

No. 1 News From Poland 1939

Series VII

(For Bulletin Boards and Private Persons)

Issued 11 times a year by The National Council of the Polish YMCA. Paul Super, General Director, Konopnickiej 6, Warsaw, Poland

Basic Facts About Poland

Area, 151,000 square miles; 53% of its area in 1772.
 About 550 miles from tip to tip, each direction.
 Population 35,000,000. 232 to the square mile.
 A democratic Republic. Senate of 96, House of 208 members.
 A land of plains, 80% of its area less than 700 feet above sea level.

Located between Germany and Russia, same latitude as England.

Lakes in the north, fine boating and fishing.
 Mountains in the south; summer and skiing resorts.

Climate: Moderate. Less heat in summer and less cold in winter than New York though Warsaw is 800 miles north of that city. Deep snow in the mountains and eastern provinces.

74% of the population is rural and 61% live by agriculture.

Poland became Christian, Catholic, in 966, and rapidly identified itself with the western world and Latin culture.

Largest country in Europe in the 16th century, Poland's "Golden Age".

First country in Europe to have a National Board of Education, 1773.

Adopted advanced democratic constitution May 3, 1791.

Partitioned among Prussia, Russia, and Austria, three expanding autocracies, in 1772, 1793, and 1795.

Restored to freedom and democracy, November 11, 1918.

Sound gold standard currency since the stabilization of its currency by the Pilsudski Government in 1926.

42.6% by weight, 48.8% by value, of all its exports and imports go through Poland's own modern port, Gdynia.

10 largest cities:

Warsaw, population	1,300,000
Lodz	650,000
Lwow	320,000
Poznan	265,000
Krakow	245,000
Wilno	208,000
Czestochowa	135,000
Bydgoszcz	135,000
Katowice	135,000
Sosnowiec	125,000

World famous Poles in other than political life: Copernicus and Maria Curie-Skłodowska in science; Wit Stwosz, Matejko, and Chelmonski in sculpture and painting; Sienkiewicz and Reymont in literature; Jan Sobieski, Kosciuszko, Pulaski, and Pilsudski as soldiers; Helena Modjeska in dramatic art; Chopin, the de Reszke brothers, and Paderewski in music. Are any of these unknown to you?

Now to descend from these lofty heights to plain everyday matters, and yet to state a basic fact; the Polish cuisine is one of the best in the world. The Poles like good food and know how to prepare it.

Current Y News

In Krakow 123 railroad men have enrolled in the Central YMCA in special courses for railroad operatives. The conductors are studying foreign languages so as to be able to serve foreign visitors in their own tongue.

In Warsaw nearly 6000 men, women, and children are enrolled in regular classes in the Central YMCA Physical Department.

Down in Lodz they have 1200 boys in the Boys' Division in rented rooms next door to the unfinished building. We hope to push that building far toward completion during 1939. It looks as though 1939 would bring us \$75,000 of the \$135,000 now needed to finish this \$600,000 plant.

Our 15th Anniversary

Na XV. lecie Polskiej YMCA życzę, aby swoje hasło: "Przez charakter, wiedzę i zdrowie - służba dla Polaki" nadal uwieczniła
Hubicki

Photographic facsimile of the greetings of the President of the Polish Republic sent the YMCA. It says.

"On the 15th Anniversary of the Polish YMCA I greet it with the wish that its motto "Through character, knowledge, and health — service for Poland" may be further realized".

I. Moscicki

The celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Polish YMCA was a huge success. Just to mention the numerous meetings, dinners, exhibitions, and exhibits would take a whole column of space. Perhaps the central event was the noon-day meeting in the Warsaw YMCA on December 8, a holiday in Poland, when General Hubicki, former Minister of Social Welfare and now vice-chairman of the National Council of the Polish YMCA, presided, and greetings were read from persons of high position, the President of the Republic, the Vice-Prime Minister, several other Cabinet Ministers, the President of the City of Warsaw, President of the Bank of Poland, and others, while Minister of Social Welfare Kosciuszko attended in person and made an address representing the government's interest in and endorsement of the Polish YMCA.

The press covering of the events was excellent. Scores of papers throughout the country called attention to the occasion, while the newspapers of the chief cities carried long articles, many of them illustrated with photographs of our buildings and the special exhibits.

Especially gratifying was the recognition given the Polish YMCA by the national and city governments.

Well, it was a great time. Now we are all in readiness for a big year in 1939. We have set some very definite goals.

The New Stamps

Never has Poland issued so beautiful and interesting a series of postage stamps as those recently put on sale. We present them in black reproduction, regretting our inability to reproduce their delicate and attractive coloring.

Below, in the illustration, are the 12 stamps in the Polish History Series, and above are three separate issues having historic significance. We explain these first.

Center: 3 zloty (60 cents). Scene symbolizing the regaining of Polish independence, November 11, 1918. Battle in the deep background, and Marshal Joseph Pilsudski on the near background of the standard of the Polish Army.

Left: 25 groszy (5 cents). The return of the Zaolzia area to the Motherland, October 2, 1938.

Right: 25 groszy (5 cents). Danzig in the 16th century was the great Polish port. In the picture we see Polish nobles selling their grain to a Danzig merchant, the elevator in the city wall at the left, ships at the right. There are four stamps in this series, 5, 15, 25, and 55 groszy, same design but different colors.

Historic series:

5 gr.: The year 1000. The Polish King Boleslaw the Brave welcoming the Emperor Otto in Gniezno, whither he had come to do honor to the relics of St. Wojciech. With this historic event Poland enters general European history as a self-governing and independent state. Spirit of St. Wojciech in the background.

10 gr.: The year 1364. The famous Krakow resident Wierzynek welcomes with the historic bread and salt the Polish King Kazimierz the Great, and the king's guests, King Ludwig of Hungary, the Emperor Charles VI, and King Peter of Cyprus.

15 gr.: Queen Jadwiga strengthens the University of Krakow by the gift of new statutes and her jewels. The rector of the university holds the jewels and the sealed document. At King Jagiello's feet lie the sword, helmet, and cloak of the Teutonic Knights, symbolic of his overthrow of that usurping Order at the Battle of Grunwald, 1410; that was some years after the re-founding of the university, first founded in 1364.

20 gr.: The flowering of the power of Poland during the life of King Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk, 1447 — 1492. In the background is a map of the lands over which the Jagiellons reigned; Poland and Lithuania, Czechy, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, Prussia, and Moldavia.

25 gr.: The union of Poland and Lithuania in 1569. Till then, from 1386, they had had a common dynasty; at that time, at their mutual desire, they became one country in every respect. King Zygmunt August holds in his hand the Treaty of Union, called the Union of Lublin, attested to by a Polish noble at the left and a Lithuanian knight at the right.

30 gr.: King Stefan Batory of Poland bestowing the rights of nobility upon a Polish peasant for valor in the victorious war against Moscow, 1580.

45 gr.: Heads of the Polish Army, Chodkiewicz and Zolkiewski, behind the coat of arms of the Wasa kings of Poland, during whose reigns they served. The three Wasas ruled from 1587 to 1668.

50 gr.: King Jan Sobieski of Poland, who delivered Vienna from the Turkish invasion of 1683, greeted by the citizens of Vienna after the battle.

55 gr.: The voting of the Constitution of May 3, 1791, one of the most advanced and democratic constitutions of the era.

75 gr.: The three great Polish heroes, Dombrowski, Kosciuszko, and Poniatowski at the time of the defense of Warsaw against Russia, 1794. Their defeat ended Poland's existence as a state until November 1918.

1 zl.: (20 cents). The Polish Uprising against Russia in November 1830.

2 zl.: The Polish Uprising against Russia in 1863, led by Romuald Traugutt. A battle in the Marshes of Pinsk.



