

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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NEW POLPEX AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Chairman Alfred Szebel proudly announces that in addition to the regular awards, like the Polonus Grand Award trophy shown here, and the the specially minted Copernicus medal, the following awards will also be presented at POLPEX 73:

A special crystal piece from P.Z.F. in Poland,

A Gold, a Silver, and a Bronze medal from H. Sieger of Germany for Space exhibits,

A special award (to be announced later) from the famous international Polish philatelist and expert, Z. Mikulski of Switzerland.

In addition to the above, it is expected that there will be more special awards. Don't miss out on a chance for one of these awards, get those preliminary entry forms in before the November 30th deadline. The message — **EXHIBIT!!!**

P.A.N.A. TO EXHIBIT AT POLPEX 73

The Polish American Numismatic Association of Chicago has announced that it will display a special collection entitled,



led, "*A Thousand Years of Polish Coins*" at POLPEX 73. This collection features a special emphasis on Copernicus' contribution to the study of the monetary systems in Poland.

This collection, which toured the United States was viewed by over 2 million people, and won a host of special awards and recognitions. This display should prove to be a most popular feature at POLPEX on both an historical basis and a thematic basis — Copernicus, the theme of POLPEX. Don't miss it!

\$50.00 CONTRIBUTORS

As announced in the last Polonus bulletin, a special Copernicus medal has been commissioned in conjunction with POLPEX 73. Chairman Szebel announced that this medal will be presented to exhibitors and to anyone contributing \$50.00 or more toward the success of POLPEX. Remember! — that \$50.00 will not only bring the contributor this highly prized medal, but (a most important BUT) that \$50.00 will go a long, long way toward making POL-

PEX 73 the success that it deserves to be. For those of you who cannot make a direct personal contribution of your time or skill, that cash contribution will provide the needed help to put it all together. Please direct your contributions to:

Chester Mikucki
4704 No. Overhill
Norridge, Ill. 60656

VISITING POLPEX 73??

If you plan to visit POLPEX, are from out of town, and don't have definite arrangements — don't despair.

Matuszczak Travel of Chicago announces that it will act as official coordinator for those interested in coming into Chicago for that BIG weekend of POLPEX 73. For arrangements for hotels, tours, special tickets, etc., write or call:

Wanda Szebel
% Bank-On-Travel, Inc.
1223 Oakton Street
Bank Building
Des Plaines, Ill. 60016
Phone: (312) 298-1757

PHILATELIC ARTICLES

As all of you know, the annual POLPEX Exhibition Catalog contain several articles of note — both on the theme of the show and on various aspects of Polish Philately. In short, it contains a wealth of information. For those of you who have a bent for writing and have something to say about the show's theme or any facet of Polish Philately, put it in writing, and get it into the editor:

Chester A. Schafer
864 No. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60622

DID YOU OFFER TO HELP
AT POLPEX 73 ?

CACHETED ENVELOPES

In response to demand by Polish philatelists and Copernicus specialists, the Polonus Philatelic Society has prepared a set of 3 different cacheted envelopes on the Copernicus theme. Available at 3 for 25¢ from:

Chester Mikucki
4704 No. Overhill
Norridge, Ill. 60656

All proceeds from the sales of these envelopes go toward meeting expenses of POLPEX 73.

EXHIBIT! Remember that the deadline for preliminary entry forms is NOVEMBER 30, 1972. Mail it now. Don't be one of those who will later say: "Gee I wish that I had . . ."

MEMBERS MART

WANTED: Scott Nos. 251 a & b, used with tab. Many others too numerous to mention. Highest price for Poland Scott B15, B16.

Jack W. Luckowski
1100 West Chester Pike, J-7
West Chester, Pa. 19380.

WANTED: Scott Nos. 77 - 78, used: singles, on piece and cover. Polish locals on Germania stamps. Send description first. Also have forgeries of Scott 251, mint & used w/ forged cancel for sale or trade.

Thomas J. Gobby
5713 W. Warwick
Chicago, Ill. 60634

Remember, the Members Mart is for you. It is here for your benefit in helping locate specialized and elusive material. Send in your copy now. Right reserved to edit any copy submitted. Sorry, no dealers! Mail all copy to the Polonus Secretary.

Following is the second installment of V. Maza's article on Pilsudski and Mościcki stamps.

Obviously they facilitated the separation of the 10 x 10 panes into small units of 5 x 5 stamps. As they have been engraved separately for each pane of all printing plates they could serve — when attached to a stamp — as supplementary plate identification features. But the study of these crosses is very difficult indeed as they are 16 different crosses for each printing plate.

All the plates did produce similar stamps and only groups of stamps from several plates forming different issues can be distinguished.

c. Two Types:

By examining several thousand of 50 groszy stamps I discovered the existence of two types which were — to the best of my knowledge — not described anywhere.

The hair-line frame at the left-hand top corner on the print from the master-die is uninterrupted. The same occurs on some stamps while on others this line is missing just to the left of the horizontal lines with

the inscription *POCZTA POLSKA*. As the frame is complete on the master-die, I call those stamps type I, and the stamps with the part of the frame missing — type II (fig. 5).

How did the two types occur? Most probably during the manufacture of 2nd intermediate stereotypes, a small part of the frame was damaged or removed on some stereotypes. This is quite possible but one strange thing occurred: although I have examined over 200 pairs and blocks of the Piłsudski stamp, I was not able to find any pair containing both type I and II. Only a study of full panes of 10 x 10 stamps could reveal the exact state of things. The rate of occurrence of both types on the majority of the plates is roughly 1:1.

d. Two Sizes:

The most prominent English collector of pre-war Polish stamps, Colonel R. N. W. Larking, knew that the Piłsudski stamp existed in two sizes. According to Mrs. Kay Horowicz,



Figure 5

he mentioned it in a letter to a friend in 1938. I have acquired an exercise book which housed some of Colonel Larking's Piłsudski duplicates with the following note:

"50 gr. Piłsudski. Two Dies were used for this stamp. Die I, measuring $19\frac{1}{2} \times 25$ mm., previously used for the commemorative issue of May 3rd, 1928. Die II, (cut in 1929) measuring 20×24 mm. Piłsudski's head is slightly broader and rounder at the back."

This observation is correct but Colonel Larking wrongly described the varieties as dies. In reality they are two sizes produced by plates from the same master-die.

Also, Mr. Myron E. Steczynski, the former President of our Society, was well aware of the existence of various sizes of the Piłsudski stamp.

In his collection (whose part I acquired when it was auctioned by Gibbons in 1967) he made a very profound study of this problem. May I quote from the text in his collection:

"In order to put size variation on a scientific basis, I devised a glass screen, which, with the aid of a magnifying glass, gave dependable measurements to 1/10 mm. Then each stamp in the collection was measured and the quantities were tabulated according to their width and height. The widths were found to vary from 19.0 to 20.0 mm. and the height from 24.6 to 25.6 mm. The stamps definitely fell into two size groups; those narrower and higher ...denoted as size I, against

those wider and shorter ... denoted as size II."

For the convenience of collectors using less sophisticated instruments I have rounded off the measurements to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Thus we have two sizes of the Piłsudski stamp:

narrow: 19.50×25.25 mm.

(19.4×25.4) — Size A

wide: 20.00×24.75 mm.

(19.8×24.8) — Size B

With some experience the narrower and taller stamps can be separated from the wider and shorter ones without using a ruler.

Against Colonel Larking's theory of two different dies being cut, Mr. Steczynski offered another explanation when he wrote:

"...I presented the problem to W. Rachmanow in New York, who at the time of the printing was Director of the Postal Museum. As he explained, the particular press (Nadherny) was somewhat primitive...The paper was wetted, the ink spread on the plate and wiped off to cling only within the recessed cavities; then the sheet was spread onto the plate, imprinted by pressure, removed from the plate and hanged up "like macaroni" to dry. If the sheet was hanged lengthwise, the stamps, especially those near the top that supported the weight of all the rows of stamps below it, were elongated with some narrowing in width; if the sheet was hanged sideways, the opposite occurred."

Unfortunately I cannot agree to Rachmanow's explanation offered to Mr. Steczynski. However primitive the "Nadherny"

press was, I doubt that it was possible to put the paper into it in a haphazard manner. The sheets of pre-cut paper were oblong in size and there is always one most convenient way of feeding the paper into a printing press. Therefore we can assume that during the printing of an issue the relative position of the paper and the plate remained constant.

On the other hand it is correct that a wet printing paper has the tendency to shrink in one direction and to expand in the other when drying. During its manufacture the printing paper is being wound-up on a roll; for the sheet printing this reel is later unwound and the paper cut into the required size. For technical reasons the paper shrinks in the direction parallel to the reel axis and expands in a direction perpendicular to it.

During my study of the Piłsudski stamp I have found out that the wider stamps (size B) are less common and can be allocated to two issues only: the 5th and the 7th. Size B occurs on stamps printed at the P.W.P.W. only and never on the Mościcki stamp produced on the same machines and at the same plant.

My explanation of the origin of sizes A and B is that they are the product of different fixing of the printing plates in the press; the wider and shorter stamps (size B) are from plates turned 90° in relation to those giving normal — narrower and taller (size A) — stamps.

I doubt also that the sheets were dried hanging on lines "like macaroni" as it was the fashion in Gutenberg's time; a more probable method would be drying on horizontal sieves in a heated room.

The gradual variations in size duly recorded by Mr. Steczynski can be explained by the fact that the process of wetting and drying of the paper did not occur under constant conditions and that the composition of the paper also varied a little.

A similar phenomenon — two size stamps recess-printed from the same plate is quite common: it is known on Austrian high-value Kronen stamps from 1918 (Scott 172-175) or on Czechoslovak Masaryk stamps from 1925 (Scott 98-101). As the latter stamps have a prominent watermark the change of the axis of the paper in relation to the stamp design is quite striking.

e. Printing Paper:

According to Polish sources the Piłsudski stamp was printed at the P.Z.G. on Austrian paper only supplied by the Austrian National Bank (Lot 659) and at the P.W.P.W. on paper manufactured at the Mokotów Papermill in Warsaw. I have found out that the Polish-made papers were used already for the 2nd issue. In my collection I distinguish six kinds of paper:

- p — Austrian, white, medium thick (70 g);
- q — Polish, white, medium thick
- r — Polish, white and porous, medium thick;
- s — Polish, greyish, medium thick;
- t — Polish, granite, thick;
- u — Polish, yellowish with fine texture, medium.

The difference between papers p and q is small; the Austrian paper has a finer and smoother surface, the Polish is more rough and varies in color from white to yellowish.

Paper r — the porous one — can be distinguished by its

greyish tint and by the fact that the cancellation shows heavily on the reverse side. (Col. Larking described it as "paper of loose texture showing the ink through the back of the stamp.")

Paper s is quite distinct, it has a greyish tint sometimes with greasy appearance.

Paper t — the granite one — cannot be mistaken.

Paper u with yellowish tint and fine texture is of a very good quality and was used for one issue only — the 9th.

The product of Mokotów Paper-mill varies very much in quality. With precise instruments (micrometer-gauge, UV lamp, etc.) it would be possible to distinguish even more papers, but I think that those six are quite enough.

f. Color:

The color used for the four issues printed at the P.Z.G. and for the first one at the P.W.P.W. was different shades of blue-slate. The remaining four issues at the P.W.P.W. were printed in various shades of green. The exact description of colors is always a difficult task but with some experience it is possible to separate the different issues mainly by color.

During the preliminary work on the Piłsudski stamp trials were made from the master-die or the master-stereo (before the removal of the designer's name). Prints in greyish-blue, olive-green, sepia, lila-brown and steel-blue exist on small sheets of white paper. The last two I have seen at the Praga 1962 Stamp Exhibition.

g. Perforation:

The problem of perforation in this issue is a very complex one. In the early twenties the Polish postal authorities bought old line perforating machines from the Austrian State Printing Works in Vienna. These had many gauges from 9 to 14½ proceeding by ½ perf. with the exception of gauge 9½. For the Piłsudski stamp gauges 10 to 14 were used. Theoretically they could produce $9 \times 9 = 81$ combinations. Till now I have recorded **sixty three** combinations. Table I. shows all the possible combinations and those included in my collection.

But the problem of the perforation is even more complicated. The machines perforating for many decades stamps of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries produced imperfect and uneven perforation.

TABLE I. PIŁSUDSKI STAMP — PERFORATION COMBINATIONS

	10	10½	11	11½	12	12½	13	13½	14
10	x	x	x	x	x	x			
10½	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
11			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11½			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
12	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
12½				x	x	x	x	x	x
13				x	x	x	x	x	x
13½	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
14	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
comb perforation				12½ x 12½				(To be continued)	

First Student at Alliance College - Now Dr. Steczynski

Myron E. Steczynski, a founder member of Polonus in 1939 and a frequent contributor to our Bulletin, is now Doctor Steczynski, having received a Doctor of Science degree at Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Penn. This College is affiliated with the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland, where Nicholas Copernicus completed his early studies about the time that Columbus discovered America. Myron's father gave up the presidency of the Polish National Alliance to go to Cambridge Springs as the general manager and later as its president to give the newly-founded school its start and momentum.

Myron came with his father and by his early arrival, became the first student of the College in 1912. After his studies here, Myron went on to Cornell University where he graduated as a mechanical engineer and later won an advanced degree. After graduation, Myron followed his engineering practice and became the holder of 14 registered patents.

He has been an active leader in numerous fraternal, cultural and civic organizations. On its 60th anniversary, Myron's alma mater saluted him for his many achievements and for his services to his fellow Americans.

Myron was interested in philately since 1909, he wrote articles on the subject and won numerous awards for his stamp exhibits here and abroad. Polonus made him its honorary member. Myron is now retired and lives with his wife in Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

Polonus congratulates Myron

on his doctorate and wishes him many years of health and happiness.

KUCHARZ POLISH MATERIAL ON THE BLOCK

On Friday, November 3rd the Polish collection of Stanley Kucharz was auctioned by Rasdale Stamp Co. of Chicago in the Palmer House. Many Polonus members were in attendance: W. Poniecki, S. Styczynski, Z. Wagrowski, T. J. Gobby, R. Burkiewicz, C. Cwiakala and H. Bieaniecki to mention a few. Bidding became especially spirited after the mid-point break as this is when the Polish material hit the block.

The Ten Liberated Cities collection brought \$1,500.50.

A Poland #1 w/#1 cancel on cover went for \$62.50, 2 covers with Scott 77-78 went for \$30.00 and \$34.00, 3 pre-1939 stamp booklets for \$28.00, a blk. of Sc. 346a for \$180.00, a set of imperf. blks. C-13-18 for \$80.00, a collection of W.W. II Fieldpost covers for \$425.00. The 177 lots in the auction brought some surprising prices, and in general were indicative of a strong interest and firm prices for good Polish material.

The sad note was that a collection formed over many years came to a quick end under the auctioneers hammer.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

The treasurer asks that Polonus members in foreign countries pay their dues with international money orders.

LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR
A SUCCESSFUL POLPEX 73!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, November 24th, 1972:

Program Meeting. Roman J. Burkiewicz will talk on "Trends in Polish Philately." We might get a sneak preview of Scott's '73 Catalog price changes.

Entree at 7 p.m. for dealing and trading. Meeting at 8 p.m. at 6965 W. Belmont Ave. Coffee and *pączki* will be served.

Friday, December 8th, 1972:

Stamps For Wounded Night. Bring in your duplicates, supplies, albums, books, etc. Cash donations also accepted.

Dr. James J. Matejka will talk on how to mount your collection for exhibition. If you have a problem, bring along your pages.

Art Marquart will show us a British color sound film "From Picture To Post." Beeba follows.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m. sharp.

PREPARE FOR POLPEX 73

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$4.00 —

NEW MEMBER

Joseph A. Malejka, M.D.
333 East 30th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are requested to notify us promptly. Mail us the notice with your new address to: Polonus Bulletin, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656.



POLONUS ON WGN RADIO. Polonus president, Chester Schafer (right), being interviewed on the WGN Community Affairs program "Mail Call" hosted by Mr. Henry McGee (center), Chicago Division Manager of the U.S. Postal Service. The program was taped to be aired on November 19 at 9:20 p.m. Sitting at the left is Harry Eisenstein, specialist and authority on African nation stamp issues.