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POLSKA 73: Poland's Greatest Stamp Exhibition

By DR. MIECZYSLAW A. LIPINSKI

On September 2, 1973 POLSKA 73, which opened August 19th officially closed its doors. Results of the judging were announced the day before the closing.

The Grand Prix in the Court of Honor went to Gunnar Roos of Sweden for his specialized ancient Sweden 1855-1872. In the competitive classes:

The National Grand Prix was given to Stanisław Dolinski of Poland for his Kingdom of Poland 1858-1865.

The International Grand Prix was presented to Aamad Khorchic of Iran for Persia and Iran 1868-1880. Best Copernicus Exhibit was Mieczysław Czernik's "Copernicus and His Time."



Photo taken at U.S. lunar exhibit at POLSKA 73 under the direction of Walter Zachariasiewicz. Left to right: Jan Haniewicz, Alfred Szebel, Mrs. Haniewicz, two ladies and a gentleman from the U.S. Consulate in Poznań, Walenty Poniecki (directly behind them), Napoleon Zbyszewski and W. Zachariasiewicz. Stooping are three U.S. Postal Service girls. In the right half of photo are: U.S. Consul, Mr. Lopatkiewicz with daughter and wife, Joseph Migala, Mrs. and Jerzy Kucharski, and Frank Wolesewick.



Alfred Szebel, official Polonus representative at POLSKA 73, presenting special Polonus album to Dr. Mieczysław Lipiński, the first Polonus member in Poland. Similar albums were presented to Messrs. Witkowski, Laszkiewicz and Kamski.

A total of 1195 exhibits received 17 grand gold, 52 gold, 110 vermeil, 208 silver, 292 gilt, 349 bronze medals and 167 diplomas.

Poles and many of Polish origin from the U.S., Canada, England, and Australia participated in the competitive class and many won medals. Numerous Polonus members were among the visitors.

The exhibits were presented in eleven pavillions. Pavillion #24 showed Copernicus and space research material, the U.S. lunar postal box, the moon rock, and all the designs of the U.S. Copernicus stamp contest organized by the Polish American Congress.

Over 340,000 admission tickets were sold at the exhibition. A set of stamps and souvenir sheet were issued. 10,000 catalogs were printed in five languages.

In connection with the exhibition there were other festivities like the showing of Moniuszko's opera "The Terrible Court"; concerts by the Poznań choirs;

a balloon flight which carried mail; etc.

POLSKA 73 was the best Polish philatelic event in the last 25 years. Proof of this is the fact that organizers of future international shows INTERNABA 74, STOCKHOLMIA 74 and PARIS 75 had sent their representatives to Poznań to study the operations of POLSKA 73.

A VISIT TO POLSKA 73

By Dr. Miet A. Kamiński

The Polish International Stamp Exhibition held in Poznań this summer, was an overwhelming success with record crowds and well over 6000 frames of 16 page exhibits. Her Majesty the Queen of England and Prince Rainier of Monaco had their collections in the Court of Honor. The United States also had an impressive display. My Kraków Overprints and Polish Postal History - 1923, won a silver medal.

I gave a slide illustrated lec-

(Continued on page 316-7)

The perforating process being slower than the printing; this left only the solution, i.e. to accelerate the perforating by increasing the number of sheets to be perforated. This entailed perforating 20 sheets at a time. It should be noted that the same machines when used by the Austrians, only perforated 10 sheets at a time. The increase in speed was essential because of the time lag between printing and perforating and was one of the factors which created special characteristics in relation to the perforation.

The second factor was the equipment in use by Polish Printing Works, viz. old and badly constructed Austrian machines; of this we intend to describe more fully in the next part of our work. It was obvious that the machines could not withstand the burden placed upon them. The resistance of 20 sheets was too great to overcome without some reaction. This in turn created technical complications which was again reflected on the perforation. To describe it we have had to introduce the term, "inconstancy". In our terminology is some sort of movable perforation. It differs from regular and irregular perforations.

Except for regular perforations 11 and 11½, all regular perforations "expanded" downwards and overlapped the neighboring "half". For instance, gauge 13 on certain occasions becoming 12½ and is still a regular perforation. All irregular have movements in two directions — expand downwards and thicken upwards. The most peculiar gauge is 12 to 12½ which expands to 11 and thicken beyond 18 (see fig. No. 2).

These two factors: the speed and the quality of machines — created the characteristic picture of Polish perforations during the Polish Mark Period.

(5) MACHINES

Evidence

We shall attempt to penetrate the shroud of mystery which has so far surrounded these "Old Austrian Machines". It is true that our evidence is limited and at this stage incomplete.

As to proof, that such transfers of machines (from Vienna to Warsaw) took place we present: A.) the document, B.) the declaration of the officials indirectly involved in the event, C.) the statements of two eyewitnesses and D.) the result of our investigation into the Austrian and Polish perforated stamps.

Each of these we shall consider under separate leadings.

A.) We illustrate a photostat copy of two pages (entitled "Polen") of the index to documents of the V.S.P.W., dated 1919 (see fig. No. 10 a & b). The original documents have been destroyed, according to an official statement, during the 1939-1945 war. We give a translation of the important items suitably numbered which, we think, germane to our study.

1. Request of authorization to act in Polish affairs.
2. Request of permit of the State Finance Bureau for export of shoes (to Poland).
6. Transfer of printing of Polish banknotes.
10. Agreement No. 2 about printing Polish banknotes and receiving for that service compensation in coal, petroleum, benzine, potatoes and flour.

Polen

Prof. Hauptkischkoff

1901

Polen

- 23 Frankl. Polenski Wjzka u. d. Haggard Karteifol aus 1 Band 1898
- 24 fünf Petroleum 1875
- 25 Polen. Baukunst 1814
- 26 " Maschinen 1836
- 27 — Buchhdy. Polonische Bere. im Kostenrechnung 1811
- 28 Uebung der Vorkriegs mit — Lte. f. f. f. u. poln. Baukunst 1817

Österreichisches Staatsarchiv
Allgemeines Verwaltungsarchiv
Wien I, Wallnerstraße 6a

Dr. Johann Langer

FIG. 10B

18. Estimate for gummed paper for stamps.
22. Exchange office - asking to send our officials (to Poland) to conclude compensation agreement of goods.
23. Finance Minister Bilinski - transfer of two wagons of potatoes to Bank. (Austrian Emission Bank).
26. See machines.

We have to emphasize two items - No. 18 and 26.

The item No. 18 could be a letter from Polish Authorities. Unfortunately we do not know the reply given by the V.S.P.W. and we do not know of the existence of any agreement for the delivery of gummed paper to Warsaw. But from the entry we can infer that the Polish Ministry of Posts and Tel.—had difficulties with gumming paper or were faced with a shortage of paper. This occurred during the middle of 1919, when Poland was at war. It is possible that the production of paper had not commenced as yet in the country.

Item No. 26 - "see machines" - refers to a previous document, which in all probability was settled at the end of 1918. We presume however, that a small number of machines was transferred to Warsaw as the answer to emergency requirements. This fact is known to us by testimony of the person who visited Warsaw and who had been in a private firm producing postage stamps on behalf of the Polish Government at the beginning of 1919. He has stated that he had seen in Warsaw a few of the perforating machines which (he suspected) had previously belonged to V.S.P.W. On the other hand, two sets of stamps issued in 1919 for the central part of

Poland in Marks and Koronas were perforated by machines with two gauges only - 10 and 11½ (four machines). Therefore we shall call these—the first transfer.

At the same time, the entry in the index item No. 26 refers to a new consideration by V.S.P.W. about these machines, which took place during the second half of 1919. This reference is to final settlement, which is known to us from other sources, from eye-witnesses, to which we intend to return later. We shall call this the second transfer.

B.) All stories related to us by officials of V.S.P.W., from state archives or from other institutions in Vienna were agreed as to one point—that is—that such a transfer had actually taken place and is therefore an undisputed fact.

C.) Before we come to eye-witnesses accounts, it is necessary to recall some of the historical background relating to the historical background relating to the transfer of the machines in question.

The Treaty of St. Germain was concluded on September 10, 1919. It settled the new situation of defeated Austria and at the same time it regulated the connection between Austria and her successors. The Treaty had territorial scheme to all problems involved, but interpretation of the Treaty was a broad one. For instance, the machines producing the stamps, although stored in Vienna, were also subjected to a cession. For all practical purposes, the execution of the Treaty was in the hands of the Allied Liquidation Commission, which consisted of delegates from the main victorious Powers.

(To be continued)

ture to the Research Council of the Polish Philatelic Association on the Kraków Issues. Also lectured before the Kraków Stamp Club, while in that city, on the "Weichselflotte", the Vistula River gun-boats of the first world war.

The Polish Philatelic Association awarded me a medal of merit: "For Philatelic journalism and popularization of Polish Philately in Canada and the United States." This is the second such medal given to an individual outside of Poland. Mirosław Bojanowicz of London received the first. I was also honored with a commemorative Copernicus medal: "For outstanding service connected with the Nicholas Copernicus celebrations."

My wife and I then spent two weeks driving through Poland in a Fiat 125. Polish roads are excellent, with good highway markings and without the volume of traffic we have here. However, driving in the big cities is pretty hectic. I visited the very fine Postal Museum in Wrocław. Both the Museum and the Central Library of the Polish Philatelic Association ask that philatelic literature, old catalogs (even Scott and Minkus), books, journals, pamphlets etc., be sent to them rather than thrown out. Such material is impossible to obtain in Poland. The addresses are:

Muzeum Poczty i Telekomunikacji
ul. Krosińskiego 1
50-954 Wrocław, Polska
Centralna Biblioteka
Gł. Zarząd Polski Zw. Filatelistów
Rynek Starego Miasta 14
Warszawa, Polska

Both organizations will be very grateful for any material they receive. It does not have to be written in Polish to be useful to them.

THE BOOK ON KRAKÓW OVERPRINTS

During my visit to Poland for the International Stamp Exhibition "Polska 73" in Poznań, I attended several meetings of the Philatelic Research Council of the Polish Philatelic Association. I was amazed at the number of new discoveries and concepts that have been made on the KRAKÓW OVERPRINTS in the past eighteen months. Any idea that the Krakóws are a dead issue and that everything there is to know about them has been published, is completely erroneous. Forthcoming issues of *Filatelista*, the twice monthly publication of the Polish Philatelic Association, will carry articles on this fascinating subject. Under the circumstances, the publication of my book will be delayed until this new material becomes available.

—Dr. Miet Kamieński

COPERNICUS STAMPS

Myron Steczynski is preparing an article on all the stamps issued in honor of Copernicus with the thought of illustrating and describing each stamp that was issued. The scope of his article will not include covers or cancellations. He is in need of descriptive material and pertinent data on many of the stamps and would appreciate help from Polonus members and others. If you have information on date of issue, quantities, descriptions of the designs, etc., or if you have publicity releases as they appeared in the press, Scott catalog numbers, etc., Myron will appreciate such help. Send your information to Myron E. Steczynski, 250 E Lake Boulevard, Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60090, phone (312) 537-5077.

POLPEX 74 MARCH 9-10

Joseph Migala and Walenty Poniecki, Co-chairmen of POLPEX 74, announce that our next exhibition will be held March 9-10 at St. James Auditorium, Mango and Fullerton Avenues, Chicago. A U. S. postal station will be at the show using a special cancellation.

Dealers interested in renting a bourse table should contact Roman Srzelecki, 1439 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622.

A prospectus is being prepared and will be sent to members along with the next Bulletin.

Watch for further details.

COPERNICANA 500

Roman Burkiewicz visited Vancouver, British Columbia over the weekend of November 3-4 where he served as a judge at the philatelic exhibition COPERNICANA 500, sponsored by the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada.

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Roman, in reporting to the membership at the November 9th meeting, said that the show was well put together and truly reflected the combined efforts of the Vancouver based Society. He felt that this show eclipsed the efforts of societies possessing larger memberships and drawing on larger metropolitan bases.

There were several exceptional exhibits which caught the eye of both the public and judges, and three special cancellations under the auspices of the Canadian postal system proved especially popular with collectors.

Through Roman the Society sent back its collective greetings and best wishes and we here at Polonus send back our congratulations for a job well done.

Award winners were:

Grand Award—W. C. Thorne
Postal History of Warsaw
Gold Medals—

Z. Mikulski: Central Lithuania

Z. Wagrowski: Copernicus

Silver Medals—

Stan. Zalot: Copernicana

C. Schafer: First Issue of 1918

Z. Wagrowski: First Flights

Bronze Medals—

W. C. Thorne: Danzig

Józef Podejko: Copernicana

Helge Patrong: Denmark 4 sk.

—T. J. Gobby