

BULLETIN OF THE **Polonus** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

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POLONUS HANDBOOK WELL RECEIVED!

Review of the HANDBOOK published in the *Journal of the British Society of Russian Philately*, London, England.

THE OCCUPATION OF RUSSIA
 BY THE POLISH I CORPS.

Published by Polonus Philatelic Society — James Mazepa, Editor.

This handbook is a must for collectors of Russian Civil War, Polish and Ukraine material be it stamps or postal history. It is the first to be published by the Polonus Society and we look forward to their future publications. The first part of the handbook is an article on the stamps and postal history of the First Polish Corps in Russia by Tadeusz Gryżewski, translated by Elizabeth Gobby and this is followed by a shorter section on the forged stamps of this issue by Dr. Stanley Kronenberg. Both sections are profusely illustrated with excellent plates which complement the high quality typeset on art paper—it is undoubtedly a work of art, a labour of love which has not been produced with the idea of making a profit. No collector of this field can be without this handbook and anyone with this handbook can now confidently enter the field if they can find the material. A

price listing of the stamps and an indication of the current value of covers would have added still greater value to this handbook which is highly commended to all BSRP members.

—Dr. R. J. Ceresa

* * *

I have received your "Polonus Handbook" and consider it a great and valuable contribution. It is a fascinating work and the illustrations of the overprint plates and forgeries will prove an invaluable addition to any philatelic library. I thank you in my name and that of the ROS-SICA Society.

—Dr. G. Torrey, president

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Excellent printing, high gloss paper; 8½ x 11. Specialists take notice... don't let it go unappreciated... nor get out of print. Summary available. Highly specialized, with profuse and excellent illustrations.

—Dr. C. N. Allen
 STAMPS

The first of our **Polonus Handbooks**, the "Occupation of Russia by the I Polish Corps" is available from Mr. John Bor, 1820 North Richmond, Chicago, IL 60622. The price is \$5.50 for members and \$7.50 for non-members.

Czesław Ślania, Foremost Stamp Engraver

By DR. MIECZYSLAW LIPINSKI

CZESŁAW ŚLANIA, the world's foremost stamp designer and engraver, studied at the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts, graduating with honors in 1950. He produced engravings for Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, San Marino, Monaco, Ireland and Iceland, and designs and engravings for Sweden and Poland.

In January 1977, he completed his 400th engraving. Of this, a total of 550 postage stamps were produced, including face value changes. Among these were stamps with portraits of the kings of Sweden, and king and queen of Denmark. In addition, he produced posters with portraits of famous movie stars: Brigitte Bardot, Sophie Loren, Marilyn Monroe and Doris Day; statesmen: Winston Churchill, General Charles de Gaulle, Mao Tse-Tung, John F. Kennedy, Marshal Jozef Pilsudski and General Wladyslaw Anders; boxing world champions from John L. Sullivan to Cassius Clay.

He produced several souvenir sheets for the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain. His most notable work is the superbly executed two studies of the Battle of Grunwald. One was his diploma work, engraved in postage stamp size with an inscription "Praca dyplomowa. The other was an enlarged size (113 x 203 mm) from the original painting by Jan Matejko, director of the Cracow Academy from 1873 to 1893.

Czesław Ślania is a most fertile stamp designer and engraver. In appreciation for his works with the Swedish post office, by decree of King Gustav VI, he was named



"Engraver of the Swedish Court". This is a rare honor as the only such similar event took place in 1914 in Austria when Prof. Ferdinand Schirnbock of the Academy of Fine Arts was so honored by Emperor Franz Josef. Prof. Schirnbock designed and engraved stamps for Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, etc.

In December 1973, the Royal Chapter of Danish Knights bestowed the highest Scandinavian honor on Ślania for his contributions to the Danish postal administration and Danish culture. At HAFNIA 76, the Copenhagen Philatelic Club awarded a medal to him for his works in Danish philately.

During his twenty-five years as a stamp designer and engraver Czesław Ślania made over 500



A copy of Czesław Ślania's engraving of "Battle of Grunwald" by Jan Matejko.

various postage stamps:

- 49 for Poland
- 226 for Sweden
- 147 for Denmark
- 45 for Greenland
- 14 for Monaco
- 8 for San Marino
- 8 for Faroe Islands
- 2 for Iceland
- 2 for Ireland

As of June, 1976, this totalled 519 stamps. He also made several proofs of postage stamps as well as 37 stamp-posters.

Some 206 articles and write-ups on Słania appeared in philatelic and non-philatelic publications published up to September 1976.

The printery Ator Tryk of K. Mazur in Copenhagen is preparing a monograph on the life and works of Czesław Słania based on a study made by the writer of this article. This monograph will be well illustrated and available for \$25.00 (150 Danish crowns). Each book will be autographed by the artist. It will contain a number of unknown works of this artist, stamp-posters, and other examples. Further information will be available from Polonus member #292, Dr. Mieczysław Lipinski, Poznan, Poland.

POLAND PHILATELIC CLUB

The Poland Philatelic Club was recently formed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Officers are Ray Orzechowski, president; Carl Skupski, vice president; and Edith Malson, secretary-treasurer.

The PPC, a member of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, meets at 7 p.m. the third Sunday of each month at the Polish Army Veterans Home Post # 3, 1629 S. 10th St., Milwaukee, according to Roger G. Szymanski, publicity chairman.

POLONUS MEETINGS' CHANGE

The Board of Directors announced that beginning in September the Society will meet only on the fourth Friday of the month. The meeting will have a philatelic program and refreshments will be served. Note, that during July and August the Society regularly meets only once monthly. The Board of Directors will meet on a monthly or as needed basis. Special meetings may be called for events such as meetings at the large stamp shows in the area. Joint meetings with other Philatelic clubs are planned, the first being with the German Philatelic Society in January. We will host this meeting and have a BEEBA, they will provide speakers on topics of interest to both societies.

POLISH OLYMPICS BOOK

"Polish Olympic Chronicle in Philately" is the title of a 148-page book by Polish Olympic philatelist Fabian Bura, published in Warsaw, Poland.

The book is in English and includes color illustrations, according to the review by Joseph E. Schirmer, associate editor of the "Journal of Sport Philately," the official publication of Sports Philatelists International.

Schirmer reports that the volume includes information and illustrations of various stamps, covers, cancellations and labels related to Polish participation in Olympics from 1924 through 1972. He adds that there is a chapter with material on the Olympic year 1944 in Polish POW camps.

While the price and availability of this book are not reported, collectors may contact Joseph Schirmer, Hudson Towers, 7300 Boulevard E., North Bergen, N.J. 07047, for further details.

AGNIESZKA WISŁA – An Exemplary Pole

By JAN NIEBRZYDOWSKI

In 1906, just 71 years ago, a young girl named Agnieszka Wiśła arrived at her sister's home in Chicago from Poznań. The education she received at home was a factor that induced her to join the ranks of Polish organizations, particularly, the Polish Falcons.

Her activity here increased from the time she became acting vice president of the 2nd District. It was really a memorable year in 1917 when she began recruiting local volunteers for the Polish Army in France. Thanks to her initiative and untiring efforts, the women of Falcon District No. 2 not only assisted her in the recruiting but also sent transports of clothing, shoes and other necessities for soldiers at the training camp in Niagara-On-The-Lake in Canada.

It was at this time that Agnieszka designed and embroidered a Polish flag for the Polish Army in France. The flag showed an eagle with a crown on one side, and the coat of arms of three Polish cities, Warsaw, Cracow and Poznan on the reverse side. This young lady felt that if her beloved Poland resurrected, it would be the result of uniting the parts of Poland from under foreign domination. And she was not mistaken! The flag outlived the first and second World Wars and is now in the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw.

In July 1918 Agnieszka Wiśła joined the Polish White Cross organization in the USA and left with 42 other volunteers for France to care for Polish soldiers as a nurse. Illustrated here is a cover bearing a letter from the Quintin Camp dated 5-2-1919



Flag designed by Agnieszka Wiśła for Polish Army in France. This side shows the American eagle with coat of arms of Warsaw, Cracow and Poznan.

where a soldier expresses his appreciation for the many gifts received and cautioning her about her failing health and appearance as a result of her over strenuous work.

In mid 1919 sanitary worker A. Wiśła left for Poland where she further served the soldiers on the Polish-Russian-Ukrainian front. She returned to the U.S. on the last transport in February, 1921.

Upon her return she immediately plunged into the work of social and charitable organizations. She organized the Women's Auxiliary for the care of veterans, established a home for the homeless in Chicago on N. Wood Street, organized many patriotic celebrations and evenings, and embroidered many flags for the Veteran's Posts. In 1930 she cared for Polish Veterans in the Elgin State Hospital providing entertainment in the form of concerts, gifts distribution, etc. She also wrote a book entitled "The History of the Volunteers in the Polish Army in America".

World War II again gave her the urge to organize aid on a large

MINUTES OF THE P.P.S. MEETING of MAY 27th, 1977 **at the PALMER HOUSE (COMPEX SHOW)**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Szebel, at 8:10 with 13 members and 3 guests in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary, Mr. Mazepa, and M/S/C Messers. Strzelecki, Kucharz: to accept the minutes as read. Report of the treasurer is postponed until the next meeting.

Old Business: Nominating Committee. The slate of officers for 1977-78 was read by the secretary:

President	Alfred Szebel
Vice-President	Chester Schafer
Secretary	James Mazepa
Treasurer	Roman Strzelecki
Board of Directors.....	Al Rybarski, Walenty Poniecki
	John Bor, Sebastian Styczynski

There were no nomination from the floor at the last meeting. M/S/C Messers. Kucharz, Mistarz: to accept the slate as read. Formal installation will take place at Past-President's night, June 10th. There will also be a BEEBA at this meeting.

New Business: Mr. Szebel announced the decision of the Board of Directors that two Polonus members have been selected as Honorary Members. The one is Dr. Lipinski of Poland, and the other Mr. Chester Makowski who was present at the meeting. He received a plaque with a special Polonus Medal and engraving to remember this great honor. Mr. Szebel will offer the same token of appreciation to Dr. Lipinski when he visits Poland next month.

Mr. Mazepa noted that he received a letter from Mr. Kucharski who noted that the picture on the cover of the last Bulletin is not that of the I Corps in Russia but of the Pilsudski Legion. He promised to send us a picture of the soldiers of the I Corps.

The business of the Society being completed, M/S/C Messers. Strzelecki, Kucharz to adjourn for libations and to view the exhibits.

Respectfully submitted,
 James Mazepa, ACSW, Secretary

AWARDS RECEIVED

Mr. Ted Resner received a bronze medal at PARFOREX; Mr. John Bartczak received the Grand Award of the Roosevelt Philatelic for GALICIA at the COMPEX show.

BULLETIN AD RATES

Full Page ad\$25.00

Half Page ad\$15.00

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PLEWACKI POST SHOW

Among the winning exhibits at ALPEX 799, the annual stamp and coin show of the Plewacki Post Stamp Society held April 1-3 at the Post auditorium in Buffalo, N.Y., Arthur Koscinski's 2¢ Columbian Envelopes took a First Place and Al Bracikowski's Polish Coins and Currency took a Second Place.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 24, 1977:

Roman Burkiewicz will talk on his recent visit to AMPHILEX '77 held May 26—June 4 in Amsterdam, and on the current European market trends on Poland material.

Friday, July 22, 1977

Business Meeting. President Alfred Szebel will be back from Poland and will report on his visits with Polish representatives of the P.Z.F., Dr. Mieczysław Lipinski, and other notables.

POLONUS EMBLEM PINS NOW AVAILABLE!

Because of the many inquiries received for a Polonus emblem pin, President Alfred Szebel designed a lapel pin, and with the approval of the board ordered 250. The long-awaited lapel finally arrived and it's thing of beauty in gold, red and white enamel. Members may purchase them at \$3.00 each plus 50c postage from John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60647.



Pin design (double size)

GREAT LAKES MAIL AUCTION

Roman Burkiewicz informed us of his Annual Summer Mail Auction Sale. He is offering 92 lots of Polish material from Poland No. 1 to present. Sale closes July 2nd. For lot listings write to: Great Lakes Stamp Auctions, 6687 Northwest Highway, Chicago, Illinois 60631. Tel. (312) 763-6693.

NEW TREASURER

As of June 10th our new Treasurer is Roman H. Strzelecki, 1620 Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622
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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 \$5.00 —

APPLICANTS PENDING

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Francis S. Niemczewski
557 Sunset Ave.
Mapleshade, N.J. 08052
Dianne L. Saholska
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