

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Issue No. 6

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The Orzel's Escape

By James B. Hatcher

Reprinted from the Stamp Review, New York Journal American.



Fighting against terrific odds, the Polish submarine Orzel (Eagle) made a harrowing, 40-day voyage of escape from Nazi-pounded Gdynia to England—one of the heroic naval feats of this war.

She had no charts or guns and no chance to refuel or take in food or water for a month, yet her crew of 60 got the Orzel safely through the gantlet of Nazi minefields, destroyers and planes and the hazards of the rock-filled Skaggerak and Kattegat in September-October, 1939.

This sub of nearly 1,000 tons, pride of the Polish fleet, disappeared eight

months later while patrolling the North Sea. None of her crew survived. But Poles the world over will remember—and so will stamp collectors, because the Orzel is pictured on the 1.50 zloty, copper-brown stamp of the 1941 Polish set issued in England.

Scraping Mine Wires

Nazi shells and bombs were raining on Gdynia Sept. 1, 1939, when the captain, who was very sick, decided to pull out of the harbor. She cruised around the Gulf of Danzig four days, shuddered at 10 depth bombs, hid on the ocean floor by day and came up at night so her officers could use the periscope to watch the Luftwaffe pound the Polish coast.

Undamaged by aerial bombing as she lay in shallow water, the Orzel slipped through the net of German sub-hunters and threaded her way through minefields while the mines' steel mooring wires grated against the hull.

Her sister ship, the Wilk, radioed, "I am surrounded. Help!" And for a week the Orzel vainly hunted the Wilk in the icy Baltic.

The captain fell desperately ill, and an air compressor needed repairs, so the Orzel put in at Tallinn, port of the neutral Estonia. Under pressure from the German legation, the Estonians doubled their guard and removed the breech-blocks of the Orzel's guns, most of her torpedoes and all charts and small arms.

Dash For Freedom

The acting captain, young Lieut. Cmdr. Jan Grudzinski, had two of his sailors grab and gag two Estonian sentries in the dead of night, raised the anchor and made a dash for freedom. The alarm was sounded by a nearby Estonian warship. Across the bay, the Orzel grounded on a reef, but managed to back off and escape as shells from warships and shore batteries fell around her.

The Estonian captives were freed a few days later, and the Orzel crept on toward Britain. Food and water ran low, once she struck a shoal and once hydrophones spotted the sub, forcing her to hide on the bottom 20 hours. She dodged patrol boats and, crew exhausted, reached the North Sea. She found refuge at last in a British port.

Polpex 1943 Souvenir Sheet



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
POLPEX, 1943
MARCH 12, 13, 14 CHICAGO, ILL.

Up to the time of the German invasion, an old Polish custom brought at every hour the clear notes of a trumpet from the tower of St. Mary's Church, which is located in the very heart of Poland's mediaeval capital and most historic city, Krakow. Where this melody called the Heynal came from, no one knows. It was handed down from time immemorable. During the 13th Century, so goes the legend, a young city trumpeter, under oath to remain faithful to his post, was shot through the heart by a Tartar arrow while playing the Heynal

from the balcony of an old wooden tower. The arrow ended the song abruptly, and for the last four centuries the melody ends on this broken note in memory of the heroic youth. It also symbolizes the broken career of the Polish nation. Although Poland was partitioned from the end of the 18th Century to World War I, the Heynal continued to be played each hour. In modern days it was broadcast at noon throughout the country by all Polish radio stations. But under the Nazi yoke, there is now no Heynal in Poland. Nevertheless the notes of this little tune are being published here and sent throughout the world as a symbol of tradition and past splendor of an immortal nation whose aim and spirit parallel those of America. Let the Heynal be a message of hope and assurance during these darkest days until it will again be played in a free and peaceful country.

St. Mary's Church, from where the Heynal has been played, is Poland's most beautiful place of worship. It has two towers of different heights. The higher one (shown on the sheet) rises 250 feet and is adorned by an artistic golden crown. In explaining the difference in the towers, it is said that brothers were building each of the two towers and the younger stabbed and killed the older from envy over his rapid progress. Consequently the older brother's tower was never finished.

The interior of this lofty church is decorated by Poland's greatest painter, Jan Matejko (1838-1893) who will be remembered for his painting of Sobieski at Vienna which hangs in the Vatican. Notwithstanding Matejko's work, the most important work of art in this church is the great altar, 40 feet high and 33 feet wide, gorgeously carved of wood and constructed in such a way that the side panels open and close on hinges. It is the work of Vit Stvosz, a sculptor of genius. The altar is normally closed and is opened only on important occasions. The center section represents the Virgin with the Apostles and Her coronation, while the side panels include smaller carvings showing scenes from the life of St. Mary and Christ. When the Germans came to Poland, they sent this magnificent altar to Germany.

In July, 1933, upon the 400th anniversary of the death of Vit Stvosz, Poland issued the large beautifully

engraved, 80 gr. stamp, Scott's No. 277, showing the center panel of the altar. It also issued a series of postal cards showing various details of this masterpiece. The stamp was designated by R. Kleczewski and engraved by W. Vacek, who combined their rare talents to produce a most attractive remembrance of a great sculptor. The balanced composition of many elements, the architectural details at the side panels, the mediaeval emblems and lettering, as well as the rich contrasting brown tones give the stamp a degree of excellence which ranks among the best of the classics. About 10,000,000 of these stamps were issued in sheets of 70, but since the postage rates were shortly revised, 7,000,000 were overprinted in blue to 25 gr. values.

Polpex 1943

The greatest, biggest and most stupendous wartime showing of Polish stamps—that's POLPEX 1943.

All preliminary plans are complete. The classes have been announced. Copies of the prospectus are in the mail. Only incidental arrangements are left to be completed.

Adam Kloskowski, Exhibition Director, is really encouraged at the enthusiastic cooperation received by him which has lead to completion of all preliminary plans. A continuation of this splendid spirit of enthusiasm leads the Exhibition Director to believe that POLPEX 1943 will be bigger and greater than any previous show of Polish stamps held by the Polonus Philatelic Society.

There will be four classes in the exhibition. They are as follows:
Class

AA. Non-Competitive.

- A. Limited to exhibitors who won a first award on any subject in any show they have participated.
- B. Limited to those who have not won a first award in any show.
- C. Junior Division.

These classes are self-explanatory. The Exhibition Director and his committee have done everything possible to make the show a success and only one thing remains to be done. Return the prospectus properly completed and signed to Adam Kloskowski, Exhibition Director, 2708 N. Harding Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Buy War Stamps & Bonds

Polpex Auction

Elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin is presented the auction catalog of the POLPEX AUCTION to be held on March 13, 1943 in conjunction with POLPEX 1943.

Last year's POLPEX Auction, you will recall, was such a tremendous success—so successful in fact that some members of our Society demanded that we hold such an auction once a month. But Polonus is not in the stamp business. The Board of Directors felt, and rightly so, that one big auction, at which material of a better grade of interest to collectors of the stamps of Poland, would be offered, should be the highlight of the Society's Stamp Exhibition "POLPEX" each year.

And so again this year, Roman Reinowski, Auction Manager, proudly presents the Auction Catalog. The rest is up to you.

There are Stamps from Marienwerder, upper Silesia, and of course Poland. How about the locals listed? You do not see them offered very often.

Covers? Look at that list of covers! When, oh, when will you come across such an offering again? If you miss this time, you have only yourself to blame.

Bidding will be the same as last year—in minimum progressions of 5 cents up to \$1.00—10 cents to \$5.00 and 25 cents over \$5.00. Be there in person—make these items your proud possessions. March 13, 1943 at 8:30 P. M. at the Polish Falcon Hall, 1062 North Ashland Avenue.

If you cannot be there in person MAIL your bids to Roman Reinowski, 1939 S. Highland Ave., Berwyn, Illinois

Correction

In the December issue of the BULLETIN the item about the reduction of dues for new members was incorrectly given. Here is the way it should read:

"At the last meeting of the Society the Constitution and by-laws were amended so that the dues of members accepted to membership after August 1 and prior to January 31 of each fiscal year be reduced to \$1.00. However, members are reminded that \$1.50 should accompany application for membership. The dues of new members will be adjusted in the second year of membership."

POLPEX AUCTION — STAMPS OF POLAND

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1943.

PLACE: FALCON HALL, 1062 NORTH ASHLAND AVENUE.

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 Manager 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 Reinowski, 1939 South Highland Avenue, Berwyn, 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 1943 catalog numbers are used, unless otherwise noted.

*—Means unused. ●—Means used.

Lot No. POLAND Cat. Val.

1● #1 f. One perf missing at top	\$9.00
2 #1 on cover. Warsaw #1 cancellation, black, very fine	....
3 #1 on cover. Sokolow #70 cancellation, red, very fine	....
4* #11-14, 27-29 fine	1.16
5 #11-14 on registered cover, f.	....
6* #15-26 including #21A, v. f.	2.06
7● #15-26, on pieces	2.06
8* #16 unused Pocata error in pair with normal and used	....
#23 inverted L in Polska	....
9* #27 28 29 31 32 34 35 37 38 40	2.70
10 #27, 28, 29 on registered cover	....
11* #30a and 34b Perf 1½ scarce	4.50
12* #31-35-37 Blocks of 4—rare	4.50
13* #31a Superb	2.50
14● #32b Genuine	4.00
15● #81-92 Complete very fine	3.50
16 Msl. lot of 6 registered covers. Stamps on covers are 81 to 91 and 93 to 104	....
17* #88 Mint proof. Bright red. Est. val.	5.00
18* #109-120 complete, fine	2.20
19* #146, 3 blocks of 4, position and color	.24
20* #170-190 and #275, very fine	1.35
21* #214 very fine, scarce	4.00
22* #226 Superb	1.00
23* #227-237 very fine	3.03

Lot No.	Cat. Val.
24* #245 Block of 4, fine	1.00
25* #246-248 Blocks of 4, scarce	3.00
26* #251 3 center panels only	13.50
27* #251 complete sheet, v. fine	13.50
28* #253 and #255	1.10
29* #263-266, very fine	1.85
30* #268-274 very fine	2.65
31* #278, very fine	1.50
32* #287-291, very fine	2.85
33● #294-304, fine	1.45
34● #294-304, fine	1.45
35● #305 and #319	1.15
36* #306, fine	2.00
37* #306, fine	2.00
38* #306 Block of 4. Lower left corner. Scarce	8.00
39* #314-16 Complete, very fine	3.50
40* #314-16 Complete, very fine	3.50
41* #319 Block of 4	2.40
42* #320-330 Not complete	4.20
43* #320-332 complete	8.65
44* #333, very fine	1.00
45* #335-338 Blocks of 4. #337 reinforced	4.00
46* #335-338 Blocks of 4, v. fine	4.00

AIR MAILS

47● #C1-C9 Counterfeits	....
48* #C1 C2 C3 C4 blks. of 4, v. f.	3.20
49 First flight covers, Lemberg-Galat, 6/2/30 genuine cachet and backstamps	....
50 Airmail cover—5/3/28, Warsaw to Lwow with postmark of 10th Philatelic Exh.	....
51 Balloon Flight to Siniowka on Balloon Lwow, Special Lopp stamp, 10/30/28	....
52 Airmail cover—U. S. stamps autographed by Ben and Joe Adamowicz	....
53*309-311 (Sanabria) Gordon Bennett 1939 change in color, 3 values, fine	30.00
54*Same	30.00
55*306-308 (Sanabria) Gordon Bennett 1939, imperf, fine	50.00
56 309-311 (Sanabria) Gordon Bennett on 2 cards, autogphd.	....

SEMI POSTALS

57*B11-B14, very fine	2.25
58*B26-B27 Blocks of 4, B26 blk. weak	2.00
59*B29 and B30, very fine	4.00
60*B31, very fine	2.00
61 B31 on registered cover	....
62*B36-B39, fine	1.60

PORT GDANSK

63* #1K1 2 3 9 16 17 20 22 28 29 30	3.30
64* #1K12, Block of 4 off center, perf does not touch	6.00
65* #1K26, very fine	4.00
66* #1K28-1K30, Blocks of 4	2.80

Lot No.	Cat. Val.
OFFICES ABROAD	
67*3K1-3K8 Dec. 15, 1941 issue	2.00
68*3K1-3K8 Dec. 15, 1941 issue	2.00
69 3K1-3K8 on First Day cover no backstamps	....
70 3K1-3K8 on First Day cover, Registered, Censor label and censor mark, Registry back- stamps New York & Chicago	....
71 3K1-3K8 on First Day cover, Registered, censor mark, Re- gistry backstamps New York and Chicago	....

GERMAN OCCUPATION	
72*#N6-N16, fine	.98
73 6 covers with various stamps 1915-18	....
74*#393 and #394, fine	2.25
75*#393 and #394, fine	2.25
76*#392, #393 and #394, fine	6.00
77*#392, #393 and #394, fine	6.00
78*#393, very fine	.75
79*#393 corner blk. of 4, v. fine	3.00

LOCALS	
80 Warsaw Locals used on two covers and post card with Ger- man Occupation Stamps	....
81 Warsaw Local on cover, 5 gr and 10 gr, surcharged 2 gr and 6 gr and also N1	....
82*Sosnowiec triangle, never hinged, est. val.	2.50

OFFICIALS	
83*#O1-O31 guaranteed by M. Haertel	35.10
84*#O36-O44, fine	1.22

MARIENWERDER	
85*#31 Essay with large Capital letters	....

POLISH ARMY CORPS	
86 4 stamps Polish Corps sur- charges on Russian	....

RUSSIAN OCCUPATION	
87 3 post cards with Russian stamps used in Zoblutow dur- ing occupation of Poland 1939-40	....

UPPER SILESIA	
88*Insurgent Post; 3 stamps— 1 perf. and 2 imperf. Est. val.	3.00

MISCELLANEOUS LOTS	
89*#240 257 260 261 269 271 273 334 B26 B27	3.12
90*#242 245 256 267 268 271 273 302 2K12	3.70
91*#289 319 340	1.30
92 used #234 and C12, unused #156-162, unused B1-B10	1.29
93*#278 286 292 293 327 337 338 B32 C8 C9 C12 J85 J87 J93	4.10
94*60 stamps used #277 285 286 & unused #192 & 193, blks of 4	2.30
95*Used #93-108, #215-226 and unused J22-J30	.81

Lot No.	Cat. Val.
96*used J92 J93 J94 J86 J87 1K114 1K122 and unused 267	1.60
97*J103-J106, 1K28-1K30	1.36
98 12 covers and cards, unused and used	....
99*Charity Labels complete	....
100*13 essays, in color, showing winning designs in contest of 1917. Krolestwo Polskie. est val.	7.50
101*#255 and #319, fine	1.40
102 Msl. lot of Krakow and Lublin, 14 stamps not guar- anteed	5.05

This 'n' That

Prvt. Edward Le Vanda, our member from Brooklyn, N. Y., attended the Jan. 8th meeting of the Society. Ed is a member of the "This is the Army" show currently making its appearance at the Civic Opera House. He was very pleased at the reception members of the Society gave him—amazed at the fine lots for the POLPEX Auction shown him ("I'll have to bid for some of this stuff," he said) and encouraged by the splendid spirit shown at the meeting. His charming wife said she enjoyed herself immensely and would remember the evening a long, long time.

Polonus Nominates!

At the January 8, 1943 meeting, a very spirited session was held which the nominations for officers of the Society for the coming year were made. The following were nominated:

For President—Myron E. Steczynski
For Vice-President—Ben Reeves
For Secretary—J. J. Domar
For Treasurer—J. P. Rux
For Librarian and Historian—Adam Kłoskowski

For Members of the Board of Directors:
(Two to be elected)

Roman Reinowski
Leopold S. Sobanski
Chester Mikucki
Adam Nowinski
Roman Wojciecki

Polonus elects on January 22, 1943. Be sure to attend the meeting and vote! Be sure to vote!

Tattling

"Lightnin," son of Henry J. Choynecki, past president of Polonus, is now a commissioned officer in the Armed Forces of the U. S.

Felix Pientka is serving Uncle Sam with the American Forces in North Africa and Egypt.

Remember that question we asked in the October issue of the BULLETIN, as to which of our members were exhibiting in STAMPEX?..... Sorry we asked.

The March 13, 1943 issue of STAMPS will be a special issue devoted to the Stamps of Poland. All articles will be written by members of the Society and edited by the Publications Committee.

Reports from Philadelphia indicate that a shortage of thread, shirt and vest buttons threaten. Vincent Doman-ski, Jr., is a proud "grandpappy."

How about those cards mailed with the December issue of the BULLETIN. We need the information for our records and for the Directory to be published soon.

Dr. Leonard Sluzynski is serving his Country somewhere in Alaska.

Four members of Polonus made a long trip to Ottawa, Illinois to be the guests of the LaSalle County Stamp Club on January 13, 1943. Jack Domar had his Poland collection, Myron E. Steczynski, his Poland Airmail cover collection, and Lester Jankowski, his Pilsudski collection. Each member gave a short talk illustrated by his collection. Oh, yes, Roman Reinowski went along for the ride.

A copy of the prospectus for POLPEX 1943, is mailed with this issue of the BULLETIN. Return it at once.

For Associate Members Only

How about it you members of Polonus, who live at great distance from Chicago and whom we know only from your Membership application blanks and correspondence? Why not make the tie a little closer. Show us what you collect! Enter a portion of your collection in POLPEX 1943.

Each year a larger number of associate members exhibit in POLPEX.

This year our goal is "Every Associate Member Exhibits in POLPEX." You can help us reach this goal. Send in your prospectus NOW!

Meet the New Members

Anthony P. Schaefer
1429 S. Clarence Ave.
Berwyn, Ill.

C. A. Langner
2516 N. Mango Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Joseph Bieniecki
1912 Harris St.
Madison, Ill.

Thaddeus J. Stasik
216 Fourteenth St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Thomas A. Szymborski
616 S. Potomac St.
Baltimore, Md.

Sgt. Charles Wrobel
42nd Tech. School Squadron
Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Nicholas Kalinowski
5542 S. Hermitage Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Applications for Membership Pending

John S. Dziok
712 S. Pacific St.
Stamford, Conn.

Felix J. Poley
219 Sixth Street
Braddock, Pa.

Coming Events

January 22, 1943

Polonus elects.

January 29, 30, 31, 1943

North Shore Philatelic Society
Exhibition at Edgewater Beach
Hotel.

February 19, 20, 21, 1943

Chicago Philatelic Society Ex-
hibition at Atlantic Hotel.

March 12, 13, 14, 1943

POLPEX 1943.

March 19, 20, 1943

Austin Philatelic Club Exhibition
at Austin Town Hall.

Help Win the War
BUY MORE BONDS