

## BULLETIN OF THE

# POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue 259

May, 1968

### Polonus Publishes "Handbook of Upper Silesia"

With this edition of the **Polonus Bulletin** we begin publishing a lengthy specialized study of the stamps of Upper Silesia written by member Dr. Mieczyslaw M. A. Rayall de Ragan of Poland.



Dr. M. A. Rayall de Ragan

Dr. Ragan is the author of many philatelic and historical articles twenty-five of which have already appeared in our **Bulletin**. His chief life's work, however, is the "Handbook of Upper Silesia" which was exhibited at POLPEX 1962 and received the Polonus Literary Award. His specialized collection of Upper Silesia was often ex-

hibited and received high awards both locally and abroad.

With the help of member D.R.A. Meinung, Jr. of La Mesa, California, who has undertaken the editing of Dr. Ragan's work and preparing it for publication, we are at last able to print this great work and share Dr. Ragan's findings with our **Bulletin** readers.

The first installment appears in the four center pages of this edition. We hope to continue this plan and have at least four pages of this work appearing in each future edition until it is completed.

#### PRAGA 1968

The next international philatelic exhibition will be held June 22 thru July 7, 1968 at Prague, Czechoslovakia. Three Polonus members will exhibit: Alfred Szebel, Ludwik Pieczara and Zdzislaw Wagrowski. Good luck gentlemen!

Representing Polonus at PRAGA 1968 will be member Joseph Janecka of Riverside, Ill. Mr. Janecka will attend with his wife Irma and they also plan on visiting Vienna and Cracow.

#### LAST CALL FOR 1968 DUES

If you have overlooked paying your dues, please send \$2.50 immediately to our Treasurer, Stanley Dobrzycki, 1935 N. Tripp Ave., Chicago 60639.

## POLONUS MAKES BOJANOWICZ AN HONORARY MEMBER

Mirosław A. Bojanowicz, our well-known London member, winner of the grand award at POLSKA 60, owner of one of the largest collections of Poland No. Ones, the author of many articles on this subject — has been elevated to the rank of Honorary Member of the Polonus Philatelic Society for his outstanding work in promoting Polish philately. (An excellent article written by Myron Steczynski, describing Mr. Bojanowicz's achievements, appeared in **Polonus Bulletin** Issue No. 189 of April, 1961.)



## BUFFALO SOCIETY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo, N.Y. elected the following officers as their new administration: K. Wloch, President; Walter A. Kalist, Vice President; Z. Ordon, Secretary; and S. Bialik, Treasurer.

Their meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 6 p.m. at Adam Mickiewicz Hall, 612 Filmore Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

## BULLETIN AD RATES

At the June 9th, 1967 meeting, it was voted on and passed that advertising in the **Polonus Bulletin** be made available to non-members of Polonus.

### Rates for Non-Members

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| Full Page .....   | \$15.00 |
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## BOSTON SOCIETY'S NEW ADMINISTRATION

At the March elections the Polish Philatelic Society of Boston, Mass. selected: Frank Budryk, President; Edward Platek, Vice President; Louis Bakula, Rec. Sec'y; Stanley Bykowski, Fin. Sec'y; Karol Jaskolski, Publicity Director; Witold Falewicz, Activities Chairman; Stanley Bykowski, Editor.

The Boston Society will celebrate its 15th Anniversary in September of this year.

## A.T.A. USES POLAND STAMPS ON SOUVENIR SHEETS

In 1966 the American Topical Association used the first Garden Flower stamps set of Poland on their souvenir sheet issued in connection with their exhibition of flower and nature stamps at the World Flower and Garden Show.

This year the second series of Poland's Garden Flower stamps was used for their exhibit at this year's flower show held in Chicago, March 23-31.

## BRODOWSKI'S KOSCIUSZKO ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN LINN'S

Member Jozef L. Brodowski of Brooklyn, N.Y., wrote an extensive article, "Kosciuszko, Tireless Warrior For 'Our And Your' Freedom", which was published in **Linn's Weekly Stamp News** in their editions of April 15, 22 and 29, 1968. The article contains a wealth of historical information on this American and Polish patriot and is tied in with the stamp issues of Poland and the United States which honored him.

## INDIA TO ISSUE CURIE STAMP

The Indian Post announced that it would issue a commemorative this year honoring the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Madame Sklodowska-Curie.

# HANDBOOK OF UPPER SILESIA

by DR. M. A. RAYALL DE RAGAN

Edited by D. R. A. Meinung, Jr.

## An Historical Outline

### SILESIA

Upper Silesia, the territory to be dealt with in this study, is a part of Silesia, a former country which now forms the southwest portion of Poland.

From the earliest days of the Polish State, Silesian areas have formed an integral part. Its inhabitants, Slavic in origin, are known as Silesians and are related ethnographically to the nearby Serbs of Lugiens to the west, the Czechs and Moravians to the south and the Vistulians of Cracow to the east.

Due to the area's geographical position at the westernmost end of Poland, Silesia has been the object of constant and bitter contention between the Poles and the eastward expanding German population.

During the XIth Century A.D., the testament of the Polish King, Boleslav the Crookmouthed, left Silesia to his son, Vladislav II, whose wife was the daughter of the German Emperor. This naturally encouraged the immigration of great numbers of Germans into the territory. The consequent increased Germanization of Silesia was resisted by the Slavic population, as can be seen by such events as Dogs Field at Wroclaw, the defense of Glogov and the battle of Legnitsa.

Many of the more highly educated Silesian Princes, such as, Harry the Bearded, his son Harry the Devout, Harry IV the Probus and Harry the Prince of Svidnitsa, saw dangers in this Germanization and endeavored to strengthen cultural ties with the edu-

cational and religious centers of Poznan and Cracow, but the Tartars invasions quickly put an end to their plans.

Some decades later, Harry the Devout's grandson, Harry IV the Probus took up the cause of his grandfather but could find little support among either the other Silesian Princes, who had become strongly Germanized by marriages to daughters of German rulers or leaders, nor among the Polish Princes, who were busy fighting among themselves.

Similar efforts were later repeated with more success by Przemyslav II, Prince of the House of Piast, from Wielkopolska (Great Poland), who in about 1290 was able to unite most of the Silesian provinces and bind them closely to Wielkopolska. In 1295 he obtained the crown of all Poland but, unfortunately, was soon killed by emissaries of the Graf of Brandenburg, who feared the growing power of the Polish King.

The final major attempt to unite Silesia during this period was made by King Wacław II and his son Wacław III, Kings of Czechoslovakia, Moravia and Poland but these efforts were also ended by their tragic deaths.

Further attempts to unite Silesia and to merge it with Poland met with increasing difficulties, caused partially by the gradual dying off of the Silesian Princes who ruled the various Silesian territories and who were by now related to German families, such as, the large dynastic Houses of Luxem-

burg, Wittelsbach, Hapsburg or Hohenzollern.

The last of the House of Piast, Prince George Wilhelm, Prince of Lignitsa, Brzeg and Wolow, paid with his life for the last attempt to unite Silesia, as late as the beginning of the XVIIth Century, in 1675.

In spite of this political climate, Silesia surrendered to Prussian rule only after the Prussian - Austrian war of 1740.

The importance which Prussia placed on this territory is shown by the decree issued by the King of Prussia in 1767 forbidding the use of the Polish language in businesses, schools, churches, and even in private contracts. This action had little actual results as can be seen by later facts, such as, in 1867, a full hundred years later, the officials of the Prussian Administration were required to learn the Polish language as a compulsory subject, as shown by a manual and handbook of the Polish language for use of officials in the Regency of Oppeln (Opole) which was edited and printed in Breslau (Wroclaw) in 1867.

The general census of 1910 in Germany showed a very high percentage of Poles in certain areas, such as, from about 45% in the districts of Ratibor (Raciborz), Kreuzburg (Kluczborek), and Neustadt (Prudnik), to over 75% in the districts of Oppeln (Opole), Rybnik, Gross Strehlitz (Strzelce), Rosenberg (Olesno) and others.

## GENESIS OF THE PLEBISCITE TERRITORY OF UPPER SILESIA

Upper Silesia is a region consisting of over 11,000 square kilometers, more than 7000 square miles, rich in vast areas of coal, deposits of iron, copper, zinc, lead and other ores, and

also of great importance as a manufacturing district.

After World War I the Republic of Poland was established and both Germany and Poland claimed the Upper Silesian territory as their own.

The original decision reached by the Council of Ambassadors for the Peace Treaty on March 15, 1919 stated:

- that the western part of Upper Silesia, the so-called Opoleans Regency, including the districts of Neisse, Falkenbourg, Grottkau and the western section of the district of Neustadt was to remain part of Germany.
- that the southern part of Upper Silesia and the western part of the district of Leobschutz (Głubczyce), the so-called Opawean Region would become part of Czechoslovakia.
- that the remainder, the so-called Hulthinean Region (the later plebiscite territory), should be granted without plebiscite to Poland except for a small southern portion of the Ratibor district which would go to Czechoslovakia.
- (Condition de la Paix of May 6, 1919).

In the presence of opposition by the German delegation, it was decided that a plebiscite be taken in the eastern part of Upper Silesia so that the confused 2,100,000 plus population of the district would be permitted to decide whether they wished to remain subjects of Germany or to join the new Republic of Poland.

The lower and central sections of the area were made up primarily of Germans (33.3% of the total population) while the rural districts of Upper Silesia were made up mostly of Poles (64.5%) and a small percentage of

other nationalities; Czechs, Jews, Slavs, Moravian, etc. (2.2%).

The German and Jewish citizens, who were inclined toward Germany, carried on the function of the towns and cities, while the Poles handled the mining and the agricultural activities.

At the Peace Treaty conferences in St. Germain, Trianon and Versailles the beaten Germany received a great deal of political tolerance. Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain and President of the Conference, and other delegates had very little knowledge of the Polish case and several amendments were introduced into the Versailles Treaty which were extremely detrimental to the Polish cause.

One of these amendments was Article 88 of the Peace Treaty establishing the plebiscite for Upper Silesia.

From the very beginning of the Conferences the atmosphere was very unfriendly toward Poland. In fact, the case of Silesia was debated in a climate not only unfriendly but simply inimical. None of the recommendations of the Polish delegation of Ignacy Paderewski and Roman Dmowski were given any serious consideration. Especially since they came from a country where the new government of "Socialist" Pilsudski was considered as enemy by other western governments.

In the execution clause of June 17, 1919 to Paragraph 88 of the Versailles Treaty the names of the three original members of the Plebiscite Commission were given as follows:

General Le Ronde from France

Colonel H. F. Parsival from Britain

General de Marinis Standario de Ricigliano from Italy

Unfortunately, the new Commissioners were completely unfamiliar with the problems of Poland, as well as those of Upper Silesia, the country whose future they were to decide.

Their first problem was to establish order, as the Germans tried repeatedly to intimidate the Poles who, in retaliation, began to perform acts of violence. In short order everything was held and peace reigned for the moment.

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF UPPER SILESIA

The entire territory of Upper Silesia, the so-called Opoleans Regency, was divided into the following four sections by the Versailles Treaty of March 15, 1919:

- The ethnographically German portion of over 2013 square kilometers ceded without plebiscite to Germany including the districts of Neisse, Falkenbourg, Grottkau and the western section of the Neustadt district.
- The ethnographically Czechoslovakian portion of 312 square kilometers was ceded without plebiscite to Czechoslovakia including the southern part of the Leobschutz district, the so-called Opavean Region.
- This area of 10,538 square kilometers was submitted to a plebiscite and ultimately divided between Germany and Poland.
- This area of 368 square kilometers was submitted to a plebiscite and ultimately divided between Germany and Czechoslovakia. The southern portion of the Ratibor district, the so-called Hutshinean Region, was ceded to Czechoslovakia without plebiscite in October 1920.

The plebiscite area of Upper Silesia consisted of the following towns and districts:

| District<br>or Town  | Type of<br>Area* | Area<br>Sq. Km. | Population | %<br>Poles | % Votes<br>for<br>Poland |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Beuthen (town)       | M                | 30              | 70,730     | 37.2       | 25.3                     |
| Beuthen (district)   | M                | 107             | 214,210    | 69.2       | 59.1                     |
| Cosel                | R                | 663             | 81,894     | 59.0       | 25.1                     |
| Gleiwitz (town)      | M                | 56              | 77,097     | 28.3       | 21.1                     |
| Gleiwitz (district)  | M/R              | 851             | 89,994     | 69.0       | 57.5                     |
| Gross Strehlitz      | R                | 892             | 79,932     | 71.7       | 50.7                     |
| Hindenburg (town)    | M                | 44              | 178,995    | 57.9       | 48.9                     |
| Kattowitz (town)     | M                | 42              | 46,974     | 16.4       | 14.6                     |
| Kattowitz (district) | M/R              | 213             | 219,529    | 66.9       | 55.6                     |
| Königshütte (town)   | M                | 32              | 78,736     | 46.7       | 25.3                     |
| Kreuzburg            | R                | 555             | 52,000     | 48.2       | 4.0                      |
| Leobschütz           | R                | 692             | 82,507     | 6.9        | .4                       |
| Lublinitz            | R                | 715             | 51,592     | 74.0       | 47.0                     |
| Namslau (part)       | R                | 48              | 17,650     | 45.8       | 33.9                     |
| Neustadt (part)      | R                | 254             | 51,867     | 77.9       | 11.9                     |
| Oppeln (town)        | M                | 1427            | 46,000     | 16.0       | 5.2                      |
| Oppeln (district)    | R                |                 | 124,220    | 70.5       | 30.5                     |
| Pless                | R                | 1046            | 143,000    | 74.1       | 74.2                     |
| Ratibor (town)       | M                | 544             | 39,000     | 10.1       | 9.0                      |
| Ratibor (district)   | R                |                 | 79,000     | 67.9       | 41.3                     |
| Rosenberg            | R                | 893             | 57,000     | 71.4       | 31.8                     |
| Rybnik               | M/R              | 890             | 159,656    | 74.1       | 65.2                     |
| Tarnowitz            | M/R              | 591             | 87,428     | 67.4       | 61.6                     |
| Total                |                  |                 |            | 64.5       | 48.4                     |

\*R = Rural area

M = Manufacturing district

## The Stamps of Upper Silesia

### PLEBISCITE STAMP FORERUNNERS

Under the direction of the League of Nations, the Inter-Allied Commission arrived in Polish Upper Silesia (Gorný Slask) on February 12, 1920 and quickly organized their governmental and administrative departments, including the area's mail service.

At the time the Commission took over the administration of the plebiscite territory the first stamp issue,

which was ordered and being printed in Paris, was not ready.

During the period from February 12 to February 19, 1920, the current German stamps were valid for postage in the territory. Covers used during this period, with German stamps and postmarks of the Upper Silesian post offices are quite rare and of exceptional interest to specialists of this philatelic area.

(To be continued)

## NEW ISSUES

### Flowers

Two flower exhibitions will be held in Poland in 1968: the International Rose Exhibition in Chorzow and the International Cactus Exhibition in Warsaw. On this occasion the Polish Philatelic Federation is organizing philatelic exhibitions in Katowice and Szczecin devoted to "Flora."

In connection with these events on May 15, 1968 the Polish Post will issue a multicolored set of stamps showing some rare flowers with beautiful, fantastic shapes and odd colors, which can be found in different climatic zones in Europe, South Africa, North America and in many botanical gardens all over the world.

The following flowers will be shown on the eight stamps of this issue: 10 gr. *clianthus dampieri*; 20 gr. *passiflora quadrangularis*; 30 gr. *strelitzia reginae*; 40 gr. *coryphanta vivipara*; 60 gr. *odontonias*; 90 gr. *protea cynaroides*; 4.00+2.00 zł. *abutilon*; and 8.00+4.00 zł. *rosa polyantha* hybr.

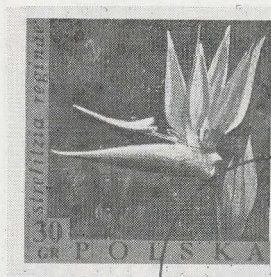
Offset multicolor printed on chalky paper in sheets of 20 stamps by P.W. P.W., Warsaw. Designed by T. Michaluk. Quantities printed:

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10 gr. 6,000,000        | 40 gr. 5,500,000 |
| 20 gr. 6,000,000        | 60 gr. 5,000,000 |
| 30 gr. 5,500,000        | 90 gr. 3,000,000 |
| 4.00+2.00 zł. 1,100,000 |                  |
| 8.00+4.00 zł. 1,100,000 |                  |

### 11th World Glider Championship Races

On May 29, 1968 the Polish Post will issue a set on the occasion of the 11th World Glider Championship Races that will take place at Leszno, Poland.

\* Glider sports enjoy a great popularity in Poland and Polish glider pilots



have for years been at the world forefront. So far, 168 Polish glider pilots have won gold glider badges with three diamonds out of the 600 that have been awarded, and three Polish pilots — Tadeusz Gora, Pelagia Majewska and Edward Makula — possess the world's highest award of sports aviation, the Lilienthal Medal. These achieved results prove not only the outstanding capacities of Polish glider pilots but also the highest quality of the gliders designed and constructed in Poland which enjoy the deserved fame and are exported to over 20 countries.

The set consists of six stamps showing the most popular models of gliders produced in Poland; 60 gr.—Zefir (ze-phyr); 1.50 zl. — Jaskolka (swallow); 3.40 zl. — Muchy (flies); 4.00 zl. — Foko (seal); 5.50 zl. Pirat (pirate).

Offset multicolor printed on chalky paper in sheets of 20 stamps by P.W. P.W. in Warsaw. Designed by Jerzy Jaworowski.

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## Quantities printed:

|          |           |                    |
|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| 90 gr.   | 4,000,000 |                    |
| 60 gr.   | 5,500,000 |                    |
| 1.50 zl. | 4,000,000 |                    |
|          |           | 3.40 zl. 3,000,000 |
|          |           | 4.00 zl. 2,600,000 |
|          |           | 5.50 zl. 1,200,000 |

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 14, 1968 —

Regular Business Meeting

Friday, June 28, 1968 —

Program Meeting. Speaker or activity to be announced.

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