

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Issue No. 28

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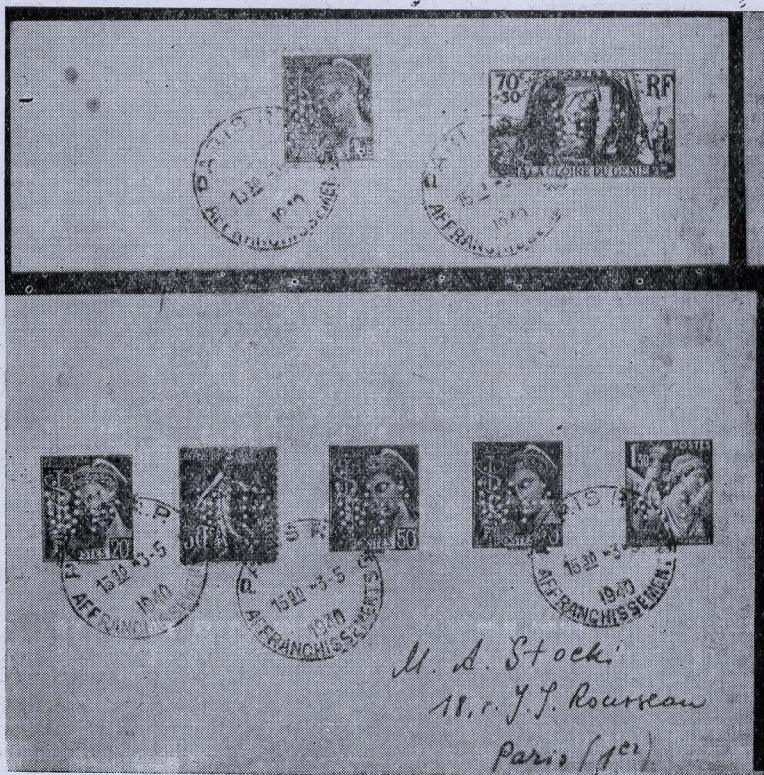
Lester Jankowski, Editor and Chairman Publications Committee
10 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Ill.

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3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

French or Polish?

Some time ago, French stamps perforated "W P" and used by the Polish Ministry of Military Affairs in France in 1940, were offered to collectors. Since then the question has arisen — are they French or Polish?

As far as we know, the only information on the subject is contained in an article appearing in the Philatelic Magazine of August 29, 1941, published in England. We quote at length from that article, as follows:





"French stamps have lately been offered, perforated with the letters "W P", and on inquiring into their origin, and circumstances of use, we have been shown the following document:

RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA
MINISTERSTWO SPRAW
WOJSKOWYCH

REPUBLIQUE DE POLOGNE
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES
MILITAIRES

Le Verdun, le 22 juin 1940
PARYZ

2 Place des Pyramides (1er)

CERTIFICATE

Il est certifié par le présent, que le Ministère a utilisé exclusivement des timbres-poste provisoires pour tout sa correspondance pendant son séjour à Paris à partir de 3 mai 1940 jusqu'à 10 juin 1940.

Ces timbre-poste ont été créés en accord avec le Min. des P.T.T. à Paris par la perforation des figurines postales françaises avec des initiales: W/ojsko P/olskie.

One été créés:

(Here follows list translated below.)

Les timbres ci-dessus ont été en sa plupart utilisés pour la correspondance; le stock restant et la machine à perforer étant détruits pendant la présente évacuation.

Voici le type de perforation (2 stamps affixed tied with signature) (Rubber stamp of the Ministry of Military Affairs, and a different signature)

Following is our translation:

This is to certify that the Ministry has used exclusively provisional postage stamps for all its correspondence during its stay at Paris from May 3 to June 19, 1940.

These stamps have been created by agreement with the Ministry of Posts at Paris by the perforation of French postage stamps with the initials

W(ojsko) P(olskie).

There have been created:

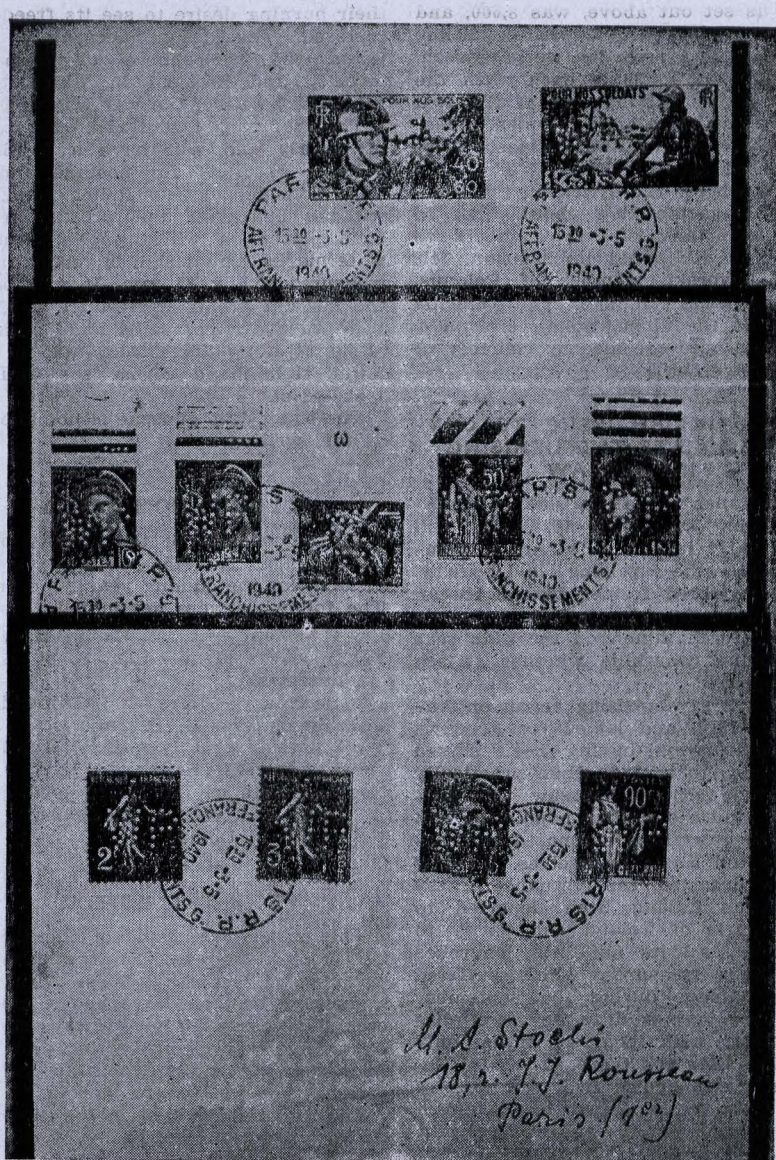
2 c Sower	100
3 c Sower	100
5 c Mercury	500
10 c Mercury	500
20 c Mercury	500
20 c Sower	100
30 c Sower	100
30 c Mercury	400
40 c Mercury	400
50 c Mercury	500
50 c Peace	2,800
70 c Mercury	100
70 c Languedoc	100
90 c Peace	300
90 c Lyon	100
1 fr Iris	300
1.30 c Iris	300
2.50 c Ceres	250
3 fr Ceres	750

Charity stamps

40+60 c Soldiers	75
70+50 c Miner	40
80+25 c Joffre	75
90+35 c Red Cross	40
1fr+50 c Soldiers	75
1fr+50 c Foch	75

The bulk of these stamps were used for correspondence, the remainder, together with the perforating machine, having been destroyed during the evacuation.

The authenticity of the document seems to be beyond question. Why it should be necessary to secure permission from the Ministry of Posts to perforate the stamps with initials is not so clear. It is a thing any private firm can do — and frequently does — without permission, to prevent theft. The only machine needed is a small die press such as many people keep on their desks for embossing note-paper. There is only one set of pins, so it is customary to fold the stamps in strips and perforate a row at a time by one depression of the pins. In that way, customarily, half the perforations are



in reverse, and usually a portion are inverted, according to whether the strips are horizontal or vertical.

"Perforated Officials" even of the Australian States, the Sudan, and our own British Board of Trade, have never been popular in England. The technical question whether this little enterprise on the part of some one in the Polish Military Department brings the stamps within the definition of a Post Office issue; and, if so,

whether French or Polish, we leave to those interested. It seems that the stamps were perforated by the Polish Military Department, otherwise they would not have been in possession of the machine to throw it away. Also, if some of the unused stamps were also thrown away, it is equally clear that some were not, as they are being offered in the trade by one of the signatories of the document translated. The total number of stamps perfor-

ated, as set out above, was 8,500, and the number saved in unused condition, according to a price list we have seen, was from 13 to 30 of each, with the important exceptions that of the Red Cross there were only 14 copies and of the Sower 50, 100, and 200 there were about 400 sets of three."

So much for the article in the Philatelic Magazine. We should like to hear from any of our members to have any additional information. Mr. John Jaworski, member of Polonus, has this issue complete. It is from his collection the illustrations were made. The cuts used are also by courtesy of John Jaworski.

A NEW POLISH ISSUE TO COMMEMORATE THE UPRISING IN WARSAW

The Polish Postal Service, re-established on December 15, 1941, will issue, early in 1945, a stamp to commemorate the uprising in Warsaw. Like the three former issues, it can be used for franking letters posted on Polish Merchantmen on the high seas and Polish warships whether at sea or in port.

The Warsaw uprising began on August 1, 1944, and lasted for 62 days, the capitulation having been signed only on October 3rd, when practically the whole city of Warsaw was destroyed, and the civilian population had suffered casualties estimated at 200,000 by the Nazis themselves. Warsaw is now deserted, the remnants of the population having been deported to other parts of Poland and partly to Germany. All its buildings, churches and other treasures, which suffered heavy damage during the September 1939 siege, are said to be mere piles of rubble, with charred walls only standing here and there.

The stamp shows two men, one of them with a bandaged head, and a girl, fighting on a Warsaw barricade. They are armed with a tommy-gun, a hand grenade and a rifle. Palls of smoke form the background of this picture, while the mermaid which forms the Coat of Arms of Warsaw and has thus come to be regarded as a symbol of this city, hovers above the men and girl. The design of the mermaid does not strictly follow its heraldic prototype.

The stamp is a fine illustration of the passionate love for their city which animated the defenders of Warsaw, and

their burning desire to see its freedom restored. The design accurately reflects the atmosphere of despair, ferocity and heroism in which this grimmest battle of the war was fought.

The stamps are limited to an issue of 100,000 and will have a 3 Zloty value — 1 Zloty for postage and 2 Zloty for the Warsaw Relief Fund. It will be engraved and printed from steel plates on white paper without watermarks. The design is vertical and measures 25.5 x 36 mm. It will bear the inscription "Warszawa 1.VIII-3.X.-1944" in the upper right hand corner, "Polska" along the bottom, and in the lower right hand corner the figures 1 zl. - 2 zl.

The exact date of issue is not known at this writing.

POLONUS NOMINATES

At the meeting of the Society held on January 12, 1945, nominations for officers for the coming year were held. The following were nominated:

For President — M. E. Uznanski, M.D.
For Vice-President — Dr. S. M. Mioduszewski
For Secretary — Mrs. C. J. Mikucki
For Treasurer — J. P. Rux
For Librarian and Historian — Adam Kloskowski
For Members of the Board of Directors — Myron E. Steczynski and J. J. Domar

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last issue of the BULLETIN edited by us. We take leave of our task, at our own request, with the knowledge that we have had a modicum of success. We have always striven to give you an interesting and information containing monthly publication.

The Polonus BULLETIN will continue and will be edited by Myron E. Steczynski.

Lester Jankowski

"Remember Warsaw" NEW POLISH POSTER STAMPS

To pay tribute to the heroic and tragic uprising of Warsaw in 1944, which lasted 63 days, a new Poster Stamp has been issued by the Polish Government Information Center. It is dedicated to the proud Capital of Pol-

and, destroyed by German bombs and guns.

Against a reddish-brown background black ruins of a Warsaw landmark, outlined in white, remind the world that only ruins and glorious memories remain of the once gay and flourishing city.

The Stamp bears the legend RE-MEMBER WARSAW in white and red letters.

Size of the Stamp
1" x 1 3/8"

To insure the widest possible circulation of the stamps, the Polish Government Information Center, 745 Fifth Ave., New York 22, N. Y., will send it to clubs, organizations and individuals at a price of \$.25 per sheet of 50 stamps.

The stamps were approved by the National Poster Stamp Society and will, no doubt, help towards a better understanding of the Allied war effort and of the sacrifices of the United Nations.

MYRON E. STECZYNSKI MADE DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS AND DESIGN



Myron E. Steczynski

Seldom does a man do his work so well that he creates a new job for himself and earns a new title, but that is what Myron Steczynski has done in the Engineering Department. Chief Engineer Wm. C. Buttner has appointed him Director of Standards and Design.

During the war Mr. Steczynski has been working in the Engineering De-

partment coordinating specifications, basing our products on the best practices, bringing them into agreement with national standards, and transposing engineering into shop information. When we return to the manufacture of our peacetime products he will do the same for them.

Mr. Steczynski is a graduate of Cornell University, where he majored in mechanical engineering. He taught there as an assistant instructor in physics for two years, and as instructor in machine design for a like period.

Many of our gas control products involve screw threads and fine drilling and his specialized study of those subjects fits him to put theories into practice. He recently invented pipe thread gauges which permit much finer measurements of pipe threads, so they will make tight joints under enormously high pressures and will withstand severe vibrations such as are encountered by the Air Corps.

In 1928 Mr. Steczynski joined the Engineering staff of the Knight Soda Fountain Company and came to The B-B Company when it took over that organization. In 1934 he was made Advertising Manager of this Company which post he held until we converted to war products and there was an urgent need in our Engineering Department for his knowledge and skill.

Mr. Steczynski is married, has two children — Marcia, age fourteen, and John, Eight — and owns his own home. His collection of Polish postage stamps is known internationally. He also designs stamps and contributes articles to technical publications.

Mr. Steczynski is enthusiastic about his new position and eager to get to work on plans for our postwar products.*

*Reprinted from The B-B News, the plant newspaper of The Bastian - Blessing Company.

POLPEX 1945

The Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum is again the site of POLPEX! Just a year ago we described in detail the setting — "amid the quiet dignity and grandeur of relics of Poland's glorious history." What more can we say now except to repeat again that the exhibit will be set out in exhibition tables under plate glass tops, wall cases and in frames "in a new and interesting manner, a radical departure from the pro-

Dr. M. E. Uznanski, Exhibition Director, has twelve trophies, for the winners — 4 first prize, 4 second prize and 4 third prize. We have seen the trophies and can promise you something special, but we must not tell what it is. All exhibitors will receive a certificate of participation. Only one thing is left for you to do, send in your entry.

Lib - er - ty - is - cry - ing. But is far from dy - ing.



Feb. 22, 23, 24, 25 Chicago, Ill.

This year's souvenir sheet is timely — it is based on a stamp of Poland showing King Casimir Jagiello on his

The small central area on the map proper shows Poland at the outbreak of the present war when it became the first nation to fight the Germans. The shaded territory to the east of about equal size was very much a part of Poland throughout the centuries and, with minor changes, up to the first partition in 1772.

It now appears that post-war Poland is to be bisected by a line drawn vertically just east of Warsaw — it is to be a modern version of the child brought before Solomon when he threatened to cut it into halves to satisfy two mothers. Such a partition would virtually annihilate Poland, because each half depends upon the other for its very existence — without either half there can be no Poland — certainly no free Poland. The east half about to be severed has been faithful throughout the centuries to Polish culture. Its people have preserved it in their hearts and souls and, when necessary, have fought and died for it.

"Liberty is crying — but is far from dying" are the words of the Polish March which heads the sheet. This cry is carried forth by 200,000 Polish fighters on every front. The heroic exploits of the Polish military units in the battles of Kutno, Westerplatte, Warsaw, Narvik, in the "Battle of Britain" in Tobruk and Monte Cassino represent real victories of the United Nations. The Polish soldier is fighting for over 5 years with the deep conviction that the conscience of the democratic nations will not permit his country to die.

Twenty seven men and women of Polonus are in the armed forces or have paid the supreme sacrifice fighting in defense of the principles of the Atlantic Charter and of the Four Freedoms — sacred human rights of men and nations. Polonus can and does lift its voice now — before it is too late. If the responsible leaders of the United Nations subject Poland, our ally, to the humiliation and punishment that should be accorded a vanquished enemy, their act will be forever condemned by history. Let us prevent the

unjust and inhuman imposition of a foreign yoke upon a great nation, a nation that has contributed so much to the culture and learning of Western and Christian Civilization — OUR OWN!

This year the color theme is purple and green. The price of the souvenir sheets, descriptive folder and an imperforate and perforated sheet is fifteen (15) cents a set, two for a quarter (25c) and ten cents for each additional set ordered. They may be obtained by writing to Seal Director, Adam Kloskowski, 2528 North Drake Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois.

POLPEX AUCTION

DATE: February 24, 1945

PLACE: P.R.C.U. Museum & Archives
984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

TIME: 8:30 P.M.

TERMS OF SALE

1. Terms of sale are **STRICTLY CASH** to the highest bidder. Lots will be cleared immediately after the sale.

2. Auction Managre reserves the right to reject bids or withdraw from sale any lot.

3. All stamps are sold as genuine unless otherwise noted, and all claims must be made within 10 days of receipt of lots.

4. All lots must be taken up immediately after sale in person, excepting mail bids, and in this case successful bidders will be notified of the amount secured for them and they must send remittance plus postage and registration fee immediately before lots are sent.

MAIL BIDDERS NOTE: Mail bids to Roman Wojcicki, 1810 W. 18th Street, Chicago 8, Illinois. Please use LOT number and not catalog number when making up bid sheet.

Lots will be available for inspection at POLPEX Exhibition.

Scott's 1945 catalog numbers are used unless otherwise noted.

* means unused (mint) ○ means used
Lot No. Cat. Value

POLAND

1. #56 on cover with Austria #149 \$14.00
2. *#251a and 252a Warsaw Phil. Issue 1.85
3. *#263-266 Complete v. f. 1.25
4. *#266 used v. f. 2.95
5. *#287-291 compl, thin spot on #290 2.95
6. #289 and pair 296 on cover, Maiden Voyage M/S Pilsudski, v. f.
7. #B31 on cover, Stratosphere Flight, Registered back stamp New York, v. f.
8. *#B32-34 complete, Block of four, Winterhelp issue v. f. 3.40
9. #N6 on cover, 14 stamps Kalisz canc., v. f.
10. *#3K9-3K16 complete v. f. 2.00
11. *#3K9-3K16 complete Block of four v. f. 8.00
12. #3K9-3K16 complete on First Day Cover, Registered back-stamp New York v. f.
13. *Monte Cassino set complete v. f. retail value 2.25
14. *Monte Cassino set complete Blocks of four v. f. retail val 9.00
15. Monte Cassino set complete on First Day Card v. f.
16. *#C11 and C12, Airmail, Challenge set 3.75
17. *#1-14 Allenstein, compl. v. f. 1.75
18. *#23-28 Central Lithuania, complete, Block of four v. f. 1.04
19. *#29-34 Central Lithuania, complete, Block of four v. f. 1.04
20. *#B13-14 and #B15-16 Central Lithuania, two complete sets, Blocks of four v. f. 1.44
21. *#B16 Central Lithuania Tete Beche Block of four v. f.
22. *#41-50 Eastern Silesia, Polish issue, complete blocks of four.