Zwyciestwa/Pod. /Stalingradem, in 4 lines. Translated it means: The 10th Anniversary of the victory at Stalingrad. Across the bottom it reads: Polska-Rzeczpospolita Ludowa. Translated: Polish Peoples Republic. It is produced by rotogravure and perforated 11.

A press release was received from the Polish Embassy Press Office in Washington which went into great detail describing Jewish life now in Poland. It stated that great plans are being set in motion to commemorate on April 19th the 10th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. I would imagine this event may give reason to issue stamps. This is merely a supposition and not an official announcement.

Varimex which is the official exporting firm of postage stamps in Poland and from whom we receive our information have not mailed any information since December 22, 1952.

It may be of interest to our members to know that on January 15, 1953 I wrote to the Varimex Company suggesting that in their releases they include notices of stamped envelopes, stamped postal cards, postage dues and regular postage. A reply was received on March 13th which stated that in subsequent Bulletins they would include the items I suggested and further, they would mail to us a price list of all items issued in 1952.

To date—no information—.

We mentioned in one of our previous articles that an Army Day stamp

was to be issued during the latter part of 1952. It was not released but most probably will be issued in the second half of 1953.

In the October 1952 Issue #108 I wrote an article in regard to an essay sheet which was being offered for sale for about \$25.00. If you will recall I suggested that we should not purchase them. Now let me quote to you a part of a letter received from Varimex.

"As regards a Sheet of Essays described in your Polonus Bulletin #108 we should like to explain that Polish Stamps in the quantity of 12 pieces printed on one sheet which bore the inscription P.W.P.W. and appeared on the American market were not issued in Poland and no doubt are counterfeits. We would therefore ask you to kindly warn the members of Polonus Philatelic Society and to insert the corresponding warning in the Polonus Bulletin."

That's what I did—yes I did—but how many of you heeded the warning?

P.S. How many heeded the warning on the Italic Groszy overprints? Will have some news on these later.

"FILATELISTA"

"Filatelista" is not only the Polish word for Philatelist, but also the name of a popular, bilingual English-Polish philatelic magazine published as the official organ of the Association of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain. It costs only \$2.00 per annum, for six issues of 16 pages each post-free.

If you wish to receive this magazine which is generously illustrated with articles by leading authorities on Polish Philately, clip a \$2.00 bill to your letter and send it to the publishers, Thistle Stamps, P.T.S.

22 Ainslie Place
Edinburgh 3, Scotland

NOTICE!

Members who paid their 1953 dues at the old rate of \$1.50 are requested to send an additional \$1.00 to make up the difference of the new \$2.50 dues which were voted on and adopted.

ed by Polonus for 1953.

Please send your \$1.00 to the new Treasurer, John Skotnicki, 1036 N. Wood St., Chicago 22, Ill.

Your prompt attention in this matter will save the Society additional expense at this time.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Audit of Accounts from 3-1-52 to 2-28-53

Balance on Hand as of
February 28, 1952 \$418.32

Receipts

Dues	\$293.56
New Members	22.50
Polpex Seals, Bulletins & Commissions, etc.	91.56
Subscriptions	1.00
Donations	20.50
Adds in Bulletin	11.25
Add in Program	5.00
Total	\$445.37
Total	\$863.69

Debits

State Registration Fee and Dues in Nat'l Fed. and S. P. A.	\$4.00
Misc Postage & Supplies	53.74
Refreshments	23.69
Refund—Dues	2.50
Sympathy Tributes	13.00
To Polpex Comm.	22.00
Printing of Bulletin	218.20
Mailing Bulletin	50.90
Cuts for Bulletin, etc.	20.50
Total	\$408.53
Balance on Hand	\$455.16

J. P. Rux

C. Mikucki—Auditing Committee

J. J. Domar—Treasurer

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Joseph LaGocki
2214 N. Campbell
Chicago 47, Ill.

Zdzislaw J. Obara
1886 E. 82nd St.
Cleveland 3, Ohio

Joseph G. Bock (Junior)
2038 W. Rice St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

George Grolicki
526 Palmerston Blvd.
Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Adam Kloskowski, Secretary
2523 N. Drake Ave.
Chicago 47, Ill.

John Skotnicki, Treasurer
1036 N. Wood St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

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Chicago 22, Ill.

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
2144 W. Potomac Ave.
Chicago 22, Ill.

Associate Editors this issue

Jack Domar
Anonymous

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.

John F. Jarosz
936 N. Hamlin Ave.
Chicago 51, Ill.

NEW MEMBERS

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.

AUCTION

Polish stamp collection and accumulation, occupation, abroad, and covers.

For list and info. write to

Eugene Dreger
568 Manhattan Avenue
Brooklyn 22, N. Y.

WANTED

Miscellaneous Foreign and U. S. REVENUES, TAX PAIDS, Etc.

John S. Bobo
2318 Augusta Blvd.
Chicago 22, Ill.