

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



MEETS EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT FALCONS HALL, 1062 N. ASHLAND AVE.

Issue No. 156

January-February 1958

350th Anniversary of Little Known Jamestown Group Due October 1st; Recognition Sought

(Reprinted from Linn's Weekly Stamp News, Feb. 3, 1958)

While the target date is still ten months in the future, a strong sentiment is already developing in philatelic and other circles favoring the issuance of a stamp or set of stamps to mark the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first "foreign immigrants" in America. These were a contingent of Polish skilled workmen brought in by the Jamestown, Va. settlers in the second year of their operations.

The realization that this is a historical fact comes as a surprise to many who consider themselves acquainted with early colonial days. It is reminiscent of one rather unusual factor held in common by two commemorations of last year, the Virginia of Sagadahock "ship building" stamp and the Jamestown adhesive—each brought the public face to face with some hitherto little known pioneer American history.

In the first instance the approach was direct — the stamp proclaimed the message. In the latter the kernel was well buried beneath the assorted pomp and pageantry, fanfare and general whoop-de-do of noting the 350th anniversary of the May 14, 1607 landing at Jamestown. Further, it provided a faint clue to the basis of the proposed new issue.

Even so, it was only the alert Jamestown tourist who had eyes in his head and a keen perception behind them, and who in the course of his meanderings found himself out on Glass House Point watching the reconstructed early



Landing of the Poles at Jamestown in 1608

17th century glass works in operation, who could divine the history that lay behind the quaint equipment and oddly dressed workmen.

For this was no carnival glassblowing sideshow, no "added attraction". It was, rather, a reconstruction of our great nation's first factory, and squarely on the original site at that. This spot it was from which the first export consignment of American made merchandise was shipped almost exactly 349 years ago. And it was on this ground that humanity's greatest crucible, the American Melting Pot, struck its first boil. The date was October 1, 1608.

Sixteen months earlier the English had landed at Jamestown and set up their poorly projected and illy organized colony. It had soon become apparent that skilled workmen were needed, and overtures were made to Polish craftsmen then in England and others still in the old country.

The first contingent landed in the new world October 1, 1608. At once they set about establishing facilities for producing glass cordage, flax, masts, pitch, rosin, soap ashes, and other products which they had originally exported from Poland to England.

Within three weeks that first glass furnace was blazing away, and in less than two months the industrious newcomers had made enough assorted products to forward a modest consignment to England via the "Mary and Margaret" which had brought them. Later such products as clapboards, building materials and lumber were added to the outward bound cargoes. (The capacity of that first glass furnace was modest, but its "descendants" of 1958 have a combined annual capacity of more than six million tons, at latest reports).

Among those first arrivals from Catholic Poland coming to the aid of Protestant Englishmen in the new world were Zbigniew Stefański, Jan Bogdan, Jan Mata, and Stanisław Sandowski directly from Poland, and Michał Nowicki from London.

Capt. John Smith had known Bogdan while visiting Poland in 1603 and the resumption of the acquaintance in Virginia proved most profitable to the Englishman. For shortly after the Poles arrived Smith was captured by the Indians under Chief Pa-pahegh, and it was Bogdan and Stefański who rescued him.

The Pocahontas rescue had taken place supposedly, in December, 1607, but various historians lend rather less credence to it than to the Bogdan-Stefański episode, even though the former recital has received the lion's share of the publicity. After all, it has been said, 12-year-old Indian maidens are better "copy" than grizzled, adult Polish soldier-workmen.

Later ships brought more Poles who distinguished themselves both in defending the colony against hostile Indians and in helping it grow in economy. No one could estimate what might have been the ultimate destiny of the ill-fated undertaking had it not been for these first "foreign immigrants"

of its second and subsequent years.

After a year or so, some of these early Polish settlers returned to England with Capt. John Smith and settled for a while in London. The Virginia Company implored them to return to Jamestown with a promise of better living conditions and a better administration. In May, 1610, they returned and renewed their efforts in the new world.

By 1619 the colony had grown to 2000 freedom loving settlers who now were extended certain civil rights and liberties. Under the pretext that they were still indebted for their passage from England to America, the Poles were denied their right to vote in the election of burgesses, so they stopped their work at the glass furnace.

According to the records of The Virginia Co. "they ceased to work until this injustice would be removed." The matter was referred to the Company's Council in London which went on record that "concessions were made to the Polanders and they were ordered to finish their strike."

This was the first strike in America and it was won—not for economic gains or fringe benefits, but to gain civil liberties.

Apropos the strike, it was further documented: "And because their skill in making glass, soap, pitch and tar shall not die with them, it is agreed that some young men shall be put unto them to learn their skill and knowledge therein for the benefit of the country hereafter."



Drawn by V. Gawron

17th century glass works operated by Poles

Thus the Poles were officially recognized as our first teacher in the trade.

Conway Whittle Sams, in his "The Conquest of Virginia" summarizes the affairs of the Polish settlers with, "All we know of the Poles in Jamestown is to their credit." And Capt. John Smith in his writing notes that "The arrival in Virginia of skilled craftsmen from Catholic Poland in 1608 saved the first English settlement in America from collapse."

The location where the Poles had their glass furnace is known to this day as Glass House Point. In 1931 Jesse Dimmick, owner of the land, found the exact spot where the furnace was located and in 1948 and 1949 our National Park Service uncovered pieces of furnaces, glass-making implements and considerable chunks of glass.

During the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the American Flint Glass Worker Union with others, spent \$100,000 to reconstruct the glass works and to keep it in operation as an attraction to visitors. — The equipment, dress, atmosphere and minute details of the 17th century are carefully maintained.

On September 29, 1957, in conjunction with the Jamestown Festival, the Polish Falcon Alliance unveiled a bronze plaque commemorating the landing of the first Poles in Jamestown.

On or about October 1st, 1958 on the precise 350th anniversary, Americans of Polish descent will gather at Jamestown to celebrate the arrival of the first Polish settlers in America. Incidentally, there are today some 7,000,000 Americans of Polish descent in this country and some of them trace their ancestry to the settlers at Jamestown.

To commemorate the Jamestown Exposition held at Hampton Roads, April 20 to December 1, 1907, on the 300th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in America the U. S. Post Office issued a set of three stamps in April and May 1907. Similarly, the 350th anniversary was noted last year by the release of the Jamestown Naval Review single.

Proponents of the idea of the October stamp feel that such further philatelic recognition is in order to pay tribute to this first grist to feed the American Melting Pot, three and half centuries ago, on the Virginia shore.

(Mindful of the historical background and importance of this long neglected page of the nation's record, the Polonus Philatelic Society will take special note of it at its forthcoming convention. The group specializes in the stamps of Poland, and the exhibition will be known as "POLPEX '58". It will be held at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. on Feb. 28, March 1 and 2, and will feature two bi-colored seals depicting highlights from the Jamestown era.)

OFFICERS FOR 1958

Roman Burkiewicz President
Barney Fialkowski Vice-President
Roman Strzelecki Secretary
Adam Kloskowski Treasurer
John Skotnicki Librarian
Stefan Kochanski Director
Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz Director

TID BITS

At the Jan. 23rd meeting there were over 50 in attendance. Interest in Polonus seems to always increase around Polpex time.

* * *

Frank Rizzo received a citation from Greater Chicago Lodge No. 3 Loyal Order of Moose as committee chairman and president of the Moose Stamp Club of Chicago.

* * *

Sig Bor was reelected President of Midway Stamp Club. Meetings are held every first and third Wednesday evening at 5718 So. Archer Ave. Visitors Welcome!

* * *

Some things that have come to past recently through efforts of Polonus members: The first complete price list of Poland and associated stamps was published by Roman Burkiewicz—and album pages for Poland and associated countries are being published by George Kobylka. George is burning the midnight oil in an effort to get his latest album out—Poland General Government and Poland Offices Abroad. His aim is to have the pages out in time for Polpex.

POLPEX 1958 IS ALMOST HERE!

"Our show is shaping up nicely" says Frank Rizzo, this year's Polpex Director. Entries are coming in daily and it looks like we'll have a well rounded exhibition. We are still receiving ads for the exhibition catalog as the deadline of Feb. 15 nears.

Don't be left out of the Patron List. Your dollar donation will not only help defray expenses of the show but will also entitle you to have your name appear with the Exhibition Patrons in our colorful exhibition catalog. Send your dollar bill now to Chester J. Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois.

Watch the national publications this month. You'll see numerous articles on Polish stamps written by Polonus members in connection with our annual exhibition.

For the first time at any show, hospitalized veterans will exhibit their stamps. Polonus has allotted six frames for this purpose to "Stamps For The Wounded" Director, Barney J. Fialkowski.

The traditional souvenir sheets (see



1. For - tune flour - ished in our cir - cle,
I. Sacre - lete by - to u - nass - em ko - le.



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX 1958

Feb 28 March 1 2

CHICAGO

illustration) have been printed in blue and orange. A set of two in bi-colored printings with a descriptive folder may be obtained at 25 cents per set plus postage, from Adam Kloskowski, 2528 N. Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.

Chicagoland members are invited to attend the Annual Polonus "Mounting Party" Thursday night, Feb. 27th, at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave. Bring along a pair of pliers and screw driver.

• NOTES FROM LONDON •

No. 1

Jan. 1958

The Polish Philatelic Society meets once a month in London, England, when a small band of enthusiastic collectors of Polish stamps get together. The group was formed in 1952 and now has over 70 members. A number of these are exiled Polish nationals and meetings are conducted on a bi-lingual basis.

Through the courtesy of the Editor, it is my privilege as Press Officer of the Society to be allowed to contribute a regular column in the POLONUS BULLETIN to keep your friends in the Polonus Society informed of what is happening over here. We in England hope, that by this means, we will be able to foster Anglo-American relations in this sphere and further the cause of Polish philately through correspondence and mutual understanding.

At our meeting in November, Mr. Z. T. Bokiewicz of 14 Anerley Grove, London, S. E. 19 was appointed secretary of the Society following the resignation of Mr. Ziach. This is Mr. Bokiewicz's second time in the secretary's chair and he will always be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the Society and will be happy to forward full details upon request.

The meeting was concluded with a novel quiz in which the competitors were asked to discover what common theme related a particular stamp with its neighbours on a sheet. As there were 53 sheets in all this proved no easy task, but everybody had an enjoyable afternoon.

— Ron Negus

BALLOON MAIL OF 1936

By MARIAN DUNSKI

8th National Free Balloon Races For The Col.' M. Wankowicz Trophy at Toruń

The 8th National Free Balloon Races for the Col. M. Wańkowicz Trophy took place on May 17, 1936 at Toruń. Twelve balloons started from Toruń* and landed near the German border. Six balloons landed in Białośliwie, four bal-

loons in Wysoka, one in Wyrzysk, one in Łukomy. Each of the balloons carried balloon mail and after landing delivered it to the local post office for further expediting.

Balloon	Landing place P. O. cancel	Landing date	Mail carried		
			Letters	Postcards	Total
1. GRYF	Białośliwie	May 17, 1936	120	50	170
2. HEL	Białośliwie	May 17, 1936	110	50	160
3. JABŁONNA	Wyrzysk	May 17, 1936	120	40	160
4. KATOWICE	Białośliwie	May 17, 1936	120	50	170
5. KRAKÓW	Łukomy	May 17, 1936	130	50	180
6. LEGIONOWO	Białośliwie	May 17, 1936	140	50	190
7. LWÓW	Wysoka	May 17, 1936	130	50	180
8. ŁÓDŹ	Białośliwie	May 17, 1936	130	45	175
9. MOŚCICE	Wysoka	May 17, 1936	160	50	210
10. SANOK	Białośliwie	May 17, 1936	120	45	165
11. SYRENA	Wysoka	May 17, 1936	120	50	170
12. WILNO	Wysoka	May 17, 1936	110	55	165
Total:			1510	585	2095

Commemorative Cancels

The balloon mail pieces carried during the 8th National Balloon Races have the following commemorative markings:

1. Round date cancel inscribed "VIII Krajowe Zawody Balonów Wolnych

Toruń 1—d/17.5.36 3-4." Color: black, red, violet, green and gold. Gold used for this purpose proved to be not very durable, since most of it vanished before the mail reached the addressee, leaving only



Post card carried by the Balloon "Lwów" during the 8th National Free Balloon Races at Toruń. The cancel at bottom "Wysoka" is that of the landing place.

- a faint trace in the form of a pale-red impression of the cancel.
2. Rectangular cancel, in a single line frame:

POCZTA BALONOWA

3. Cancel with balloon name in red.
4. Post office date cancel of the landing location—in black.
5. Post office marker, delivering the mail piece to addressee.

The color of the cancellation most common is black, the rarest green, with which only two complete sets were cancelled.



Reverse side of post card shows photo of the Colonel M. Wankowicz Trophy.

* * *

The Automobile Balloon Chase

On May 24, 1936 the Balloon Club of Mościce "Mościcki Klub Balonowy" started the 4th Automobile Chase of the balloon. The Balloon "Mościce" took along a transport of mail consisting 1459 letters and 385 cards; total 1844 pieces.

The postal cancel used was the date cancel from the previous year and cancelling was in black and red, of which the red is the scarcer. Mail from this flight has the the following markings:

1. A three-versed rubber stamp, impressed with red ink "Mościcki Klub Balonowy IV. Samochodowy Pościg za Balonem Wolnym".
2. A rectangular box stamp—ascending balloons and an auto on the road; dater, made from artist engraver Lorec's design: "Mościce" 24.V.36—impressed in black.
3. Date cancel of P. O. Borzęcin, 24. V.36—the landing place—impressed in black.

* * *

The 7th Flight of Southwest Poland

The Aero-Club of Kraków, affiliated with the Aero-Club of the Republic of Poland arranged the 7th Flight of Southwest Poland on May 31, 1936. This was par excellence a local affair. On that day the balloon "Kraków" departed in an easterly direction, landing at Igołomie, Kielce palatinate. The balloon carried letters and cards with the following markings and dates:

1. Poczta Balonowa /Kraków/ 31.V. 1936/VII. Lot Południowo Zachodniej Polski". Colors: black, red and violet.
2. An oval stamp: "Balon Kraków — Aeroklub Krakowski" in black.
3. Date cancel of the balloon landing locality in black.
4. Date cancel of the P. O. delivering the mail in black.

The balloon "Kraków" took aboard mail consisting of:

Letters—cancel in black	444
Letters—cancel in red	33
Letters—cancel in violet	137
Cards—cancel in black	169
Cards—cancel in red	23
Cards—cancel in violet	17

Total amount of mail 823

The balloon landed in Igołomia on June 1, 1936.

* * *

The Lwów-Tomaszów Flight

On the same day, May 31, 1936 the Aero-Club of Lwów had schemed up a balloon flight. The initial plans were to fly two balloons, the "Sanok" and "Mościce." Finally, only the "Mościce" had flown and after a fairly long flight it landed at Tomaszgród, near Sarny, Wołyń palatinate.

Mail from this flight had the following markings and dates:

(Continued on page 8, col. 2)

A LECTURE ON COVERS OF THE KINGDOM OF POLAND, 1858-1865

By invitation of POLONICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY, in New York, the well known philatelist V. Rachmanov gave a very interesting lecture in December 1957 on the subject: "Covers of the Kingdom of Poland, 1858-1865."

In short, the main themes of the lecture, lasting over an hour were: The Postal administration of the Kingdom of Poland in the years 1858-1865, together with adhesive postage stamps of which we are at present acquainted with, as well as postally used covers with imprints. The issue of these envelopes was limited. These imprints were round and in several different colors in relation to payment for postal duty on the given letter. We see that wording on the imprints, taking place of adhesive stamps, is bi-lingual: — Polish-Russian. In the center of the imprint-stamp — the Coat of Arms of the Kingdom of Poland; the double headed Russian eagle with the Polish white eagle placed on his breast (see Ikaros pages 338 and 339). On later issued envelopes, beside the Coat of Arms of the Kingdom of Poland we see bi-lingual lettering, stating the value of the stamp: 10 KOP. ZA ŁOT (see Ikaros page 340). It often occurs, that the white eagle on the light background of the Russian eagle is hardly visible and for this reason a few collectors have doubts that the stamp or envelope with the lettering 10 KOP. ZA ŁOT is really Polish. It is really a Polish stamp! The fact that it is Polish is substantiated, by before anything, all documentary archives, long since published, also substantiated by all philatelic catalogs of the world, and not only presently issued but those issued prior to World War I (1914) which place the stamp No. 1 among the Polish stamps. The best example that 10 KOP. ZA ŁOT is Polish is the proof of this stamp which at present is in the collection of a collector of Polish stamps in Chicago. On this proof the white eagle is clearly visible.

The lecture of Mr. V. Rachmanov was illustrated with postal covers, taken from his personal collection. It is also necessary to note that Mr.

Rachmanov is the owner of one of the extensive collections, not only as to quantity but also as to classification of Poland No. 1, and he is one of the world's reknown authorities of this stamp.

How great an interest was aroused by the lecture of Mr. V. Rachmanov is shown by the fact that over 95% of the general membership of POLONICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY attended this lecture, not only those in New York but from distant parts. There were also a number of guests present deepening their knowledge about the Poland No. 1 stamp (Lone adhesive of Poland). At the close of the lecture those present awarded V. Rachmanov with heavy applause and begged for a future lecture about the Postal seals of the 18th Century in Poland.

—V. Hermanowski

Translated by Chester Makowski.

BEG YOUR PARDON

Through a printer's error, the illustrations of the stamps and headlines of the Westerplatte and Grunwald Issue articles that appeared in the Dec. Polonus Bulletin were reversed. Sorry.

POLAND

COMPLETE 1957 NEW ISSUES

	Mint	FDC
Olympics	.50	.50
Olympic Gold Medal	.20	.20
Museum Art Objects	.30	.30
Ski Anniversary	.30	.30
Ski Memorial	.15	.15
Doctors	.60	.60
X Bicycle Race	.25	.25
U.N. perf., Imperf. and Souv. Sheet.	1.75	1.75
Fencing	.20	.20
Warsaw Exhibition Airmail	.45	.45
Same, in sheet of 12	5.50	
Warsaw Exhibition Souvenir Sheet	.60	.60
Flowers	.25	.25
Firemen	.15	.15
Stamp Day	.15	.15
Leipzig Trade Convention	.05	.10
Doctor 1 zl. new value	.06	.10
1917 October Revolution	.15	.15
Karol Libelt	.05	.10
Wieniawski — violinist	.10	.15
Komenski	.10	.15
Strug — writer	.10	.15
Conrad — writer	.15	.15
Airmails — various cities	1.25	1.25

1860/1955 Illustrated Poland Catalog
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NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

In the Dec. Bulletin it was reported that a single stamp was released to commemorate the Polish writer Andrzej Strug. The purpose of the issue was to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of his death.

The design of the stamp issued on Dec. 2 to commemorate the 3rd International Wieniawski Violin Competition was designed by S. Jasinski. (Reported in Dec. Bulletin.)

A stamp was issued to commemorate the Centenary of Death of Composer Charles Kurpinski (1785-1857). Instead, a special cancellation was issued.

The latest is that the "Fish Stamps" will now be released during the first quarter of 1958. No further information on the "Costume Series."

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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.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

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BALLOON MAIL OF 1936

(Continued from page 6)

1. Date cancel in the form of a balloon "Lwów 1 / 31.V.1936 / Poczta / Balonowa." The color is black.
2. A single verse hand stamp: "Poczta Balonowa" in violet.
3. A small hand stamp "Balon Aerokluba Lwowski" in red.
4. A hand stamp "Balon Mościce" in red.
5. A P. O. date cancel of the landing locality in black.
6. A P. O. date cancel delivering the mail—in black.

The balloon "Mościce" started from Lwów on May 31, 1936. It landed at Tomaszgród on June 1, 1936 carrying 965 pieces of mail: 545 letters and 420 post cards.

Translated by Walter Szymlek. Illustrated balloon cards thru courtesy of Adam Kloskowski.