

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

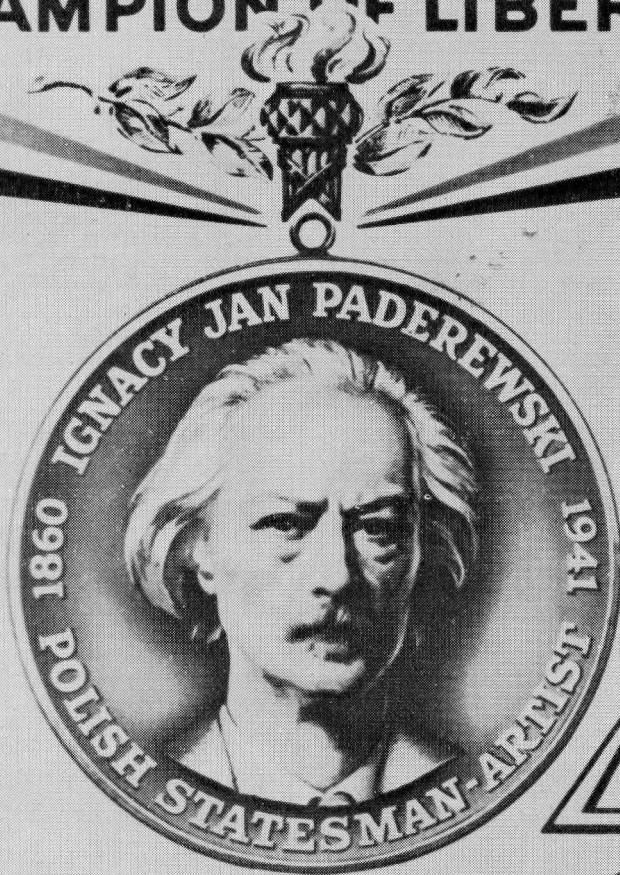


Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 183

September, 1960

CHAMPION OF LIBERTY



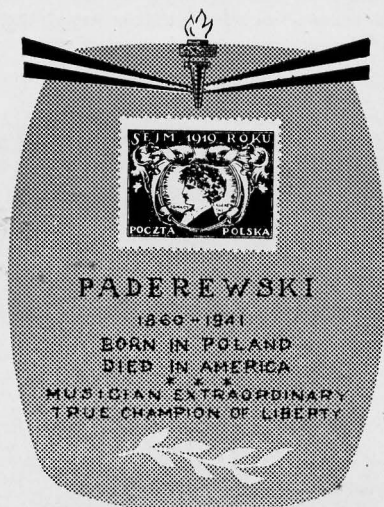
4c

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

OFFICIAL POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI FIRST DAY COVERS

OF THE CHAMPION OF LIBERTY STAMPS TO BE ISSUED
OCTOBER 8th, 1960, AT WASHINGTON D. C.

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Paderewski Stamps To Be Issued On October 8th

A likeness of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, from a painting by Tadeusz Styka based on a photograph by Taylor and Dull of New York, will be featured on the 4 and 8 cent "Champion of Liberty" stamps to be released at Washington, D.C., on October 8, 1960, according to Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

These stamps were initially announced by the Postmaster General on May 2, 1960 — the eve of the day when the people of Poland and million of Americans of Polish ancestry commemorate the adoption of the Polish Constitution of 1791. As Mr. Summerfield noted then, "Poland's Constitution of that date was patterned after our own American Constitution, and is considered one of the outstanding documents of the free world."

The Paderewski "Champion of Liberty" stamps were based on a photograph of a stamp design, a drawing of a medallion and a drawing of a ribbon, spray of leaves and torch, which were furnished by the Post Office Department. The design is in the "Famous American" size, and was based on the 8 cent Magsaysay "Champion of Liberty" stamp of 1957 with modifications.

The 4 cent value will be printed in blue on the Cottrell presses and issued in panes of 70, electric-eye perforated, and the 8 cent denomination will be produced in panes of 72 on the Giori presses in red, blue and ocher, L-type perforated.

Orders have been placed for 120 million of the 4 cent denomination and 40 million of the 8 cent stamp. The wording "Champion of Liberty" appears across the top in dark Gothic lettering, and "United States Postage" across the bottom. The denominations are in the lower right. Surrounding the head of Paderewski is the inscription "Ignacy Jan Paderewski," "1860" and "1941" and "Polish Statesman-Artist."

The U. S. Post Office Department announced that on Saturday, October 8, 1960, on the occasion of the issuing of the 4 and 8 cent "Champion of Liberty" stamps honoring Ignacy Jan Paderewski, and on the 100th anniversary of

his birth, official dedication ceremonies will take place in the Inter-Departmental Auditorium on Constitution Avenue at 2:00 p.m.

Participating in these ceremonies will be representatives of the government, Post Office Department, and members of the Congress and Senate. Among the honored speakers will be Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

The Post Office Dept. has sent out invitations to officers of the larger Polish-American organizations, the clergy and prominent Polish-Americans.

All participants who received an invitation will receive a souvenir program made especially for this occasion. Artists of world fame were invited for the entertainment portion of the ceremonies.

The total seating capacity in the auditorium is 2,000 persons.

POLONUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON

POLONUS members will journey to Washington, D.C. to participate in these ceremonies as well. Postal reply cards were sent to all Chicagoland members to determine who wants to go. Stefan Kochanski undertook the job of arranging Bus transportation. In the event a member has not received a card and would like to go along, please contact Stefan Kochanski, 4030 W. Carroll Ave., Chicago 24, Ill. Tel. KEystone 3-9225. Please do so immediately.

The Bus will leave Chicago on Friday P. M., October 7th, and arrive in Washington Saturday A.M. The Bus will leave Washington Sunday P. M. and arrive back in Chicago Monday A.M. Wives and friends of members are also invited.

Hotel reservations will be made at the Willard Hotel which is within walking distance of the Post Office Auditorium.

Here is an outstanding philatelic event, a once in a lifetime event, and Polonus members have an opportunity to participate in it.

It was decided not to have our annual Picnic this year but to turn our efforts to this trip to Washington, D.C. The Committee assures you of an enjoyable time and a memorable journey.

IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI

By JOSEPH A. BORKOWSKI

Reprinted from STAMPS of Feb. 27, 1960

The year 1960 marks the centennial of Paderewski's birthday. It is not only Americans of Polish descent who will honor his memory, but seekers of freedom and justice all over the civilized world will pause to pay respects to one of the twentieth century's greatest musicians, composers, statesmen and humanitarians. The world of his own time recognized Ignacy Jan Paderewski as an unsurpassed musician and piano recitalist.

He was born on October 6, 1860, in Kurylowka, Podolia, Poland. From an early age he showed musical talent. His basic training was under the direction of great teachers at the Conservatory at Warsaw, then at Berlin, and finally at Vienna, under the still living piano teacher Leschetizky.

Paderewski made his debut in Paris in the year 1888, and it proved in every respect a sensation, a pace which was to continue the rest of his days.

In 1891 he made his appearance in New York City. Although his reception was not as glamorous as on the continent, yet his recital was received with acclaim.

It should be of special interest to note how the critics reacted to his person and his renditions. At the Pittsburgh debut in 1893, a music critic described his personality as a main factor and an essential attribute to his success. While another wrote him, "He is a great Poet of the Pianoforte. All his work seems to be done by his wrists and fingers, which appear slender and delicate. His hair would mark him in any gathering, but were it not for his gold cloud which stands out and makes him a conspicuous object for attention, he could appear to be a slender, rather fragile young man. His favorite musical score was Beethoven's One Hundred Eleventh Sonata."

He was not only basking in the light as the acknowledged master of the piano but also as a composer of classical numbers, which were received by the

musical world as works of a genius. His only opera, "Manru", was well received, and under the direction of the well known conductor Walter Damrosch, the score became part of the Metropolitan repertoire. Paderewski composed about 110 musical scores, each a classic.

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Paderewski and other contemporary Polish leaders like the famous author, Henryk Sienkiewicz, devoted their time, talents and finances towards the relief of Poles stricken by the effects of the war. As the conflict progressed, the Poles all over the world began to scent the possibility of a free and independent Poland. Unfortunately, there was a lack of united effort, and it appeared that a presentation of a solid front was an impossibility on account of numerous factions, each seeking its own way to win Polish independence. Finally Paderewski was prevailed upon to form a committee that would advocate the cause of Polish Freedom.

At an historical meeting of all Polish societies, held under the auspices of the Polish Falcons of America, April 1 to 4, 1917, at Pittsburgh, Pa., the delegates unanimously agreed on leadership. An invitation was extended to Maestro Paderewski, who appeared before the enthusiastic audience on April 2nd, 1917, and pleaded, in part, "to form a Kosciuszko Army of 100,000 men for service under the Stars and Stripes." Paderewski personally made the motion. The formal approval did not come until October 1917, but resulted in the recruiting of 30,000 men in the United States, who fought on French and Polish soils, and played a vital part in the resurrection of the Polish State. Because of this existing army, Paderewski was acknowledged as the Polish Nation's leader and consequently headed the Polish delegation at the signing of the Versailles Treaty, which gave the Polish Nation a new birth. He was Prime Minister of Poland from January 17, 1919 to December 9, 1919.



Paderewski was a most generous man. Because of his constant desire to maintain an anonymous nature of his charitable works, it is rather difficult to trace the number of philanthropies he supported. However, we do know of some of his major contributions, such as a benefit concert in Carnegie Hall to aid the Association of Music School Settlements; a concert to help erect the Washington Arch on Washington Square (1904); \$28,000 donated to the American Legion Fund for Disabled Veterans; and a \$11,853.70 gift to the American Red Cross (1932).

There are numerous other donations and contributions which he readily gave. In all, he donated over \$1,000,000.00.

Paderewski staged a musical comeback in the year 1922. Despite his advanced age and political rebuffs, he was regaining some of his musical greatness, and was enthusiastically received wherever he played. But time waits for no one, and the year 1939 marked the end of his illustrious career and final tour.

While in Pittsburgh for his last concert, he gave to the University of Pittsburgh, on the occasion of the dedication of the Polish Room, the manuscript of his only opera, "Manru", where it reposes today under the spires of the Cathedral of Learning.

In 1939, Paderewski again was called to head the Polish Government when Hitler's forces overran Poland's borders. However, he was not the Paderewski of 1917. While performing one of his beloved functions, appearing before a gathering of Polish Army Veterans at Oak Ridge, N.J., on June 27, 1941, Paderewski became ill, and died in New York on the 29th. He was buried at Arlington Military Cemetery where his remains will repose until they can be transferred and interred in Poland, which can only be when the political atmosphere there is more favorable.

Paderewski was a leader of a nation, and will always remain an inspiration to lovers of freedom and justice.

In June, 1919, on the occasion of the First National Assembly of Poland, the Polish Government showed his portrait



on a 15 gr. brown-red stamp, Scott's No. 134. Thus Poland philatelically honored her statesman, Prime Minister Ignacy Jan Paderewski, who was greatly responsible for her re-creation.

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WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS . . .

By Roman H. Strzelecki

MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 1960

The meeting was called to order by the President at 8:30 p.m. As the previous Secretary resigned and the vacancy had not yet been filled, John Bor was asked by the chair and accepted to act as Secretary for the meeting. Attendance was fair — 20 members and three visitors.

We were honored with a visit by the President of the Czechoslovak stamp club, Mr. Joseph Janecka. He enlightened us with valuable information as he told us of his previous trip to Washington D.C. for the Masaryk "Champion of Liberty" first day ceremonies. "Thanks Joe, you were most helpful."

Jack Domar reported the death of our friend and member Mr. Joseph Scheer, of Canada. Roman Reinowski also announced that Bert Powell was again taken to Jackson Hospital with a severe heart attack.

In connection with the opening of POLSKA 60 in Warsaw, it was decided that a congratulatory cable be sent to Warsaw for the opening day. The President was authorized to send such a cable.

With the First Day Ceremonies only four weeks away we had a long and temperamental discussion on what POLONUS would contribute to the festivities. It was suggested that we put up a special exhibit in the lobby of the hall where the ceremonies will be held at Washington, D.C. After much discussion we decided to arrange an exhibit which would show I. J. Paderewski in philately as well as in cultural and historical aspects. Mr. Burkiewicz agreed to collect all possible material from our members for this exhibit. Mr. Strzelecki agreed to arrange the loan of historical material from the Polish Museum of America (formerly the P.R.C.U. Museum).

It was voted on and officially decided that POLONUS will conduct a tour to Washington, D.C. for the First Day Ceremonies. It was decided on to go by Bus. The capacity of a Bus is 41 persons and this is the amount of persons we need in order to secure a

special low rate. Mr. Kochanski volunteered to make the necessary arrangements.

Then the task of the election of a new Secretary came up. After several nominations and "I declines", Mr. Białobrzski was nominated and elected.

Now a word on the Official Polonus Paderewski First Day Covers:

Since the last issue of the BULLETIN appeared, with the announcement of our First Day Covers, thus far but a few orders have trickled in. Although we were unable to illustrate the cover in the last BULLETIN I am sure that you will find it to your liking. It was designed by Myron Steczynski who designs our Polpex Seals. A high grade rag bond paper was used and two of the three colors are embossed printed.

The covers belong in every Poland collection or United States collection.

As next month is the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, we urge you to publicize this event by using our special envelopes for your regular correspondence, here as well as abroad.

So send us your orders for both serviced first day covers and for blank cacheted envelopes. Prices are shown on second page of this issue.

POLISH SPECIAL POSTMARKS CATALOG — PART FOUR

by J. C. Crimlisk & J. Kwiatkowski

The work of listing Polish special postmarks is taken a stage nearer completion by the publication of Part Four of this catalog. Consisting of pages 43-58, it lists nearly 250 postmarks, and illustrates 79 of them. The period covered by it is the very interesting year preceding the last World War, and the first 18 months of post-war cancellations — of no lesser interest from the historical and philatelic point of view.

One of the European Philatelic series of publications, it is printed by offset litho, and is available at the usual uniform price of 50c postfree, from: J. C. Crimlisk, 9 Victoria Avenue, Filey, Yorkshire, England.

THOSE AUTOGRAPHED PADEREWSKI STAMPS

By ROMAN M. STRZELECKI

The Polonus Philatelic Society at its 1960 POLPEX stamp exhibition was fortunate in being able to show visitors the world famous Ignacy Jan Paderewski block of four (Scott's Poland No. 134), autographed by the well-known pianist.

Much research was made to locate any other possible copies in existence. Recently, only two such copies were known, both here in the states. But an article by this writer in LINN'S WEEKLY of April 25, 1960 brought to light two more copies, making it a total of four known — three in the United States and one in Paris, France.

Several magazines have carried stories about the rare autographed blocks. This article is a recollection of all previously published and appears here in the POLONUS BULLETIN at a time when Ignacy Jan Paderewski will be remembered and honored. For on October 8th, 1960, on the 100th anniversary of his birth, the United States Post Office Department will issue "Champion of Liberty" stamps to honor this famed statesman and artist.

Few single copies of the autographed Paderewski stamps are known. Possibly many more single autographed copies exist and originated at the time Paderewski was the Premier of Poland.

Block No. 1

On one of many occasions when Paderewski visited the Steinway Hall of Pianos on W. 57th St., New York, to choose a grand piano for an important concert, the firm's president Theodore Steinway, approached him with a request of autographing a block of four Poland's stamps with Paderewski's likeness.

Mr. Steinway was then known as an active philatelist, and Paderewski could not deny such a little favor to a friend. Little did he realize at the time that this item would come to be desired by many collectors of Poland stamps as well as topical collectors of music!

Mr. Steinway supposedly asked the virtuoso, after he signed the block with his golden pen, not to autograph any

more such blocks. He wanted this block to become a rarity which he could exhibit at national and international shows claiming it to be the only one ever autographed.

This item remained in his thematic collection "Music in Philately" until the Steinway collection came up for auction. Here another philatelist and great Paderewski admirer purchased the unusual item. Paul Taubman, Music Director of the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) and himself a noted musician and philatelist, acquired the block.

It was through the courtesy of Mr. Taubman that the Polonus Philatelic Society showed it at POLPEX 1960. The block was displayed among many other mementos of the well-known pianist. The exhibition was held at the Polish Roman Catholic Union Museum in Chicago which houses the largest collection of Paderewski's personal belongings in the world.

Block No. 2

Another autographed block of four of the famous Scott's Poland No. 134 had a different story connected with it. The existence of the first block in the Steinway collection was well-known among philatelists in the United States, and another philatelist got an idea that he would get such a block autographed.

Paul W. Savage, a photographer for the Worcester Telegram, was assigned to secure several pictures of Paderewski. This was at the time of Paderewski's last tour when he played at the Mechanics' Hall in Worcester, Mass.

Mr. Savage had with him a block of four but did not succeed in getting an autograph. The great pianist was not in the best of moods. But here Mr. Savage struck a little luck.

A friend of his, Eldon Joubert, who was associated with Paderewski, offered to approach the maestro at a later date. Thus, a few months later, Mr. Joubert secured the autograph — and another such block was born. Mr. Steinway learned of this second block but never complained to Paderewski.

After a few years, the same Paderewski admirer, Mr. Taubman, acquired

this second block at a Harmer auction last December 3rd, so in his desire to promote enthusiasm in the culture of music, he presented one of the two rare blocks to Mayor R. F. Wagner of New York City.

This ceremony took place February 1st in the reception room at the City Hall, and Mayor Wagner in turn presented the block to the High School of Music and Art for permanent display at the school. No better place could be chosen for permanent display of a rare philatelic item dedicated to the memory of the great pianist and "Champion of Liberty", Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Block No. 3

Mr. Ira Seebacher, a prominent philatelist of New York City brought to light memories of yet another autographed block. In a letter to the writer of this article, he wrote:

"Some years ago when Mr. Steinway was showing his collection at the Collectors Club, he pointed out the autographed block and said:

"You know this block was to cause me both great joy and great grief. When I secured mine, the maestro solemnly promised me that he never before signed such a block for anyone and as a favor to me never to sign another. Mine was to be unique. Naturally I was tremendously pleased. Perhaps you can imagine my dismay when some years later I was in Paris, France and a rather shabby little man introduced himself to me and remarked that he had heard of my music collection and would like me to see his. He said that the gem of his collection

was a block of Polish stamps signed by the maestro. I refused to believe it but asked that he produce it. In due course he did and I could hardly describe my chagrin.

"When next I saw the maestro I charged him with this breach of his promise to me. He could see that I was deeply hurt and he seemed truly more sorry than amused as he said: "Theodore, it just proves — never to trust a Pole."'"

Block No. 4

Mr. K. C. Massey of Lambertville, N. J. brought not only one more block to light but also a lot of pleasant memories. He wrote me:

"On Friday evening, February 3rd, 1933, Mr. I. J. Paderewski presented a piano recital in the War Memorial, Trenton, N.J. which I attended. At the conclusion of the concert I had the extremely rare opportunity of personally greeting Mr. Paderewski.

"At this time I made a request for his autograph, on a single and a block of four of Scott's Poland No. 134 which he most courteously agreed to do if I would turn over the album pages to his manager. This I did and approximately ten days thereafter I received them and they are among my prized philatelic possessions."

Thus, we were able to bring the number of the rare blocks to a total of four.

We feel that there are possibly more such autographed stamps after learning of the maestro's saying to Mr. Steinway: "Theodore, it just proves — never trust a Pole."

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IN MEMORIAM

BERT POWELL

It is with profound regret that we inform you of the passing of member Bert Powell. Bert was very popular and active at Polonus, ever since it came into existence. He served on the administration in several offices. Perhaps the greatest work he did for Polonus was in the field of publicity. He had a talent for writing and used it well. His collecting activities were those of a true specialist.

Two months ago Bert received a heart attack and was hospitalized. He returned home and back to his job, and the first day at work he had another attack. This one proved fatal as he died on Aug. 29th in a hospital bed.

Many Chicago members paid their last respects to Bert when they attended his wake on Aug. 31st, and knelt in prayer for the repose of his soul.

Polonus mourns the loss of this charter member and expresses its most heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Powell, his widow.

JOSEPH SCHEER

Polonus lost another enthusiast of Polish philately last month when member Joseph Scheer passed on unexpectedly. Mr. Scheer, a pharmacist by trade, suffered a heart attack during an attempted holdup of the drug store at which he worked on Aug. 13th. He died a few days later.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the surviving family.

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas A. Mackowiak
3530 North Oconto Avenue
Chicago 34, Ill.

Junior Member

Leonard W. Stoga
4556 N. Moody Ave.
Chicago 30, Ill.

APPLICANTS PENDING

Tadeusz Partyka
7970 Stewart Ave.
Montreal 15, Quebec, Canada

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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 —

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

In order to publish this Special Paderewski Issue of the POLONUS BULLETIN, we held back the printing of our usual monthly installment of Thaddeus Gryzewski's lengthy article on "The Polish Post During the Warsaw Uprising." The October issue will carry a double installment of Mr. Gryzewski's article.

"CHAMPION OF LIBERTY" STAMPS

The Champion of Liberty series of stamps was started in 1957 by the United States Post Office Dept. to honor foreign born fighters for freedom.

Stamps issued to date in this series include those honoring Magsaysay, President of the Philippines; Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin, the liberators of South America; Lajos Kossuth, Governor of Hungary; Ernst Reuter, Mayor of Berlin; and T. G. Masaryk, Founder-President of the Czechoslovak Republic.

On October 8th, 1960, when the Paderewski "Champion of Liberty" 4 and 8 cent stamps will be issued, the Polish-American Congress, representing numerous Polish-American organizations, plans to purchase an enormous amount of these stamps.