

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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COPERNICUS STAMP FIRST DAY CEREMONY

BY STEFAN KOCHANSKI

Washington, D.C., April 23, 1973-

Easter Monday in Washington was warm, 80 degrees. The first day ceremony was scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m. in the National Museum of History and Technology — The Smithsonian Institution.

At 12 noon the door to the auditorium was opened and visitors and guests were allowed to enter. The seating capacity was approximately 500 and every last seat was occupied by invited guests and by tourists. Having attended other first day ceremonies, I must say this crowd had the least philatelists. I estimate that about 50 philatelists and about 100 Poles attended.

The ceremony was short and sweet. The Marine Band entertained before and after the ceremonies with a medley of various Polish folk songs. On stage were American and Polish flags. Usherettes in "Krakowianki" costumes made an impression of



the cooperative efforts of the Smithsonian Institute, the Postal Service and the Polish Community to give the Copernicus stamp ceremony a Polish setting.

The invocation was given by Very Reverend Walter J. Ziembra, President, St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Mich. A welcome was extended by S. Dillon Rip-

SPECIAL BULLETIN . . .
Polonus Receives Recognition.
Postmaster General E.T. Klassen presented Polonus with Copernicus album at Polish Constitution Day parade ceremonies. Details in next Bulletin.

ley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. An introduction of the guests was made by Daniel J. Boorstin, Director of the National Museum of History and Technology. Greetings from Poland came from Janusz Groszkowski, Honorary Chairman of the Copernican Quincentennial Symposium. Then came the principal address by Murray Comarow, Senior Assistant Postmaster General which was as follows:

"One of the more pleasant rituals of our society, it seems to me, is to honor a great man or woman with a humble, useful postage stamp.

Copernicus, whose awesome presence we evoke today, is undoubtedly smiling his approval from the heavens he set straight. This great Pole is generally perceived as the man who moved the Earth from its starring role at center stage to its more appropriate position as a minor spear-carrier in the wings. He was more than that.

He was a theologian, an economist, a diplomat, a physician, and a humanitarian. He took degrees:

- *In mathematics and astronomy from Cracow*
- *In canon law from Bologna*
- *In law from Ferrara*
- *In medicine from Padua*

As an economist he advised the King of Poland on monetary and tariff reforms. As a diplomat, he was involved in Poland's relations with the Teutonic Knights. As a theologian, he saw himself as God's servant: this man, obsessed with the pursuit of scientific truth, yet found time to settle Polish peasants on abandoned farms, and work among the poor as a physician.

I trust you will not feel let down if I tell you what Copernicus was not. He was not a stamp collector.

It is true that stamps had not yet been invented — the word comes, as you know, from the impression or "stamp" of a seal into soft wax — but still, such a man . . . well.

Copernicus' theory that the Earth revolved around the sun was roundly condemned, of course, by the establishment of his day, and well beyond. But too late, for this man was as practical as he was wise. He delayed publishing his great book for some years, and when he did, in 1540, he dedicated it to Pope Paul III.

Even so, Martin Luther called Copernicus "a fool who wishes to reverse the entire science of astronomy." And the Vatican did not remove his works from its index of prohibited books until 1822.

Now, of course, he is claimed by all. Germans say that he is really German. Italians point out that he studied in Italy. Greeks say that their astronomer Aristarchus had the idea 2,000 years before Copernicus. Other nations have yet to be heard.

It puts me in the mind of Louis Agassiz's remarks that "Every great scientific truth goes through three stages. First people say it conflicts with the Bible. Next, they say it has been discovered before. Lastly, they say they have always believed it."

No matter. These competing claims cannot diminish this great man of the Renaissance. He belongs to all of us, in his towering genius, and his simple humanity.

Not that we necessarily deserve him. The first edition of his immortal book sold seven copies. Today, distinguished scientists, diplomats, and artists join with the rest of us to salute him.

The world will honor Copernicus in many ways this year. This beautiful stamp, designed by the brilliant Alvin Eisenman of the Yale School of Art, is our way, our tribute, at this ceremony.

This is an unusual occasion. The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, which agreed on Copernicus, rarely goes beyond our national borders for stamp subjects.

Nor do men of science often find themselves on our stamps, I'm afraid, although we did do one for Albert Einstein a few years ago.

Today we remind ourselves that there are minds which transcend national boundaries. Some call this the Age of Aquarius. It might better be called the Age of Copernicus.

After the talk album presentations were made. Among those receiving an album was our member, the President of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress — Aloysius A. Mazewski.

In addition to Mr. Mazewski and myself other Polonus members attending the first day ceremony were Chester Makowski and Zdzisław Wagrowski.

The rostrum was decorated with the Smithsonian sunburst emblem, very timely decor — based on Copernicus' teachings of the center of the universe.

The printed program was compiled by the Smithsonian Institution and published through the courtesy of Scott

Publishing Company. At least 20% of those attending did not receive the program as the supply was small.

My last visit to Washington was for the Apollo 11 First Day. At the Paderewski and Polish Millennium first days thousands of Poles visited Washington and attended the ceremonies. The main post office cancelled first day covers 24 hours around the clock; now the post office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. *"The days of Polish First Day of Issue are over,"* said Sam Davis, my friend at the main post office, *"when thousands stood in line to receive the first day cancellation. Now only one window and one person handles this service."*

I was able to obtain "round robin" plate numbers in all four positions on sheets at the Philatelic Agency. There were only four plate numbers available: 34105, 06, 10 and 11. All together the following numbers were assigned to the Copernicus stamp: 34105, 06, 07, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18.

In addition to the usual first day of issue post office tables, there was a post office station at the Smithsonian Institution using a special cancellation. This "general store post office," a historical landmark, constructed in 1860 in Headsville, West Virginia, moved to the Smithsonian in 1971.

I stayed in Washington till April 26th. On my return home the temperature dropped to 50 degrees and the rains came. As our plane climbed over the clouds the sun shined again and I recalled the words of Assistant Postmaster Comarow, *"This is not the Age of Aquarius, but the Age of Copernicus, the sun — the center of the Universe."*

COPERNICUS ALSO PHYSICIAN SAYS "SCAPEL AND TONGS"

The "Quincentennial of Copernicus" — the physician, is featured in the April issue of "Scapel and Tongs," the American Journal of Medical Philately.

Prefacing the article, George B. Griffenhagen, editor of the publication of the Medical Subject Unit of the American Topical Association, points out that *few people realize that the man who "stopped the sun and set the earth in motion" was known during his lifetime more as a successful physician than as an astronomer.*

The author traces the early life of Copernicus, through his initial studies of law, mathematics and astrology at the University of Bologna, followed by the granting of a scholarship to study medicine in Italy at the University of Padua and his eventual practice of the profession in Poland.

In addition to a checklist of Copernicus stamps issued between 1923 and 1972, the current issue includes a listing of announcements to date by those nations planning to issue stamps in observance of the 500th anniversary of the birth of the astronomer and physician.

Copies of "Scapel and Tongs" containing the article are available at \$1 each, with an FDC, from George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, Va. 22180.

A self-addressed stamped envelope to the same address will bring information regarding the Medical Subject Unit and its publication.

ITALY COPERNICUS CANCEL

According to our member Nino Barberis, on June 2nd a special Copernicus cancellation will be used at a National Thematic Exhibition in Italy. Members interested in obtaining this cancellation may do so at the price of three for one-dollar, postage included. Mail orders to Nino Barberis, Viale Famagosta 24, 20142-Milano, Italy.

PROPOSE STAMP TO HONOR CASIMIR PULASKI

Columbia, S.C. — Commemorative stamps for five American Revolution patriots, including General Casimir Pulaski were proposed last week by the South Carolina Legislature. All 124 members of the House of Representatives co-authored a concurrent resolution endorsing a proposal made earlier by the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission to pay special tribute to Pulaski, the American Revolutionary War hero.

NEW MEMBERS

Josephine K. Trawinski
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Urbana, Ill. 61801
Walter J. McGuiness
587 Cambridge St.
Worcester, Ma. 01610
Irvin J. Wilczynski
1306 16th Ave.
Grafton, Wl. 53024
Helena Falimirski
942 Daniel Dr.
Bensenville, Ill. 60106

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW

"GERMAN OCCUPIED POLAND", authored and published by Alf Harper, 60 Whinfield Rd., Darlington (Co. Durham) England, available from Mr. Harper price \$3.00 post-paid, in English.

This work consists of 114 pages of typewriter - offset print, and the book size is 6½" x 8½".

Some of the information and maps are taken from the *Poststempelguide Rhein-Donau* (written in German) from whom the author obtained permission and cooperation. That is an excellent treatise on the subject and profusely illustrated, if one can read German.

The Governor Frank Stamp is covered on one page and the author holds to the theory that this stamp was issued and produced by the British Intelligence. This view is set forth in a nice article titled "*The Hans Frank Stamp Parody*" by Herbert A. Friedman, and appeared in *The "S.P.A. Journal"* Vol. 33, No. 1, September 1970 at page 19, which article is illustrated with a diagram of the possible route taken by the agent who mailed the Frank covers.

There are some chapters completely missing, such as the, "*The Scout Post, During the Warsaw Uprising*," there is nothing about Concentration Camp Mail; no mention is made of the Prisoner of War Issues at Murnau and Woldenberg, nor are the Underground issues covered.

As to changes in the town names, I quote from the author, "This period is cotton picking nightmare for the postal historians. For example at one town the official seal of the P.O. was, "*SCHIRPS*". the rubber

stamp, "*SIERPC*" and the day stamp "*SICHELBERG*", and all three can be found on one single cover. Here the postal historian outdoes the alcoholic, by seeing treble."

To this I can only say "Amen" for a long period I have been searching for a complete listing of name changes during W.W. II, and have yet to find a complete listing of town names.

However, the work does show a brief history of the Invasion of Poland, a bit of Postal History, some maps, illustrations of stamps, Provisional Postmarks, TPO Postmarks, "V" Victory Postmarks, Special Postmarks, Slogan Postmarks, Postal Stationery, Semi-Official and Souvenir Cards, the Ghetto Post and the Exiled Polish Government.

In my opinion there is much information between two covers and well worth the cost of the book. It should be of some help to the Polish Collector, provided he can use the English language.

—Chester W. Makowski

NEW MEMBER

Joseph Kuczera
25 W. Hitchcock Ave.
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

REINSTATEMENT

A. Wyroski
4362 Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60641

MEMBERS' MART

SELL: POLPEX Souvenir sheets, 1940 to 1962. Best offer.

TRADE: U.S. Pate Blocks; FDC covers; Space covers.

Douglas Nadehoff
622 Broadway
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OFFICIAL POLONUS COPERNICUS FIRST DAY COVERS

Because this year we had our hands full with POLPEX 73, we did not go into the Copernicus First Day Covers project on a large scale as we have done in the past. It was decided that we print our own cachet and have just enough covers cancelled so as to give one to each member.

This was possible because our member, Chester Makowski, who attended the first day of issue in Washington, took it upon himself to get the covers cancelled. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Makowski for his unselfish efforts for the society.

With this issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* is enclosed your Copernicus first day cover — thanks to Mr. Makowski!

CHESTER MAKOWSKI'S WASHINGTON REPORT

At our meeting of April 27th, Chester Makowski reported on his visit to Washington for the first day of issue. He gave us a thorough picture of what transpired. He further augmented his report by playing a tape recording of the actual half-hour first day ceremony made in the auditorium at the Smithsonian. Fortunately he sat close to the front where his microphone was able to pick up the voices.

It was a rare treat for those of us attending this meeting.

POLONUS PRESENTS MEDAL TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

When Chester Makowski attended the first day issue ceremonies at Washington, D.C., he was not only there to get the Polonus first day covers serviced. Your officers decided to present our Copernicus medallion to the Smithsonian Institute, and, if

possible, that this be done during the first day ceremonies.

As this decision was made at the last minute, it was not possible to make the presentation during the actual ceremonies, as the ceremony plans were already set. After the ceremonies, however, Mr. Makowski did present the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. S. Dillon Ripley, with our medal. He was very elated at this gesture.

TID BITS

Did you know that two of our Polonus members are officers in the Polish-American Engineers Association? R. Wolosewicz is their President and A. Jusko-wicz, their Financial Secretary.

BULLETIN AD RATES

One inch ad.....	\$3.00
Quarter page ad....	10.00
Half page ad.....	15.00
Full page ad.....	25.00



Caricature drawing of Dr. L.P. Kozakiewicz by famous Polish artist Julian Zebrowski.

OLONUS "POLSKA 73" TRIP

The following information pertains to the contemplated trip to Poland by the Polonus Philatelic Society for the Copernicus International Stamp Exhibition - Polska 73 which opens on Sunday, August 19, 1973 in Poznań, Poland.

Departure will be on August 9, 1973 for a duration of 22 to 45 days. There are two variations for this trip:

1. Trip only, taking care of your own arrangements while in Poland.
2. Flight to Warsaw, Poland plus a tour in Poland where Copernicus lived and worked. The tour will last approximately 10 days with the remainder of the time to be spent as you wish.

Additional tours can be arranged in advance for the time you intend to spend there or while in Poland.

As for documentation—a valid passport is required plus two photos (could be from the automat) for a Polish visa. Cost of visa with tour \$8.50, without tour \$17.50 plus vouchers.

The costs of the tour from Chicago are approximately as follows:

1. Flight only (22 to 45 days) \$479.00
2. Flight plus ten day tour \$696.00

(Tour includes transfers, hotels, sightseeing and meals with the exception of the meals and sightseeing the first full day in Warsaw and the 9th and 10th day in Poznań). (The air cost from New York is \$67.00 less.)

If a longer stay in Poznań is required, we will try to make the reservations for you.

A deposit of \$100.00 per person is required. Notice of participation in tour is required by July 8, 1973.

For reservations contact Mrs. Wanda Szebel, Bank-On-Travel, Inc., 1223 Oakton St.-Bank Bldg., DesPlaines, Ill. 60018. Phone (312) 298-1757.

NEW ISSUES

Children's Health Center Monument

A 60 gr. commemorative was issued in September of 1972 showing a sculpture of "a little soldier of the uprising" by E. Piwowarski. A children's Health Center will be constructed in memory of the little heroes killed in the last war. Offset printed by PWPW, Warsaw, in sheets of 20 stamps on chalky paper. Designed by T. Michaluk. Quantity issued 6,000,000.

90th Anniversary of the Proletariat Party Institution

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of this Institution a 60 gr. commemorative was issued on September 1, 1972 showing a portrait of Ludwik Warynski, the revolutionist. Rotogravure printed by PWPW, Warsaw, in sheets of 25 stamps with 25 tabs on chalky paper. Designed by J. W. Brzoza. Quantity issued: 6,000,000.

Royal Castle in Warsaw

A 60 gr. commemorative was issued in September of 1972 showing the Royal Castle in Warsaw which was completely destroyed during World War II. It is to be reconstructed with the aid of contributions of Poles living in Poland as well as those living abroad. Rotogravure printed by PWPW, Warsaw, in sheets of 50 stamps on chalky paper. Designed by A. Heidrich. Quantity issued: 10,000,000.

POLPEX 73 PATRON

SEWERYN PRYBULSKI

While the show may be over there are many, many items which must be attended to — frankly, the bills! If you did not contribute and missed the opportunity the first time around — here's another chance. Anyone who contributes \$50.00 or more will receive a special, gold-plated medallion especially commissioned and struck for POLPEX 73. Each medal is serially numbered. If you haven't done so already, please give it a thought. Your help now will help wrap up POLPEX and keep us above water.

Send your \$50.00 or more to:
Al Rybarski, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82
River Grove, Ill. 60171

Have You Neglected To Pay Your Dues? Send Your \$4.00 To The Treasurer Today!

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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 —

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 8, 1973 —

Program meeting. Our speaker will be Dr. Edward C. Rozanski of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. His topic will be: *How Polonus can fit into the 1976 Bicentennial plans.* Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

J. E. Chapkoski
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Williamsburg, Va. 23185

GET WELL WISHES

Get well wishes are extended to the following Chicagoland members who were being hospitalized at the time the Bulletin went to press: Stefan Kochanski, Thomas J. Gobby and Mitchell Wozny.