

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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December, 1973

POLPEX 74 HONORS WINCENTY WITOS

POLPEX 74, the annual stamp exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society, will take place March 9-10 at the newly decorated Saint James Auditorium, 2424 N. Mango Ave., at Fullerton, in Chicago. The event will honor Wincenty Witos, Polish



statesman and patriot, on the 100th anniversary of his birth. Witos was founder of the Polish Peasant Party and served as the Premier of Poland during the years of 1920, 1921 and 1923.

The exhibition committee appeals to the members to exhibit stamps and postal history relating to the period of Witos and to Polish folklore.

There will also be a foreign class and a numismatic class. With this edition of the Bulletin is enclosed a prospectus. As the show is limited to 150 frames we urge you to send in your en-

try as soon as possible. Chairman of the Entry Committee is Stefan Czarniecki.

Heading the Polpex Committee are Joseph Migala and Walenty Poniecki as Co-Chairmen. They announced that there will be a commemorative medallion struck on the centennial of Witos' birth and that this medallion will be presented to award winners at POLPEX 74.

The Bourse Chairman, Roman Strzelecki stated that a bourse of twenty dealers is anticipated. Table may be rented at \$25.00. Make reservations with Roman. His address is 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

A program catalog is planned featuring related articles to the occasion. Full page ads will run \$35.00, half page ads \$20.00, and quarter pages \$12.50. Send all copy and remit to John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago 60647.

Arrangements have been made with the U.S. Postal Service to have a sub-station at the show using a special Polpex cancellation.

Beeba plans are in the hands of Stanley Dobrzycki and W. Poniecki.

Send in your entry form soon!

1974 SCOTT CATALOGUE

PRICE CHANGES

Volume III of Scott's Catalogue for 1974 made its appearance with many noticeable price changes in Poland stamp issues. The greatest news is that the B.I.E. Education set and souvenir sheet and the Roosevelt set and sheet are now listed. The Education issue came out October 10, 1946 and the set is given numbers B49, B49A, and B49B and valued at \$25.00 per stamp. The souvenir sheet is B49Bc, shows the three stamps and is valued at \$225.00.

The Roosevelt issue was released December 30, 1948. The numbers given the set are C26A showing Roosevelt at \$7.00, the C26B Pulaski at \$9.00, and the C26C Kosciuszko at \$9.00. The souvenir sheet is C26Cd and is listed at \$75.00.

The Krakow issues have risen again. The 25 hal. blue passed up the 90 hal. and is now listed at \$275.00 while the 90 hal. is \$250.00 for mint and \$225.00 used. The high value 10 kronen went from \$1000.00 to \$1100.00. In the Krakow postage dues the J2 10 Hal. is now \$650.00 mint and \$600.00 used. J8 and J9 are now at \$750.00 mint and used, while the J10 red overprints up to \$1,500.00. The black overprinted is \$2,500.00. Michel catalog lists the red ovpt. at 10,000 marks (\$2,500.00) and the black ovpt. at 15,000 marks (\$3,750.00).

Gniezno issue sets now run \$70.00 for mint and \$55.00 for used. The Lublin stamps went up as did many other issues.

Post War Poland also has undergone price changes. Will report more on this in the next Bulletin.

—R. J. Burkiewicz

SIR E. STRZELECKI COVERS

This year, October 12, 1973 was the centenary of the death of the great Polish explorer, Sir Edmund Strzelecki. As a result of repeated requests of the Poles of Australia, the Postmaster General Department has finally decided to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death by a special postal cancellation.

The Polish Philatelic Society of Australia issued a special commemorative envelope and postcard (with embossed stamp) which was cancelled on the first day of opening the Post Office at Mt. Kosciuszko in New South Wales. Price of item cancelled is 25 Australian pence. Please address all mail to: Polish Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 1455, G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

—I. Gust

COPERNICUS TORONTO SHOW

On November 4th, 1973 the Gzowski Polish Philatelic Society of Toronto held a one-day stamp show at the Polish Hall Building, 1087 Queen St. W. in Toronto. Fifty frames of Copernicus stamps were shown. In connection with this show, special cacheted covers were issued which received special exhibition cancellations. A set of 3 covers are still available for \$1.00 and a set of 3 souvenir sheets for 50c. A sheet on cover for 50c. Order from W. Gruszczyk, 56 Heathrow Dr., Downsview, Ontario, Canada.

NEW MEMBER

Charles Satkewich
30 Ocean Street
No. Quincy, Mass. 02171

On the next seven pages of the Bulletin is the final installment of the article "Austrian Machines Used On Polish Perforations" by W. Maslowski.

This Allied Liquidation Commission came to Vienna, together with a military unit, at the beginning of November, 1918. At the same time there was created a Polish Legation. The first Polish envoy had the prerogative of Main Representative of the Polish Liquidation Commission. Each successor country organized its own commission and the commissions addressed all claims against Austria to the Allied Liquidation Commission which considered each case, made decisions and eventually forwarded its orders for execution to the Austrian Government.

From the time that Aloys Auer was appointed a director of V.S.P.W. in 1841 and thanks to his ability and energy the Printing Works was well equipped. He was the person concerned in introducing the perforating machines as constructed in the workshop of the V.S.P.W. By the end of the Great War 1914-1918 a certain number of these old perforating machines were no longer in use.

We accidentally met two eye-witnesses in Vienna. They were elderly men and were directly involved in the transfer, but they prefer to remain anonymous. Let us call them: Mr. S. and Mr. T.

Mr. S. and Mr. T. agreed that the V.S.P.W. obtained from the Allied Commission an order to prepare a set of machines for transportation to Poland. The machines had to be in working order and handed over to the Commission in that condition, it was they who organized the railway transport as well as the military convoy to accompany them. The convoy was made up of British troops. This was necessary owing to the chaotic si-

tuation, prevailing at the time, and the banditism on the territory through which the transport had to pass.

Both these eye-witnesses related that among other things comprising the transport, were machines destined for the Polish Government in Warsaw. Mr. S. stated that there were about 20 machines. He did not recollect the type of machines. Mr. T. said there were 20 to 30 machines of different type, mainly pedal machines, but some of them were more sophisticated in character and were capable to work under electric power. The machines were eventually handed over to the Polish Government officials in Warsaw. This was the second transfer of machines. We do not know anything about the first transfer, but, we suspect, that it was done in similar manner.

It can be seen that it is rather difficult to establish the exact number of machines which were involved, from the above eye-witnesses. "The pedal type" was confirmed by several publications but that is all that can be taken for certain. Besides a very interesting remark made by one official, who said: "...as far as I heard, Czechoslovakia got better quality machines and more modern..."

It would therefore appear, that the Polish authorities did not supervise the transfer properly and that they approved the treaty provisions blindly.

D.) A great deal more information can be obtained by investigating the issues of Polish Mark Period and comparing them with the Austrian emissions since 1858. From these we can obtain a better idea how many Austrian perforating machines had been used in producing the

Large Eagles. Naturally we must bear in mind the circumstances of production in Austria, which were very much different from those prevailing in Poland.

In the section dealing with "Line perforation", we attempted to demonstrate these connections. Now therefore, we are able to present the list of Austrian machines used on the Large Eagles:

- four machines with irregular gauges - $10\frac{1}{2}$ with two types of pins, 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ & $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13;
- four machines with regular and constant gauge and two types of pins each - 11 & $11\frac{1}{2}$;
- four machines with regular and inconstant gauge and two types of pins each - 13 & $13\frac{1}{2}$;
- three machines with regular and inconstant gauge and one type of pins each - 9, 14 & $14\frac{1}{2}$.

This indicates that 15 Austrian line perforating machines had been used to produce two issues of Large Eagles.

A further list of Austrian machines used on other emission of stamps during the Polish Mark Period are as follows:

- two machines with gauge 10 (two types of pins) regular and constant perforations, used on the first two sets (in marks and koronas) for central Poland as well as on Definitive set of 1920.
- one machine with gauge $12\frac{3}{4}$ (comb perforator) with one type of pins, used on "Small Tags",

...making a further three machines. Therefore, a total of 18 Austrian machines had been in use during Polish Mark Period. We must however concede that machines with gauge 10 (two

types of pins) and gauge $11\frac{1}{2}$ (two types of pins) came from the first transfer. The perforators 10 and $12\frac{3}{4}$ (comb) were in use only for a very short time.

Machine Construction.

Details are entirely lacking as to the construction of these machines and as far as we are aware were all destroyed during the 1939 war.

We have attempted to investigate the possible construction of these machines from all available sources still existent, such as the patent files which is to be found in the "Bibliotek der Technischen Hochschule in Wien" (The Technical High School Library in Vienna). But we were not able to trace any record of such perforating machine being patented. However, a mechanical specialist in the Library did explain the possibility, that such machines could have been constructed in the V.S.P.W. workshops as a "STANZA" type. In that case there was no necessity for them to be patented.

"STANZA" in German and Polish language means a metal form which one can make impressions of a sign or molding on any soft material, at the same time it indicates some sort of primitive and simple mechanical device, acting by pressure.

We have therefore been able to deduce from all the foregoing informations the following: 1.) the perforators were manufactured by the V.S.P.W. in their workshops; 2.) that Dr. Auer, the director of the V.S.P.W., neglected to mention them in his diary as his own invention; 3.) they were not patented. This testified by the feebleness of the machines and indicates that the possibilities are that they

were of the "STANZA" type as stated above.

This interpretation is confirmed by our investigation into the perforated stamps of the Polish Mark Period, especially when we discovered that in Austria a maximum of 10 sheets of stamps were perforated at a time. Under Polish circumstances as they existed at the time in question, 20 sheets were perforated at a time, the machines therefore exhibited their defects to the fullest.

As a consequence we are able to give some kind of description as to the construction of the machines from the available facts known to us.

In our opinion two parts of the perforating machine are of importance to a philatelist. The pins and the bar. (see fig. No. 11). The pins leave the holes in the sheet, its shape, size, etc., are noticeable and essential. The bar dictated the direction of the pins movement.

So the main object of our consideration in the relation of pins will be the material from which they were made. If it was a soft material, due to the resistance, offered by the paper, the pins would bend in different directions and under such conditions one would be faced with a dispersed perforation, so that some holes would have an

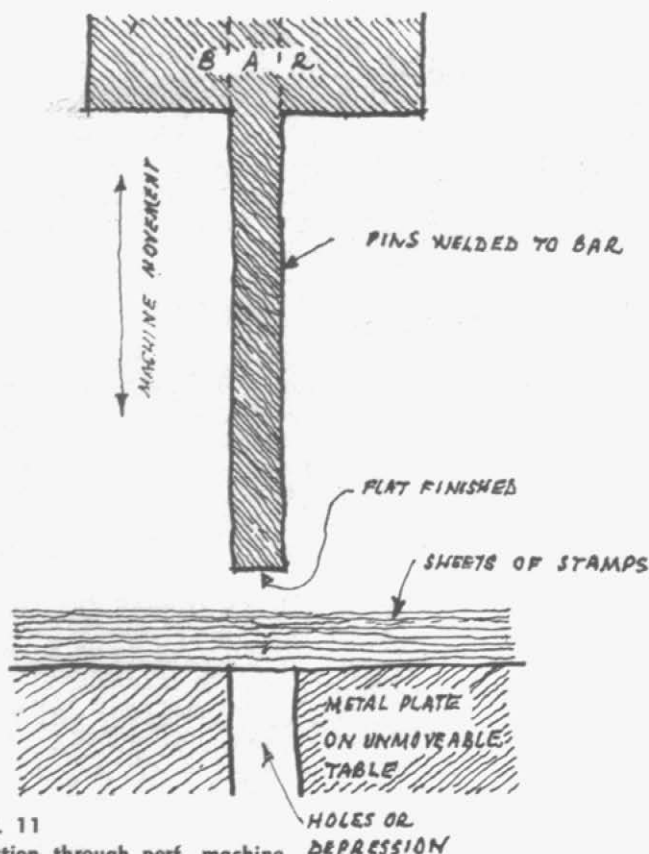


FIG. NO. 11

Cross section through perf. machine

HOLES OR DEPRESSION

oval shape. In our research we did not find a dispersed perforation as we should have expected. On the other hand if the pins had been made of steel, they would have broken down due to the resistance of the paper, at the same time however we were faced with omitted holes in the row of perforation which we met with, during the course of our investigation. We can therefore hazard the risk of making a statement to the effect.

As far as the bar is concerned, the requirements in its construction are different. The bar, to be made from steel, would be unpractical and even dangerous. Every break down of the bar would cause eventual damage to the perforator. The repairs would be complicated and costly. Therefore it (in order to resist the paper) should have a certain degree of elasticity which in turn dictated its construction by using soft metals. But on the other hand, the bar had to have a certain degree of stiffness which would be necessary to overcome firmly the resistance of paper. For that reason (theoretically) the bar had to be supported by hangers, and where hangers were not added (by reason of its construction) the bar had to be thickened. The best example of this kind of construction is the guillotine invented by Grif-fiths.

In the case of Austrian perforating machines used in Poland, the thickness of the bar was constant throughout its length, even where the hangers did not exist (See fig.

No. 12). The calculation of the bar strength, in all probability, was correct in the circumstances under which the V.S.P.W. were concerned, but under the conditions which the Polish authorities required, in abnormal circumstances, the machines demonstrated its weakness. This weakness caused curvature of the bar, which in turn did not allow some of the pins to penetrate the paper at 90° . Some of these pins then were entering the paper at varying angles causing changes in gauges of perforations. It was these changes in gauge which we have referred to as the inconstant perforations.

There were several variations of the bar behavior which are to be found in the usage of these Austrian machines, as used in Poland. Viz.:

1.) When the bar is supported by the hanger in the center (see fig. No. 12), therefore due to this support, the bar will curve up-

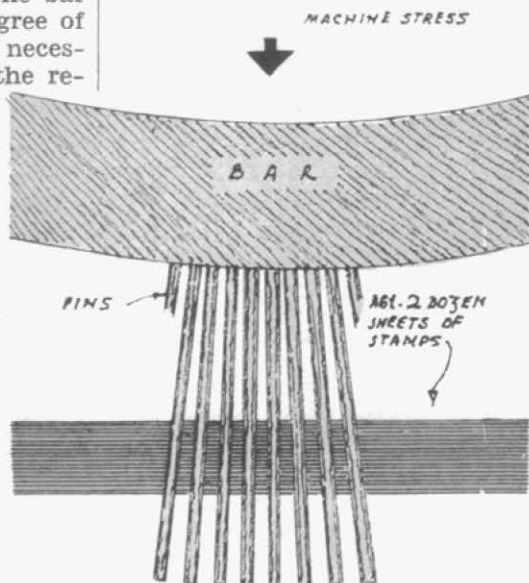


FIG. No. 12 — Sketch showing weakness of bar

wards at both ends of the hanger, thus creating a bowing effect. The accompanying sketch exaggerates the point, but it should be realized that only a very slight bend is sufficient to create the differing measurements (from original) on the sheet of stamps. It would then appear as if the gauge "extended like a gum" as the pins penetrated the sheets, overlapping adjacent half, so that when the bar is on the downwards stroke, spreading takes place, but owing to the constant thickness of the bar throughout the whole its length, the curve is uniform and does not spoil the regularity of the perforation. Due to this reaction of the pins to the paper, bearing in mind that 20 sheets are done in one stroke, we find perforations with gauges: 9, 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$, 14 and $14\frac{1}{2}$.

2.) When the bar had no support to the hanger in the center of its length or when the thickness of the bar was not equally distributed along its length, then the bar could curve upwards and downwards at the same time. This in turn produced a perforation which we again term inconstant. Such as we can find on perforations with irregular gauge 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ (see fig. No. 2 and 13).

3.) When the bar curved sideways it produced a perforation "running out of alignment" (see fig. No. 14). This type can be found on all perforations except 11 and $11\frac{1}{2}$.

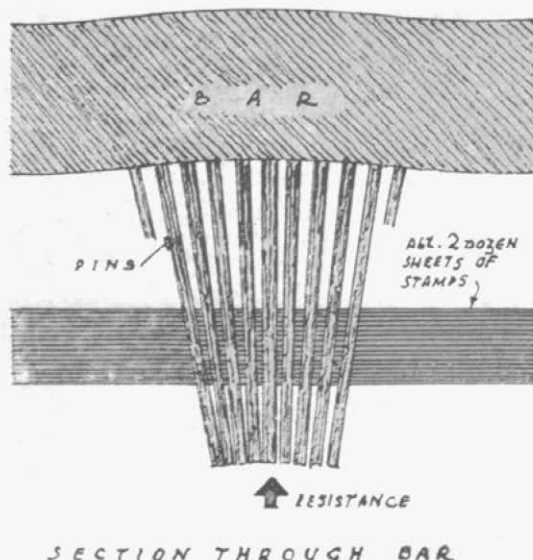


FIG. No. 13 — Plan of Perf. Holes Sketches Showing Weakness of Bar



FIG. NO. 14

We now come to the problem of fixing the pins to the bar itself.

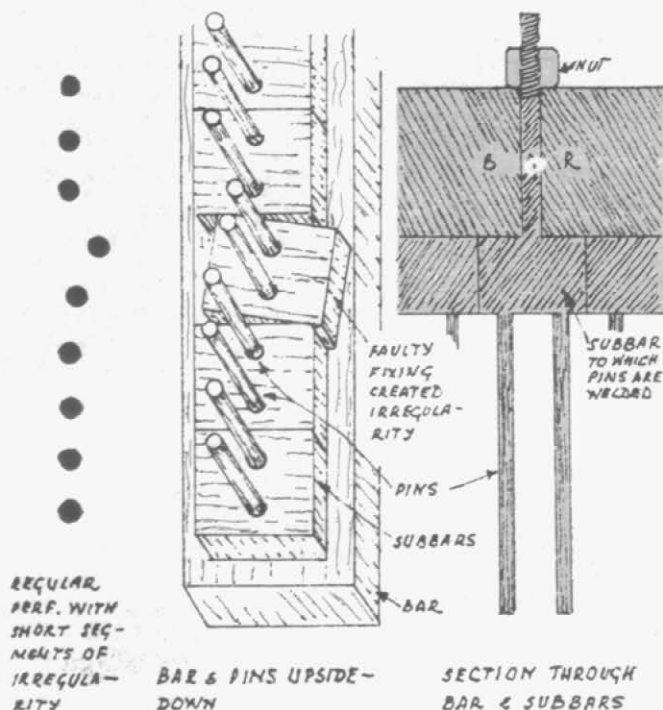


FIG. No. 15 — Sketches Showing Fastening of Pins



FIG. No. 16

We mentioned in the part of "Line perforation", that regular perforations have "short segments of irregularity." This could be explained as we illustrate in our sketch (see fig. No. 15 and 16). Fixing of the pins to the bar has always created a problem as can be noted even on Archer's machine. The Austrians

in order to make the problem easier, in case the pins should be broken in operation, introduced a short "sub-bars" which was not always fixed properly.

The line perforator with gauge 11½ was stronger and it was more probably constructed differently from the one under discussion.

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TORONTO STAMPEX WINNERS

At the First Toronto Stampex held recently Dr. M. A. Kamiński of Scarborough, Ontario won a Bronze for his "Occupation Stamps in Poland 1939-45" while

W. Gruszczyk of Downsview, Ont. won a Bronze-Silver for "First Issues of Lithuania."

POLPEX 74 COMMITTEES

Co-Chairmen: Joseph Migala & Walenty Poniecki

Entries: Stefan Czarniecki

Bourse: Roman H. Strzelecki

Sales: J. P. Rux & Chester J. Mikucki

Ads & Program Book: John Bor, Chairman; C. Schafer, S. Dobrzycki & T. J. Gobby

Patrons: Chester J. Mikucki

Beeba: Stanley Dobrzycki & W. Poniecki

Secretary: Christopher Poniecki

Finance: Al Rybarski

Arts: Joseph Migala, C. Schafer

Exhibits & Set-Up: John D. Bartczak & Joseph Janecka

Publicity: Thomas J. Gobby, Jos. Migala, C. Schafer

TID BIT

Warsaw's "Filatelista" of June 1973 noted that Stan. Świerad secured a bachelor's degree from the University of Warsaw for his work "Social-Cultural Functions of the Polish Philatelic Press in the light of the periodical 'Ikaros' (1926-1931)." —wh.

Polonus & Copernicus Rocket Flight Covers

On February 19, 1973—the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus—two rockets, "Polonus" and "Copernicus", carried mail during an experimental missile rocket flight conducted by the Reaction Research Society of California. Covers have special attached cachet.

Set of 2 covers — \$3.50

Copernicus Monument Dedication Covers

Cancelled October 14, 1973 on the unveiling of the Copernicus statue at Adler Planetarium, Chicago. With special printed cachet.

35¢ per cover — 3 for \$1.00

(Include return postage)

Order from: J. P. RUX, 6136 Addison St., Chicago, Ill. 60634

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

(Reprinted from STAMPS of 12-15-73)

Hitler's armies overran Poland in 1939 and soon afterwards began issuing new stamps for this occupied country. In 1940 they issued the first set of fifteen stamps to be used for General Government's official business, Scott's 1-15. For a long time the set was plentiful in this country and I recall for many years after the end of World War II it sold for no more than one dollar at your dealer. In the beginning of the 1960's Germany recovered from the aftermath of the horrible war, and its economy has enjoyed an unprecedented boom ever since. Thus more and more collectors could afford to buy stamps over there and they began to compete for the small amounts that were in dealers hands. Prices have risen ever since and that scarce official set of the General Government is no exception. Scott 1974 prices it at \$7.35, unchanged from last year's listing. Retail price for that set is far above Scott's price. Dealers in Germany are willing to pay 24 marks which is about \$9.50 and their asking price from the collector is around \$15.00. Try to pick up this set now. If you can find one chances are you might have a real bargain.

INDIPEX '73

At the INDIPEX '73 exhibition held at New Delhi, India, Nov. 14-24, M. A. Bojanowicz of England was the winner of the grand prize in the International class, with his collection of "Russia Used in Poland." A vermeil medal was won by Dr. Josef Kuderewicz. The topical section included collections from Poland.

NEW ISSUES

Cosmos Research 1973

On June 20, 1973 two souvenir sheets were issued, each with six stamps and two tabs. On June 7, 1972 "Sojuz II" was used as a rocket carrier which delivered three Soviet astronauts of the first experimental space station "Salut" already in orbit. The stamps of 4.90 zl value show the space station and the first tab shows the rocket "Sojuz II". The second tab pictures the astronauts G. T. Dobrowolski, W. N. Wołkow and W. I. Pacajew.

On August 29, 1972 the Atlas-Centaur rocket went into orbit of the earth with the American experimental space station "Copernicus". The 4.90 zl value stamps of the second sheet picture the space station "Copernicus". The first tab shows the starlit sky and the second a portrait of Copernicus.

Rotogravure printed on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw in a 400,000 quantity. Designed by Zbigniew Stasik.

POLSKA 73

A set of four stamps were issued June 30, 1973 for the international stamp exhibition August 19 thru September 2 at Poznan. Offset printed in sheets of 30 on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw.

- 1.00 zl—Poznan seal of 1344
15,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zl—Bronze gravestone plate of Mikołaj Tomicki, standard-bearer of the Poznan district, who died in 1478. 15,000,000 issued.
- 2.70 zl—Paten of Kalisz, a present of Prince Mieszko "Stary" to the Cistercian convent in Łąd.
5,000,000 issued.

4.00 zł—Fragment of the Door of Gniezno made in 1170, showing St. Adalbert. 5,000,000 issued.

A souvenir sheet of 10+5 zł. value was issued August 19th, showing a panorama of Poznan from a 1740 drawing by F. B. Werner. 1,200,000 sheets were issued. Rotogravure and steel engraved, printed on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Both the stamps and sheet were designed by Waldemar Andrzejewski.

* * *

Preservation of Man's Man's Environment

A set of eight stamps were issued on August 30, 1973 in response to the appeal by the United Nations and World Postal Union in their world-wide program for the preservation of man's environment.

- 50 gr—orchards in blossom
6,000,000 issued
- 90 gr—cows in the meadow
5,000,000 issued
- 1.00 zł—stork's nest
6,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zł—lake fauna and flora
6,000,000 issued
- 2.70 zł—meadows in bloom
3,000,000 issued
- 4.90 zł—fauna and flora of the sea
5,000,000 issued
- 5.00 zł—woodland scenery
900,000 issued
- 6.50 zł—agricultural products
900,000 issued

Rotogravure multicolor printed in sheets of 35 on chalky paper by PWPW, Warsaw. Designed by H. Matuszewska.

* * *

Stamp Day 73

A commemorative was issued on the occasion of Stamp Day, September 27, 1973. Shown is a portrait of Copernicus by Marcello Baciarelli from the Royal

Castle collection in Warsaw. Rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. 4,000,000 were issued. Designed by Andrej Heidrich.

* * *

200th Anniversary of the National Education Commission

Two stamps were issued October 13, 1973 for this commission, the first in the European Ministry of Education, established in 1773.

1.00 zł—portrait of Grzegorz Piramowicz, writer, pedagogue and the Secretary of the commission. At the left is the inscription, "We serve our country as we can. Education can give us counsel and might."

1.50 zł—portraits of J. Sniadecki, H. Kollataj and J. U. Niemcewicz, three eminent propagators of the Enlightenment idea in Poland initiated by the Commission of National Education.

Steel engraved and rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 on common paper by PWPW Warsaw. 15,000,000 sets were issued. Designed by Stefan Małeckie.

* * *

30th Anniversary of the People's Army

On October 12, 1973 a set of four stamps were issued commemorating the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Polish People's Army.

- 1.00 zł—tank. 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.00 zł—fighter plane. 10,000,000 issued.
- 1.50 zł—missile. 10,000,000 issued
- 1.50 zł—battleship. 1,000,000 issued.

Offset printed in sheets of 20 stamps on chalky paper by PWPW Warsaw. Designed by T. Michaluk.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW

"Copernicus Theme In Philately"

'Tematyka Kopernikowska w filatelistyce'

Mieczysław Czernik, Warszawa 1973

A new book on Copernicus topicals covering Poland and the world appeared last August. It contains the following sections:

- 1) Life and works of Copernicus
- 2) The Collecting of Copernicus Topicals
- 3) Listing of Copernicus stamps, stationery, and cancellations
- 4) Specializing in Copernicana
- 5) Bibliography

For the Copernicana collector this book is a valuable source of information. The author tells what such a collection should comprise of and simplifies his collecting task. The book has 136 pages, 126 illustrations, and an attractive cloth cover.

—H.



MEMBER'S MART

WANTED: Need the following: Central Lithuania, Scott No. 54 & 55 Mint; Eastern Silesia, Scott No. 3 & 4 Imp. Mint; Upper Silesia, Scott No. 13 (all types); Scott No. 01-031.

Rev. M. Fronczak, Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 537 Grove St., Irvington, N. J. 07111.

WANTED: Gniezno Issue (Scott No. 77-78) used. Singles, on piece, and on cover. Will also consider forgeries of this issue, mint and used. Also maps of Poland (German, Austrian, Polish, Russian, etc.) of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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5713 Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634

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 —

period from 1900 to 1939.
Write and describe to: Thomas J. Gobby, 5713 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60634.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 11th, 1974:

Program meeting with Milton Kohn of the Israel Philatelic Society as guest speaker. His topic will be: "Concentration Camp Mail of World War II." His collection consists of mostly covers to Poland. Beeba to follow.

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