

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Lester Jankowski, Editor and Chairman Publications Committee
10 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Ill.

J. J. Domar, Chairman Membership Committee
3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

POLPEX 1944

Polonus is all set for its POLPEX 1944 which promises to be of more vital interest than any of the four preceeding shows. The entire arrangement will be out of the ordinary. A magnificent assembly of selected stamps and covers of Poland will be shown in an historic setting which will make them live and breathe. The Polish Museum where the exhibition, bourse and auction will be held simply overflows with precious relics and historic objects which Poland sent to the New York World's Fair, only to find that this move happily saved them from theft and destruction by the invading Nazis.

Here you will find the winning Gordon-Bennett Balloon and the coveted trophy which were commemorated by stamps 306 and 307. Here is a life-saver from the MS. Pilsudski, shown on stamp 296, and later sunk by the Germans in the North Sea. In wall cases you will see gorgeous color proofs of four of the Sobieski stamp 278, the Washington stamp 267, the Wit Stwosz stamp 277 and others, especially prepared by the Polish Bureau of Engraving from the original plates to show in America. A hundred real, intimate objects of Paderewski, portrayed on stamp 134, are housed in the musician's own room. Copernicus, honored by stamps 192 and 193 also has his special nook. Dozens of other objects are closely tied in with Polish philately—so can you imagine a stamp show more realistic, more vivid, more educational?

The exhibition is a **MUST** for all collectors able to attend. The philate-



telic exhibits will come from all over the country from leading specialists of Poland—all members of Polonus. Each section of the exhibit will show only that phase especially assigned to it; naturally efforts are being made to feature the very best. The entire exhibition will present a complete collection of Poland with the distinct impression that "something new has been added."

(Continued on last page)

Stamped Envelopes of the Kingdom of Poland *

1858-1865

By Stephen G. Rich

Stamped envelopes went into use for both the Warsaw local service and the general postal service, before the appearance of the Lone Adhesive in 1863. The Lone Adhesive and the envelope for the general postal service were officially issued at the same time, as of Jan. 1, 1860; but we have nothing to show use of the adhesive earlier than Feb. 29, 1860 (Stamp Specialist Blue Book p. 143). The two major authorities, Polanski and Rachmanow, speak definitely of use of the envelope in question as beginning at the official date of issue. Rachmanow also quotes an official order of Feb. 3, 1865, which clearly indicates that the stamped envelopes were then still current, and orders their suppression at the same time and in the same way as the Lone Adhesive.

This article is condensed and rewritten from the French edition of Polanski's book and from Rachmanow's book as published in German only. The latter (*Die Postwertzeichen und Postsempel von Polen im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert*, Vienna 1935) is almost a literal translation of Polanski as far as this section is concerned, with a few short additional paragraphs about the then existent copies in various collections. Mr. Rachmanow adds a description and picturing of the imprints of the provisional envelope types as found on postal documents of the period called "Recognicya" in Polish, and which were not known to Count Polanski. No statement made by Polanski is contradicted or changed by Rachmanow; only additional information is provided, filling in details of the story.

1. The Warsaw Use of St. Petersburg Envelopes

The first envelopes used in Warsaw were the Russian envelopes of the 1848-68 issue, which were made for local use in Leningrad, then called St. Petersburg. This issue of envelopes was of the 5 kopecks value only, in blue. Three sizes of envelopes, at least, are known to have been used, in Warsaw. This usage was officially authorized, and began on Jan. 27, 1858.

The 5 kopeck envelopes were sold at 6 k. each. They were good for letters within the city postal limits only. Corner boxes for the deposit of let-

ters and had been set up before the service was started.

This usage began while the postal service in Poland was still under direct Russian control, though administratively partly separated. It was continued when the Polish postal service became separate.

Very few copies of the St. Petersburg envelopes thus used in Warsaw, have survived. We have them showing dates of use both before and after the administrative separation on Sept. 1, 1858, all illustrated by Rachmanow.

The St. Petersburg envelopes used in Warsaw can be recognized without fail and instantly by the cancellations. These are almost always the regular Polish four nested circles with numeral 1, and are accompanied by the Warsaw town mark in all cases reported. *Illustration 1*, from Polanski, shows a typical example. Rachmanow illustrates one example on which only the town mark was used, and that as canceller on the stamp, Feb. 10, 1858. This we should expect, since the numeral cancellers did not go into use until after the postal order establishing the office numbering system on March 27, 1858.

2. The Warsaw Provisionals

The Polish postal administration had become a separate unit on Sep. 1, 1858. The new administration proposed, on Dec. 6, 1858, a service at decreased rates, within Warsaw, with special envelopes. This plan was approved by the Administrative Council and the Russian Imperial Lieutenant in Poland Dec. 9, 1858. The service was established and the envelopes put into use, Jan. 1, 1859.

The proposed rates, and those actually adopted were:

- a. 1½ kopecks for unsealed greeting or visiting cards.
- b. 3 kopecks for sealed letters.

As far as is recorded, this price was in each case charged for the envelope with its impressed stamp.

The envelopes were stamped in red by means of a metal handstamp. This did not include the denomination of value. It was a 31 mm. circle, with the Polish arms in the 1842 form in the center above posthorns inscribed in Russian at the top and at the bottom

in Polish. The wording signifies "Head Post Office Bureau of Accounts." (The term "Bureau of Accounts" is that of the corresponding office of the U. S. Post Office Dept. in 1943). See Illustration 2.

We know of three items in this type.
(1) The sample or essay.

One copy known; carefully struck, on envelope of smooth yellowish velum-type paper, $3\frac{3}{8} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Signed on inside of flap by Kurmanowicz and Konstanski, postal officials.

(2) The "Carte de Visite" or greeting card $1\frac{1}{2}$ kopeck envelope.

About $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, on a thinner, less smooth wove paper. Inside of flap signed by postal officials Kurmanowicz and A. Bobinski.

This envelope is known used Jan. 1, 1859, signed by Kurmanowicz and Konstanski, on a smoother, heavier paper. In all, according to Polanski, between 1000 and 2000 copies of this small size envelope were made. Unused copies are rare, and used copies still rarer. Apparently it was used for only a few months. Copies thus far illustrated in any works or articles show only January or February postmark dates. Flaps with both rounded and angled

corners occur on these envelopes.

(3) The regular 3 kopeck envelope.

About $3\frac{3}{8} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, varying almost $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in either dimension, on the same thin white paper as the preceding item; also on a bluish paper in a few cases. Angled corners on the flap. Used copies are scarcer than unused. Flap signed on inside by Kurmanowicz and A. Bobinski. Known from at least Jan. 23, 1859 (Rich collection) to Oct. 28, 1859 (Polanski).

A used copy of this envelope sold in London at an auction in 1940 for \$15.00.

"Several thousand" copies were issued, according to Polanski.

In all known copies, the stamp on these envelopes is imprinted at the upper right corner, often very poorly struck, and often so close to the edge that a part of it runs off the envelope. The color is a pale red, but not the vermilion of contemporary Polish postmarks.

A second type of provisional envelope was made late in 1859. The Polish arms had been changed in 1858, with the addition of a Russian imperial crown above the shield on the eagle's chest, the addition of the ribbons, and

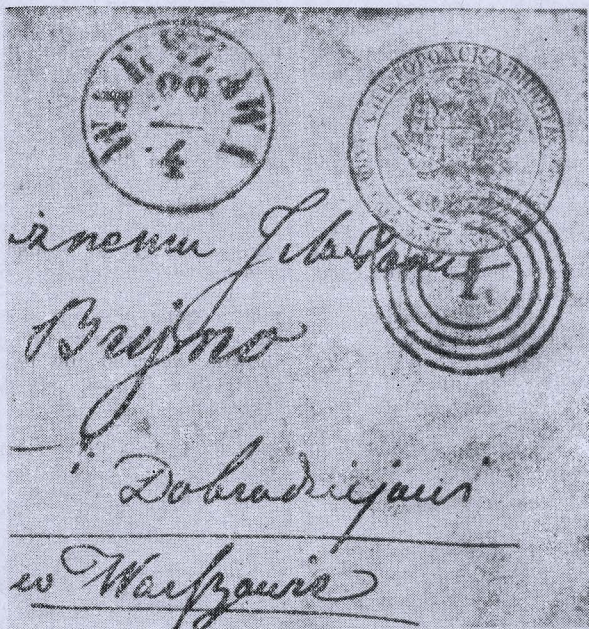


Illustration 1

The St. Petersburg envelopes used in Warsaw can be recognized without fail and instantly by the cancellations. These are almost always the regular Polish four nested circles with numeral 1, and are accompanied by the Warsaw town mark in all cases reported.



Illustration 2

an entire redrawing of the tail and wing feathers. Other details were changed. Accordingly, at some time in 1859, not reported, a new envelope imprinting handstamp was made, with the new arms. The wording of the inscriptions is not changed, but they are now grouped together above the arms, Russian wording above Polish. The posthorns are changed and now occupy the space under the arms, closer to the circle. This is still a 31-mm. circle device, apparently cut in metal as hitherto. See Illustration 3.

The new device was used only on the small 1½k "Carte de Visite" envelopes. The paper, etc. are the same as for the previous envelopes.

Polanski is our authority for the statement that when the Polish stamps were suppressed in 1865, some of these envelopes were still in stock, and were sold to foreign stamp dealers. Hence, unused copies occasionally turn up "at moderate prices." Used copies are definitely real rarities.

Angled corners of the flap, and the same two signatures of Kurmanowicz and A. Bobinski on the inside of the flap as hitherto, are found in this case. Unsigned copies exist.

The second type was reprinted in 1869, on envelopes of two sizes, slightly larger than the "Carte de Visite" size issued. Stamp is at either top left or top right of front; usually well struck, on a smoother paper. Curved-edge flaps, gummed in some cases, characterize these reprints. Only three



Illustration 3

copies in all appear to be known. Rachmanow suspects some of these may be trial printings and of earlier date. Evidence is thus far inconclusive.

3. The "Regular" Issue

Definitive or regular issue envelopes of two values went into use on Jan. 1, 1860. They were a blue 3 kopeck for Warsaw local service, and a black 10 kopeck for general service. This latter was a mate for the 10 kopeck Lone Adhesive, and was sold for 11 kopecks, illustrations 4 and 5.

The design, as with the Lone Adhesive, was an adaptation of that, then current in Russia. Polish arms in place of the Russian, inscription in Polish only on the 3k and in both Polish and Russian on the 10k, enable the stamps to be recognized on sight. Henryk Majera, the same engraver who did the dies for the Lone Adhesive, did those for these envelopes.

As mentioned earlier, both Polanski and Rachmanow, our two best informed writers on Polish philately of this period, definitely agree that the envelopes went into use on Jan. 1, 1860, official date of issue. Used copies with contents or endorsements showing year, should be consulted to verify this—if such material exists any longer.

The stamp was impressed on the flap in the earlier printings, and in



Illustration 4



Illustration 5

the upper left corner of the front on later lots.

The paper used is a plain, unwatermarked wove paper, rather thin, creamy white, with many little brown or dark spots scattered through it. The paper is always either lightly or heavily embossed with an over-all "waffle iron" pattern of squares approximately 10 mm. on a side and separated from each other 5 to 5½ mm in each direction. These measurements vary. The envelopes were cut from the sheets so that the embossed squares are set diagonally at various angles. 50 degrees to right, 40 degrees to left, is quite usual; 70 and 20 degrees form a not unusual combination.

The embossing is often quite faint, and may show on only part of the envelope. Its apparent absence should not cause any suspicion of the item, especially a cut-square that has been through many hands. One immersion in water to remove adherent bits of used hinges, will remove almost every trace of the embossing.

The 3 kopeck envelopes are 3¼x5¼ inches and the 10 kopecks 4¼x5¼ inches. The color of the 3 kopeck stamp runs in various shades of blue, roughly from a medium dark to a clear bright blue. Polanski mentions a "Prussian blue." The 10 kopeck stamp runs from a good clear black down to a gray-black.

The quantities printed are not recorded. Neither were the dates on which printings were made. The dies wore and flattened out slightly as they were used. Hence we get 10 k. envelopes with the stamp as large as 29½ mm. instead of the normal 29 mm; a bump in the border of the 10k stamp; the 3k. with posthorns in color, perhaps due only to clogging with ink, etc.

The 10 kopeck is slightly less scarce than the 3 kopeck, as an entire.

The envelopes with stamp on flap are definitely scarcer than those with it on front. The two envelopes are conspicuously scarcer as used entires than unused. Cut-squares seem to be fairly common, but usually in poor condition, cut irregularly and close. Used cut-squares are not often found, and have definite interest as probably the only way in which we can have any record of certain offices of use.

These two envelopes appear to have been in use when the Polish stamps were suppressed in 1865, and provision for exchange for Russian stamped envelopes was made in the decree of suppression.

4. Counterfeits

The second type or third stamp of the Warsaw provisional envelopes was counterfeited. This is instantly recognizable because it is a clearly done job, printed and not handstamped. It is done in a darker red, apparently about a medium carmine from the description, on watermarked paper. It seems to be known only as a cut-square. Cancellation of a style not known in Polish use was applied, and the Polish eagle on the shield in the center is not shown.

The definitive 3 kopeck blue envelope was fairly cleverly counterfeited, again as a cut-square. This is fuzzily printed, with a greenish tint to the ink, on paper that is too clean and white, without a trace of embossing. An unsymmetrical look of the arms in the center, and small-looking letters in the upper inscription, give this forgery away.

In my judgment, the counterfeits are much scarcer than the genuine envelopes or even than cut-squares of the definitive issue.

5. Market Prices

So few of these Polish envelopes have come on the market in recent years that no more can be done than report what these have sold for. When the Faberge collection of Poland was sold in London in 1940, the prices realized for his many Warsaw Provisionals were clearly affected by the presence of several bidders or their agents, each of whom was determined to acquire as nearly a complete representation of these items as possible. Throughout the Faberge sale, this situation produced a range of prices so high that those dealers who acquired Faberge items have almost always been unable to dispose of them except at a loss.

Fine unused copies seem to be bringing from \$5.00 to \$15.00 each. Fine used copies run from \$15.00 to \$25.00, the latter for the provisional in greeting card size or on blued paper.

Cut-squares run from 50 cents for poor ones up to a top of about \$2.00 for a complete envelope corner with part of flap, in fine condition, used or unused.

Some of these prices may be out of line with known scarcity or any other price factor. However, they are reported as actually having been paid in 1940 through 1942.

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MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Member No. 212. Matthew J. Ossolinski, 57 Stearus Terr., Chicopee, Mass. (Poland)

Member No. 213. Joseph V. X. Lupa, Lt., Whse 4-L Norfolk Army Base, Norfolk, Va. (P, US, France and Portuguese Col.)

Member No. 214. Dr. B. Babowicz, 1217 Parade St., Erie, Pa. (P and US)

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS

Again we present short sketches of the officers of the Polonus Philatelic Society so that you will know them better and in that way know upon whose shoulders rest the responsibilities of carrying Polonus on to new accomplishments and achievements.

Here they are:

PRESIDENT

Myron E. Steczynski, 4154 N. Leclair Avenue, Chicago 41, Illinois.

He is a charter member of the society, specializing in the Stamps of Poland. As Chairman of the Experts Committee he succeeded in effectuating many needed changes in the Poland section of Scott's Catalog. He was Historian and Librarian of the Society for two years, a member of the Board of Directors for one year, Exhibition Director of POLPEX 1942, Vice-president, Chairman of the Membership Committee and Editor of the BULLETIN. He was president of the Society last year.

VICE-PRESIDENT

John S. Bobo, 2025 Webster Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.

He served one term as Secretary of the society. He is popular with the members and interested in his stamps. He specializes in "Tax Pairs." This year he is Exhibition Director of POLPEX 1944 and Publicity Director also.

SECRETARY

J. J. Domar, 3715 S. Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.

He is a charter member of the Society, specializing in the Stamps of Poland. He has exhibited the Stamps

of Poland since 1932 with much success. He was Auction Manager, Vice-president, Chairman of the Membership Committee, President for one year and Co-chairman of POLPEX 1940. He is the "Natzek" of philatelic entertainment fame.

TREASURER

Thaddeus L. Stanczak, 1363 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago 22, Illinois.

He holds office in Polonus for the first time. Never a seeker of the limelight, he has quietly and effectively discharged the duties of the jobs to which he has been assigned. He was Chairman of the Reception Committee and Delegate to the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs. He collects Poland, Vatican City and U. S.

HISTORIAN AND LIBRARIAN

Adam Kloskowski, 2708 N. Harding Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.

He has been Director of Junior Activities since the founding of Polonus. Polonus' splendid and active group of junior members is a tribute to his exceptional ability for patient and constructive effort. He was Exhibition Director of POLPEX 1943 and is now also in charge of sales of Exhibition souvenir sheets.

DIRECTOR

Roman Reinowski, 1939 S. Highland Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.

He is a charter member of Polonus. He served two years as a member of the Board of Directors and now is returned to that office again. He has held the very important committee chairmanship as Sales and Auction Manager. He is Auction Manager for POLPEX 1944 Auction.

DIRECTOR

J. P. Rux, 6136 W. Addison Street, Chicago 34, Illinois.

He served two years as treasurer of the Society demonstrating that efficiency that has made him so much in demand in philatelic circles. His collecting interests are widespread. He is best known for the fact that he has been or is now treasurer of every stamp club of which he has been a member.

STAMPS MAGAZINE

The February 26th, 1944, issue of STAMPS Magazine will be a special Polish issue, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Polish Philatelic Society. It will contain some very interesting material for the collectors of the Stamps of Poland. It is a "must" on your list of purchases for this month, if you are not a subscriber to STAMPS.

This issue of STAMPS will be on sale at POLPEX 1944, and will be available to all collectors interested.

POLPEX 1944 AUCTION

Mail in your bids! Roman Reinowski, Auction Manager, reminds all members to mail in their bids for the POLPEX 1944 Auction, to be held on February 26, 1944, at the Polish Museum, in conjunction with POLPEX 1944. The Auction will begin promptly at 8:30 P.M. and will be held at the Polish Archives and Museum, 984 Milwaukee Avenue.

Mail bids should be addressed to Roman Reinowski, 1939 S. Highland Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.

POLPEX 1944 SOUVENIR SHEETS

POLPEX 1944 Souvenir Sheets are dedicated to Poland's heroic airmen. They are printed in red and blue, come perforated and imperforated and include a descriptive folder detailing the exploits of Poland's Air Armada. Price of the souvenir sheets in sets is fifteen cents a set, two for a quarter and ten cents for each additional set ordered. They may be obtained by writing to Seal Director, Adam Kloskowski, 2708 N. Harding Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.

THIS 'n' THAT

Chicago will be the scene of the 1944 S. P. A. Convention. CHIPEX 1944 will be held in conjunction with the convention. Anthony Russo, president of the Central Federation, is hard at work laying the plans for a successful convention and CHIPEX.

Stanley J. Falcon is the latest of our members to heed the call of our country. He is now a soldier in the Army of the United States!

* * *

Dues for 1944 are now payable.

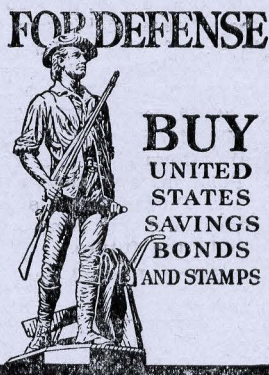
Please mail your checks to Thaddeus L. Stanczak, 1363 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago 22, Illinois.

You can become a life member of Polonus by mailing the sum of \$25.00 to J. J. Domar, Secretary, 3715 S. Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.

* * *

Be a Patron or Goodfellow on the occasion of POLPEX 1944. Send your name and a dollar for Patron or a quarter for a Goodfellow to the Secretary. Do it now. It would really be nice to have a large list of patrons and good fellows for our fifth anniversary show.

Snapshots? Yes, the Secretary is still asking for them. If you have not sent yours in, will you do so now. Please.



Polpex 1944

(Continued from first page)

John S. Bobo, the newly elected Vice-president of Polonus, is Exhibition Director and to him go the worries and honors of POLPEX 1944. He is preparing an entertaining program for the opening night on Friday February 25, 1944, and a big auction of the Stamps of Poland on Saturday, February 26. The exhibition will continue Sunday afternoon and evening, February 27th. The Polish Archives and Museum is located at 94 Milwaukee Avenue, corner Augusta Blvd.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By Herman Herst, Jr.

116 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.

The challenge made some weeks ago to Polonus regarding some queries on Polish stamps did not fall on deaf ears, we are happy to note. Detailed information on the stamps in question has been sent in by Mr. Jack Domar, of Chicago, president of Polonus, which is without a doubt the leading society in the world dedicated to the study of the stamps of a single country. If the reader who sent in the questions will write the conductor of this column, with a stamped and addressed envelope, Mr. Domar's letter with all the desired information, and a lot more, will gladly be sent him. For those of the other readers who are interested, it may be said that the large green and yellow stamp referred to is one of the Warsaw locals, designed to provide local postal service to the citizens of Warsaw during the collapse of the ordinary civil postal services during the period of 1915-1918. The letters K O M W referred to stand for KOMITET OBYWATELSKI, MIASTA WARSAWY, or "Municipal Council of Warsaw." Thanks, Polonus, and thanks especially to Mr. Domar for his help in this instance and his kind offer to be of help in the future.

(Chambers Stamp Journal, Jan. 4, 1943)

REPORT of AUDITING COMMITTEE

Receipts

Dues	\$241.50
Frame Rental	5.00
Stamp Sales	2.00
POLPEX 1943	182.10
Poland Flag Covers	110.03
Total	\$540.63
Balance, last audit	99.74
Total receipts	\$640.37

Disbursements

BULLETIN	\$175.00
Frames	68.50
Rent	51.00
Poland Flag Covers	45.71
Postage	36.24
Stationery and printing	27.00
Parties	17.72
Charter Fee	1.00
Societies' dues	4.00
Frame pledge refunds	9.59
Handbook	15.00
Household	3.60
Miscellaneous	.75
Library	4.50
Juniors	10.00
Total Disbursements	\$469.52

Recapitulation

Total Receipts	\$640.37
Total Disbursements	469.52

Cash on hand \$170.85

Dated, February 6, 1944

(signed) Adam Kloskowski,
Chairman Auditing Committee

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

Members in the Armed Forces. Send your address to the Publications Committee. Your BULLETIN will be mailed to you by first class mail!