BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets Every Fourth Friday at Polish Veterans Home, 6005 W. Irving Pk., Chicago

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POLONUS INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS FOR 1980-81



Left to Right: Alfred Szebel, Ex-officio and Director; Al Rybarski, Director; James Mazepa, Director; Chester Schafer, Secretary; John Bartczak, President; Roman Strzelecki, Vice-President; Stanley Rusin, Treasurer; Frank Wolosewicz, Director.

Upon their election into office, the new officers were properly installed at the June 27th meeting held at the Polish Veterans Home. Administering the oath of office was senior member Frank Wolosewicz.

The first meeting of the new administration was a Board Meeting which took place July 11th. President John Bartczak outlined an ambitious program for Polonus. He proposed that we issue a 16-page bulletin every two months containing articles with a variety of subjects rather than a large write-up on one subject. The officers immediately got on POLPEX 81 and negotiated with the building management. The dates for our next exhibition are March 28-29, 1981. He also insisted that every meeting have a philatelic program.

On July 25th the first regular meeting was called to order by the new President. After the meeting he gave us an interesting lecture on the Pilsudski Mourning stamps and showed us part of his Pilsudski collection. Roman Strzelecki brought part of his Poland Post Card collection and spoke on printing and rates. Tom Gobby



Ex-officio Alfred Szebel (left) turns over gavel to the new Polonus President John Bartczak.

brought some covers from his General Gouvernment WW II collection and informed us on "V" markings and Censorship Labels on such mail.

SUPPORT A MARIE ZAKRZEWSKA U.S. STAMP

Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski is urging the USPA to issue a stamp in memory of this pioneer woman physician and pathfinder in American medicine. She organized the New England Hospital for women and children in Boston and helped organize the first American school for nurses. She was also a pioneer of women's rights and a leader in the abolitionist movement in America. Upon her death in 1902, the *Boston Transcripts* praised her as the "pioneer among women physicians of the country and first woman doctor in New England".

Petitions for the stamp are available from John Bartczak, 10428 Ave. "O", Chicago, IL 60617.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Polonus is starting its 41st year and all members should be proud of her impressive and successful philatelic feats.

I am your 20th President and have a lot of work in the oncoming year to do. Your loyalty, support and help will be needed.

May I remind you that the primary purpose of the Polonus Philatelic Society is to encourage the collecting of stamps of Poland and to promote Polish Philately. It is your club and I and the other officers are here to serve you and to fulfill your ideas, wants, suggestions or changes. Write or call me or one of the officers and let us know what you want or have in mind and I promise that if at all possible, I will do everything in my power and ability to justify your faith in me. I need the cooperation of all the members to continue the growth and strength of Polonus in the Philatelic world.

POLPEX 80 is past and I hope we learned from it. Our thoughts should soon be turned to POLPEX 81. It is never too early. Your ideas would be appreciated.

I will announce the appointments of various committees as soon as they are confirmed. Remember, we have to communicate with each other.

Thank you for your vote of confidence.

John Bartczak
10428 Avenue "O"
Chicago, IL 60617
Phone (312) 221-4516

NEW MEMBERS

Alfred Rosinski
1 Fairview Avenue
Bedford, MA 01730

Chas. Ksieniewich
32 S. Main Street
Franklinville, NY 14737

Henry Archacki
New York, NY

Your New Polonus Officers and Board of Directors

JOHN P. BARTCZAK, President

John is 52 old and lives with his wife Dorothy and two teenage daughters in Chicago. He has one son who is married and recently made the Bartczak's happy grandparents. John is an electrical contractor and owns his own firm, Owl Electric Company. He has been a Polonus member for nine years, and is active in several philatelic organizations. In addition to being a member of the American Philatelic Society, he is a member and past president of the Roosevelt Philatelic Society, the International Guild of Vatican Philatelists, the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada, the Chicago Philatelic Society, the Austrian Philatelic Society of New York, the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britian, and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. His primary philatelic interests are in Galicia pre-stamp to 1919, Polish Legions, and Pilsudski material. He has received several Grand Awards for his Galicia pre-stamp, as well as other gold and silver medals in Polpex and other national exhibitions. He has also exhibited in international shows, and received a silver medal in Prague. He is on the planning committee for the International Exhibition to be held in Chicago in 1986.

ROMAN H. STRZELECKI, Vice President

Roman has been a Polonus member for 29 years now. He lives with his wife and two children in Chicago, and has another daughter, the oldest, living in California. Roman is a mechanical engineer specializing in railroad related problems. He is also a member of the American Philatelic Society. Poland's postal cards are his specialty, as well as the 1923/4 surcharge issue. His other interests include Vatican City, and Railroad and Space topicals. Roman received the Polonus Grand Award in 1965, and many other medals at many of the Polpex exhibitions since the early 1960's. He was the president of Polonus from 1960 to 1962, the secretary for three terms, and the treasurer for the last three years. He has contributed a number of articles to the Bulletin and to the Polpex catalogs. He usually conducts a sales table at Polpex where, in addition to stamps, one can get a piece of *kielbasa* and a "sno-t."

CHESTER SCHAFER, Secretary

Chester is an Honorary Member of our society, which he joined over thirty-five years ago. Chester is 58 years old; he and his wife are raising 13 children. In addition to Polonus, he is a member of the Lithuanian Society of New York and the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada. He is a printer by trade, and has been primarily responsible for the publication of the Bulletin for the last thirty-two years. When he is not in the shop, he is spinning polka records on radio station WTAQ, where he has been a disc jockey for over 30 years. He also owns his own record company, and has produced over 100 Polish and polka albums. Philatelically, his interests are in the Lublin Issue of 1919, Poland under Russia from 1815, and the Polish Republic to 1939. He has won five Grand Awards in various exhibitions, plus other gold and silver medals. He served as president of Polonus for many years.

STANLEY RUSIN, Treasurer

Stanley is 49 and lives with his wife and three children on Chicago's northwest side. He is a data processing manager by trade. Even though he has been a Polonus member for only a year, he brings into the important position of treasurer the knowledge and freshness of approach needed for the job. In addition to collecting Poland, he is interested in the United States and British Pacific material.

AL RYBARSKI, Director

Al, who is 67, and his wife are no strangers to Polonus. Al has been a member for 41 years and is a familiar sight to all who have attended Polpex exhibitions, as he patiently sits at the entrance table to sell Polpex souvenirs. The Rybarski's live in River Grove, near Chicago, and continue to work for the Society by distributing Polonus materials and Bulletins. Al, who is retired, served as treasurer for many years and later as director.

FRANK E. WOLOSEWICZ, Director

Frank lives with his wife in Chicago. They have raised three children. Frank refuses to retire (he won't let us print his age) but continues to be very active as a consulting structural engineer. He has been a member of the Society for 40 years and is one of the original experts on the Krakow issue, his primary interest. He has authored several articles on this subject and has won the Larking Award on two occasions for his Krakow research collection.

JAMES P. MAZEPA, Director

Jim is 39 and lives with his wife Jean and their two children in Oak Park. A Clinical Social Worker by profession, he is the Director of Family Psychiatry at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Chicago. He has been a Polonus member for nine years and has served as secretary for seven of those years. He is a member of many philatelic organizations including the Collector's Club of Chicago, the American Philatelic Society, the APS Writers' Unit, the Chicago Philatelic Society, the Polish Philatelic Society of Canada, Polski Zwiazek Filatelistow, British Society of Russian Philately, ROSSICA, the Ukrainian Philatelic Society, the American Air Mail Society, and others. Jim's primary philatelic interest is the postal history of Eastern Europe with emphasis on Poland. He is also interested in philatelic writing and research, Poland to 1939, and the aerophilatelic postal history of Poland. He has received three Polpex Grand Awards and many national gold medals. He has exhibited internationally, and received Vermeil and Silver medals in four exhibitions, in addition to two special awards. He has contributed articles to several philatelic publications, and he is a member of the planning committee for the international exhibition to be held in Chicago in 1986.

ALFRED SZEBEL, Director

Fred, who is now 53, and his wife Wanda sent their only daughter off to college last year. By profession he is an accountant. He is an honorary member of Polonus, which he joined twenty-eight years ago, and an honorary member of Club Polonica in Warsaw. He is a member of the Chicago Philatelic Society, the Space Unit of the ATA, and the International Air Mail Collectors Society of Berlin. His collecting interests center around postal history, Polish fieldpost, Space, and Occupations of Poland. He has received the Grand Award at Polpex 60, and many other awards for his collections at the local, national, and international level. Fred has been an officer of the Society in one capacity or another since 1967, serving as president for these last three years. He is responsible for many successful Polpex exhibitions, and especially for the large downtown exhibitions in '73, '76, and '79. His talents extend also to the designing of a number of Polpex medals and souvenir sheets. His visits and continual contacts with collectors in Poland have served to strengthen ties with philatelists there. He is a frequent contributor to the Bulletin, and he represents Polonus with a smile in many philatelic circles. He is also a member of the planning committee for the international exhibition to be held in Chicago in 1986.

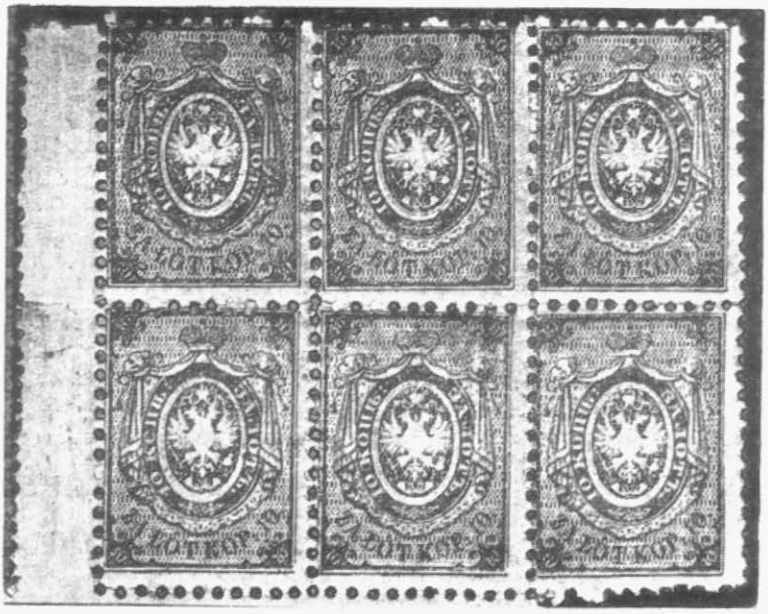


Fig. 1 — Largest known multiple of Poland No. 1. Printed on white wove paper. The frame is printed in blue, the centre and underprint in red. Gum was applied by hand.
Courtesy Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Chicago

POLAND, THE EARLY ISSUES TO 1920

Dr. M. A. KAMIENSKI (RPSC 8995)

The Kingdom of Poland, by the middle of the XVIIth century, had become one of the most powerful and civilized states of Eastern Europe, a bastion against the barbarian forces from the East.

The first primitive arrangements which could constitute the beginning of a postal service are recorded in the reign of King Boleslaw Chrobry (992 - 1025). This king: "turned over to the cities, the forwarding of messages previously arranged by Corvee" (forced labour with little or no recompence). A postal service in our sense of the term, was first organized by King Sigismund August in 1558. He assigned to PROSPER PROVANA an Italian: "The privilege of setting up and conducting a postal service for the exchange of letters between the cities of Krakow and Venice". (A powerful city republic at the time). Four years later, CHRISTOPHER TAXIS of the famous Thurn and Taxis Family took over this task. He received 1500 thalers per year and was obliged to carry the royal mail without charge. He was permitted to accept private mail at six groszy for letters up to half an ounce.

King Stefan Batory, at the city of Niepolomice on January 2, 1583 issued the following decree:

> "Since We recognize the usefulness of the Postal Service which our most renowned predecessor Sigismund August introduced, we assign this service to the Florentine nobleman, SABASTIAN MONTELUPI and his nephew VALERIUS, whose fitness for this work has already been shown. We assign to them, all postal routes.



Fig. 2 — Sosnowiec Local issue. Litho'd in sheets of 42 stamps, red on white paper. The value not shown to gain German approval. The canceller incorporated the 3 kopek denomination. Issued 24.VII.1916 lasted only two weeks.

which they shall maintain at their own expense under the condition that on the route from Krakow to Venice, they shall maintain enough relays of horses so that the couriers shall be able to make the journey and return in 15 days. We decree that the service shall be twice monthly. The postal officials employed in Our service, are required to wear Our badges of rank and Our crest on their clothing.

We assign the directorship of Postal Service to this SEBASTIAN MONTELUPI and his nephew VALERIUS, for five years beginning February 15, 1583 with a salary of 1000 Polish gulden which shall be paid to them out of Our treasury at Krakow.

We establish four Polish groszy as the fee for private letters which are entrusted to the Postal Service without regard to the distance from which the letter is sent (note the drop in postal rates).

We exempt from the payment of this fee the Holy Orders of the Franciscans, Bernhardines, Dominicans, Augustines and Carmelites. We desire that their letters shall be accepted by the Postal Service without charge".

Succeeding monarchs expanded the postal arrangements. In 1647 the feudal corvee system was abolished and a special quarter money tax was imposed for the maintenance of the Postal System. An edict of 1659 calls upon the cities and villages: "To pay to the postmasters the quarter money of the couriers for past and immediate future periods."

Important steps towards establishing regulated communications were made during the reign of King Stanislaus August. In 1764, postal stations were set-up along the important highways, regulations for carrying the mail, postal rates and the conduct of postilions were published. "The importance of a well organized, postal service as a government establishment of general utility is recognized, it has to be developed without too great a cost to the people", reads a government decree. Mail service was brought to notable heights of development, as mentioned in the travel accounts of foreigners who visited Poland at the time.

The XVIIIth century saw a succession of weak and incompetent rulers in Poland. Her neighbours at the same time were embarking on policies of territorial expansion. In 1795, Russia, Prussia and Austria occupied and eventually partitioned the country. Poland disappeared from the map of Europe for the next 123 years.

The CONGRESS OF VIENNA in 1815 attempted in some measure to restore

Europe's boundaries to pre-Napoleonic times. The Congress created the KINGDOM OF POLAND out of the lands taken by Russia, with Czar Alexander I of Russia as King. In essence the KINGDOM was a vassal state of Czarist Russia with some automony.

This very short historical sketch is necessary to understand the many different and apparently foreign stamps which subsequently were valid on Polish soil. Poland did not regain independence until 1918.

In 1858 Russian Postal Stationery was modified for use in the King dom of Poland. The inscription was now in both the Polish and Russian languages. In September of that year, the supervision of postal service in the Kingdom of Poland was put into the hands of the Governor and Council of State. A decree published in circular No. 13/1859 of the Polish Postal Administration, dated December 14, 1859 reads:

> "In accordance with the transfer of the Postal Administration of the Kingdom of Poland to the direction of His Highness, the Governor-Duke and the Council of State of the Kingdom on September 1, 1858, the Postal Administration has contacted the (Russian) State Commission for Receipts and Finances concerning the issuance of postage stamps and stamped envelopes for single letters, which shall replace those now provided by the Russian Postal Department.
>
> The Commission has now informed the Postal Department that such stamps and envelopes, which show the cost of arms of the Kingdom, are ready.
>
> On receipt of the new postage stamps and stamped envelopes from the State Commission, the Postal Administration will supply them without delay, to the main post office in Warsaw as well as the post offices and postal agencies of the Kingdom, also give instructions for their issuance on January 1, 1860. At the same time remaining stocks of Russian stamps and stamped envelopes shall be returned to the Postal Department.
>
> The public may have on hand some quantities of Russian stamps and stamped envelopes purchased previously at the post offices and postal agencies, therefore, a period of three months is allowed for using up these postage stamps and envelopes. They will be demonitized on April 1, 1860. After March 31, no letters franked with Russian stamps or in Russian envelopes shall be accepted."



Fig. 3 — Warsaw printing for NORTHERN Poland, released 5.XII.1918 in eleven values. Use of the basic Germania stamp by two countries is noteworthy.

Thus Poland's first adhesive came into being. It was a copy of the first Russian stamp, differing only in colour and by having the Polish eagle in the shield. The Polish inscription ZA LOT KOP. 10, (for half an ounce 10 Kopek) was also added below the coat of arms, Fig. 1. The stamp was used only on internal mail and for letters to Russia proper. Foreign correspondence required payment in cash and such letters were forwarded stampless with only a sending post mark.

The stamp was printed by letter press at the Government Printing Bureau in Warsaw. A new two colour press, in-

vented by Abraham Sztaffel was used. It printed both colours without changing the paper from one press to another. It printed at the then fantastic speed of 120 sheets per hour and counted the sheets printed! Each sheet consisted of four blocks of 25 stamps separated by vertical and horizontal gutters. The total issue was three million stamps in several printings over a period of years. On April 13, 1865 the remaining 208,515 stamps were destroyed by the Russian authorities when they withdrew the issue. Russian stamps were re-introduced and continued in use until the outbreak of World War I.

During this time, 345 post offices and postal agencies were opened in the Kingdom of Poland. Each received a four ring cancelling device with its number in the centre, Warsaw was No. 1.

The insurrection of 1863 failed, in reprisal the Czar revoked the autonomy of the Kingdom of Poland and from it created the TRANS-VISTULA PROVINCE of the Russian Empire. The Poles referred to this territory as the CONGRESS KINGDOM.

The lands occupied by Prussia and Austria became integral provinces of those countries and their regular stamps were obligatory. Only the town name cancellations indicated that the areas were formerly Poland.

The Austrian Crown Prince was assasinated at Sarajevo June 28, 1914. Austria declared war on Russia July 29. Three days later, Russia was at war with Germany. France was invaded August 2nd.

The German armies advanced eastward into the CONGRESS KINGDOM. On May 12, 1915, Germany issued a series of five stamps for civilian use in the newly conquered territory. These were GERMANIA stamps of the 1906-11 series overprinted in old English style type with the words RUSSISCH POLEN. The values were 3, 5, 10, 20 and 40 Pfenig. All mail to and from the Congress Kingdom was routed through the city of Poznan where the Military Censor Bureau was established. A boxed rubber stamp

GEPRUFT ZU BEFORDERN!
UBERWACHUNGSOFFIZIER POSEN
(Censored, for Delivery!
Supervising Officer Pozan)

was applied to all such mail.

The German occupied portion of the Congress Kingdom was later given the name GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT WARSCHAU. When the name-change took place, new overprints reading GEN. GOUV. WARSCHAU, again on the regular Germania issues, were released August 1, 1916. (Fig. 3, but without the surcharge 5 POCZTA POLSKA which comes later). The issue contained eleven values from 2½ to 60 Pfenig. The stamps were valid to the end of the war.

The postal region POSTGEBIET OB.-OST embraced the Baltic countries and the Russian province of Grodno (north eastern Poland). It was established by the German Army of Occupation in Kaunas, January 15, 1916. The OB.-OST Post was under the jurisdiction of the Area Commander and did not come under the Reichspost. It was a military organization designed to serve the occupational authorities and the civilian population. Germania stamps were again used for the overprint POSTGEBIET OB.-OST (postal command, eastern territory) for use in this area. The set contained twelve values 2½ Pfenig to 1 mark. The postal censor was in Konigsberg, East Prussia.

Evidence of the area's postal independence is the fact that General Ludendorff,

IN MEMORIAM
HENRY ZEBROWSKI

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Henry Zebrowski, Secretary and Editor of the Polish POW Study Group. Mr. Zebrowski was a member of *Polonus* prior to becoming active with the POW Study Group, and supplied us with many articles which were published in the *Polonus Bulletin*.

Supreme Commander of the eastern front, ordered a special stamp to be used in the city and environs of BIALYSTOK. Civilians in this area were permitted to use a specially prepared postal card to send short messages to their relatives in neutral countries and even to enemy territory. On payment of 25 Pfenig, the Bialystok stamp was affixed to this special card by the postal clerk who had to sign his name across the face of the stamp as a control measure to prevent abuse of the service. The stamp showed the city crest in the centre and BRIEF-VERMITTELUNG at the top (letter exchange office) and BIALYSTOK at the bottom with a black overprint 25 pfennig. The stamp first appeared August 11, 1916, it was printed in blocks of four. Later the rate was increased to 1 mark.

Simultaneously with the northern part of the Congress Kingdom being occupied by the German army, the southern part of the Kingdom was taken over by the Austro-Hungarian forces. The Austrians designated the conquered lands, GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT LUBLIN. However, no special postage stamps were issued as the K.u.K. FELD-POST issues were used in all countries occupied by their armies.

The primary function of the German-Austrian military postal service was to deliver official correspondence. Nevertheless, it did bring civilian mail to the closest County Seat. The army had no facilities for its further distribution, this was left to local civilian authorities. A fee was collected to defray costs of local delivery, a very cumbersome operation. A number of municipalities issued local stamps to facilitate the collection of this additional tariff, fig. 2. Warsaw because of its population, had valid reasons for a local postage. However, one may safely assume that feelings of Polish patriotism, coupled with liberal doses of philatelic connivance assisted at the "christening" of most local issues. In any event, the tendency was to produce the stamps first and then try to convince the hated invaders of the need



Fig. 4 — The KRAKOW OVERPRINTS issued 20.1.1919 consisted of 20 values for regular mail, 5 newspaper and 12 postage due stamps. This is the "Thin" variety, position No. 19.

for them. The military refused to confirm the issues and most were valid for only short periods. The Warsaw locals lasted the longest with twelve issues of two basic stamps from September 23, 1915 to October 19, 1916. There is no denying that local issues were used on genuine mail, but most covers have to be considered as being philatelic.

Postal History buffs have a field day with the material available from this fascinating period. Two examples will serve as illustrations. Within the last twenty years, a little known phase of NAVAL OPERATIONS has come to light. In 1914 a fleet of river gun-boats was put into operation on the Vistula and Bug Rivers. The former was the WEISCHELFLOTILLE with local headquarters at Krakow, under the jurisdiction of the K.u.K. KREIGSMARINE (Imperial and Royal War Fleet, at POLA on the Adriatic Sea. The K.u.K. BUGFLOTILLE was strangely enough, organized and under the command of the Fourth Austrian Army and not the Navy. These gun-boats also served as transports for men and material and helped to relieve the congested railway system. Each ship and shore establishment had its individual identifying rubber stamp for mail, no postage was required. The letters were forwarded by regular post from the nearest river landing. German Forces carried on a similar operation on the northern reaches of the Vistula River



Fig. 5 — First ORIGINAL design for Polish postwar stamps. The poor quality glue provided at the post offices soaked through and tended to spoil the stamp. "goitre" variety, position No. 2.

with probable headquarters at Warsaw. Very little information is available even in military archives about these fresh-water establishments.

The second example is the FIRST INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL SERVICE in the world, inaugurated on a regular schedule March 31, 1918. Several flights daily covered the route: Vienna - Krakow - Lwow (Lemberg) - Kiev, to the end of hostilities. Civilian mail was also carried to Krakow and Lwow, but only official mail went on to Kiev. The rate was 8 heller for postcards and 15 heller for letters, these were later raised to 10 and 20 heller respectively. The air mail fee was an additional one kronen, plus 1.50 kronen per 20 grams for each leg of the journey. For example, the minimum cost of a letter from Vienna to Lwow via Krakow would be four kronen fifteen heller. Austrian two and three kronen stamps were surcharged FLUG-POST with new values 1.50 and 2.50 kronen. The four kronen gray was overprinted FLUGPOST. Covers with the full set of three air mail stamps are usually philatelic. Genuine letters with the correct rate in flugpost stamps while not scarce are not plentiful either.

The Armistice in November 1918 brought independence to Poland and unification of the three parts previously under foreign domination. Each of the areas had during one hundred and twenty three years of separation, developed along the lines of the occupying power. The differences in language, social customs, currency, civil administration, law etc., added tremendous confusion to the post-war chaos. The TREATY OF VERSAILLES set out to delineate the frontiers of Central Europe. Boundary disputes arose with Poland's various neighbours. During the next eighteen months numerous local, provisional, plebiscite and foreign issues of stamps appeared to satisfy postal requirements until such time as conditions stabilized and an original adhesive could be produced.

Steps were taken to activate a NATIONAL POSTAL SYSTEM with Polish adhesives, but the mails could not wait until new stamps could be designed and printed. In the northern half of the country, exsiting stocks of GERMANIA stamps and stamps overprinted GEN. GOUV. WARSCHAU left by the retreating Germans, were surcharged with new values and the words: POCZTA POLSKA (Polish Post), with lines obliterating the German text, fig. 3. Three differently designed surcharges eventually made their appearance, originating in the cities of Warsaw, Poznan and Gniezno.

Austrian stamps were also overprinted POCZTA POLSKA for use in the south. Again three different overprintings were in use consecutively. They originated in Lublin and Krakow. The famous KRAKOW OVERPRINTS containing Poland's rarest stamps, are from this period. Fig. 4. All the provisional

issues sold out very quickly causing serious shortages of postage. The Polish Liquidation Committee for the south, ordered a stamp with a new design in February 1919. A conflict of jurisdiction developed between the Committee and the newly formed Ministry of Post and Telegraphs in Warsaw. The stamps were eventually released in March, but were valid only to the end of May. The new set contained values from 2 heller to 1 kronen, lithographed in eleven colours, fig. 5. The sheets contained one hundred stamps on a yellow wood pulp paper, imperforated and without gum. Many commercial firms found it expedient to have the stamps perforated privately.

A very ingenious method of unifying the postal system for the whole country was now devised. The next issue of stamps contained twelve values in five designs, two small size and three large stamps. The issue was released simultaneously in northern and southern Poland; however, the colours and monitary values were different—Pfenig/marks in the north and heller/kronen in the south. A year later, on February 1, 1920, the whole country changed to the Pfenig/mark system and the kronen issue was withdrawn. The present groszy/zloty monetary system was introduced in 1924 after a period of inflation.

Plebiscites were held in Upper and Lower Silesia, Marienwerder and Allenstein. Provinsional plebiscite stamps were in use in these areas. In the east, WESTERN UKRAINE laid claim to certain territory around Lwow and issued its own stamps. In the north-east, Lithuania issued stamps for lands which later became part of Poland. CENTRAL LITHUANIA was a short lived pseudo-independent territory with a massive stamp production ,eventually uniting with Poland. The frontiers were finally stabilized in 1923.

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NEW BULLETIN AD PRICES

As of the Board Meeting of July 11, 1980, prices for ads in the Polonus Bulletin have been increased to:

$50.00 for a full page
$30.00 for a half page
$20.00 for a quarter page

Illustrations and excessive copy are subject to extra charge. Send copy with check to editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members who change their address are asked to notify us immediately. Failure to do so is costing the Society unnecessary expense. Please mail the notice to Al Rybarski, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171.

TID BITS

G.O. Zedlitz won a silver medal for his "WWI Warsaw Local Post Under German Occupation" at WESTPEX '80 held in San Francisco, California.

* * *

The LITHPEX XX Philatelic Exhibition is to be held October 25-26 in Chicago, Illinois.

* * *

Dr. M. Kamienski received a Vermeil for his Krakow exhibit at the New Delhi, India international exhibition.

* * *

The Chicago Philatelic Society will use its 200 new aluminum 16-page frames at their 94th Annual National Exhibition Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at the downtown Expocenter.

BOOK REVIEW

THE KINGDOM OF POLAND: Poland No. 1 and Associated Postal History *by Miroslaw Bojanowicz published by the Royal Philatelic Society of London, 1979.*

The long-awaited publication of this work by our English member Mr. Bojanowicz must be considered the major Polish philatelic event of the year. The last in-depth study of Poland #1 was that of Polanski and Rachmanov written in 1933, and, at last, a much-needed sequel to that important yet dated information has come. Quite appropriately, it has been authored by Mr. Bojanowicz, who has the foremost collection of the Kingdom of Poland; a collection which has received the Grand Prix in Poznan in 1960 and the Grand Prix d'Honneur in Budapest in 1962. In addition, it has received many other small and large gold medals in international exhibitions (and, I ought to mention, a Polonus Grand Award). In 1966, Mr. Bojanowicz was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP) of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, which is one of the highest honors a philatelist can receive. He is also an Honorary Member of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

The book is in large format of over 170 pages consisting of 17 chapters, 4 color plates, and 36 photo plates. The first four chapters are an introduction, so to speak, to the first stamp and discuss the early postal history of Poland, showing a letter carried by Montelupi from Krakow in 1569 and a Royal letter from 1635. Following a general discussion of the earliest inked marks of the Kingdom and the Napoleonic period, a separate chapter is devoted to the marks of Krakow and Warsaw. The inclusion of the plate in Appendix 1 as "Napoleonic Period" marks might, however, confuse readers by suggesting these were used during the period of Napoleonic presence in Poland when, in fact, they



are the first series of postal markings of the (Russian) Kingdom of Poland in 1815.

An excellent chapter on postal stationery follows with details of the St. Petersburg envelope used in Warsaw and the Warsaw provisional stationery of 1859. The regular issue of 1860, both the 3 kopeck Warsaw local and the 10 kopeck general issue, are described as are forgeries of all the stationery issues.

The next eight chapters focus on the adhesive issues beginning with the Russian stamps introduced in 1858 to 1860, and this is followed by the heart of the work, the treatise on Poland #1. Every aspect of #1 is described beginning with the original documents of the postal authorities, a detailed analysis of the printing, including dies, paper and gum, and distribution. Mr. Bojanowicz suggests that there was only one printing of #1 and that the differences in shade occur from the need to re-ink the plate. As the sheets were stacked for storage and distribu-

tion, certain shades would naturally tend to appear in certain years. The author goes on to discuss varieties, flaws, the "retouched plates," and the imperforate varieties of which six copies, all reproduced, are recorded. An exciting chapter on the progress in plating #1 is followed by a discussion of fakes and forgeries of the stamp.

The remainder of the work discusses the cancellations found on #1, and includes much original research by Mr. Bojanowicz. Most noteworthy is his study of the railroad marks of the period of #1 and their subsequent use on Russian stamps. Examples of all the known cancellations are shown on original letters, and this, I believe, is one of the highlights of the book. The book also abounds in maps, and, to the author's credit, he includes the schematic maps of the 28 postal districts originally found in the Polanski and Rachmanov book. Included is a listing of the Polish offices, both alphabetically and numerically, which is concluded with a rarity rating of the offices as found on both #1 and on Russian stamps. This is the first rarity rating attempted, and it will have us all scurrying to our collections to see which of our cancels are the scarcest and if we have one of the "unknown" cancels.

It is difficult to find much to criticize, but some minor editorial slips detract from the overall pleasant presentation. The book abounds in photos and many blow-ups, especially of the varieties of #1, but some of the photos suffer from being too dark and thus difficult to view. I would have liked to see more color plates, but I am certain cost was a factor here.

The book is a testimonial to the efforts of a devoted philatelist who is willing to share his knowledge with others, a fact long known to me through my correspondence with him over the years. This book is an essential reference work for students of Eastern European philately, and will no doubt become a classic in the field. The book is available from the author at 40 West Hill, Wembly Park, Middlesex, England. Cost is 30 Pounds Sterling, edition limited to 500 numbered copies.

—James Mazepa

NEW ISSUES

Olympics set

Poland released a set of four stamps and souvenir sheet recently calling attention to the Moscow and Lake Placid Olympics, reports *ARS Polona* of Warsaw. Designed by Jacek Brodowski, the 2 zloty shows the equestrian event; 2.50 zl. archery; 650 zl. biathlon; 8.40 zl. volleyball; and souvenir sheet sheet of 10.50 + 5 zl. canoeing. The set was printed in multicolor photogravure in sheets of 50 by PWPW Warsaw. Quantitits printed are eight million each of the 2 zl., 2.50 zl., and 6.50 zl., two million of the 8.40 zl., and 1.1 million souvenir sheets.

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Sir:

The South Suburban Polish American Community Fair will be held in Calumet City, Ill. October 5th, 1980.

I recently received a letter from the planning director for the fair, Mr. Robert Sekula, and it appears my suggestion for a U.S.P.S. pictorial cancellation (hand stamp) featuring the Polish Eagle will be used that day.

Would the Polonus Philatelic Society be interested in attending the parade, fair, and also promote the cancellation and sale that day?

I will be leaving home within a month for college so it might be better if you contact the planning director for additional information:

Robert Sekula, Planning Director
Community Development Dept.
204 Pulaski Road
Calumet City, IL 60409

—Martin Jankowski

HONORARY MEMBER ANTONI LASZKIEWICZ DIES

Translation By FRANK WOLOSEWICZ

Professor Antoni Laszkiewicz of Warsaw University, one of the first members of *POLONUS* (roster No. 10), and also an Honorary Member elected in 1965, died on April 21, 1980, in his 76th year.

Professor Laszkiewicz was an exceptional personality, not only in scientific fields of Geology, but equally as well as an author in various fields of Polish philately.

Professor Laszkiewicz was born on September 28, 1904 in Caucasia. His parents moved to Warsaw, where he entered and graduated from Veterans Lycee in Warsaw. Later he enrolled at the University of Warsaw, and obtained his doctorate in the areas of Minerology and Petrography. He was appointed to a staff position; and because of his outstanding scientific ability, became an independent researcher at the University.

His scientific abilities were soon recognized and he was elected to the rank of a corresponding member of the Society of Science in 1935. It was after the end of WWII that he was elected to a full membership of the society.

As an active investigator in the fields of Geology he became a founding member and officer of the Polish Society of Friends of Geology, and later elected as its President.

After World War II he became a full professor (*zwyczajny*) at the University of Warsaw, and since 1955 he was elected to the same position at the Institute of Geology.

During the Nazi Occupation, Professor Laszkiewicz conducted underground courses at university level, and was exposing himself to the death penalty, had he been apprehended by the Nazi Military Authorities.

The professor's interest in philately began in his early school years, and maintained during his entire life. As an



PROF. ANTONI LASZKIEWICZ

active philatelist, he became president of the Polish Society of Philatelists in Warsaw from 1928 to 1930.

Because of his enthusiasm, his dedication to Polish philately, he was elected a vice-president of the Union of Polish Philatelic Societies. After WWII he was elected to the central administrative board of the Polish Union of Philatelists.

He contributed extensively to Polish philately, and was an editor of the handbook *IKAROS* (*Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*). Upon the completion of this monumental work he undertook an equally difficult task of a study of Polish postmarks, which was also published in *IKAROS*. The most noteworthy of these studies was the detailed analysis of the "Polish Advertising and Commemorative Postmarks" published in 1936. Recognition came quickly and he was elected as Chairman of the Editing Committee of the Union of Philatelic Societies in Poland.

After WWII, his studies of "Postage

Stamps of the Polish Peoples Republic and of the Transition Period" was published in 1947, and a revised version in 1949. Since 1960, he was co-editor of the five volumes of *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe* published by *RUCH*.

Professor Laszkiewicz was a prolific writer. Having access to vast amounts of material, he authored over sixty research, scientific, and cultural articles, on various phases of Polish philately. This was truly an outstanding performance, considering the vast responsibilities due to his academic career.

In spite of his numerous responsibilities he did find time to show fragments of his voluminous Polish collection in various internatioual exhibitions. He participated in the Paris *PEXIP*, winning a silver medal in 1937; in Moscow, 1962, awarded first prize; in Bulgaria, 1963, a silver medal; in *WIPA* 1965, also a silver medal. Twice he exhibited his collection in Warsaw in 1938, receiving gold medals.

He frequently exhibited his collection in a non-competitive class, both in foreign countries and in Poland.

He acted as a judge in many philatelic exhibitions such as: Katowice 1934; Prague 1938; Warsaw 1957; Brno 1958; Krakow 1958; Balpex 1959; Warsaw 1960; Bratislava 1960; Warsaw 1962; Wroclaw 1963; Warsaw 1964. This is the mark of a truly devoted philatelist

The Council of the Museum of Post Office and Telecommunications elected Professor Laszkiewicz to membership from 1935 to 1939 and from 1945 to 1949. In addition to these responsibilities he served as philatelic advisor to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs from 1935 to 1939.

Honors were bestowed upon this retiring philatelist. In June, 1936, the Union of Polish Philatelists in Torun elected him to Honorary Membership. He was also elected to Honorary Membership by: the Polish Society of Philatelists in Warsaw, 1946; in 1948 by the Philatelic Society of Krakow; and in 1948 by the Philatelist Society in Poznan. Polonus bestowed upon him Honorary Membership in September, 1963.

The death of Professor Laszkiewicz on April 21, 1980 brings to a close an outstanding philatelic career. His death is a great loss to philately.

POLAPEX 80

A set of souvenir envelopes will be available in connection with POLAPEX '80, the annual exhibition of the Polish Philatelic Club of Milwaukee to be held at Federation Hall, 2325 S. 13th St., Milwaukee Sunday, September 7th.

The envelope design, printed in simulated black embossing, will feature four Polish Nobel Prize winners and a replica of the prize. Featured are Maria Sklodowska Curie (winner in 1903 & 1911, radium research); Henry Sienkiewicz (winner in 1905, author of *Quo Vadis*); Wladyslaw Revmont (winner in 1924, author of *The Peasants*); and Isaac Bashevis Singer (winner in 1978, author of *The Magician of Lublin*). The envelopes will also feature a simulated postmark.

The envelopes are available in sets of three, franked with the USPS Einstein, Steinbeck and/or Wharton adhesives. The price is $.60 each or $1.50 for the set of three.

The exhibition souvenirs are available from R.N. Konowal, Box 25802, Milwaukee, WI 53225. A #10 stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included with orders for the return of the envelopes. Checks should be made out to Poland Philatelic Club.

Admission to the exhibition is free. Hours will be from noon to 6:00 p.m.

BRZEZINSKI

Not only is there a Brzezinski in the White House bus also a postmaster in Toledo, Ohio, and another postmaster in Krakow, Wisconsin.

—Plewacki Post Bulletin

WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS

Back in 1959, our Bulletin inaugurated a brand new column with the above title. This column was meant especially for our out-of-town members who could not be present at our regular meetings and could not directly participate in our discussions, arguments and other activities.

Once again we resume this column in order to form a better understanding between all members, and to reduce the coolness created by the distance dividing us. At the same time, we'd like to hear from you. Should you have any philatelic problems or difficulties, share them.

The newly elected Board of Directors, headed by our President John Bartczak, have pledged to cooperate more with all the members. I myself, after being luckily relinquished from the function of Treasurer, will have much more time to devote to correspondence. My duty as Vice President and as Membership Chairman is not only to increase the membership roster, but also to act as a link between the out-of-town members, the officers, and the Chicagoland members.

Remember, this is your society and you, the members, make it tick. Please do not hesitate to write us:

Polonus Philatelic Society
c/o Roman H. Strzelecki
1620 N. Latrobe Avenue
Chicago, IL 60639

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, August 22, 1980 at the Polish Veterans' Hall, starting promptly at 8:00 p.m. Business matters will take no more than 15-20 minutes, after which we will start our program. We were hoping to get some interesting speakers, but because of the vacation season most of our philatelic friends are enjoying the gorgeous weather of the Midwest. This meeting we had to improvise, so it will be a "Swap, Sell, Buy, or Exchange" night. Every member is asked to bring some duplicate material so that we can get a little trading action started, and add material to our collections.

At our September 26th meeting, we will have something special: a "Miniature Polpex Exhibit—or—My Favorite Pages." All Chicago area members are asked to bring a few pages from their collection or from their "shoe box", make a short presentation, or open a discussion.

At our last meeting, we had an *ad hoc* discussion. We all agreed that our future meetings must include more philatelic discussion, questions, history, and research. The history and research aspects were probably, until recently, the most neglected fields. These are two very important facets of philately. Most collectors refer to catalogues, which only list the stamps. Where can we find the history of a postal card or letter? It takes digging, discussion, and reading.

We will also attempt to revive the study groups that were initiated a few years ago, but have since died out.

Until the next issue of the Bulletin, we send greetings from a hot and humid Windy City.

—Roman H. Strzelecki

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
James Mazepa, Publications Comm.
P. O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304
Chester A. Schafer, Editor & Secretary
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622
Roman H. Strzelecki, Treasurer
1620 N. Latrobe, Chicago, IL 60639

The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society

— Annual Dues are $7.50 —

PREPARE NOW FOR POLPEX 81

Midwest area temperatures should be cooling down now that late summer is here. You may just start mounting up that collection for POLPEX 81.