

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 223

June, 1964

U. S. MAY ISSUE POLISH MILLENNIUM STAMP

Washington, D.C.— Postmaster General John A. Gronouski announced that the Advisory Committee on the Issuance of Commemorative Stamps is considering the issuance of a Polish Christian Millennium postage stamp in August, 1966.

During an interview of the Postmaster with Sig Sakowicz, broadcast over Chicago's WGN Radio recently, Mr. Sakowicz asked if it was likely that this stamp would be issued.

Mr. Gronouski replied that it was possible. It all depended on the Stamp Advisory Committee. Undoubtedly, this matter will be taken up next year in the discussion of proposed stamp issues for 1966. What their decision will be, he said he didn't know, although he holds the deciding vote.



In Chicago the Polish Millennium of Christianity Committee has already begun with plans for the Millennium celebrations. A benefit dinner will be held at McCormick Place on August 16, 1964, to raise funds for a giant religious rally on Chicago's lake front in 1966. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will be guest speaker at this dinner. They hope to attract 7,000 persons to the dinner and 100,000 persons to the religious rally.

IN MEMORIAM

REV. MARION WERON DIES AT 68

Polonus grieves the loss of its member Rev. Marion Weron, o.f.m., stationed at St. Stanislaus Parish, Chicopee, Mass., who died May 23rd at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Mass. after a brief illness. He was a promoter for the Franciscan Missions.

Fr. Weron was a native of Chicopee, son of the late Stanisław and Józefa (Berdechowski) Weron. He spent most of his youth and attended schools in Holyoke, Mass., and left here to enter the Franciscan Novitiate at Syracuse, N. Y. He was ordained at Albany, N. Y. on June 13, 1920.

Fr. Weron served parishes in Buffalo, N. Y., Lawrence and Taunton, and also Shamokin, Pa. At one time he was secretary of St. Anthony's Province of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual in eastern U.S. He is a member of the Mission Band.

He is survived by a sister, Sr. M. Agatonia of the Sisters of St. Francis, stationed at the Mater Dolorosa Convent in Holyoke, Mass.

He collected stamps of Poland, Israel, Canada, Japan, U.N., U.S. and Vatican.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his sister, Sr. M. Agatonia, upon the passing of our good Polonus friend!

"DANZIG NITE" at POLONUS

At the May 22nd program meeting, guest speaker Bernard Hennig gave Polonus members a "Bird's Eye View" of his collection of Danzig. Mr. Hennig is an advanced specialist and a member of the Germany Philatelic Society.

The earliest cover in his collection was a ship letter to London dated 1650. The next earliest was from 1721. Most of the early covers of Danzig start with the year 1750; anything prior to this year is scarce.

He showed covers from the period when Danzig was part of the Kingdom of Poland. Early mail deliveries were handled by the Prussian State Post and private delivery services. One cover from 1807 was from the Republic of Danzig. Another cover was a French Military Post letter from Napoleonic time.

In 1821 Danzig covers bore Prussian type postmarks. In 1830, special cancellations appeared on letters concerning the cholera epidemic in Europe.

One cover from the Crimean War in 1850 was sent via Danzig. It was sent by a British officer from Russia to Britain.

Previous to 1870 addressees paid postage on delivery. Starting with this year prepaid fanco postmarks appeared on mail to indicate that the sender paid the postage.

When Danzig became part of the German Empire, stamps of the German Reich appeared on covers. In 1920, the first Free City of Danzig stamps appeared on mail. They were regular German issues overprinted "Danzig".

Danzig has its own "Krakow Issues of Poland". Most sought after are the "Innendienst" overprints which lend themselves to study just like the Krakow's.

Mr. Hennig had some original artist's sketches of stamps, as well as essays and proofs in different colors.

The talk lasted for one hour and was extremely interesting, as Mr. Hennig was a talented speaker. After a short question and answer period, president Stefan Kochanski presented him

with a certificate and special souvenir card printed in three colors. All present received the souvenir card also.

After this, all partook of the Beeba that followed. The members made quick work of the fresh Wisconsin cheese brought in and donated by Leo Topolinski of Milwaukee.

DR. KAZIMIERZ LEPSZY DIES

From Dr. Antoni Laszkiewicz we learn of the death of Dr. Kazimierz Lepszy, rector of the Jagiellon University in Krakow, on May 30, 1964. Dr. Lepszy was an ardent philatelist and collected Poland.

In 1943, Dr. Lepszy was active in the philatelic firm "Pionier", and was instrumental in the publication of their monthly magazine.

He was also the initiator of a philatelic exhibition in connection with the 600th anniversary celebrations of the Jagiellon University held in May.

A detailed article on Dr. Lepszy written by Dr. Laszkiewicz appeared in the Polish Daily "Dziennik Chicagoski" on June 13, 1964, page 11.

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BOJANOWICZ ARTICLE ON POLAND NO. 1 BEGINS IN THIS BULLETIN ISSUE

An excellent article by M. A. Bojanowicz of London, England on the plating of Poland No. 1 appears in this issue of the "Polonus Bulletin" in the center section consisting of four pages. The article will continue and be completed in the July-August issue.

PLATING OF POLAND NO. 1

By M. A. Bojanowicz assisted by S. J. Capes

Although this stamp achieved its centenary in 1960 it has still not as yet been plated. There are several reasons for this, chief among which is the fact that multiples are extremely difficult to find, being few in number. It was apparently the practice to sell stamps singly, for reasons which we shall discuss in more detail later in this article. To add further to the difficulties it was also the practice to remove all marginal paper before the stamps were sold. Such procedures are in keeping with those used in connection with early Russian issues — with somewhat similar results.

This makes the task of plating an extremely difficult one as satisfactory plating leans heavily on the use of overlapping pieces and marginal copies, particularly in the case of stamps lacking minor varieties. We shall confine such suggestions as we have to make, to plate flaws. Mr. Rachmanow, whose interest in this issue is very well known, has suggested that a study of the perforations will also help.

We shall try, during the course of this article to make the first serious attempt in print to establish a basis on which the plating of this issue may proceed. In order to push our results further we shall need the co-operation of others, particularly those who have expressed their willingness to operate on an international scale and at the same time include others, to collaborate in this field.

A basis for study will need some agreement on a number of points such as the numbering of sheet positions, description of flaws, etc. etc. In this connection, and in view of the lack of real positive action so far, we shall make use of a nomenclature developed from phrases or descriptions already in use, or developed by ourselves, and trust that it will be agreed by others working along similar lines.

SHEET MAKE UP

The sheet consisted of 100 stamps made up of four panes, each of 25 stamps (5 x 5) with gutter margins of

8 to 9 mm. in width between panes and a wide margin around the edge of the sheet. Each stamp was positioned approximately 2 mm. from its neighbor in either direction. Unfortunately there was no written inscription on the marginal paper (Fig. 1).

PANE I					PANE II				
1	2	3	4	5	26	27	28	29	30
6	7	8	9	10	31	32	33	34	35
11	12	13	14	15	36	37	38	39	40
16	17	18	19	20	41	42	43	44	45
21	22	23	24	25	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	76	77	78	79	80
56	57	58	59	60	81	82	83	84	85
61	62	63	64	65	86	87	88	89	90
66	67	68	69	70	91	92	93	94	95
71	72	73	74	75	96	97	98	99	100

PANE III PANE IV

Fig. 1

As will be seen we have numbered the panes I to IV inclusive and the individual stamps in pane location. Thus, the numberings take the following form:

- PANE I — Stamps 1 to 25
- PANE II — Stamps 26 to 50
- PANE III — Stamps 51 to 75
- PANE IV — Stamps 76 to 100

This is not in accordance with the method sometimes used previously, of numbering across the entire sheet from 1 to 10, followed by 11-20 etc. Our method has certain advantages as will become apparent later. Each pane is virtually a complete miniature sheet and it seems logical to us to number the stamps accordingly.

Two dies, one for the blue frame and one for the red central oval part

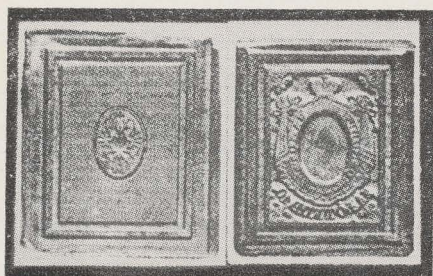
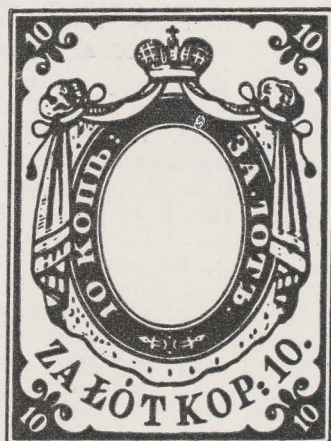


Fig. 2

of the design, were prepared by the engraver. The design was obviously based on that of the first issue of Russia but although the latter was embossed the Polish stamp was typographed.

Using the dies as a basis a set of 100 galvanised cliches of each was prepared. This brings us to a point where we must explain the probable development of a major flaw which lay undiscovered for about eighty years. The blue frame included an inner oval rim and the red central eagle portion an outer oval rim; the two rims to coincide when printing was effected (Fig. 2). As in practice the two rims did not coincide, it is considered that some arrangement was made for the inner oval of the blue framework to be removed. During the process two or three of the ovals were forgotten or missed and as a consequence the variety known as the "double frame" or more correctly the "double oval" came into existence. This seems to be the



most likely explanation and those interested in further details are referred to an article by the present authors, published in issues November/December 1960, of the "Philatelist" London (reprinted in issue No. 200 of the Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society,) Chicago.

We have stated above that each sheet consisted of four panes. These panes were independently made up and did not consist of one pane repeated four times. The following facts will put this beyond doubt.

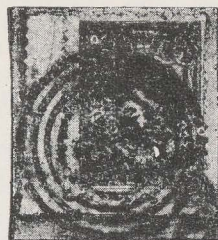


Fig. 3

The illustration at Fig. 3 shows a copy with the double oval and with the gutter marginal paper attached to the left side and the bottom. The paper attached to the left side shows two sets of perforations extending downwards beyond the bottom perforation line. Reference to other illustrations which show outside marginal paper indicates that this stamp can only be from the bottom left corner position of pane II — position No. 46 in fact, as all outer sheet marginal paper is im-

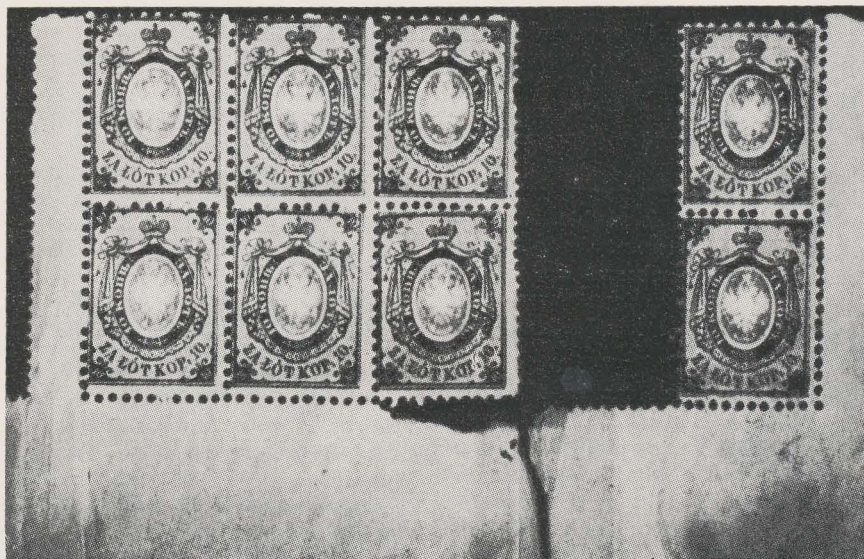


Fig. 4

perforate. Additionally the illustration at Fig. 4. shows a unique mint block of six complete with gutter and sheet marginal paper attached. This comes, obviously, from a position comparable to the stamp located as No. 46 but the block shows no perforations beyond the bottom line of perforations. It must be, therefore, from pane IV. It follows that if pane IV was a repeat of pane II, the stamp at the bottom left corner of the block (No. 96) would bear exactly the same characteristics as that already located as No. 46. We find, however, that stamp No. 96 is a normal copy with no sign of the double oval. Pane IV therefore, is not a repeat of pane II.

Other comparisons have been made in respect of the remaining panes and there is sufficient evidence to show that all four panes differ. Further we must point out, in respect of the double oval variety, that year dated covers are known for 1860 bearing stamps showing the variety. The year of issue being 1860, this certainly disposes of the idea that some of the early clichés were replaced at a later date bringing the "double oval" into being.

Polonus Bulletin, June 1964

AIDS TO PLATING

Location. For the purpose of indicating the position of flaws we suggest using the "Thirkell" philatelic position finder (fig. 5).

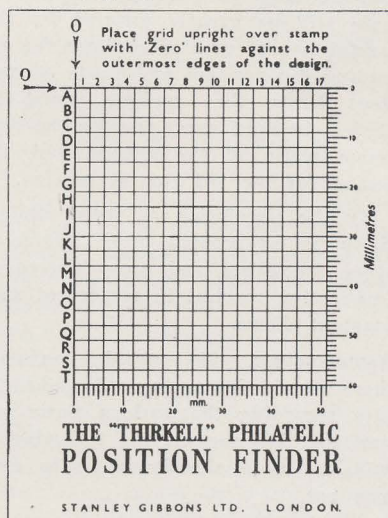


Fig. 5

This gauge, sold by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., is cheap, very effective and entirely adequate for the purpose. It takes the form of a piece of transparent plaste material, about $8 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ cm.

A gridded square is engraved on the face, the lines of the squares being lettered horizontally and numbered vertically. Millimetre scales reading in both directions add to its usefulness. The position of the detail to be noted is indicated by the square or squares through which it is visible, being described by the letter at the left of the gauge and the number at the top. The millimetre scale allows even more minute location if this is thought necessary.

Photographs. These can be of tremendous help but need to be of double size, of technical excellence and extremely clear in detail. Less than this they could well be more of a hindrance as flaws will appear which are really the result of poor photography or indifferent processing. Photographs of year dated covers should preferably be in true color reproductions in order to be of value in dating the various printings and shades.

Replicas. Any work on an international scale will be greatly assisted by the careful use of printed replicas for recording the position and shape of constant flaws. Two replicas would be needed, in light grey, one for the blue frame work of the stamps and the second for the red central portion.

By the circulation of these replicas flaws can be brought to the notice of other specialists and some degree of finalization reached in respect of such constant flaws.

Nomenclature. To avoid confusion there should be an agreed nomenclature regarding the various flaws and varieties. We suggest the following as suitable, some already being in common use.

- (a) Broken frame varieties (left, top, right and bottom) See Fig. 6. Position 2, 3, and 4.
- (b) Corner varieties (including the "egg" variety and the "no ten" variety) See Fig. 6. Positions 3 and 4.

- (c) Crown varieties.
- (d) Double oval (Double frame) variety.
- (e) Cracked Plate varieties which led eventually to (f)
- (f) Broken 'T' variety (Fig. 6, position 1).
- (g) Cloak varieties (surrounding the eagle)
- (h) Eagle varieties.
- (i) Inscription varieties (i) white surround to eagle (ii) at the base.

A fuller description of the above varieties will be included later.

It seems doubtful whether one individual, working alone, will ever successfully complete the task of plating this stamp. With some form of centralized research, as suggested by Mr. Bojanowicz at Warsaw 1960, together with information pools set up in Poland, Gt. Britain and America, the job may well eventually be accomplished. After all, chess games are played thus and nobody will deny the intricacy of this "king of games"! The accent must be on team effort and not individual self-seeking.

Flaws (General). No documents are known which describe in detail any printing or handling methods. Nothing is known for certain about the mounting, framing up or material used to cushion the fixed plate. We can safely assume that there were mechanical troubles from the beginning as we have year dated covers from 1860 which bear stamps showing outer frame damage and other constant flaws. It is a fair assumption that such flaws are not only due to the use of soft materials or inefficient bedding, but also lack of experience and carelessness in handling. When such ideas are proved beyond doubt it will do much to change the trend of current opinion, prevalent in some quarters, that the development of flaws was only the result of gradual wear and tear with consequent deterioration of the plate.

TID BITS

Best Wishes and "Sto Lat" to members Chester and Anne Mikucki on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, June 26th, 1964.

Polonus members participated in the Chicago COMPEX last month. Chester Makowski, Matthias Pristika and Stefan Kochanski acted as judges. Alfred Szebel exhibited and was most successful in getting two awards. He got a silver medal for U.S. Rocket Mail in the Jack Knight Air Mail Society exhibit and a grand award for German Fieldpost During World War II in the Germany Philatelic Club exhibit. Congratulations Alfred!

We noted that member Joseph Jakubecki of Michigan received the best in the show plaque at a recent Wayne Stamp Society Clothesline Exhibit. A photo of the plaque presentation appeared in "Linn's Weekly Stamp News."

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Literature Review . . .

"POLSKA PRASA FILATELISTYCZNA"

A 152 page book entitled "Polska Prasa Filatelistyczna (Polish Philatelic Press) 1894-1962" by Aleksander Sniezko of Wroclaw, was published in the Polish language, by the "Biblioteka Komisji Naukowo-Badawczej P.Z.-F." (The Educational and Research Commission Library of the Polish Philatelic Federation).

Three periods of philatelic publications are described. The first covers 1894 through 1914; the second takes in the 20 years between both World Wars; and the third, the post war period of the Polish Peoples Republic.

The book tells of the first Polish publication "Polski Filatelista" that appeared at Krakow in April of 1894. In this period there was but one Polish stamp, Poland No. 1 of 1863, that would interest Polish collectors. In spite of this, the publication was successful, even though it covered stamps of foreign countries.

Every known Polish philatelic publication is extensively described in this book. Illustrations of just about all the publications are shown. In one section they list and illustrate literature published abroad. Here we see the "Polonus Bulletin" masthead reproduced on page 130, a complete front page of one of our bulletins illustrated on page 131, and a Polpex Catalog of 1959 shown on page 132.

A complete chronological listing of all known Polish publications appear at the end of the book.

It is evident that Aleksander Sniezko put a lot of effort and study in compiling this book and deserves credit for a great piece of work.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 26, 1964 —

Program Meeting. Ravenswood Stamp Club Night. Guest Speaker: Ed Hopps. Topic: Polish Military Mail. Beeba.

Friday, July 10, 1964 —

Business Meeting. Auction to follow.

Friday, July 24, 1964 —

Program Meeting. Question and Answer Period. Topic to be announced.

NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of Poland's deliverance from Nazi occupation and the period of reconstruction from the ruins and havoc of war, the transformation of the country from an agricultural nation to an industrial and agricultural one, and the development of learning, culture and arts — the Polish Post Office is to issue twelve commemorative postage stamps to be titled "20th Anniversary of the Polish Peoples Republic."

Two stamps of the series were issued on April 15, 1964. The next ten will be issued in July. All stamps are of the same 60 gr. denomination.

The set was designed by two artists. The first two released on April 15th were designed by St. Malecki. The next four, designed by T. Michaluk, will represent industry, agriculture, culture and arts, science and education. The last six stamps, designed by St. Malecki, will represent large indus-

— POLAND —

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

trial works: The Shipbuilding Yards in Gdansk, the Lenin Foundry in Nowa Huta, the Cement Works at Chelm, the Power Station at Turoszow, the Petro-Chemical Combined Works in Plock, and the Sulphur Mine at Tarnobrzeg.

Six million of each are to be printed by recess printing combined with photogravure.

The size of the stamps designed by T. Michaluk are 27 x 54 mm., and those designed by St. Malecki are 54 x 27 mm. —Filatelista

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