

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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

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WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS

The year 1979 will be an important one in the history of Polonus. The Society will celebrate its 40th birthday, and this will be an important event in our lives. I emphasize: "in our lives", because many members like myself, have been with the Society well over a quarter of a century. Personally, I am right proud and happy to be a small part of Polonus and I'm sure you feel the same way.

We all watched the Society grow, little by little, to a strong and respected organization. Today, Polonus is the only philatelic club in the world to have promoted Polish philately for forty years. Many of the original founders have already passed on and many are inactive because of their age. Nevertheless, the foundation they laid was a good and solid one.

Since 1939, thru thick and thin, thru glories and disappointment, from a small local club emerged a monumental structure of international magnitude. With sadness we bade farewell to those who left us and with joy we welcomed new members.

Some of us celebrated the 10th Anniversary in 1949, which was a great event. In 1964, we had our biggest show ever, our 25th Anniversary. POLPEX 64 brought



about better cooperation and understanding among the members. The older members were happy to see their followers maintaining the goals of the Society. From this turning point, achievements of the Society became known, not only locally, but internationally as well. Polonus members exhibited at national and international shows acquiring high awards for Polish material. In 1973 and

1976, we moved the POLPEX to downtown Chicago for large scale shows.

And now as we approach POLPEX 79, with life today much faster and our slowing down a bit, we must give thought to the future, the big job ahead of us, and to the newcomers who will follow us.

We in Chicago are attempting to put together the largest show in the history of Polonus, a show we can all be proud of. The Polpex Committee will do the leg work, but we need everyone's support. We need help with exhibits, subscribers to the medallion, writing of articles to be used in the philatelic press. We need suggestions and comments.

The exhibition hall will accommodate 500 to 600 frames and that means a lot of exhibits. Participate as an exhibitor and submit your entry application now. For more entry forms write to the Entry Chairman, John S. Bobo, 1668 Sycamore St., Des Plaines, IL 60018.

Shown on the first page is the reverse side of the medallion put out jointly by Polonus and the Po-

lish American Numismatic Association commemorating the 200th anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski's death at the Battle of Savannah. This gilded medallion will be available to those who contribute the sum of \$50.00 or more to help defray the costly expenses of POLPEX 79. Make checks payable to the Polonus Philatelic Society and send them to Roman H. Strzelecki, 1620 No. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, IL 60639.

Each month we'll publish more details and give a progress report on the show. Our committee members have their jobs assigned to them. Now that vacations are over (except for mushroom picking) we hope that all will devote a bit more time to the coming POLPEX 79.

—Roman H. Strzelecki

APPLICANTS PENDING

R. M. Mathews
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1963	4 covers	II-C-118/21	..	3.00
1964	4 covers	II-C-122/25	..	3.00
1965	4 covers	II-C-126/9	..	3.00
1966	4 covers	II-C-130/33	..	3.00
1967	4 covers	II-C-134/37	..	3.00
1968	1 covers	II-C-138	....	.75
1969	1 covers	II-C-139	....	.75
1970	No flight made			
1971	1 cover	II-C-140	....	.75
1972	1 cover		.....	.75
1973	1 cover		.....	.75

1974	1 cover	.....	.50
1975	No flight made		
1976	1 cover	.....	.50
1977	1 cover	.....	.50

Mint balloon labels are available also.

First Flights, Glider, Helicopter, etc. also stocked.

Rocket Flight covers and mint labels also in stock.

Some pre-1939 balloon covers are available, subject unsold.

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THE "LOT" AIRLINK OF POLAND-PALESTINE

By FRED F. BLAU, Chicago, Ill.

The Polish Airlines LOT ("Polskie Linie Lotnicze") opened commercial air service between Poland and Palestine about 40 years ago. A trial flight took place on October 27th, 1936 between Warsaw and Haifa, on which 1,500 lbs. of mail was flown. Mail from this flight included pieces from various towns in Poland with similar commemorative postmarks applied in Warsaw and Lwów reading: "Warszawa 19 27-X-1936 Port Lotniczy" and "Lwów 2 27-X-1936 Port Lotniczy". In Fig. 1, a letter



Fig. 1

from Warsaw is reproduced. (All illustrations are in reduced size.) During a stay-over in Bucharest, Roumania, a mailbag containing 18 registered letters went aboard the plane. Today these letters are very scarce items. The Bucharest Post Office used a special postmark in French which read: "First Postal Flight Bucharest—Haifa P.L.L. LOT, 27 Oct. 1936. Use Airmail." And another postmark appears on this cover: "Bucaresti Par Avion 26 Oct. 1936." I have to admit that I searched for over 20 years for this cover. On arrival in Palestine every piece of mail, with the exception of the 18 covers from Bucharest, received a commemorative cachet in Hebrew (all in violet ink) trans-

lated: "First Flight Poland—Eretz Israel 27-X-1936 (Fig. 2 cover from Lwów).



Fig. 2

Regular air service by LOT between Poland and Palestine began April 5th, 1937, and the leading English newspaper in the Middle East—"The Palestine Post, Jerusalem reported: AIRMAIL POLAND-PALESTINE — The General Post Office in Jerusalem issued a special notice March 16th, 1937 under the heading AIRMAIL TO EUROPE, in the three official languages, which reads in English as follows: "It is hereby notified that, commencing April 5th, 1937, airmail from Palestine for countries in Eastern and Northern Europe will be dispatched from Palestine three times weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday by machines of the LOT company. The countries to be served by this route will be Rhodesia, Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Poland Danzig, Roumania, U.S.S.R., and the Baltic countries. The machines are due to reach Warsaw on the following day of the departure from Lydda. Particulars of the rates of postage and air fee as well as the latest time of posting are obtainable at any post office." (The three weekly flights were reduced to one weekly flight



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

during the winter.)

A map issued by LOT is seen in Fig. 3. It shows the route and the connections, and as well the extension by LOT to and from Helsinki.



Fig. 3

Fig. 4 shows a cover flown on the first REGULAR airmail flight on April 5, 1937. It is from LWÓW to TEL AVIV (LYDDA). A similar commemorative postmark was applied on covers and cards posted in Warsaw. Again on arrival in Palestine all mail received a commemorative cachet, slightly different from the one on the trial flight, and reads: "First Regular Airmail Flight Poland-Eretz Israel 5.IV.1937". It is not known how many pieces of mail were carried on this flight. Mail from different stages are practically unknown. In Fig. 5 you see a cover from the stage: SOFIA — TEL AVIV, with registration No. Sofia 000853 and the special postmark: "Poste Aérienne Sofia 2.IV.937". The arrival postmark: "Registered Tel

Aviv 7 AP 37." In the upper left corner in manuscript: Par Avion LOT." I have never seen a piece from the return flight from Palestine to Poland. I am sure that they exist. It is recorded that only 40 pieces were on board the plane, including mail TO OTHER countries. So I proudly present as Fig. 6 a letter flown on that flight from Palestine to Roumania with the Bucharest arrival postmark: "Bucaresti Arrived by Air 5 Apr. 1937. 22." And in Fig. 7 a postcard with the airmail label: "By Airmail LOT from Lydda to Vienna." Again, these two pieces are rarities.

On April 30, 1937 LOT extended the route to the North of Europe to Helsinki, Finland. Under Fig. 8 a letter carried from Helsinki via Warsaw to Tel Aviv. The cachet reads: "Finlande-Pologne-Palestine, 30.4.1937, First Flight."

Before closing this article I want to mention that the first piece of airmail from Poland arrived in Palestine in April 1930. Mail carried from Poland to Karachi via GAZA (Palestine) was a combined operation between LOT and Imperial Airways. The reproduced cover in Fig. 9 is unfortunately not in my collection. It is owned by a friend of mine in Rotterdam, Holland. He too, collects "Airmail of the Holy Land." Perhaps this article will help me to get one of these pieces to complete my collection of the airmail of Poland-Palestine.

POLPHIL 79

The Polish Philatelic Society of Australia will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in the second half of 1979 with POLPHIL 79 in Melbourne. Details as to exact date will be published as soon as they are available.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, September 22, 1978:
Program Meeting at Veterans
Hall. Fred Blau to speak on the
"Lot" Airlink of Poland-Pales-
tine. Starting at 8:00 p.m.

APPLICANTS PENDING

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CONGRATULATIONS

"It gives me great pleasure to
send you this check for \$100.00
as the winner of the Ben Reeves
Literature Contest for 1978 COM-
PEX" wrote Dr. James J. Ma-
tejka to our honorary member,
Dr. Mieczysław A. Lipiński of
Poznań, Poland. He received the
check for his "Upper Silesia Plate
Block Issues" published in the
COMPEX 1978 catalogue pages:
95-101. The article qualified for
the Compex Literature Grand
Award and the Ben Reeves Liter-
ature Award for 1978.

Our congratulations to Dr. Li-
pinski on this philatelic literature
writing achievement.

TID BIT

Our member Dr. W. Kolakow-
ski of Great Neck, N.Y. is an ac-
tive officer in the international
order of the Knights of Malta.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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political. Views expressed by authors
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Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

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