

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Issue 151

July 1957

Exhibition "Warszawa 1957" A Marked Success!

By DR. RAYAL DE RAGAN

As a great pageant of philately nears its end, I am sending this account and off-hand information for the Polonus Bulletin:

The total number of exhibits consisted of 381.

- 4 Official exhibits
- 20 not for competition entries
- 311 individual collections
- 20 exhibits of literature and scientific works
- 26 Junior collections

The frame space these collections required was approximately 2450 sq. meters. Among the exhibits were many from foreign countries: Sweden, West Germany, East Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, England and Australia.

The Judges chosen included the most eminent philatelists of Poland and of foreign countries. Awards were granted to 224 collections with an additional 79 Honor Awards presented.

Awards for stamp collections were:

- 18 Gold medals
- 41 Silver medals
- 75 Bronze medals
- 56 Diplomas
- For Junior collections:
 - 4 Silver medals
 - 8 Bronze medals
 - 8 Diplomas
 - 13 Honor awards
- For Literature:
 - 4 Silver medals
 - 3 Bronze medals
 - 7 Diplomas
 - 2 Honor awards

To exhibitors from foreign countries the following awards were given:

- 1) Silver medal—John C. Crimlisk, Scotland (Collection awarded at Polpex 1954 "Pre-Philatelic Letters" (stampless covers) of Poland.
- 2) Silver medal and Honor award—Franz Johannes, Dresden, "Poland".
- 3) Gold medal and Honor award—John Gust, Austria; "Poland".
- 4) Diploma—Paul Curt, East Germany, "Groszy Overprints".
- 5) Gold medal & Honor award—Alfred Schwerfeger, West Germany, "Marienwerder".
- 6) Gold medal and highest distinction award—Teipole A. Vedstens, Sweden; "Specialized Kraków Issues".
- 7) Silver medal—Johannes Schulz, East Germany; "History of Poland on Postage Stamps".
- 8) Gold medal—Dr. Grujio, Yugoslavia, "Specialized Bosnia & Herzegovina".
- 9) Bronze medal: Heinz Zaurler, East Germany; "Specialized Baden".
- 10) Silver medal—Jan Karesel, Czechoslovakia; "Specialized Czechoslovakia, Hredcasy".
- 11) Silver medal—Kores Weber, Czechoslovakia; "Specialized Czechoslovakia".
- 12) Silver medal—Delcoigus, Yugoslavia; "Specialized Yugoslavia".
- 13) Silver medal—Dr. Kocanski, Yugoslavia; "Specialized Yugoslavia".
- 14) Silver medal—Krelis, Yugoslavia; "Specialized Jugosloviav".
- 15) Silver medal—Vleda Mojsovic, Yugoslavia; "Specialized Yugoslavia".
- 16) Silver medal—Marta Terek, Jugos-

- slavia; "Specialized Hungary".
- 17) Gold medal—Emet Laszlo, Yugoslavia; "Children Life on Stamps" (topical).
 - 18) Silver medal—Oeser Renate, East Germany; "Hair-dos On Stamps" (topical).
 - 19) Silver medal—Agnes Schrenke, Hungary; "Specialized Hungary".
 - 20) Silver medal—Frank Sutan, Hungary; "Specialized Air Mails".
 - 21) Gold medal—Hugo Veina, Hungary "Specialized Hungary".
 - 22) Gold medal—Georg Kun, Hungary; "Specialized Austria, Hungary".
 - 23) Gold medal—Sladan Szepes, Hungary; "Specialized Hungary".

Awards were presented during a banquet on May 25th at the Palace of Culture and Science. The results of the exhibition were announced and awards presented in the presence of many guests from the Polish Government and visitors from Poland and other countries.

The writer of this article received three awards for his three collections of "Specialized Upper Silesia", "Postmarks of Plebiscite Schleswig" and "Specialized Stamps and Postmarks of Baden". The awards were three Silver medals and one Honor award.

Well over 60,000 persons visited the Exhibition. A special commemorative stamp in the form of a souvenir sheet was issued and a special cancellation was applied at the Exhibition Post Office."

Polonus and its editorial staff are pleased with the fine showing of its member and associate editor. Sincerest congratulations to Dr. Rayal de Ragan and Mr. John Crimlisk and continued successes!

Original article written in Polish.
English translation by Walter Szymlek.

XIth Free Balloon Races in Poland, May 1939

By S. JANUSZEWSKI

The last Free Balloon Races in Poland before the Second World War, started on May 28th, 1939. It is interesting to add that the International Balloon Races for the Gordon-Bennet trophy, scheduled for September 1939, were cancelled by the outbreak of hostilities.

Soon after the First World War, the May races were held for the trophy bearing the name of Col. A. Wańkowicz, one of the organizers commanding officer of the Polish Balloon Corps. In this race each of the balloons carried commemorative mail, which bears by rubber hand-stamp the name of the competing balloon which carried the mail. Nine of the balloons were named as follows: WISŁA; KATOWICE; LUBLIN; GRYF; MOSTWIN; POZNAŃ; LEGJONOWO; SANOK; ŁÓDŹ

In addition the mail was had-stamped in four lines:

**Przewieziono Balonem
w czasie XI Krajowych
Zawodów Balonów Wolnych
o Puchar Im. Płk. A. Wańkowicza**

**Carried by balloon
during the XI National
Free Balloon Races
for the Col. A. Wankowicz Cup.**

The envelopes also carried a label, 2"x13/16" in size perforated and printed in brown on white, yellow, orange or pink paper, illustrating free ballooning.

As the balloons finished in different places and at different times, the mail was further stamped, by the post office at the place and date of landing.

Examples seen of Balloon Race Mail with Date and P.O. cancellations at start "Moście 28. V. 1939," were stamped as follows:

Name of Balloon	Landing Place & Date
SANOK	Łuków 29 V 1939
ŁÓDŹ	Tarnawka 29 V 1939
POZNAŃ	Sanok 29 V 1939
MOSTWIN	Dukla 29 V 1939
WISŁA	Sanok 29 V 1939
LUBLIN	Turka n. Stryjem 30 V 1939
LEGJONOWO	Ustrzyki
Dolne	30 V 1939
GRYF	Łupków 1 VI 1939
KATOWICE	Łupków 1 VI 1939

7th National Philatelic Exhibition — Warszawa 1957

By **MARIAN DUNSKI**

(Polonus correspondent at Exhibition)

The Seventh Poland Philatelic Exhibition at Warszawa May 18 to 26, was organized at the Palace of Culture and Science in Warszawa. The Protector of the Exhibition was the Minister of Communications Jan Baranowski. It was organized by the Polish Philatelic Association "Polski Związek Filatelistyczny", which in preparation of this undertaking had an organizing committee, and later selected an executive committee with its headquarters at Warszawa, Widok 22.

The Executive Committee was composed of 35 members from all palatinate towns of Poland with Fabian Bura as chairman. Among the Committee members we saw names reknown in the philatelic world:

Gryzewski, Kazimierz—who wrote for the philatelic press in 1920-26 ("Filatelista Polski" Kraków 1920-24; "Echo Filatelistyczne" and "Przegląd Filatelistyczny" Toruń 1924-25; Nowy Filatelista" publ. by Rachmanov 1922-24).

Gryzewski, Tadeusz—well known dealer and publisher of catalogs for stamps of Poland.

Śnieżko, Aleksander—Director of Postal Museum in Wrocław.

Tislowitz, Józef—outstanding collector who in pre-war days possessed the largest collection of stamps of Poland and one-time owner of the famous Poland No. 1 block of six of 1860.

Witkowski, Jan—editor (1932-39) of "Ilustrowany Przegląd Filatelistyczny" Poznań, and publisher of catalogs and albums.

Zadurowicz, Jerzy—editor and publisher (1924-39) of "Kurjer" and later "Ilustrowany Kurjer Filatelistyczny" in Lwów, Kołomyja and Tarnowskie Góry.

The Exhibition Judges consisted of: Łaskiewicz Antoni as Foreman; Adamski Stan. (Warszawa); Heinichen Rudolf (Lipsk, Germany); Kukulski Zbigniew (Kraków); Lorenc Jaroslav (Praga, CSR); Mikulski Zbign. (Warszawa); Niklewski Marian (Toruń); Perzynski Maciej (Warszawa); Sawczak-Knihiniński Jan (Toruń); Schrenk

Ludwik (Budapest, Hungary); Steinbach Ludwik (Wrocław); Tislowitz Józef (Warszawa); Werner Mirko (Belgrad, Jugoslavia); Witkowski Jan (Poznań).

Group "A" - Official Exhibits

(4 entries)

- I. The Postal Museum—Wrocław:
The Polish Postal Agency at Konstantynopol 1919-1921. "Levant" a collection by A. B. Piaskowski.
- II. The National Works of Valuable Papers, Warszawa:
Technological Process of producing a stamp.
- III. "PZF" Warszawa district:
Collection of stamps of the Polish Democratic Republic, in blocks of four.
- IV. "PZF — Filatelista":
Entries from Philatelic Exhibitions, 1945-1956.

Exhibits not for competition

(13 entries)

Adamski Stanisław, Warszawa:

- a) Collection with "Groszy" overprints on original letters; selected pages comprised of local overprints. Collection was awarded a diploma at the International Exhibit—Finland, 1956.
- b) Fragment from a collection of provisional cancellations 1944-56; foreword, system and local cancellations from localities in letters A, B and C.

Steinbach Ludwik, Wrocław:

"Pre-Philately in Poland Under the Austrian Occupation" — 1772-1859. Awarded Silver medal at "Praha", Silver medal at Zagreb 1956 and Bronze medal at Finland 1956.

Tislowitz Józef, Warszawa:

1. Specialized P.K.L.
2. Kraków's on letters & money orders.
3. Specialized entires of Kraków issue from 1918 to 1919.

Verner Mirko, Jugoslavia:

Specialized "Stares Serbia" 1840-1918.

In Group "B" Individual Exhibits there were 291 entries.

(Continued on page 151-5, column 2)

A Handfull of Corrections To The Article "Transition In Polish Postal History"

In "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" of February 18, 1957, there appeared an article by Mr. Edward Nowak, Sr. titled "Transition in Polish Postal History." The article with some abstraction and illustrations was published in the "Polonus Bulletin" No. 147 of February, 1957. A published article to a person knowing the history of the Polish Post of the Kingdom of Poland in the 19th century, could, in a delicate manner, surprise the superficial knowledge of fact. No doubt the author did not read any treatises published as to the history of that period and only wrote what he thought.

The author writes that after the partition in that part of Poland, annexed to the Russian Imperium, there was no Polish Post, and the cancellations were in Russian. This is not a fact as in reality for during the period 1815-1870 cancellations were in Polish and only later, and that rarely, Polish-Russian. The only exception was Warsaw, which placed a Russian cancel aside its Polish cancel, and that was used usually for correspondence sent to Russia. Mr. Nowak is also in error when he states that the Polish stamp of 1860 was issued by Russia. In fact, this stamp and printed envelopes were issued by the Regenal body of the Kingdom of Poland without the permission and knowledge of central authorities of Posts in Petersburg. After five months, post factum, the Main Postal Authority in Petersburg accepted this issue so that it would not be used in Russia.

In writing about the very rare envelope, the author states that the stamp on the envelope represents the Russian shield. Surely, a collector of Polish stamps well knows, that the Kingdom of Poland had a separate shield, a White Eagle superimposed on the two-headed Russian Eagle instead of St. George who was in that position on the Russian shield. In this case, on the stamp of 1860, we see the shield of the Kingdom of Poland. I do not know where the author found on the stamp of 1860 the wording "for Polish use"

and "10 kopecks in gold." Really in Polish and Russian "10 kop. za lot," there is no other printing on the envelope. "Lot" was a figure of weight. The Russian pound at that time had 32 lots. The illustration in the "Polonus Bulletin" is not of a Polish envelope but a St. Petersburg envelope, which was used in the Warsaw City Post for a limited time just before the issue of Polish envelopes. It is also known that censoring of letters sent to Russia did not exist.

The author's statement that "Ekspedycja Pocztowa" means "forwarding Post" is erroneous. "Ekspedycja Pocztowa" means "Main Post Office."

As to the Galician Post, Mr. Nowak writes about the political freedom in Galicia. Probably the author never heard of the tragic times in that part of Poland which history has recorded as "Galician Butchery" (1846), and later in 1848—the liquidation of the Free City of Kraków? This was early history, but now let us look at recent happenings which we can remember and many of whose participants are still living.

The Polish Legions under their leader Joseph Pilsudski, as stated by the author, is not fact. It is known that early in 1917, because of the refusal of taking the oath of allegiance to rulers of Austria and Germany, the First Brigade of Legions was disarmed and interned in Szczypiorno and Beniaminów, and Commander Joseph Pilsudski found himself in jail in Magdeburg. The Second Brigade under command of later General Joseph Haller tried to cut its way through the front in the Southeast Russia so as not to incur the same losses as the First Brigade, and fought with Austro-German armies in two battles successfully in Rarańcza and Kaniów, and in this way the commander and part of the Second Legion Brigade were able to get through to the then revolutionary Russia. The rest of the legionners were arrested and interned, and the officers court martialed. The court procedure

in Marmarosz-Szyget was well publicized in Hungary. These facts are well known and I am elaborating to straighten the impression errors in Mr. Nowak's article.

Further, regarding the Posts of Galicia, the author writes that the postal cancels of the territory added to Austria-Galicia were predominantly Polish, but in reality it was the opposite, the post cancels were usually German except in cases (and in not very many) where the name was impossible to germanize. Cancellations were KRAKAU instead of KRAKÓW. Only during the years 1831-1848, when the postal authority of the Free City of Kraków was under the General Direction of Posts of the Kingdom of Poland, were two cancels Polish. Besides, by the illustrations of the cancels in his article, the author shows sham contentions. In "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" a cancel is reproduced showing LEMBERG instead of LWÓW and in the "Polonus Bulletin" BIELITZ instead of Polish BIELSKO. Also reproduced is a cancel of NOWY TARG, but this is in the lower part and above it is NEUMARKT IN GALIZIEN in German. I also wish to mention that the cancel in "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" of TOPOLCZA is not Galician but Hungarian.

The part of the article of Mr. Nowak's about labels of Polish Legions were not used as postage stamps, and the illustration in "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" "Legionistom Polskim" is not a genuine of the label but a pure forgery of which there were many. The original of the label was in groszy and not in halers (see Ikaros handbook pg. 188).

The above remarks I make with a thought of the philatelists of various nationalities who are collectors of Polish stamps and who are not acquainted with the history of Poland and may be misled by incorrect information about Polish Posts after reading Mr. Nowak's articles in the "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" and the "Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society."

V. HERMANOWSKI
Former Editor-Publisher
of "Ikaros"

7th NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION (Continued)

In Group "C" Junior Exhibits there were 31 entries.

Group "D" Philatelic Literature had 20 entries.

Number of Exhibits by Countries:

Poland - 83; England - 4; Austria - 6; Switzerland - 9; USSR - 4.

United Nations - 3; U.S.A. - 1; British Colonies - 2; Israel - 2.

A special illustrated catalog of the Exhibition of 64 pages was issued. This account, with greetings to the Polonus readers from the Exhibition, was sent by Marian Duński. Translation of this article from the Polish by Walter Szymlek.

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The Truth About "The Stamp That Never Qualified"

The article "The Stamp That Never Qualified" by Chester Schafer, appearing in the *Polonus Bulletin* No. 143 developed a real storm in philatelic and postal circles in Poland. In issue No. 4 of "Filatelista" the Chief of the Stamp Emmissions Section of the Ministry of Posts, Citizen Herwich wrote a controversial article answering Mr. Schafer. His answer is so full of inaccuracies that a proper rebuttal is necessary. I emphasize that Citizen Herwich is responsible completely and individually, for the creation of the so-called "S" stamps which were unobtainable anywhere at the post office windows.

What is the truth about the stamp "Bitwa pod Grunwaldem"?

The first part of Citizen Herwich's explanation is correct—namely that the stamp was a diploma work of the artist-engraver Slania. Citizen Herwich is silent about the fact that on the basis of Slania's project in 1953, early in 1954 on personal order from the Chief Director of Posts Klimek, a plate containing 50 stamps was actually made at the National Printing Works (Państwowa Wytwórnia Papierów Wartościowych) and from that plate somewhere between ten and twenty sheets were impressed in various colors.

It was known in advance that they would not reach circulation (they were intended for release in July 1955 on the 540th Anniversary of the Battle at Grunwald) for the reason that they contained the fragment of Jan Matejko's painting showing Witold, Grand Duke of Lithuania in the center of a group of Polish soldiers (and not as stated by Mr. Schafer's note, because of the crowned eagle). This was substantial reason for not approving the stamp, because, according to the Soviet "historical sources" Lithuania always was a part of Russia and no one can contradict this "historical truth."

These stamps were distributed among the "informed" of which there were many. A great number of the "informed" from the Ministry of Posts and from the Philatelic Association (the main administration of the Asso-



ciation consists of dignitaries of the Ministry of Posts) wanted to sanction them simply by sending them on original letters abroad, and selling the remainder abroad for big money (mainly in the U.S.A.).

That the possibility exists of such mailings, the Postal Authorities are well aware, because there is not one postal clerk in Poland that would know by heart all valid postage stamps. The post offices do not receive a single copy to acquaint them with the stamps, only a dry description so poorly written-up that, as a rule, nobody reads it.

A survey was conducted by the Ministry of Posts among high postal officials, directors, their substitutes, postmasters and controllers. Of these people, only four out of 87 persons knew all current valid stamps, and these four were philatelists. 38 persons did not know even half of the stamps valid for usage. It is no wonder that they are not known to the lower post office employees, who for reason of low pay, often change jobs. As for the rest—emission of fictitious stamps is widely practiced by the Polish Authorities. Yet, stamps that were never and nowhere on sale at post office windows, are not full-legal stamps. They are postal labels, designed to relieve the unsuspecting collector of his money. Example—the "BIE" or Pulaski-Roosevelt-Kosciuszko airmails, which were sold abroad direct from the printery in Switzerland.

Apart from this, among all circulated issues abroad there are found errors, flaws, varieties, which are mass-produced and then sold abroad as rarities.

The same happened in the "affair" with the stamps overprinted "groszy"

or "grosze." As one well informed in this matter I must confirm the following:

1. Stamps with the small overprint of "groszy" or "grosze" only arose when needed and were never made for stock — there were no returns of that type to the postal warehouses as they were not overprinted for future use.
2. All mint stamps in large quantities, offered by the National Philatelic Enterprise, are overprinted in later periods, namely after 1954, when as a result of Dr. Kolakowski's work, they began to be sought. Hence, these are the most common counterfeits, produced to the detriment of the collector, especially since the price demanded is much higher than that for stamps without the overprint.
3. There was no compulsion for overprinting the stamps with new values in groszy. Stamps without the overprint "groszy" on domestic mail had also full value. Only on foreign mail was it recommended to use overprinted stamps strictly. In spite of this, if stamps not overprinted were used, such mail was delivered without any additional charges.

I am citing this "groszy affair" to show the prevailing conditions in the stamps department of the Ministry of Posts, which similarly constitutes the background to the problem of protest and indignation of Citizen Herwich.

Citizen Herwich knows well that the case against the artist Slania was not directed to the courts, not because there was no ill-will proved on his part, but simply because too many persons were involved in this speculation — those from the Ministry of Posts, as from the Party, with the Chief Director of Posts at the head.

Citizen Herwich's declaration that Slania made approximately 200 hand-impressions, which he passed out, could be accepted only by little children with no comprehension of the technical aspects of printing. The Slania stamp is a stamp completely finished from the

standpoint of designing and graphically. The steel engraving process by which it is made **cannot be done by hand.**

The stamp has perforations identical with that applied by the "P.W.P.W." — hence Slania collaborated with that institution.

Citizen Herwich asserts the impressions were hand-made, singly. Yet the photograph of the stamp itself demonstrates that it was severed from a larger cluster of stamps. Something here is not clear Citizen Herwich. It is proper in fair play, when a man is embarrassed, to use more honorable means, not (first) throw guilt on somebody else, and (secondly) defend oneself with lies. This is not dignified — even in socialism.

One last paragraph — That "someone possessing these stamps is interested in artificially raising their attractiveness" is true. But who is this someone? It should be easy enough to find out, because these stamps have been offered at International Exhibitions in Prague, Yugoslavia, Finland, and colleagues at Leipzig received them as gifts in 1955. The sooner the TRUTH is uncovered the better it will be for Polish Philately!

This information you can publish with or without my name. One thing is sure—true philatelists in Poland have nothing to say in these matters. The are openly called enemies of the regime. Those in charge are opportunists and have less comprehension of philately than little school boys. These people are now trying to make a name for themselves. Whether they are succeeding — that is the question.

Editor's note: The writer said to publish this information with or without his name. We choose to withhold the name of this Warsaw author.

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NEW ISSUES

By J. J. Domar

On the occasion of the 24th International Fair at Poznań, two stamps were released on June 8, 1957. Values were 60 gr. blue and 2.50 zł. green. Size: 25.5 x 31.25 mm., and printed by rotogravure. Designed by Alexander Borys.

—RUCH

ARS, Polona

IN MEMORIAM

Vincent P. Jaworski, 568

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NEW MEMBER

Sławomir Piotrowski

P. O. Box 96

Warszawa 4, Poland

TID BITS

A Polpex Chairman for 1958 was announced at the June 28th meeting. Capable and active Frank Rizzo has undertaken the job. He selected Feb. 28, March 1 and 2 for Polpex 1958.

* * *

Did you know that Dr. Uznanski helped defray the cost of the cuts that

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

appeared with his article on the stamp "Dojdzieny" in our last Bulletin?

* * *

The Annual Polonus Picnic was held July 21st at Powers Lake, Wis., and was halted by rain that Sunday afternoon. A wonderful crowd turned out early in the day and got in on a dinner and some swimming. Before chairman Roman Reinowski could get the games and races going—the rains came. Prizes were not awarded but it was planned to dispose of the refreshments at the next Friday Beeba-Meeting.

NEW POLAND STAMP CATALOG

On April 30th the Polish philatelic press released an "Illustrated Catalog of Polish Stamps from 1860 to 1956 Inclusive." This publication contains 420 pages and is profusely illustrated. It is ideal for the advanced collector and will be especially helpful for the beginner Poland collector. Besides covering the regular postal issues and semi-official issues that appeared from 1860 to 1956, it contains occupation issues, locals, offices abroad, prisoner of war, etc. Especially welcome are the prices listed. Much of the material was never properly priced before nor had it appeared in a catalog form. Poland collectors have at last a guide to go by. This catalog is a **must!**