

CATALOGUE

POLPEX 1970



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL STAMP EXHIBITION

ST. JAMES AUDITORIUM

FEB. 28 - MAR. 1

CHICAGO

313

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Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

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POLPEX 1970

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 1970

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POLAND

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100 Copies Exist

Poland #689 was issued 15 years ago. One sheet of #689 was found in a Swedish packet makers C.T.O. stock with one color missing. In these 15 years since it was issued, no one else has found this major printing error.

We offer this major rarity, subject unsold: \$25.00.

A few years ago we had the only known stock of the 60 gr. Olympic issue, #745 imperf. We would like to BUY this stamp back at \$50.00.

We can also still offer #950, error of color: \$3.00.

WANT LIST SERVICE

Send us your want list for anything related to the stamps of Poland. Rarities to penny stamps. Stampless Covers, Postal Stationery, Covers F.D., Revenues, Seals, Labels, P.O.W., Essays, Proofs, Balloon, Rocket, Etc. Catalogs and Books.

JOSEPH BIENIECKI

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3/6

Welcome to Polpex 1970!

Time again has permitted us to welcome and congratulate the Polonus Philatelic Society on its 31st anniversary and annual exhibition.

During these years we fulfilled our original goal to enlighten the non-Polish public of the heritage, culture and history of Poland through philately.

We hope your visit at POLPEX 1970 will be enjoyable and especially educational and informative.

I wish to thank our exhibitors, bourse dealers, advertisers, patrons and especially those busy beavers that gave up their time to bring this exhibition to a reality.

Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz

Executive Chairman

POLAND SPECIALIZED

I have everything in stock. Want list welcomed for anything in Poland The following materials available at my Bourse Table at Polpe: 1970:

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15-26 OVERPRINT COLLECTION VARIETIES

I KORPUS Dowbora Musnickiego mint, used complete sets and singles

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341-43 with gutter pair

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376A Inverted overprint sheet of 100 Cat. Ruch

Poland Centenary 5 Souv. Sheets 1007A-1011A Cat. Ruch

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P.O.W. CAMPS Woldenberg, Gross Born, Murnau

BARLETA AND TRANI mint full sheets 9 vals.

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Stamp Exhibition

Exhibit No. 1

Frames 1—6

Alfred Szebel, Chicago, Ill.

Polish Field Post History of the After Pilsuski Legions Period. Creation of a New Polish Army, Polish Reinforcement Corps up to the Independence in 1918, The Reorganization of Polish Forces To Fight Invading Bolsheviks and the Final Victory in 1920-21 with the participation of Gen. J. Haller's Blue Division.

Exhibit No. 2

Frames 7—11

H. G. Wolfe, Jackson Heights, N.Y.

"Poland And The Sea" — 1920 to 1945. Selected pages from a postal history collection of cities and towns in the Baltic coast area. Included are pre-stamp and parcelway letters, ship covers, official letter seals, W.W. II cancels, topical stamps and stationery.

Exhibit No. 3

Frames 12—24

Chester A. Schafer, Chicago, Ill.

Central Lithuania — 1920-1922 — Specialized

Exhibit No. 4

Frames 25—27

Dr. M. A. Kamienski, Scarborough, Ont. Canada

Poland's Fight to Establish its Southeastern Frontier. The stamps of Western Ukraine, Kowel Overprints, and the Roumanian C.M.T. Surcharges.

Exhibit No. 5

Frames 28—30

S. Styczynski, Chicago, Ill.

Port Gdansk — Selected pages from a Specialized Collection

Exhibit No. 6

Frames 31—35

Roman H. Strzelecki, Chicago, Ill.

Postal Cards of Poland — Pages from a Specialized Study showing the Development and Progress of Postal Cards between 1918 and 1939 including Types, Varieties and Postal Rates.

Exhibit No. 7

Frames 36—42

Karl Wacker, Minster, Ohio

"The Rebirth of a Nation"—World War I—Poland Postal History

Exhibit No. 8

Frames 43—47

M. Bialobrodec, New Britain, Conn.

"1000 Years of Polish Arms"

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- Exhibit No. 9 Frames 48—57
Zdzislaw Wagrowski, Chicago, Ill.
Polish First Flights — Selected pages from a Specialized Collection
- Exhibit No. 10 Frames 58-60
Winston Gruszczyk, Ontario Canada
Central Lithuania — A Specialized Collection
- Exhibit No. 11 Frames 61—65
Dr. Conrad P. Straub, Columbia Heights, Minn.
“Poczta Polska on Gen. Gouv. Warschau” — A Study of Flat Bed
Press Sectors and Rotary Press Printings used in overprinting.
- Exhibit No. 12 Frames 66—70
H. F. Zebrowski, Harrison, N.J.
Woldenberg Prisoner of War Camp Issue — 1942-1945
-
- NOT FOR COMPETITION**
- Exhibit No. 13 Frames 71—76
Roman J. Burkiewicz, Chicago, Ill.
Selected pages from a collection of Polish Legion Field Post
- Exhibit No. 14 Frames 77—86
Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz, Chicago, Ill.
Poland Stamps of 1920 — A Study of Errors, and Varieties of Paper,
Perforation and Color.
- Exhibit No. 15 Frames 87—94
Alfred Szebel, Chicago, Ill.
Postal History of the Polish Legions
- Exhibit No. 16 Frames 95—104
Hon. Lester Jankowski, Lincolnwood, Ill.
PILSUDSKI — The Stamp Highlights of a Hero
- Exhibit No. 17 Frames 105—108
Polish American Congress, Ill. Div., Chicago, Ill.
Covers commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte
Cassino.
- Exhibit No. 18 Frames 109—112
Polish American Congress, Ill. Div., Chicago, Ill.
The 25th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising commemorated on
covers other than Poland.

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POLAND SAVED EUROPE IN 1920

After more than a century of non-existence, politically speaking, Poland was reborn again — a rebirth which came about in three phases, the first being the defeat of all the partitioning Powers in the war of 1914-18; the second embracing the decisions of The Treaty of Versailles (1919) which settled the question of Poland's independence, and the third which was the final delineation of the frontiers of the Polish Republic in 1923.

Poland's rebirth bore all the aspects of the literal pangs and efforts of childbirth in the bloody and painful episodes which followed. There was the fierce struggle for Lwow which included the participation of Polish women and children and the dispute with the Czechs over Cieszyn Silesia.

The year 1920 was a most crucial one in the history of Poland, for at this point events proved that her situation was no longer a lone question of her eastern frontiers. On the contrary, it was a situation rapidly developing another angle, namely, that of a nation struggling for her very survival.

Another factor of prime importance for the Polish problem was Bolshevism which was about to develop into a formidable threat, more correctly, a threat already in action, for the entire eastern frontier was now a raging conflagration ignited by revolutionary Russian forces.

The newly organized Polish army, substantially reinforced in the spring of 1919 by Gen. Haller's army from France, adequately equipped and excellently organized, was actively engaged in the extension of Poland's frontiers to the east. Soviet Russia was incapable of much resistance on her western side for the simple reason that she was too absorbed with her domestic war against leaders of counter-revolution in its east, north and south. Therefore, the Poles were successful in recovering a considerable portion of

their historical eastern border territory. It ranged from Wilno, which had been the ancient capital of the Lithuanian section of the Monarchy, in the north, to Kamieniec Polski in the south. During the last months of 1919 Russia attempted peace negotiations. These found favor in the Nationalist camp in Poland. However, Jozef Pilsudski, erstwhile Marshal of Poland, sufficiently wise to the Bolshevik ways through experience, knew fully well, with many others who shared his opinion, that the Bolshevik rulers in Russia, unless crushed by defeat would not deem themselves duty bound by any treaty made with a "bourgeois" Power. Consequently, the negotiations were terminated and a state of war continued. Operations were somewhat inactive for a while, until a definite step was taken by Pilsudski, in the spring of 1920, aiming to realize his idea of a series of buffer states between Poland and Russia. At that time, Ataman Petlura, a military leader, formed an anti-Bolshevik Ukrainian government. This government aspired to dominate Ukraina south of Russia. Poland recognized this aspiration, entering into an alliance on the condition that Poland retains Eastern Galicia.

As a result, the combined forces of Pilsudski and Petlura, penetrated the core of Ukrainian regions, and eventually entered Kiev, the ancient capital of South Russia. The capture of this historical city made a deep moral impression even on the non-Bolshevik forces in the country who could now be excited to action. The armies of counter-revolutionary generals in the north and east, by this time, were liquidated by the Bolsheviks, who now were in a splendid position to throw their pressure on the Polish front—a pressure the Poles could not withstand. Kiev had to be abandoned and Wilno, situated in the north, was again in possession of the Bolsheviks.

During the early summer months, one by one, the towns in the north, the center and the south, were taken by the Bolsheviks, too. While Bolshevik armies were racing on in the direction of Warsaw, in the south Bud'enny's Cavalry Corps was threatening Lwow.

Poland was in distress. She could expect no aid from the western Allies, while assistance in the form of munitions and supplies was not plausible due to the unfriendly attitude of factory and transport workers. Unfortunately, the working class of Central Europe was universally in sympathy with the Bolsheviks. What little help Poland did receive came from Hungary and barely in time to be used in the decisive battles.

Finally Poland appealed to the western Powers, offering to make heavy concessions which were contrary to her vital interests, but with little results. Bound by an agreement signed at Spa, she was obligated to renounce her territorial and other claims, at almost all points left open by the treaties. The frontier disputes with Czechoslovakia over parts of Austrian Silesia and over the mountain districts of Spisz and Orava, south of the Tatra mountains, were settled after all not only without the promised plebiscites but almost entirely in favor of the Czechoslovak demands.

Great Britain offered her intervention regarding Poland's grave and immediate danger of falling into the hands of Bolshevik Russia. Lord Curzon suggested a liberal surrender of territory to Russia by drawing up the famous "Curzon Line." It was to cut off, on the eastern side of Poland, all districts which in the least degree were mixed in speech. The Bolsheviks did not accept Britain's mediation. True, they offered Poland a frontier more favorable than the "Curzon Line," provided she accepted their other terms of peace, terms, which would annihilate Poland's status as an independent state.

Poland was ready to face her battle for life and death. She was helped in her struggle by General Weygand, Marshal Foch's Chief of Staff, whom France sent together with other capable officers to help conduct operations. But, according to General Weygand himself, the plans for this great maneuver which meant Poland's existence or annihilation, was drawn by the Polish command — a maneuver so daring he would never think it safe to suggest. The Bolsheviks, of course, were positive success would be theirs to such an extent that they did not hesitate to appoint a provisional Bolshevik Government of Poland, consisting of five members, two of which were Communist leaders of Polish origin. In attempting to capture Warsaw, the Bolshevik's decided to employ the same plan used in subsiding the insurrection of 1831, which depended on forcing a passage of the Vistula at some distance from Warsaw, and then closing upon the city from the west as well as the east. Flank movements to this effect were in progress. The thunder of Bolshevik guns grouped in the center of the front, were within hearing range of the city. Foreign diplomats — excluding the Papal Nuncio, later His Holiness Pope Pius XI, and Italian Minister F. Tomassini — left the capital of Poland. Apparently, generally speaking, western Europe pronounced Warsaw on the verge of defeat and Poland's freedom lost.

The crisis was here. On August 15, 1920, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in a special service, prayers were said to God and the Virgin for victory, for freedom, for Poland. A crucial moment . . . an unexpected counter-offensive by Poles, and the Bolshevik plan was thwarted. Pilsudski withdrew some of his forces from the center of his position, using them to attack the Bolshevik troops driving upon Warsaw, in their flank and rear from the south. The operation was a success, insofar that it severed the unity of the Bolshevik front,

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compelling a general retreat of the Bolshevik armies.

Warsaw was delivered! A miracle had been wrought! The situation was now entirely different. National enthusiasm branded the victory at Warsaw "the miracle of the Vistula" so called since the memorable day.

What bearing did the "miracle of the Vistula" have upon the future of the world? General Weygand said it not only saved Poland from Bolshevization, but probably all Europe. In an article published in the *Gazeta Polska*, Warsaw, on August 17, 1930, Lord D'Abernon said:

"The history of contemporary civilization knows no event of greater importance than the Battle of Warsaw, 1920, and none of which the significance is less appreciated. The danger menacing Europe at that moment was parried, and the whole episode was forgotten. Had the battle been a Bolshevik victory, it would have been a turning-point in European history, for there is no doubt at all that the whole of Central Europe would at that moment have

opened to the influence of Communist propaganda and to Soviet invasion, which it could with difficulty have resisted. It is evident from speeches made in Russia during the war against Poland that the Soviet plans were very far-reaching. In the more industrialized German towns plans were made on a large scale to proclaim a Soviet regime a few days after Warsaw had fallen. . . . Several times Poland has been the bulwark of Europe against Asiatic invasion, yet never had Poland's services been greater, never had the danger been more imminent. It should be the task of political writers to explain to European opinion that Poland saved Europe in 1920, and that it is necessary to keep Poland powerful and in harmonious relations with Western European civilization, for Poland is the barrier to the everlasting peril of an Asiatic invasion."

Sources:

Poland 1914-31, Robert Machray, London, 1932.
Poland, Roman Dyboski, New York, 1933.
A history of Poland, O. Halecki, New York, 1943.

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL POLPEX

From

**POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF BUFFALO**

612 FILLMORE AVENUE

BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14212



**ADAM PLEWACKI AMERICAN LEGION POST 799
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The philatelic group is co-operating by conveying to the residents of the City of Buffalo, N.Y. and its Suburbs, the message of the American Legion's Birthday, and National Commander J. Milton Patrick's "Unity and Service for America."

"Unity and Service for America" will be the theme of the Alplex 799 Stamp and Coin Show. The American Legion Philatelic Exhibition will be held March 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1970, in the Post Auditorium, 385 Paderewski Dr. Buffalo, N.Y.

An official red, white and blue commemorative cachet featuring the theme, with an appropriate stamp cancelled at the U.S. Post Office Sub-Station at the show, will be available to the public @ 35¢, to cover costs. For unaddressed cachets please enclose #10 stamped self addressed envelope.

Anyone interested may contact Francis Modzelewski, c/o Plewacki Post Stamp Society, 385 Paderewski Dr.; Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

Exhibits invited. For prospectus write Stan. Keane at above address.

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THE 110th ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND NO. 1

By DR. M. A. LIPINSKI

On January 1, 1970 Polish Philately celebrated the 110th anniversary of the first Polish stamp, Poland No. 1.

After the dismemberment of the Polish State in 1772, 1793 and 1795 Poland ceased to exist as a free and independent state. Later, the French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte I, made numerous promises to the Poles of restoring their independence for service in his campaigns. Needless to say, these promises were never fulfilled. The Grand Duchy of Poland, created in 1807, after Napoleon's treaty with Austria and his marriage to the Austrian Emperor's daughter, was very different to what he had promised. His lost Russian campaign was the end of all his hopes and dreams.

In 1815, the Congress of Vienna in an effort to further Poland's cause, formed the Kingdom of Poland (the Congress Kingdom) of part of lands taken by Russia, with the Czar of Russia as the King of Poland. Its constitution, solemnly signed by Czar Alexander I in Vienna May 3, 1815 and in Warsaw on December 3, 1815 guaranteed a far-reaching administrative independence. But, in fact, the absolutist Czars cared neither for international treaties, nor for their own laws. Thus, the independence of the Kingdom of Poland depended actually on the whims of czars or their viceroys.

As a result of the constant breaking of the treaties by the Czarist authorities Polish uprisings broke out. After his suspension, the Russian General, Count Pashkiewich became the vice-regent. He held this post from 1831 to 1856 and limited the Polish administration to the utmost. The situation changed for the better only after his death, under the viceregency of the Duke of Goncharoff.



The Postal Administration immediately took advantage of this to obtain permission to issue Polish stamps and postal stationery. On January 1, 1859 (according to the old calendar, Dec. 20, 1858) the first provisional Polish envelopes were released, bearing

a handpressed seal of the Chief Postal Chancery.

When the first postage stamps appeared in May of 1840 in England, other countries soon followed suit. Towards the end of 1859 the Government Treasury & Revenue Commission of the Kingdom of Poland obtained from the viceroy, the Duke of Goncharoff, permission for printing its own postage stamps which made their appearance in January of 1860. The notice of this permission was to be published in the official circular of the Post Office of the Kingdom of Poland, No. 13, dated December 2 (14),* 1859.

Because this permission had to be approved by the Central Government in the capitol at St. Petersburg, it was not until March 4 (16), 1860 that the main office of the Posts of the whole Empire of Russia, approved the proposal with circular No. 96.

The first design of the stamp, without Russian wording, was not accepted by the government commission. The design — similar to the usual Russian stamps — showed a two-headed Russian eagle with a coat-of-arms on the breast with a Polish eagle in an oval; with numerals in the corners; worded both in Russian and Polish: *Za lot kopiejek 10* (for one lot — ten kopecks).** All printing was done in the

*The first date was according to the gregorian calendar used in Russia up to 1919.

**Lot is the Russian weight term for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

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State Bureau of Valuable Papers in Warsaw by the typographical method from cuts prepared by engraver Henry Majer, of the Bank of the Kingdom of Poland.

A full sheet consisted of 100 stamps arranged in four blocks of 25 separated by a gutter of 8 to 9 mm. wide. Spacing between each stamp was 1½ to 2 mm.

Including the numerous printings, the total quantity issued amounted to over 3,000,000 copies, differing in shades of blue, carmine-rose; as well as gumming and the quality of paper: laid, wove and smooth.

The stamps were used for ordinary letters within the territory of the Kingdom of Poland and to Russia only. Payment for registered and foreign mail was made in cash (for fear of the stamp being used by spies).

These stamps were in circulation for over five years and were withdrawn by Czar Alexander II on April 1 (13),* 1865. The withdrawal was a form of repression against the Poles for the January Uprising of 1863-1865.

Cancelling of mail was done as in other countries, with round postmarks consisting of four co-centric circles with a number in the middle. The territory of the Kingdom of Poland was divided into eight postal districts. In 1859 there were 269 post offices in operation and new post offices with numbers from 270 to 345 opened between 1859 to 1865. Numbers 1 thru 269 were introduced from March 27 (April 10),* 1858 as ordered by government circular No. 5951.

Not all the numbers are found on the first stamp of Poland for some were opened after its withdrawal. The following are not known on cancellations of Poland No. 1: 323, 328, and 333 to 345.

The decree of March 15 (27),* 1858 introducing the special numeral cancellation, specified that only black cancelling ink should be used. However, other colors of ink were used. Can-

cancellations in red are known of numbers 4, 18, 34, 42, 70, 76, 91, 92, 100, 102, 105, 108, 119, etc. Blue cancellations exist of numbers 14, 16, 135, 161, 164, 171, 180, 183, 184, 185, 217 and 322. Very, very rare green cancellations are known with the numbers 17, 167, 245, 304 and 311. Brown, red-brown, grey and yellow-brown cancellations are known; but these are the result of the mixture of red and black ink,

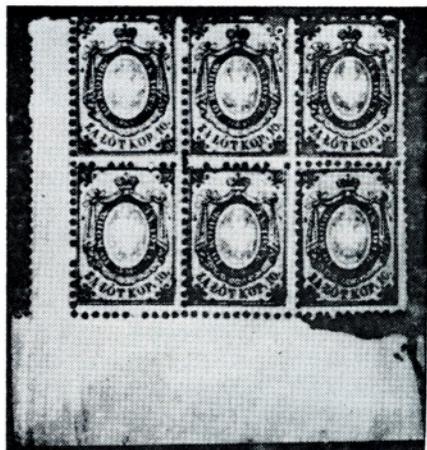
Besides the numeral cancellations, various other cancellations are known from this period used on Poland No. 1. There are postmarks with numbers appearing in squares and octagons, ambulance postmarks as well as those with the name of the post office in Russian, in Polish, or both, and of various designs.

The Great Rarities of Poland No. 1

In spite of such an enormous quantity being issue, copies of this stamp in pairs, strips, or blocks are rare. Even single mint copies are seldom found for sale on the market.

The greatest rarities are:

1. A mint block of six formerly in the collection of Dr. Joseph Tislowitz from Krakow; at present in the collection of Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz of Chicago.



The rare mint block of six in the collection of Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz of Chicago.

2. A block of six with a supplementary pair with margin formerly in the collection of Agathon Faberge. It was sold at auction by Harmer in London, March 1940.
3. A letter with a strip of five and a supplementary single cancelled No. 23 "Kalwaria" and delivered to the Polish State Bank in Warsaw, from the collection of the Wroclaw Polish Postal Museum.

The Ten Great World Famous Collections of Poland No. 1

The first of the greatest such collections was that of Agathon Faberge, the court jeweller of Czar Nicholas II of Russia. It dates back to 1895. It contained 901 pieces: 115 mint with various errors, misprints, varieties of paper, color, etc., 440 used and 346 on letters. The rarities in this collection are: a horizontal strip of five stamps cancelled with numeral 102, two vertical strips of four, and one horizontal strip three of on cover. This collection was exhibited at WIPA 1933 at Vienna; sold at auction by Harmer in London in 1940-41. The greater part of this collection went into the collections of M. A. Bojanowicz, Myron Stecznski and Vincent Domanski.

The second greatest collection was that of Vladimir Rachmanov of Bay-side, N.Y. which contained over 600 pieces: 25 mint, 278 used and over 245 on letters. The rarities of this collection were: three pieces of four, six pieces of three (four used and two on covers), and 25 pairs.

Count Vladimir Polanski's collection contained over 300 stamps — mint, used on covers. It was the background material for his life-work, "The Marks and Stamps of Poland in the 18th and 19th Centuries" published in Polish (65 copies), French (135), and German (300 copies). It was offered for sale to the Warsaw Postal Museum in 1924-25, but upon their refusal to buy it was sold to Herman Schmeltzer of Galczewki, Lipnica near Bydgoszcz. It was exhibited at Berlin IPOSTA 1930. Schmeltzer, a German,

lived in Poland. After World War II, he returned to Germany. Since then, no word of the owner or his collection is known. This collection contains the original steel-engraved plates as well.

The collection of Theodore Henrijke van' Noordende-Poulie, exhibited at SOFIA 69, contains numerous copies from the collections of Faberge as well as Steczynski and Domanski, totalling 400 pieces — mint, used, on covers, pairs, strips, etc.

The collection of Miroslaw Bojanowicz of London contains many pieces from the Faberge collection including the famous horizontal strip of five cancelled with number 102. It was exhibited at many international shows and received the highest awards.

The Wroclaw Postal Museum has 188 stamps and 86 letters. The rarity is one letter cancelled with 23 (Kalwaria) and addressed to the Polish Bank at Warsaw. The collection originated with that of A. Pachonski of Warsaw.

Vincent Domanski, Jr. had over 200 copies of Poland No. 1, 65 on letters, many pairs and one strip of three. The collection was sold at the auction of Apfelbaum in October, 1968. Many copies went into the collection of T. H. Poulie.

The famous Eduard Nepros of Warsaw collection contained 25 mint copies, 155 used, 88 letters, 12 pairs and three strips of three stamps. It was sold at auction by the House of Beaux-Arts at Warsaw held Jan.-Feb., 1930. Many copies were purchased by V. Rachmanov and A. Pachonski.

In the collection of Arkadius Pachonski of Warsaw, there were 116 copies of Poland No. 1 and 86 letters with the rarity — a vertical strip of five on cover addressed to the Polish Bank at Warsaw and cancelled with numeral 23 (Kalwaria). This collection was sold in 1937 to the Warsaw Postal Museum. During World War II this collection was preserved in the German Postal Museum at Berlin, and after the war it was returned to Poland.

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The collection of Dr. Leon P. Koza-kiewicz of Chicago contains over 300 copies with the outstanding rarity — a mint block of six with downward margin and two medial spaces at the right.

The collection of Stephen G. Rich, contained 367 copies cancelled with numerous numbers (218 copies), It was sold at auction by the Mercury Stamp Company of N.Y. in February, 1960. Many copies were bought up by V. Rachmanov and T. H. Poulie.

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TO POLONUS ON "POLPEX 1970"

HONORING

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARIES OF
POLAND'S BATTLE OF THE VISTULA
AND UNION WITH THE SEA

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

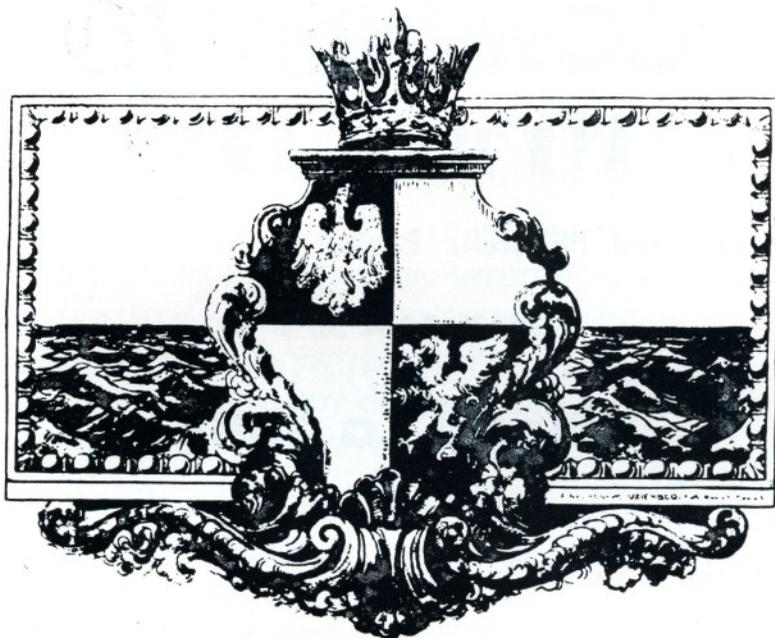
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R. P. MCMXX.
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The Memorable Appeal of Wincenty Witos, President of the Ministry, to the Soldiers

August 6, 1920

The time has come for the greatest effort on the part of our people and our nation. The Bolshevik armies are advancing on our land spreading destruction, death, slaughter, fire, and theft, taking food and everything else that can be taken. The Bolsheviks wish to destroy our nation, shackle our people and make them slaves. They have cast aside the armistice, protracting the cause of peace, for they are not concerned with peace but rather with destroying our independence, the nation's greatest treasure.

Soldiers, Poland depends on you today, and to you She has entrusted Her defense. You shall determine whether the nation will be able to exist in freedom and good fortune, or if it will become the invader's puppet. Defending Poland you defend yourselves and your families. In fighting to maintain the nation, you fight for the peace and good fortune of your mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and children.

Don't think that the Bolsheviks are unbeatable, this is not true! If they still march on Poland they do so under coercion. It matters only that you take up the fight, for that fight must inevitably end in victory. Do not be discouraged by temporary shortages, you yourselves know that the Bolshevik soldiers fight without shoes, in rags, and without undergarments. You will not be short of ammunition or guns, and the Government will provide you with shoes and clothing.

You cannot be fearful or cowardly. The nation will curse the memory of those who ran from the battlefield without honor in the face of the enemy. Their own families, suffering oppression by the Bolsheviks, will curse them. Let cowards remember that after conquering Poland the Bolsheviks would not end the war, for they dream of embattling the world. They would take by force everyone capable of carrying a gun and send them off to slaughter in a distant land. You must shake weakness from your souls. You must desire victory and get victory.

To battle then, soldiers! Who of you distinguishes himself with courage on the field of battle may become an officer. When the war is ended the Fatherland will reward you generously. Soldiers who have been on the front a long time, or who volunteered for service will, after the coming of peace, receive land from the State before all others, for this is clearly directed by the law of rural reform.

Especially meritorious soldiers will be given land free, for this too is directed by the law of rural reform. If one of you should be killed, your family will receive from the Government assurance of peaceful existence. Your bravery and blood will find its reward in the good fortune of your families and the entire nation.

Soldiers, all Poland is watching and trusting in you, and waiting for rescue from the bondage and disgrace of the nation and the people, and also for protection from the slaughter and plunder of your families. The whole world is watching.

To battle then!

Go and fight, and return the victors!

In the name of the Government, the President of the Ministry

(—) Wincenty Witos

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Znaczenia Zwycięstwa Polskiego nad Komunizmem w Roku 1920

Dziejowym wydarzeniem był "Cud nad Wisłą" — zwycięstwo odniesione przez naród polski w 1920 r. pod murami Warszawy w decydującym ówczesnym starciu z nawałą bolszewicką która parła poprzez ziemie odrodzonej Rzeczypospolitej na zachód. Wieszczy narodu polskiego Adam Mickiewicz mówił o 1812 roku, gdy szły armie napoleońskie na wschód na rozprawę z Moskwą, jako o roku przełomowym, w którym w sercach polskich budziły się wiośniane uczucia i nadzieje odzyskania pełnej wolności. W 108 lat później wskrzeszona do życia niezawisłego Polska znalazła się w obliczu największego niebezpieczeństwa, gdy runęły na odrodzoną Rzeczypospolitą hordy bolszewickie ze Wschodu i posuwały się pod Warszawę.

Cały zachodni świat spoglądał na bohaterskie zapasy narodu polskiego z siłami sowieckimi. Dopiero co po pierwszej wojnie przywrócona do bytu państwowego Polska nie miała w 1920 roku — w chwili inwazji bolszewickiej na jej ziemie — należyte wyekwipowanych sił zbrojnych. Brakowało i broni, której dostawy z zachodu przez Gdańsk były wówczas utrudnione i nie było w niespełna dwa lata po kataklizmie światowym pierwszej wojny, odpowiednio zmontowanego aparatu administracyjnego w młodym państwie polskim, ale za to w całym narodzie polskim był płomienny patriotyzm oraz mocna wola przeciwstawienia się najeźdźcom.

W krytycznej sytuacji w 1920 roku przywódca chopski Wincenty Witos stworzył rząd jedności narodowej. Zagrożona od wschodu zalewem bolszewickim Polska powołała do życia w porwie patriotycznym Armię Ochotniczą złożoną w większości z młodzieży, która stanęła w potrzebie do walki o ratowanie Polski od zagłady ze strony bolszewickiej. Ze wszystkich pałacy kraju, z sadyb wiejskich i fabrycznych miast zaciągali się ochotnicy pod sztan-

dary Rzeczypospolitej, by stawić czoła hordom azjatyckim, które — jak w czasach potopu — zwały się na ziemie polskie. Jak ongiś w dobie króla Jana Sobieskiego przypadła w udziale Polsce obrona środkowej Europy pod murami Wiednia przed najazdem tureckim, tak w historycznym 1920 roku przypadła znów Polsce dziejowa rola przedmurza chrześcijaństwa i powstrzymania pod murami Warszawy pochodu na zachód — bezbożników z pod znaku marksizmu.

Wybitny dyplomata i obserwator, lord d'Abernon w dziele swym zatytułowanym "Osiemnasta decydująca bitwa świata" wyraził pogląd, iż w 1920 roku nastąpił "Cud nad Wisłą", że zwycięstwo odniesione wówczas przez naród polski pod murami Warszawy było pod względem swego znaczenia historycznego tak wielkie, jak zwycięstwo polskie pod murami Wiednia w XVII wieku. Gdyby bowiem bolszewizm nie został w 1920 roku powstrzymany przez oręż polski w decydującej bitwie pod Warszawą, to fala bolszewicka już w tym samym roku rozlała by się na cały kontynent europejski.

W chwili gdy w sierpniu 1920 roku Polska pod murami Warszawy rozprawiała się z bolszewizmem, to w każdym większym mieście w Niemczech odbywały się potajemne przygotowania agentów komunistycznych do utworzenia bolszewizmowi drogi do przejęcia kontroli nad środkowo-zachodnią połacią Europy. W 1920 roku komuniści niemieccy posiadali już gotowe programy na zlikwidowanie w drodze zamachów i morderstw politycznych swych przeciwników i objęcie władzy w Rzeszy. Czekali tylko na upadek Warszawy i załamanie się bohaterskiej obrony polskiej w decydującym starciu nad Wisłą z siłami bolszewizmu. Ale w najkrytyczniejszej chwili, dzięki jedności narodowej i pomocy Boga, naród polski zadał cios bolszewizmowi i zniweczył nadzieje komunistów niemieckich.



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THE MIRACLE OF THE VISTULA IN 1920

By REV. ANTHONY J. ROZEWICZ, C.S.C.

This year Poles in all parts of the world commemorate the fiftieth antieth anniversary of an event which they poetically call "The Miracle of the Vistula."

What is the Miracle of the Vistula? The term itself is only a dignified epithet, but it signifies a momentous military achievement. It refers to that remarkable and totally successful Polish counter-attack which, fifty years ago, drove the Bolsheviks away from the banks of the Vistula river where they were entrenched close to the gates of Warsaw. Then with rapid succession, the enemy were ousted from all the territory previously gained by them in Poland.

Human calculations did not foresee such a swift, complete and glorious triumph as was actually accomplished. Other elements besides mere military strategy seem to have played a part in this extraordinary victory. It was won not by the Polish army, but by the Polish people. Every Pole in Poland at the time rose to the defense of his country. Even women, yes, even mere boys and girls with rifles or any available weapon in hand, went to the front. Assiduously and without respite was Warsaw preparing to defend herself. In the midst of that ant-like toil and commotion before an impending danger, the inhabitants of the capital, as well as of other parts of Poland, found time to call upon the Almighty for consolation and succor. The Poles are a religious as well as a brave nation. From churches everywhere throughout the land, devout prayers ascended to the Father Who is in heaven as also to the Blessed Virgin whom the Polish people cherish as Queen of Poland.

Skeptics may have smiled cynically at such comportment. Nevertheless, at the appointed hour the battle on the banks of the Vistula began. The Polish fighters carried it to the enemy. The result was a bloody clash and a victory that was swift, thorough and decisive.



Within but a few days the Bolsheviks, beaten at every point, were demoralized and routed. Soon they sued for peace. The Poles are willing to ascribe that sudden and extraordinary triumph to a special providence of God in their behalf. Hence the epithet, "The Miracle of the Vistula."

The hero of the Miracle of the Vistula was a capable, saintly, brave and energetic young priest, Father Ignatius Skorupka by name. So dearly do the Polish people cherish his memory that legends attributing to him superhuman powers were heard concerning him.

Who was Father Skorupka? What did he do?

Father Skorupka was one of those upright and unusually gifted souls with a tremendous capacity for work. While the enemy were whetting their weapons on the banks of the Vistula, close to the metropolis of Poland, Father Skorupka vowed in his heart to frustrate their audacious ambition. With mysterious suddenness he rose like a giant to the defense of his country.

At a time when throngs of people from all walks of life including regiments of soldiers sought to approach the Sacrament of Penance. Father Skorupka's priestly zeal was taxed to the limit. Yet he seems to have been everywhere and doing everything. And wherever he went his presence was

felt instantly. A new spirit entered into the hearts of men and women in his wake. Confidence was either restored or strengthened a hundredfold and a determination to resist the enemy to the utmost spread on all sides.

But the heroic deed which has signally immortalized Father Skorupka was to be achieved in the battlefield. Having been appointed chaplain in the army, Father Skorupka at once gained the unqualified confidence of the soldiers. Many of the frail youth serving in his company were his former pupils. All were volunteers whom necessity transformed into warriors over night, if warriors we may call them. Father Skorupka familiarly called them "my boys." His only concern in their regard at that momentous hour was that trust in God and courage should not fail them; and when "his boys" were given the order to advance upon the enemy, Father Skorupka realized that the time for fulfilling his mission to its last detail was at hand. Attired in his priestly robes with the stole hanging from his shoulders, he was seen making his way to the forefront of his company. Then, containing his forward movement, he pointed with his left hand in the direction of the foe's trenches. In his right he held a cross lifted high heavenward. "His boys" witnessing that spectacle may have recalled the cross in the heavens and the inscription "Hoc Vinces" which in ages gone by inspired Constantine the Great to lead his warriors to the memorable victory which marks a turning point in the world's annals. But whatever may have been the sentiments of the Polish youths, reports from the battlefield assure us that when Father Skorupka, while thus leading "his boys" into action, intoned a prayerful hymn to the Blessed Virgin, the entire company took up the melody. It was a solemn moment. It was a consoling moment. Heavy and awe stricken hearts relaxed and beat more cheerfully. Youthful, timid and trembling hands which never before wielded a weapon of war steadied and grew firm. Father Skorupka's undaun-

ted courage, and his unshaken trust in God were visibly imparted to "his boys." Already they were following him with the thought that the "Queen of Poland" is at their side. They scented victory in the offing. They were inspired. No human power could stop that company at that moment.

But alas! a shell from the Bolshevik camp whizzed thru the air. A portion of it struck Father Skorupka in the head. He fell. The damage thus done to the Polish forces was irreparable, but it availed the enemy nothing. Father Skorupka's mission already had been accomplished. The impetus that spelled victory already had been given. His gallant war novices kept on advancing, and though they suffered heavily, every objective planned for them by the military was attained.

That company of fighters returned from the firing line tired and sorrowful yet triumphant. Three hundred of their number were either killed or wounded. Their beloved spiritual leader and hero was listed among the dead; and just as in life, on the battlefield, he was seen at the head of his company, so in death his name shines brightly at the head of those who sacrificed all for their country.

Just to what extent was Father Skorupka instrumental in bringing about the defeat of the Bolsheviks at the gates of Warsaw fifty years ago may always be a matter of conjecture. Military science or art may never credit him with anything more than uncommon bravery. Yet his avowed confidence in God, his indefatigable work among the civilians, as well as among the military units, followed by a display of the finest patriotism and bravery on the battlefield, may well have given that impetus which, when once put in motion, grew steadily stronger until its aggregate moral force became irresistible. Whatever one may think concerning this matter, the fact that a remarkable victory was won remains. Its immediate blessing was the stemming of the tide of Bolshevism which threatened to enslave not only Poland but all of Europe.

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