

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Annex,
5800 W. Diversey Avenue, Chicago, IL

ISSUE NO. 453

Price: \$2.00

May-June, 1992

POLSKA 93 WORLD EXHIBITION IN POLAND

POLSKA 93, the International Stamp Exhibition in Poznan, Poland will definitely take place May 7-16, 1993 under the capable chairmanship of L. Malendowicz. Twenty years ago at POLSKA 73, many Polonus members participated and had a memorable, wonderful time. Many friendships were formed at that time and continued until today. Because of Martial Law in Poland during the eighties, no exhibition took place. In 1990 Poland partially shook off Russian domination and still struggles with the Communist legacy.



Poland stamp issued for POLSKA 93

POLSKA 93 honors the 100th anniversary of the Polish Organized Philatelic Movement and is being held under the patronage of the F.I.P.

The head of the organizing committee, Andrzej M. Wilk, expressed the hope that it will become an excellent forum for the exchange of thoughts and knowledge, an opportunity for cross-cultural encounters and for defining the most valuable aspects of these cultures. He invites all who hold the ideals of cooperation and interpersonal relations dear, and who are interested in a mutually profitable exchange of universal, cultural values to Poland, to come to Poznan in May, 1993.

As we did in 1973, we are planning an excursion to Poland in May, of 1993. If any Polonus members or friends would like to join us, please write or call: Fred Szebel, 1615 E. Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005— phone: 708-437-1601. When more information is available you will be notified. Details on exhibiting, commissioners, etc., will be announced.

Czeslaw Slania visits Polonus

Polonus members were honored at their May 22nd meeting with the attendance of world famous stamp engraver, Czeslaw Slania. It was the meeting at which we elected the new officers for 1992-93. No sooner than the election was over in walked Mr. Slania escorted by Karol Karolak of the Stamp Venturers printing firm. Both happened to be in town for the World Columbian STAMP EXPO 92 being held at O'Hare Expo Center.

President Strzelecki promptly introduced the celebrity who took the floor and spoke. At age 72 Czeslaw Slania has no plans for retiring. He told us of his present stamp project — the eighth anniversary issue for the late Princess Grace of Monaco. He is full of vigor and was sincerely pleased to meet with Polonus friends in their own surroundings.

Polonus honored him by giving him our 50th anniversary medal mounted in a wooden walnut desk accessory. The presentation was made by Polonus Bulletin editor, Chester Schafer, one of the oldest members in attendance. After the meeting we were treated to some delicious "paczki."



At the election held previously, the following were elected: Roman Strzelecki, president; Ted Sokolowski, vice president; Teresa Poniecki-Lederer, secretary; Stefan Czarniecki, treasurer; Ted Kwiecinski, librarian; Stanley Dobrzycki, Chester Schafer and Al Rybarski, directors. Our member from Canada, John Rudnicki, acted as Election Chairman.



POLAND 1939-1949

(A WORLD'S JOURNEY FOR ITS PEOPLE)

By THOMAS J. GOBBY

When one says that "I collect Poland," it can mean many things. It can be stamps, mint or used—or both, stampless covers of different areas and periods, postal history, and on and on. But in all of these specialties there tends to be a common denominator, stamp or geographic area that says that this collection is distinctly Polish. With other collections that may not be so.

Let me illustrate. World War II was a horrible event about which virtually everyone knows something. This war caused great suffering and its consequences reached out to touch, in some way, every nation on every continent. And perhaps no nation was touched nor suffered so much as Poland. Its people, like straws in the wind, were scattered across the planet Earth. It is possible to form collections around these events. Such a collection would be made up of covers and postcards.

To put together such a collection will require dedicated persistence, and some knowledge of what to look for. Knowing history is more than just a little bit helpful. It's a requisite. A working familiarity with other languages is most useful.

Let's begin. With the German invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939 and the Soviet invasion on Sept. 17, 1939 things changed forever. Germany and the Soviet Union divided and occupied Poland between themselves. In the German area there are provisional cancellations of the late 1939 period. After annexing western Poland into the Reich, what was left was designated as the General Government, and this presents quite a challenge for the postal historian.

The eastern area of the Soviet occupation is another collecting challenge. After the German invasions of the USSR in June, 1941, the Galician area was annexed into the General Government.

A real collecting challenge is the assembly of a collection of material from the internment camps for Poles which were located in the following countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The most difficult of the camps are those of the USSR. In Switzerland the internees issued at least two different stamp labels and a like number of postcards.

Prisoner of war mail is another area that could occupy the collector. Such camps housing Polish prisoners were located in Poland, Germany, France and Norway.

An interesting adjunct to the regular POW mail are the stamp issues from POW camps at Woldenberg, Murnau and Gross-Born. These have been accorded catalog status and are eagerly sought by collectors.

Though defeated in Poland, the Polish Forces continued to fight on. The Polish Army in France left a postal record of their stay and battles.

There were Polish Forces in Great Britain, Canada, Palestine, North Africa, Scotland and Italy. They landed at D-Day and fought in Belgium, France, Holland and Germany. Special Fieldpost cancellations identify

these military units.

There is a sad note in the next category, that of the German concentration camps. Poles were rounded up and placed in camps such as: Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Dachau, Flossenbürg, Lebrechtshof, Gross-Rosen, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen and Stutthof. Mauthausen, Gusen, Plaszów, and Majdanek round out the list. A grisly record of mail, unlike most of the original inmates, survives.

Forced labor camps became the permanent home for many Poles during the war years. Though fatality rates were lower than those in concentration camps, many perished nevertheless. A large number of such camps were actually subcamps of concentration camps.

Mail to and from most of the forced labor camps is much more elusive than that of the concentration camps. It would be an accomplishment of the highest magnitude to put together a "complete" collection of such material. Most of these camps were located in Germany, followed by those in Poland. There were a number in France also.

When thousands of Poles were released from the Soviet Union, most of the able bodied men joined the Polish Forces. Their wives, children, orphans, and older people were resettled. Some settled in Palestine, while others were sent to other continents. India held some while others went to several countries in British East Africa. In New Zealand there was a children's camp, and in Leon (Colony of Santa Rosa), Mexico, about 1500 Poles settled. Such refugee camps existed until the late 1940's. Evidence of these settlements is verified by postal documents which still survive.

Lesser known were the more permanent settlements of Poles in Asia. One was located in Harbin, Manchuria. The other, which also housed nearly 18,000 Jews (many of them from Poland) was located in Shanghai, China. Both of these, whose Polish populations dated to the early 1900's, saw large influxes of Polish refugees after September, 1939. Mail to and from these Polish colonies survives.

Though World War II ended in 1945, it did not stop its effects and collecting possibilities. Tens of thousands of displaced persons had to be tended to, and DP and refugee camps operated for the balance of the decade. There is a wealth of collectible postal material from this period. However, it is very lacking in terms of research and documentation.

The most famous of the DP camps operated in Germany and Austria, under the auspices of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the International Relief Organization (IRO). Other DP camps operated in France, Italy and Great Britain. There is postal evidence of camps in Sweden, Denmark and Norway. It is likely that there were other countries, and this should be confirmed once coordinated research results are published.

So there in a brief overview is a broad terrain of collecting possibilities for Poles around the world, 1939-1949. With some exceptions such as internment camps, German concentration camps, and certain refugee camps, one can put together a decent collection for a moderate capital outlay.

Good hunting and good collecting!

Polonus Float in Polish Constitution Day Parade



The biggest ever annual Polish May 3rd Constitution Day Parade held in Downtown Chicago had among its many floats one from POLONUS. It was sponsored by Romuald and Irene Odrowski of the Polish America Philatelic Center.

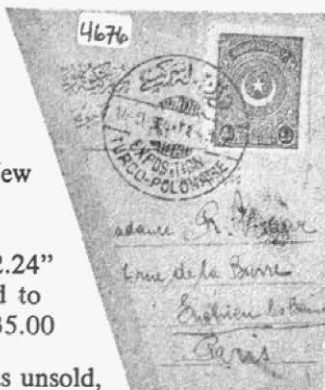
IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Editor:

Belatedly noticed a "POLONICA" item in an auction catalog, the cancellation being of the type I've not seen previously. If it hasn't been recorded, I thought it might be of interest for the Polonus Bulletin.

The item was in the Abraham Siegel (New York) Auction No. 172 on April 9th. Listed under "Turkey" was the following lot:

4676 612, "Exposition Turco-Polonoise 6.12.24"
purple postmark on wrinkled card to
Paris (Photo) Estimate \$35.00



I tried to purchase the item in case it was unsold, but it was knocked-down to a floor bidder for \$47.50 (no additional charges).

Attached is the catalog's illustration of the lot; the quality of the photograph isn't that good, and am not too sure how it would reproduce.

—Chas. E. Cwiakala

Polish POW sports on stamps

By CHRIS KULPINSKI

Just because a person is a prisoner of war does not mean that all activities and interests stop. On the contrary, there is even a keener interest in being occupied. Sport activities in POW camps were most likely even expanded for a two-fold purpose: physical fitness and the very important need for being active. The only limitation to participation was an individual's own physical and athletic abilities.

These athletic endeavors culminated in camp Olympiads at Woldenberg and Gross Born, which in turn, were commemorated on stamps.

In 1942, a special cancel was used in Woldenberg to coincide with a "Sport and Physical Fitness Week," August 9th thru 16th (fig. 1). No stamps were issued at that time to commemorate the festivities, but two years later, on August 13, 1944, the last day of the Camp Olympiad at Woldenberg, a special stamp was issued (JW 38, 17,580 issued), as well as a special cancel.



Figure 1



Figure 3

At the same time, a cachet post card was prepared by the philatelic club showing a leaf crowned figure stretching his hand to the sky. The cachet was available in five colors: black, green, orange, red and blue. The stamp, cancel and cachet postcard are shown in figure 2.

The Olympics at Woldenberg lasted nearly three weeks, July 23 thru August 13, 1944 and they included semi-finals and finals in track and field events as well as basketball, soccer, volleyball, handball and boxing. Medals embossed on thick paper showing a leaf crowned mythical Greek athlete, were presented to the winners (fig. 3).

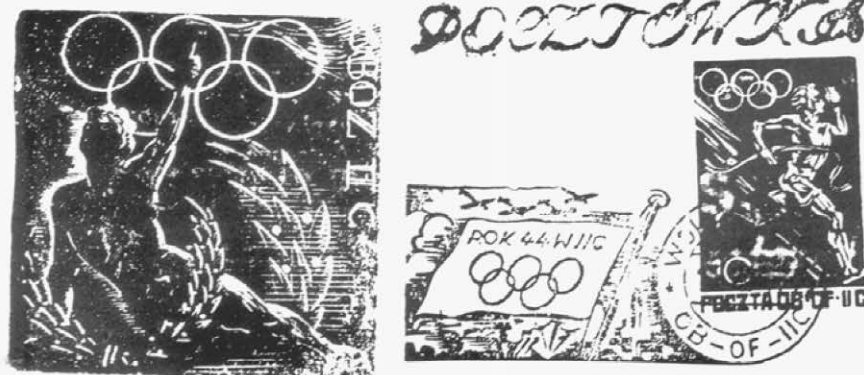


Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5

Gross Born issued three stamps: (JG 12/14, 5137, 5245, 4702 issued, fig. 4) to commemorate their Olympic activities from July 30 thru August 15, 1944. The three stamps were also issued in a souvenir sheet, but in different colors (Block JG 5, 1155 issued, fig. 5). A commemorative cancel was used during the sport celebration (fig. 6), and a postcard was also issued (JG 12, 3025 issued), using the 10 f. red stamp.

Murnau released a stamp (JM 11, 2000 issued, fig. 7) on December 10, 1944 to recognize an important sport at the camp, horse racing! One of the important social events at Murnau was a Sunday morning activity in which horses made of cardboard pieces, advanced at the throw of the dice. It was a very popular "sport" with many cigarettes wagered.



Figure 6



Figure 7

The post offices of the POW Camps issued all of their stamps around either patriotic or camp life events, and sports were only one of the interesting sagas of POW Camp life.

WINNERS' CIRCLE

At the last CHICAGOPEX the following Polonus members exhibited and received awards:

- Dr. J. Kudereicz — a gold medal and Felix Ganz Award for Poland Postal History of the Pre-Stamp Period.
- Fred Szebel — a vermeil medal for 400 Yrs. of the History of Poland.
- Dr. M. Kamienski — a vermeil medal for Krakow Overprints of 1919.
- W. Dziemieniczuk — a silver medal for Danzig 1730-1910.
- Conrad Straub — Silver medal for Poland's First and Second Provisional Issues.

—F. Szebel

"NEW" POSTMARK OF MIŃSK LITEWSKI

"Everything old is new again" — A popular Jazz song

The "57th American Philatelic Congress Book 1991" carries a research paper by the well known Polish philatelic writer, Mr. Janusz Zbigniew Piekut, entitled "Polish Post Offices in Byelorussia and Ukraine, 1919-20", which spotlights one of the very interesting but not very well known areas of the Polish postal history. It was my pleasure and privilege to assist Mr. Piekut with the translation, editing and finding an American publisher for this paper.



Anyone interested in Poland's postal history of that period would be well advised to familiarize himself with Mr. Piekut's paper. Mr. Piekut identifies 20 Polish post offices which operated during the 1919-20 period in Byelorussia and Ukraine. Regret-

ably he was only able to locate and present six different postmarks: five from Mińsk Litewski and one from Kamieniec Podolski. As for the Brześć Litewski - Mińsk Litewski ambulance postmark and Płoskirów postmark, copies of which are in the Wrocław Postal Museum, as Mr. Piekut points out, it is not clear whether they were used postally.

In addition, shortly before the publication of "The Congress Book", I have learned, from a very reliable source, that two additional postmarks, those of Kojdanów and Zasław Miński, are in a collection of a Polonus member. Unfortunately I was unable to obtain their facsimiles.

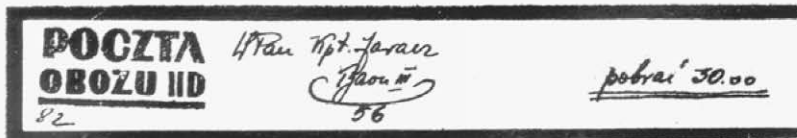
A few weeks ago I was delighted to hear from Mr. Joseph Geraci of Washington, D.C., who sent me a xerox copy of 1.50 markas Polish stamp cancelled with Mińsk Litewski postmark with the code letter *C* and dated 16. VI. 20. Unfortunately, since only a partial impression of the postmark appears on Mr. Geraci's stamp it is, at present, impossible to determine with certainty whether it is "Mińsk Litewski" or "Mińsk Litewski 1" or perhaps "Mińsk Litewski 2" postmark.

While I congratulate Mr. Geraci on this discovery, I would like to suggest that other collectors should take a close look at the 1910-20 stamps in their collections, just in case...

—Ryszard Z. Poddubiuk

Gross-Born 30 mark charge-on-delivery stamp

By STANLEY KRONENBERG



The illustration shows the title page of a stamp catalog of the Polish officers' P.O.W. camps IID and IIE in Gross-Born. This catalog was

made in the camp IID. On its 20 typewritten pages it lists stamps issued in these camps between December 11, 1943 and June 22, 1944. It is beautifully illustrated by means of invalidated original dies and woodcuts. On its second page is the statement that 100 such catalogs were made in four editions. This particular copy, numbered 82, is of the fourth edition (copies 76 through 100).

On the title page of this catalog is imprinted in orange ink a stamp showing a mailman with a posthorn riding a horse. It is cancelled with the camp's postmark dated October 2, 1944.

Off hand one would think that the imprinted stamp is meant to be an ornament made with a woodcut of an unissued stamp but the wrapper which was used to mail this catalog via camp mail tells a different story. On this wrapper next to the address is the note: "pobrać 30.00" = collect 30 (Marks). This was the price of the catalog including its delivery which agrees with the "30" which is the nominal value of the imprinted stamp.

According to the design style and the initial "N" above the "O" of "OFLAG II D" this stamp was probably designed by 2nd lieutenant Romuald Nowicki who also cut in wood its printing die.

From the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain

Following the referendum of its total membership, the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain and the Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain, formally amalgamated on March 15th, 1992 to form the SOCIETY of POLISH PHILATELY (S.P.P.) in Great Britain.

Incorporated into the Society are three previous independent philatelic organizations, namely the Association of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, the Polish Philatelic Society - London and the Polish Philatelists Association in the United Kingdom.

The Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain now becomes the largest European society specializing in Polish philately outside of Poland, and proudly boasts some of the finest philatelists specializing in Polish philately, found in any organization of its kind.

The S.P.P. holds regular monthly meetings at the Polish White Eagle Club, Balham, London SW17.

A NEW SEASON with a very exciting program for 1992/1993 will start on May 17th, 1992.

If you are interested in hearing more about S.P.P., please contact the Secretary of the Society for Polish Philately (S.P.P.) in Great Britain, c/o Dr. K. W. Franzmann, 6 Northstead Road, Tulse Hill, London SW2 3JW England.

Enclosed is a copy of our official Declaration, signed by the representative Officers of the two amalgamating societies, should you wish to publish this with our press release. Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely yours,

W. Z. J. Nowicki
Press Relations Officer

4.4.1992



SOCIETY for POLISH PHILATELY
in Great Britain
1992

DECLARATION

We the undersigned being the representative officers of the Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain and the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain and following the referendum of our membership do declare that the Union of Polish Philatelists (U.P.S., 1958) and the Polish Philatelic Federation (P.P.F., 1984) have amalgamated to form the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain.

The new Society does also incorporate its predecessor and affiliate organisations, namely: the Association of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain (1943); the Polish Philatelic Society (London, 1952) and the Polish Philatelists Association in the United Kingdom (1979).



J. Korzeniowski

J. KORZENIOWSKI

K.W. Franzmann

K.W. FRANZMANN

R.J. Konowicz

R.J. KONOWICZ

L. Skarbiński

L. SKARBIŃSKI



J. Szkudłapski

J. SZKUDŁAPSKI

A. Wilowski

A. WILOWSKI

Z. Kopel

Z. KOPEL

Z. Stefanski

Z. STEFANSKI

London

15th March 1992

Incorporating:

Association of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain	1943	A.P.P.
Polish Philatelic Society - London, Great Britain	1953	P.P.S.
Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain	1958	U.P.P.
Polish Philatelists Association, United Kingdom	1979	P.P.A.
Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain	1984	P.P.F.

WESTERN UKRAINE STUDY GROUP

A new Study Group is being formed in the Ukraine Philatelic and Numismatic Society by our Polonus member, Peter Bylen. They will explore various facets of Western Ukraine: stampless period, overprinted Ukrainized issues, occupational issues, Polish-Ukraine war postal history, Polish-Soviet war postal history, Polish administration and General Government. Among their projects is the publication of their findings through philatelic outlets. Please direct all inquiries to: Peter Bylen, P.O. Box 7193, Westchester, Illinois 60154-5601.

IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to member Ron Wolosewick on the loss of his mother, Olga, wife of our Honorary Member, the late Frank Wolosewick.

PZF NEW ADDRESS

Please note the new address of of the national board of the Polish Philatelic Union:

Polski Związek Filatelistów
Zarząd Główny
Al. 3 Maja 12
00-391 Warszawa, Poland
Phone: (+48 22) 625 20 52

NEW MEMBERS

Sherwin Podolsky, #1425
16035 Tupper
North Hills, CA 91343
Kazuaki Sasai, #1426
1-60 Hoshizaki, Minami-Ku
Nayoya, Japan 457
Adam Gigiel, #1427
9212 Susy Lane
Schiller Park, IL 60175
William Jones, #1428
207 Main Street, Box 152
Rocklan, WI 54653
Michal Walega, #1429
2439 West Rice St.
Chicago, IL 60622



Newly elected librarian, Ted Kwiecinski, poses by Polonus files of bulletins, seals, souvenir cards and covers. issued by the society for over fifty some years.

-WANTED-

- POLISH & POLISH RELATED COVERS:
POW - Camps - Any War, including Solidarity -
Military - Warsaw Uprising - General Gouvernment -
Concentration Camps - Censorships -
Picture Postcards, etc.
 - Particular interest on Covers, with the names of:
Kępiński, Dreger, Wilgocki, Żegołowska, Major Józef
Kępiński, Commander of an Infantry Division,
Military Paper Money.
-

Machines, Systems,
Automation, Safety Checking,
Consultation, Evaluations,
Proposal Engineering,
Previous OSHA Experience,
Food Depository,
Escapements, etc.

KEP-DRE ASSOCIATES



EUGENE J. DREGER

P.E., C.S.P., U.S.N. Retired

P.O. BOX 27050

LAS VEGAS, NV 89126-1050

United States of America

Unissued Polish General Korczynski stamp and forgery

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

In 1989 the Polish Government, lead at that time by Jaruzelski, planned to issue a stamp honoring the general of the Polish Army, Grzegorz Korczynski. This general (1916-1971) distinguished himself in 1970 in Gdansk by ordering soldiers to fire at unarmed protesting workers. Being the vice minister of Poland's security after World War II, he was also responsible for many other bloody misdeeds. He committed suicide in 1971 while being Poland's ambassador in Algeria.



Before this stamp was finished, the Polish Government had changed and thus the Korczynski stamp was never issued. Most of the already printed stamps were destroyed by the Polish Government but some found their way to collectors.

Being desirable philatelic objects, these unissued stamps were recently forged in Poland. These forgeries are very well made; their paper, gum, dimensions, and perforation are the same as in the originals. Nevertheless they can easily be distinguished; in authentic stamps there are shadings, for example on the right side of the face, which consist of a fine diagonally placed grid. These shading lines are missing in the forgeries.

I thank Joe Bieniecki of Granite City, Illinois and his son, Hank for giving me such a forgery.

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic So-

ciety, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

AT STAMP EXPO 92



Poland had a booth at STAMP EXPO 92 which was operated by their philatelic agency representative Mrs. Konopka and Hank Bieniecki of the stamp firm Bieniecki International Inc., Granite City, IL of the Butterfly Holograms fame.

(Photo: F. Szebel)

THANK YOU!

By way of the Polonus Bulletin I would like express my gratitude

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ROMAN STRZELECKI, President
7006 West 29th Street
Berwyn, IL 60402
A.P.S. Affiliate #119

TED SOKOLOWSKI, Vice-Pres.
8456 N. Olcott Avenue
Niles, IL 60648

TERESA PONIECKI-LEDERER, Sec.
110 West Old Elm
Lake Forest, IL 60045

STEFAN CZARNIECKI, Treasurer
Post Office Box 82
River Grove, IL 60171

TED KWIECINSKI, Librarian

Board of Directors:

STANLEY DOBRZYCKI
CHESTER SCHAFER
AL RYBARSKI

Bulletin Editor:

CHESTER SCHAFER
864 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622

to all of you who helped in making POLPEX 92 a success. Thanks to all the Advertisers in the program catalog; to the Patrons and Well Wishers; to the members who had helped in setting up the exhibition—and especially to out of towners Stanley King and Dr. Conrad Straub who helped take it down. We appreciated the service of you who worked on the various committees, and are deeply indebted to the dealers who were in the bourse.

—Fred Szebel, Polpex Chairman