

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets 2d & 4th Friday of each month at Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Av.

Issue #73

April 1949

The President's Message

The record of the Polonus Philatelic Society during its ten years of existence is such an impressive success in the philatelic world that it will be a full-time job to maintain its eminent standard of leadership. In my humble study of our future, I believe that we can, with the cooperation of the membership conquer still greater heights during the coming year. Perhaps some contemplate that there might not be any other goals to gain, that we should only take console in what we did in the time gone by and just hold possession of that reputation, but an organization can not stay in a static position; if we do not move forward to greater achievements we shall regress, our Society must grow and expand by doing the unusual things. Remember our newest brain-children, the unique way of commemorating Frederic F. Chopin at our last Polpex, and something as a real first, the Court of Honor Exhibition. There will be others in the coming year.

The primary purpose of the Polonus Philatelic Society is to encourage the collecting of stamps of Poland. To accomplish this we must utilize the Society as a meeting place for unselfish undertakings for the common good of its members. There the criticism must be constructive and it must be a place where information concerning Polish philately should be conveyed gratuitously. There should be a continual extended cooperation to catalogs and magazines so that proper information is given to collectors of Polish stamps.

The spontaneous volunteering of members for various committee posts and the cooperation that was displayed at the Polpex 1949 has given me great



Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz

hopes and confidence as I take up the duties as your President.

Although our future is unknown, there are many suggestions to make our future secure. Some of these are as follows:

First of all take an active part in the publication of the Bulletin. The Bulletin is the most important vehicle of ours in contacting our members and giving them the information concerning our Society. With the response and zeal that members who volunteered for the chairmanship of Publication and editorship of the Bulletin, I, as President, believe that this zeal will spread throughout the whole membership and all the members will deem it

a privilege to swamp the Publication Committee with material for publication.

Secondly, each member should be instrumental in bringing a friend to each of our meetings, and this will ultimately result in each member obtaining at least one new member for our Society.

Thirdly, the meetings will be shortened and by having much of our business transacted by the Board of Directors.

Fourthly, after each meeting we shall have a program of philatelic instruction. The purpose of this is to attract members and outside collectors to our meetings. To further this program we will use wide publicity not only in the philatelic press but in the general news columns.

This program started at the March 11, 1949, meeting. On that night we had the Grand Award Winner of Polpex 1949 as speaker, who explained his technique of putting together his exhibit; on following meetings each major award winner of our last Polpex will do likewise. Questions from the floor should bring out interesting and instructive additional information from the essayists.

For variety we will give an opportunity to our members and visiting speakers who specialize in other countries outside of Poland to give talks on their stamps, and thus members who are interested in other countries will receive valuable information and all of us some general information.

As your President, I request that if you have any problems, suggestions or ideas in regard to Polonus or philately please contact me and if I cannot help you I will do my utmost to refer you to someone who will.

At this time I wish to state my honest recognition for your reliance and faith in me in electing me to the office of President and I offer assurance to each of you that I shall do whatever is to be done to maintain your confidence in me.

—Dr. Sigismund F. Galaskiewicz

TID BITS

Members Bert Powell and Larry C. Zieler each won First awards with Poland Exhibits at the Ogden Hill Stamp Club exhibit Mar. 19 & 20, 1949. Member John Wendt also exhibited his United States in the Non-competitive Class.

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Member Larry C. Zieler was the Exhibition Chairman and members Jack Domar, Lester Jankowski and Ben Reeves acted as Judges.

* * *

Out of town visitors to our Polpex were: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barth and the baby, Joe Kay and Witold Bentkowski of Detroit, Alex Warot of Hammond and Leo Topolinski and friends from Milwaukee.

* * *

We see member Julius Rikk is one of the directors of the newly formed Philometer Society of Chicago. Who said that we collect only Poland?

* * *

Members V. Domanski, Rev. Piechocki, R. Bartz, and M. Steczynski have been nominated for the Board of Directors of the new Pan-Slavic Philatelic Society.

* * *

A future candidate for membership was born on February 24th, and named Joseph James Galaskiewicz. Weight: 8 lbs. 4 oz. Our president Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz will please see to it that his son receives an application.

RESIGNATIONS

John M. Maciolek, #294
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Myk, Phila. 27, Pa.

NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Malicki, #379
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Hamtramck 12, Mich.
(E. P. P.)

John C. Robak, #380
6074 Comstock St.
Detroit 11, Mich.

(E. P. P., Sou. Sheets, Booklets)

OMITTED FROM MEMBERS LIST

375 ZARKOWSKI, Leo John, 232 E. Front St., Grand Ledge, Mich. (EPP & Russia)

376 ZARZYCKI, Alex M. Jr., 416 W. Grand Ave., Rahway, N. J. (EPP, U.S., France & Colonies)

MEMBERS MART

POLAND, mint, used and on cover, new issues, FDC, Germany, Austria, etc. Everything on approval to members of POLONUS. Conditions and prices guaranteed to satisfy.

WANTED, offers from members in Poland.

Joseph Bieniecki, 2509 East 23rd St., Granite City, Illinois, U. S. A.

Rural Delivery Stamps of the General Government

Scott No. NJ1-4

by V. Rachmanov



On December 1, 1940, the German post office for the General Government issued four red-orange stamps in sheets of 50 with a heading at the top "DEUTSCHE POST OSTEN / POSTGEBUHRENMARKEN / fur die Poststutzpunkte." These stamps were produced in the Government Works in Vienna as of November 1, 1940. They were not postage dues as erroneously given in Scott's Catalog, but their function was to cover charges for carrying mail from the nearest post office or postal station to the residents of rural districts and the other way around from rural districts to the nearest postal station or post office. These outlying communities were furnished the stamps at cost, say at a few groszy per stamp, and their face value was collected and retained by the district for its service. The payment was made by the addressee or by the sender in the rural district.

The rates for outgoing or incoming service were as follows

1. For sending ordinary letters and small packets 10 gr.
2. For registered mail, checks and money orders 20 gr.
3. For packages up to 5 kilogr. 30 gr.
4. For packages over 5 kilogr. 50 gr.
5. For delivery of ordinary letters or for notices of the arrival of registered mail .. 10 gr.

The above payments were taken up by the postal agency (such was the designation of the subordinate rural postal stations) and corresponding rural delivery stamps were affixed us-

ually to the reverse side of the mail and cancelled with ink or indelible pencil. Later some of these postal agencies introduced special rubber stamps set in two lines or in an oval with the Polish designation "POSRE-DNICTWO POCZTOWE" (postal agency) or with the German designation Poststutzpunkt' and the name of the locality.

In actual practice the above services produced very little volume, so these postal agencies were discontinued as of October 1, 1941 and in their stead rural carriers, paid by the postal authorities, delivered mail without further payments.

These stamps are quite rare on original letters and are usually pen cancelled. The philatelic window in Krakow at first sold these stamps unused, but later on provided itself with the oval hand stamps of several small towns which were used to cancel the stamps to order after pasting them on small sheets of paper in complete series.

As mentioned previously Scott's Catalog erroneously refers to these stamps as postage due stamps which is not so in the full sense of the word. Their true designation should be rural delivery stamps, just as there were in Russia the Zemstvo stamps or the stamps of Wenden which were used for the delivery of mail from the nearest postal station to the rural community. Such stamps are always found in conjunction with regular postage stamps of Russia.

Signature Forgeries of S. Mikstein

by J. Gapinski and F. E. Wolosewick

(Reprinted from STAMPS, Feb. 26, 1949)

While pursuing the study of Krakow Issues of Poland with its numerous unofficial reprints, and a multitude of forgeries, the writers were relieved of the technical details of expertization by the presence of S. Mikstein's signature on the back of stamp. To them this signature indicated that the stamp was genuine, and that no further work on their part was necessary. In due course, their faith in S. Mikstein's signature became somewhat shaken. If the Krakow stamps could be forged, why



Figure 2, showing original of S. Mikstein's signature.



Figure 1, showing recut of S. Mikstein's signature.

couldn't Mikstein's signature be forged? This and similar other questions were frequently asked of the writers.

With these thoughts in their minds, the writers began to check and to examine with more than ordinary care all of Krakow stamps bearing S. Mikstein's signature. Their watchfulness was finally rewarded when they came upon a block of nine 80 Heller stamps, in which marked variations existed in the surcharge, and also in the guarantee signature on the back of the

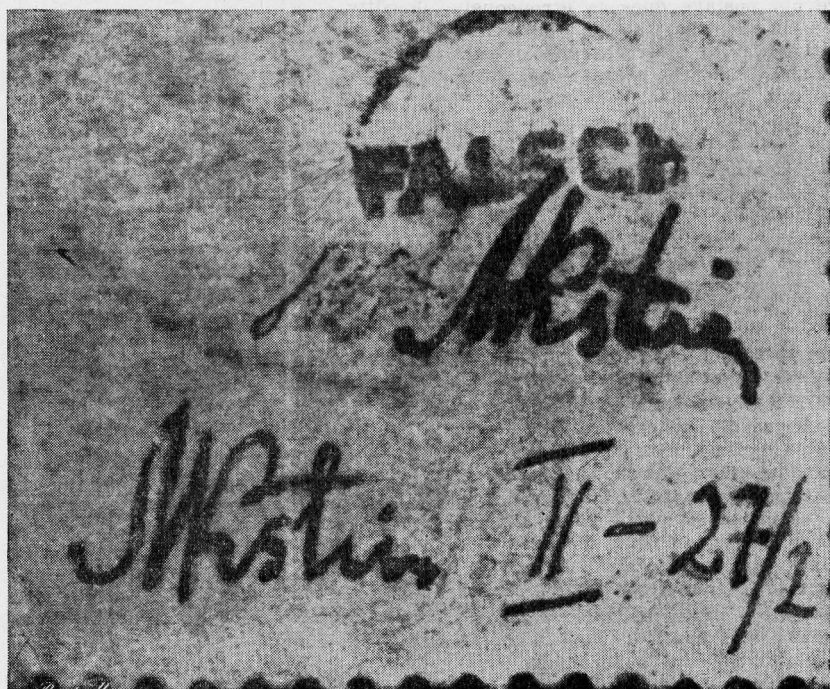


Figure 3, showing the two forged signatures of S. Mikstein

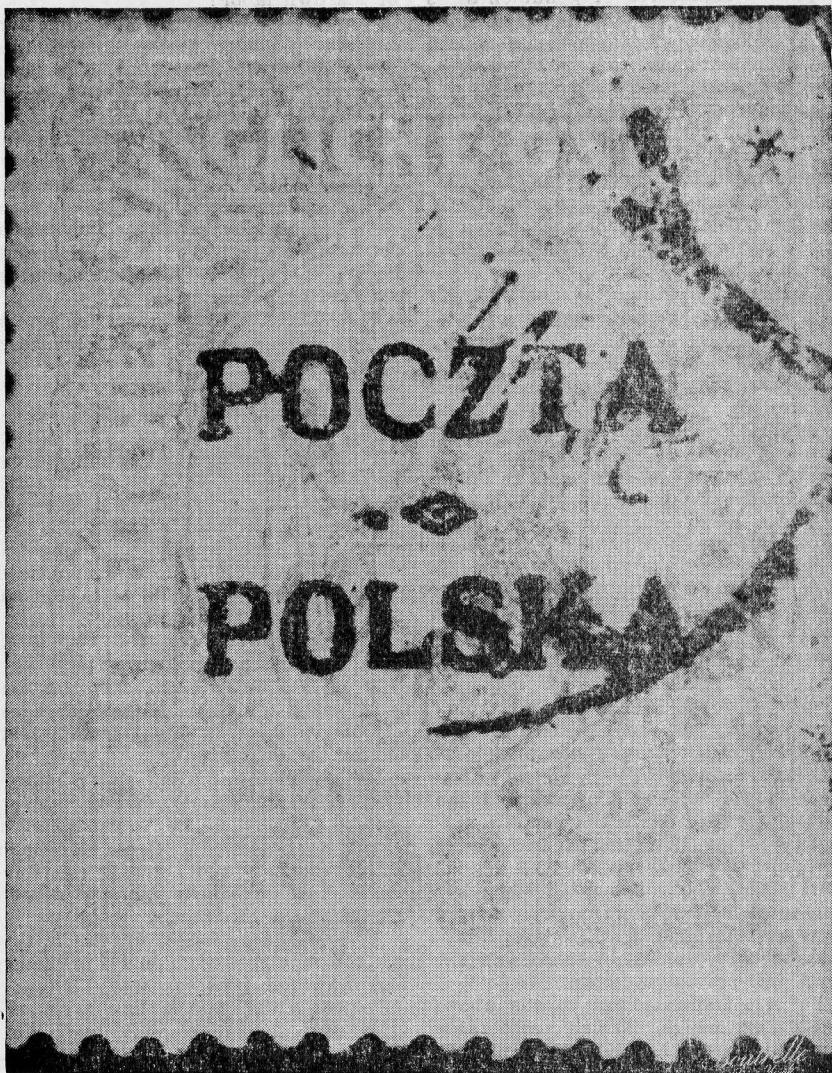


Figure 4, showing the forged surcharge on the 90 Heller stamp.

stamp.

The above block of nine stamps was discussed in considerable detail in STAMPS of February 9, 1946, and also in the Polonus bulletin for May, 1946. Although later findings did not disprove the writers' observations of the surcharge, their conclusions relative to the hand-stamped guarantee on the back of the above block had to be modified in the light of new discoveries.

Figure 1 shows an enlarged view of S. Mikstein's signature as it appeared on the back of the 80 Heller block of stamps. Figure 2 shows a reproduc-

tion of one of the earlier rubber stamped signatures of S. Mikstein. A brief study of the above two figures shows marked differences in the two signatures.

The writers have it upon S. Mikstein's own authority that both rubber-stamped signatures are genuine. The one shown in Figure 1 is simply a recut of the original as shown in Figure 2. The recutting was necessary due to wear and tear of the original.

Figure 3 shows the most unusual arrangement of S. Mikstein's signatures seen to date. In addition to the

supposed signatures of genuineness is the German word, "FALSCH," stamped in red color. In the lower right-hand corner are Roman and Arabic numerals, frequently used by S. Mikstein to indicate the type of setting, and the position of the stamp in the field.

The word "FALSCH" is obvious. It means false, and in this instance applies not only to the surcharge on the reverse side, but likewise to the guarantee signatures on the back of the stamp.

The reverse side of the above stamp is shown in Figure 4, and clearly indicates a very crude type of forgery applied to the 90 Heller stamp.

The 90 Heller value of the Krakow issues is a very scarce philatelic item, in reality a museum piece. Since three hundred copies of the above stamp are known to exist, its very scarcity offers possibilities to the philatelic forgers.

A closer examination of the guarantee signatures indicates them to be handmade, whereas all of S. Mikstein's signatures seen by the writers are rubber stamped. The upper signature appears to have been made first. Inasmuch as this signature differs so radically from the genuine, very little study would be required to show its spurious origin; a second attempt was made to give the forged stamp its genuine character.

The lower left-hand signature is an excellent approach to the genuine signature of S. Mikstein. If the reader will take time to compare this signature with the one shown in Figures 1 and 2, he will notice similarity in the signatures. It is only upon closer study that he will observe differences in the shape of individual letters.

To give more weight to the above signatures, are the Roman and Arabic numerals in the lower right hand corner. This is one of S. Mikstein's practices for indicating the setting or type in which the stamp was issued and its position in the field. In this instance the enterprising gentleman, who manufactured the signatures applied also an incorrect setting or type to the above 90 Heller stamp. This stamp was printed officially in Type I, and reprinted unofficially and privately in Types V, VI, VII, VIII and X.

The presence of Roman numeral II, may have been a flight of imagination on the part of the gentleman, or was that his way of telling the philatelic world that this product was Type II

of his own labor?

Somewhere along the line some honest stamp dealer decided to administer a philatelic knock-out. The "coup de grace" was neatly executed by imprinting the word "FALSCH."

In concluding this article, the following points are reiterated:

(a)—Figures 1 and 2 show the genuine S. Mikstein's signatures found on the Krakow issues only. The signature shown in Figure 2 was apparently used to 1940, while the recut signature was used thereafter.

(b)—The two signatures shown in Figure 3 are clearly forged signatures of S. Mikstein.

PHILATELIC LECTURES AT POLONUS

Philatelic lectures at every second Polonus meeting will be the practice this year. Lester Jankowski, the new Program Chairman, started the ball rolling at the March 11th meeting when he presented Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz with his talk on "Poczta Polska" Overprints on Germania, G. G. W.

This collection won the Grand Award at the last Polpex. "Doc Kozy" told us that he specialized in this material as a result of collecting these original stamps in his Germany collection.

He pointed out that these stamps were not expensive—that two missing stamps for which he searched eight years, he bought for five cents each. These varieties and errors are abundant in dealers' stocks and the dealers are unaware of them.

A floor discussion after the lecture got the membership involved in rotary and flat bed presses. Many listeners emerged from this lecture with the knowledge that there were two printings of these issues and that these printings are distinguished by the distance between the overprint "Poczta Polska" and the first horizontal line.

At the March 25 meeting two speakers, Jack Domar and Ben Reeves spoke on their respective trophy winning exhibits. Jack Domar presented a picture of the history of the Warsaw Locals. This collection won the Best Poland Other Than Grand Award. Ben Reeves presented Postal Uses in Carrying and Delivering Newspapers in France. He had a splendid showing of 19th century newspapers with stamps affixed. This collection won the Best Other Than Poland Award.

NEW ISSUES

by J. J. Domar

It has been reported that a 2 zloty value has been added to the Pres. Bierut issue. Nothing further has arrived.

Let us review the releases of 1948.

	No. Face v. stamps zloty
1. 100th Ann. Spring Uprising 4	140
(Also it appeared on official government greeting cards, 12 var. reported.)	
2. 5th Ann. of Warsaw Upris. 1	15
3. Inter. Czech-Pol. Bike Race 1	15
4. Tour de Polonge 3	24
5. Polish Merchant Marine 3	56
6. Regained Territories (Wroclaw 1948) 4	74
7. Youth Congress 1	15
8. The Rebuilding of Warsaw 1	5+5
9. Torun Philatelic Exhib. 1	15
10. Railway Conference 1	18
11. Pres. Bierut 6	109
12. Congress 1 3	45
13. Congress 11 3	45
14. Anti-Tuber. 4	29+21

Airmail

1. Centaur 6	295
2. Roosevelt 3	300

Souvenir Sheets

1. Polish Culture 1	62+438
2. Roosevelt 1	300+200

So in 1948, 45 stamps and two souvenir sheets were issued having a total face value of 1572+664 zloty or a total of 2236 zloty. At the rate of exchange of 400 zloty for one U. S. dollar it would represent the expenditure of only \$5.50. This is not too bad, if they could be purchased at that price, but recent quotations for the Roosevelt issue alone is \$6.50. This is not a healthy condition and unless extreme caution is exercised by the Postal Administration it may frighten collectors to the point of refusing to collect the stamps of Poland. It doesn't take too much imagination to see what may happen by just investigating the popularity of the stamps of Spain, Portugal, Cuba, Italy and Belgium.... Just a thought....

Now let us see what we can look forward to for 1949. Beside the Postal Trade Union series. The following may be issued:

1. A series honoring Mickiewicz and Pushkin.
2. July 22nd, 5th Anniversary of PKWN.
3. August 1st, 5th Anniversary of Warsaw Uprising.

4. Oct. 9, 75th Anniversary of U.P.U.
5. Oct. 17th, 100th Anniversary of Frederick Chopin.
6. Dec. Anti-Tubercular Seals.
7. Jan. 1, 1950, 90 years of the Polish Stamp.

There is also planned a series showing the plants and animals of Poland, various peasant costumes and historical remnants of the Western Territories. These are to be released annually.

It is not certain that all will appear, in addition others may be added. A meeting is shortly scheduled between a committee representing the Postmaster General and delegates from Polish Philatelic Societies, but none from the philatelic press who probably are better informed as to collectors wants. Whatever program is decided upon must be confirmed by the Postmaster General and will be officially published.

The present plan of the G. P. O. to furnish all new releases first to the members of Polish philatelic Societies, will probably be continued. So for the future members of Societies can be assured of New Issues. This plan however, does not take in consideration the collector who does not wish to join a society nor the collectors of Poland from outside of Poland. Thus, we have the situation mentioned previously of paying \$6.50 for the Roosevelt set. I am sure that a satisfactory solution can be worked out if given some thought.

—Przegląd Filatelistyczny

PULASKI PHILATELIC CLUB

At the annual Pulaski Philatelic Club Exhibit held March 19 and 20 at Detroit, Michigan, the following winners (most of them Polonus members) were announced:

Grand Award—S. Malicki
United States—Class I—F. Staszyn
Poland—Class II

First Prize—S. Malicki

Second—L. Bielecki

Third—A. Pospiech

Foreign—Class III

First—C. Schafer

Second—L. Jeffery

Third—S. Marczewski

Miscellaneous—Class IV

First—Dr. V. Koran

Second—F. Jancowski

Third—W. Kolankowski

Research—Class V

S.P.A. Research Award—C. Schafer

The display of material has improved 50% over previous shows. Competition for the Grand Award was keen. A need of more frames for future shows is apparent.

The Mayor of Hamtramck was so impressed by the exhibit that he asked for the frames to be shown at the Copernicus High School.

A strong interest in stamps by school youth was shown here. One member said the Pulaski Club plans a philatelic promotional affair for school youth under the auspices of the Society of Philatelic Americans, of which the Pulaski Club is a branch. Their first trial will be the St. Hyacinth School, with other Detroit schools to follow.

Polish hospitality in Detroit is good. This was shown at the club's Beebe which was held Saturday night after the show. A hundred people were in attendance. All food and drinks were free. There was accordion entertainment. A donation auction was held, money from which was used to cover the expense. The party lasted till 3 A. M.

THE MAIL BOX

"Just a note to let you know how much I appreciate your sending me the Polonus Bulletin regularly.

"I think it is one of the truly great philatelic study bulletins issued in this country.

Very sincerely yours,
Ernest A. Kehr
Stamp News Editor
N. Y. Herald-Tribune"

We received a fine long letter from member, Robert A. Wilson, who now is located in Pretoria, So. Africa. What we believe will be of interest to our members is this: "I am hoping to get back to the States for a couple of months, probably in mid-summer. If my leave works out, I could probably give a sort of a lecture on Poland today, which might be of interest to some members."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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c/o Western Stamp Collector
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Dr. A. M. Rackus
R. R. 2
Oak Lawn, Ill.
J. Iwanicki
Skrytka Poczowa 106
Warszawa, Poland

COMMITTEES FOR 1949

The following officers were appointed by President Dr. S. F. Galaskiewicz and accepted by the membership for the year 1949:

Publications Committee — Chester Makowski, Chairman; Chester Schafer, Editor; Jack Domar and Myron Steczynski, Associate Editors.

Membership Committee — Chester Mikucki, Jack Domar, and John Wendt.

Experts Committee — Myron Steczynski, Chairman, John Gapinski, F. Wolosowick, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Dr. M. Uznanski, and V. Rachmanov.

Central Federation — S. Kucharz, Chairman, B. Fialkowski and A. Klock.

Legal Adviser — Lester Jankowski.

Inter-Club Activities — Ben Reeves.

Reception Committee — Roman Reinowski.

Program Committee — Lester Jankowski, Chairman, B. Fialkowski, and Jack Domar.

Sales and Auction — Roman Reinowski.

Publicity — J. Rux, Dr. S. Mioduszewski.