BULLETIN OF THE
POLONUS
PHILATELIC SOCIETY



One of the World's 100 Greatest Philatelic Rarities – see Page 8

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Officers & Directors

President — Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428, krpsl@earthlink.net

Vice President — Richard Jaraczewski, 360 Ursuline Rd, Santa Ana, CA 95403, rjara@sonic.net

Secretary — Roman Sobus, 1110 N. Oakley Blvd., Chicago, IL 60622, Rsobus9013@cs.com

Treasurer — Dan Lubelski, 111 Helen Drive, Rossford, OH 43460, dlubelski@accesstoledo.com

Directors — Dr. James Mazepa, C.O.B., jmazepa@comcast.net; Hank Bieniecki, info@biistamp.com; Dr. Paul Phillips, PaulXLPE@gmail.com; Bob Nowicki, philatelist@comcast.net

Publication Committee

Chairman — Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428, krpsl@earthlink.net

Senior Contributing Editors — Hank Bieniecki, info@biistamp.com; Dr. James Mazepa, jmazepa@comcast.net

Senior Editors & Translators — Richard Jaraczewski, rjara@sonic.net; Robert Puchala, rob3@ce3.pl; Przemek Konopka, info@profilex.pl; Roman Sobus, Rsobus9013@cs.com

Associate Editors — Sam Ginsburg, samgins1730@yahoo.com; Dr. Paul Phillips, PaulXLPE@gmail.com; Bob Nowicki, philatelist@comcast.net

New Issues — Dan Lubelski, dlubelski@accesstoledo.com; Frank Karwoski, sunvoyager43@gmail.com

Publisher — Meranda Ory, merandaory@gmail.com

Printer — John LaPorta, album@comcast.net

Website Committee

Chairman — Hank Bieniecki, hank@biistamp.com

Website Developer — Przemek Konopka, info@profilex.pl

Function Moderator — Richard Jaraczewski, rjara@sonic.net

Committee Chairpersons

Expertizing — Hank Bieniecki, hank@biistamp.com

Librarian — Dr. Mary Ann Frost, drmaryannfrost@gmail.com

Membership — Richard Jaraczewski, rjara@sonic.net

Study Groups

POW Camps — Roman Sobus, Rsobus9013@cs.com

DP / Intern Camps — (Open)

Aero-Philately — Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu

Cinderellas & Labels — (Open)

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinios. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - $30 / Outside N.A. - $40 or Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are**: North America - $25 / Outside N.A. - $25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: $10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%; Jul - Sep 50%; and Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.
Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee.
Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.
General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is not included in this limitation.

Dealer Ads – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:

Business Card Ad: $50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.
Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

As I write this message, we are two weeks away from our meeting at St. Louis Stamp Expo 2012. The response by exhibitors of Polish material exceeded our expectation and visitors will see some of the finest Polish philatelic exhibits in North America. Our next issue will have in depth coverage of the meetings and the awards granted to exhibitors.

A reminder…..renew your 2012 Polonus membership now and, at the same time, take advantage of the opportunity to add a tax-deductible contribution. If you have already renewed, we thank you for your timely response. Please note, if you have opted for the "digital version" Bulletin (vs. "printed version"), you need to be a Registered Website User to access the Digital Bulletins. Digital On-Line Registration is now possible – refer to Hank Bieniecki's article in Issue # 545, pages 5 & 6.

It appears many of our members read the article on Postal Enforcement of Foreign Currency Controls, 1936-1939 because the feedback to the authors (Miłosz Rzadkosz and Roman Sobus) prompted them to prepare a supplement in this issue, adding previously un-cataloged hand- stamps and labels to the list. This initiative by the authors is likely to be the first time a study of handwritten annotations, labels and handstamps has been conducted with the results documented in a catalog format. Collectors of covers will find this information very helpful in understanding the markings on covers and their meaning.

Our Expertizing Services have been updated and simplified to create a unique and value-added benefit for Polonus members. Be sure to read Hank Bieniecki's article to understand the only Expertizing Service for Polish material offered in North America.

The cover page of this issue features "One of the World's 100 Greatest Philatelic Rarities" as acclaimed during the exhibition at "MonacoPhil 2002". Do not miss the **Gems of Polish Philately** article, "**The Siege of Przemyśl 1914 – 1915**" by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, which tells the story of the Przemyśl fortress that was besieged by the Russian Army and led to the first time for airmail to be conveyed from within a fortress completely surrounded by enemy. In addition to this article, Dr. Kupiec-Weglinski will be exhibiting a five-frame exhibit titled "**The Siege of Przemyśl 1914-1915**" at SLSE 2012.

This issue contains the sixth in a series of articles by Jan Niebrzydowski that provides an historical insight into the perseverance by Polish forces to remain in the fight during WWII and the trials and tribulations endured by their families, as told from a collection of letters and cards addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska. The title of this issue's article is "**Polish Schools in Palestine and Egypt – 1942-1947**".

One of the collecting areas in Polish philately is Polonica, i.e., collecting Poland as a subject on foreign stamps. This issue contains an article by Roman Sobus that covers recent Ukraine issues (covers and stamps) that highlights an event and an institution in Poland's history. To those who are Polonica collectors, I would be most interested in hearing from you and your reaction to including articles on this area of collecting interest in our Bulletin.

The expanded use of the internet for auctions (ex. eBay) has ushered in a wave of issues with forgeries being among the most serious. Piotr Pelczar and Roman Sobus have collaborated to bring us the article, "**Speculative Falenica Overprints – Original or Forged?**". This article explains how experts have defined the difference between "original" and "forged" speculative overprint issues that were never authorized by the central postal authorities.

In place of our typical column on Polonus PURLS, Sam Ginsburg and Bob Nowicki have teamed-up on the article "**Accessing Polish Diacritic Marks**", which explains how we can use the computer to obtain the diacritic marks needed for Polish words.

Add to the above the recent New Issues and you have another interesting issue with, hopefully, something for all members. If you have any comments on the Bulletin content, please send me an e-mail or note. I would be most interested and appreciative of any feedback you can provide.

Annual Meetings & Exhibitions – Five-Year Plan

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Participation as a “convening” or “featured” or “hosted” or “guest” Philatelic Society requires a lead-time of planning and commitment of exhibitors and attendees. We have found a five-year lead-time gives us the best chance of being approved for the stamp show of our choosing. We are, therefore, pleased to announce the following shows for which we have been accepted:

In order for Polonus to handle the tasks involved with the planning and implementation of the Annual Meeting & Exhibition, we need help from our membership. We ask that you consider volunteering to serve on the Committee responsible for the Annual Meeting & Exhibition. Give this some thought and let me know if you are willing to volunteer and which stamp show you would be interested in working on. (via e-mail: krpsl@earthlink.net or rvo1937@gmail.com)

Looking ahead to 2013, the NAPEX show will be a key event as the results of an election to the Board of Directors and to the Officer positions will be announced.

2014 will be the 75th anniversary year for Polonus and we will be planning an appropriate celebration in the city “where it all began”.

In 2016, we will be on the “world stage” when we participate in the World Stamp Show. This International Philatelic Exhibition is held in the USA every 10 years and this will be the first international show to take place in New York City in 60 years.

In 2017, we return to San Francisco for WESTPEX, when we will attempt to meet or exceed our record high performance in 2010 - 19 exhibits, 88 frames and nearly 50% of all the awards granted.

Year	Date	Name	Location
2013	31 May - 2June	NAPEX	McClean, VA
2014	21-23 November	CHICAGOPEX	Itasca, IL
2015	2-4 October	SESCAL	Los Angeles, CA
2016	22-29 May	NEW YORK 2016	New York City, NY
2017	28-30 April	WESTPEX	San Francisco, CA

New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

Richard Piotrowski - #1729
4, The Crescent, Codrum
Macroom, County Cork
Ireland

Rich Saulinski - #1729
7741 W. 157th Place
Orland Park, IL 60462

Stanley Dynia - #1730
79 East Hampton Drive
West Palm Beach, FL 33417

Stanley R. Sandler - #1731
221 Hemlock Lane
Springfield, PA 19064

Thadeus Tyszka - #1732
608 Ricochet Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131

Polonus Updates Expertizing Services

By: Hank Bieniecki

Author's Note: The first article on Polonus Expertizing Services appeared in Bulletin 534. This article provides a more comprehensive discussion of expertizing issues. Copies are available via e-mail (info@biistamp.com) at no charge. Any member with questions about the Polonus Expertizing service may contact me at 618-659-1325.

For the purposes of this article "expertizing" and "authentication" shall have same meaning

In 2009 Polonus elected to offer its members and non-members (Owners) a professional expertizing service for Polish philatelic material, as this critical service was no longer available in North America. The objective of Polonus was to make this service relatively simple to use, efficient, and affordable. The initial service worked reasonably well and users were satisfied. However it was apparent to those responsible for administering the program that certain enhancements were required to increase the programs efficiency.

The Expertizing Committee recognized from the start that this was going to be a relatively complex program to administer. We attempted to take that into consideration when developing the forms to be used in association with this program. Unfortunately, we did not anticipate the potential diversity and complexity of the submissions for expertizing, and we made a critical error in failing to provide a space for the Owner's (Client) name on the original Expertizing Submission Forms (ESF).

That seemingly simple omission significantly complicated the administrative process and made it far more time consuming. We have revised the ESF – **Figure 1** to require the Owner's (Client) name on each ESF, along with the description of the item(s) and service(s) requested. Essentially, all relevant data , other than terms and conditions and the associated fees, are now incorporated into the ESF submitted with each item.

EXPERTIZING SUBMISSION FORM

Enclose this ESF in #4 or larger Glassine/Enclosure with item(s) being submitted

Owner Name: _____

Catalog Used: _____ Catalog #(s): _____

Current Catalog/Retail Market Value: $ _____

Condition of Submitted Item (check all that apply)

___ Original Gum ___ Part Original Gum ___ No Gum
___ Canceled ___ Mint Never Hinged ___ On Cover
___ Mint Hinged ___ Perforated ___ Imperforate

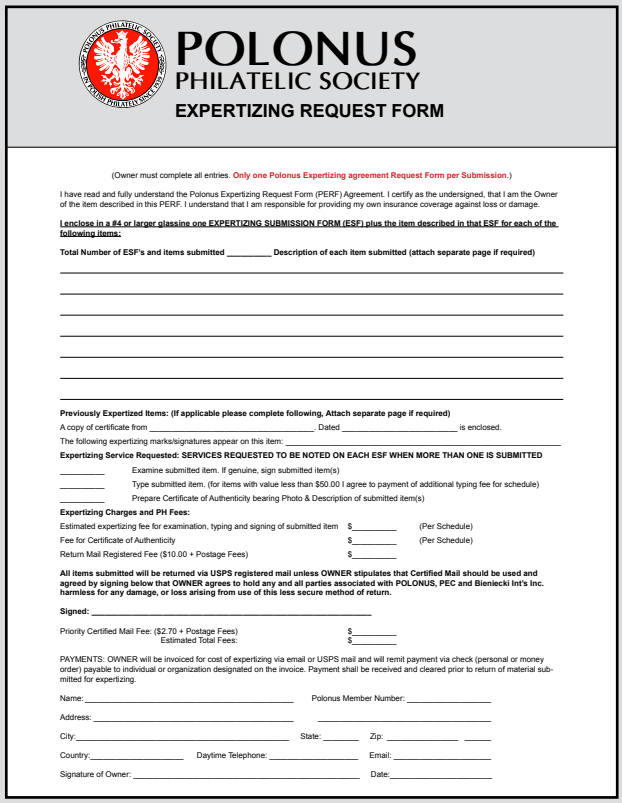
Written Description:

Service Requested:

___ Expertize & Sign ___ Type
___ Plate ___ Issue Certificate

POLONUS
EXPERTIZING COMMITTEE

Figure 1 *- Revised ESF with Line for Owner's Name.*



POLONUS
PHILATELIC SOCIETY
EXPERTIZING REQUEST FORM

(Owner must complete all entries. **Only one Polonus Expertizing agreement Request Form per Submission.**)

I have read and fully understand the Polonus Expertizing Request Form (PERF) Agreement. I certify as the undersigned, that I am the Owner of the item described in this PERF. I understand that I am responsible for providing my own insurance coverage against loss or damage.

I enclose in a #4 or larger glassine one EXPERTIZING SUBMISSION FORM (ESF) plus the item described in that ESF for each of the following items:

Total Number of ESF's and items submitted _____ Description of each item submitted (attach separate page if required)

Previously Expertized Items: (If applicable please complete following, Attach separate page if required)

A copy of certificate from _____. Dated _____ is enclosed.

The following expertizing marks/signatures appear on this item: _____

Expertizing Service Requested: SERVICES REQUESTED TO BE NOTED ON EACH ESF WHEN MORE THAN ONE IS SUBMITTED

_____ Examine submitted item. If genuine, sign submitted item(s)
_____ Type submitted item. (for items with value less than $50.00 I agree to payment of additional typing fee for schedule)
_____ Prepare Certificate of Authenticity bearing Photo & Description of submitted item(s)

Expertizing Charges and PH Fees:

Estimated expertizing fee for examination, typing and signing of submitted item $_____ (Per Schedule)
Fee for Certificate of Authenticity $_____ (Per Schedule)
Return Mail Registered Fee ($10.00 + Postage Fees) $_____

All items submitted will be returned via USPS registered mail unless OWNER stipulates that Certified Mail should be used and agreed by signing below that OWNER agrees to hold any and all parties associated with POLONUS, PEC and Bieniecki Int's Inc. harmless for any damage, or loss arising from use of this less secure method of return.

Signed: _____

Priority Certified Mail Fee: ($2.70 + Postage Fees) $_____
Estimated Total Fees: $_____

PAYMENTS: OWNER will be invoiced for cost of expertizing via email or USPS mail and will remit payment via check (personal or money order) payable to individual or organization designated on the invoice. Payment shall be received and cleared prior to return of material submitted for expertizing.

Name: _____ Polonus Member Number: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ ____
Country: _____ Daytime Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Signature of Owner: _____ Date: _____

Figure 2A - *Expertizing Request Form [front side]*

Polonus Updates Expertizing Services (Cont.)

The original program relied on the Expertizing Request Form (ERF) - **Figure 2A & 2B** to set forth the terms and conditions of the service, provide the fee schedule, and obtain the pertinent User's data. While this form is still critical, it is not the document that accompanies individual philatelic items as they flow through the various phases of the expertizing process. The ESF is the key form that serves this purpose.

The original service did not establish any type of schedule for Users with respect to the timing of submission of items for expertizing. To further minimize administration and mailing costs, effective May 2012 the Committee requests that all Users of this service arrange to have their submissions arrive during the first week of each month. These submissions will then be aggregated and processed during the second week of each month. The program has an objective of returning items to owners within no more than six weeks of receipt.

NOTE: If a user encounters a time critical situation which requires expedited individualized handling call me at 618-659-1325 to discuss the details and what additional mailing fees may be required. .

The Polonus Expertizing Note (EN) – **Figure 3** which is printed on the back of the ESF remains unchanged and constitutes the basic written feedback from the Expert to the User when a Certificate of Authenticity has not been requested.

Zbigniew Korszen, Expert of the Polish Philatelists Union, Warsaw, Poland continues his role as the primary expert used by Polonus for this service. He periodically visits me at my offices where he has the resource to expertize many but not all issues of Poland. A majority of this work will be performed at Korszen's offices in Poland where he has access to far more extensive reference material.

POLONUS AGREEMENT FOR
EXPERTIZING POLISH PHILATELIC MATERIAL

Members of **Polonus Expertizing Committee (PEC)** including Certified Experts from the Polish Philatelists Union, via arrangement with Polonus Philatelic Society (**POLONUS**) will examine and provide opinions as to the authenticity of philatelic material of Poland to the Owner (**OWNER**) executing and submitting Polonus Expertizing Request Form (**PERF**) and Expertizing Submission Form (**ESF**), subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement

Terms & Conditions

1. Each item (stamp, set of stamps, cover or other philatelic item of Poland) must be submitted with a properly completed PERF and an individual ESF for each stamp, set of stamps, cover or other philatelic item of Poland. A set of stamps submitted by OWNER with a single ESF will be examined as a set, the fee will be determined by the value of the set, and it requested a single Certificate of Authenticity will be issued for the submitted set of stamps.

2. The fees for examination, typing, certificates when requested, and postage/handling fees, will be billed to OWNER and must be remitted prior to return of submitted items. **Members in good standing of POLONUS are entitled to receive expertization services at reduced Member Fees indicated in following table. All others will be invoiced per Non-Polonus member fee schedule.**

Expertization Fee Schedule

Genuine Philatelic Material of Poland	Fee Schedule	
Includes Examination, signing, and short note describing item. **(Typing and/or plating fee extra for items have catalog/market less than $50.00)**	**Polonus Member**	**Non-Polonus Member**
Catalog/Market Value		
Less than $50.00	$ 5.00	$10.00
Additional Fee for Typing/Plating for Fischer Catalog	$ 3.00	$ 5.00
$50.00 to $299.99	$10.00	$15.00
Above $300.00	4% of C.V.	5% of C.V.
Issuance of Certificate of Authenticity in English with photo and description of item determined to be genuine.	$30.00	$40.00
Forged items or items on which no opinion is given: **Administrative Fee:** Short note with reason item deemed not to be genuine or why no opinion was given.	$ 5.00	$ 6.00

3. All items for expertization, and a completed PERF and required ESF's must be submitted bu OWNER via Registered U.S. Postal Service to Polonus Expertizing Service, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062-0489, USA. OWNER must include a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope or email address which will be used by BII to confirm receipt of submitted item(s).

4. Upon receipt of submitted items, the PEC will scan and log submitted forms prior to periodically forwarding these items to proper member of the PEC. Items submitted to experts in the Polish Philatelic Union in Poland will be sent via registered mail service of the United States Postal Service.

5. The PEC reserves the right at all times to decline to examine or give an opinion on any item. Single imperforate stamps without large margins will not be accepted for authentication as imperforate varieties.

6. The decisions rendered by the PEC are based on their expertise, Due to the constantly evolving nature of philatelic knowledge these opinions are not guaranteed by POLONUS or the PEC.

7. All reasonable care will be taken to protect items submitted by OWNER for examination. All items are submitted with the full understanding by OWNERS that neither PEC members, POLONUS, nor Bieniecki Int'l Inc. are liable for any loss or damage resulting from any cause whatsoever, except gross negligence. OWNER desiring coverage should obtain their own insurance. The American Philatelic Society offers insurance for philatelic material, including items sent by mail.

8. The request for examination constitutes acceptance by the OWNER of all the Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

POLONUS EXPERTIZING SERVICE
P.O. Box 489
MARYVILLE, IL 62062-0489

TEL: (618) 659-1325 **FAX: (618) 659-1327** **Email: hank@biistamp.com**

Figure 2B *- Expertizing Request Form [back side]*

POLONUS
EXPERTIZING NOTE

After examination of the Polish philatelic item(s) described on the reverse of this ESF form, PEC has initialed the findings below that apply to this item(s):

_____ The described item(s) was determined to be authentic based on measurements, type of printing, paper, ink, plus measurement and ink of overprint when applicable. This item has been signed.

_____ Although the described item(s) is genuine, it may not be signed given that the item(s) is not an official emission of Polish Post. A Certificate of Authenticity could be issued.

_____ Examination of the item(s) described have determined that the item and/or its overprint is a forgery.

_____ The item(s) submitted are not the item described. Submitted item(s) is described in comments below.
Comments: _____
_____

Signed: _____ Date: ___/___/_____

(THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY)

Figure 3 *- Polonus Expertising Note*

Gems of Polish Philately
The Siege of Przemyśl 1914-1915

By: Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Przemyśl was a garrison town of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the territory of Polish Galicia, protected by forts similar to the French Maginot Line and an army of over 130,000 men. Between September 18 and October 10, 1914, and between November 10, 1914 and March 22, 1915, the Przemyśl fortress was completely besieged by the Russian Army. In all, some 12,000 defenders and over 100,000 Russians perished in Przemyśl, which makes it one of the largest and bloodiest sieges in the world's military history.

The provisional airmail effort set up by the Austrian Army during 1914-1915 sieges of Przemyśl represents an important chapter in the history of world aerophilately. The desperate necessity of the defenders to communicate with the outside world was the prime reason for establishing such a war-time service. Indeed, the Przemyśl airmails illustrate the first time in history that mail-laden airplanes landed and took off within a fortress completely surrounded by the enemy.

On December 9, 1914, Hans Wanneck of Fliegerkompagnie No. 11 and observer Oblt. Nikolaus Wagner von Florheim flew from the Przemyśl airfield, and, after being forced to cross over the Carpathian Mountains in strong winds, they landed safely in Kaschau, Hungary (present Košice, Republic of Slovakia). The mail received transit cancellation from Hungarian FPO 30 "TABORI POSTA HIVATAL / 914 DEC. 10- / 30", or in error Dec 1 or Dec. 11 (instead of Dec. 10). **Figure 1** displays a unique field postcard, written by Wanneck himself after completing the Carpathian flight, a considerable achievement at that time. It is addressed to his former flying instructor, H.W. Eckinger, in Dübendorf, near Zurich, Switzerland. On the reverse Wanneck writes: "*My Friend, flying continues, I carried from besieged Przemyśl some 5000 letters and cards flying over the Carpathians at 3200 meters for 5 hours to land easily in Hungary. In the morning we go back again. I believe that up to now I have made over 15 major sorties. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a really lucky New Year. Yours, Hans"*. The card was endorsed "Luftpost" by the pilot, who also put his address as "K.u.K. Feldpilot, Fliegerkomp. 11 Przemyśl". It also shows "K.u.K. Fliegerkompanie No. 14" cachet, a December 11 transit postmark from FPO 30 (where all the carried mail was deposited), and a Dübendorf receiving postmark, but no stamp (the card was sent postage-free until it reached Dübendorf, where a 20c postage due stamp was applied). This card is one of the most sought after items from the Przemyśl siege era, as it represents a pioneer flight with international fame. It was sold in the 1930's to the Marquis of Bute by Georg Sobetzsky, the famed Austrian aerophilatelist, and was water-damaged in the London bombing of 1940, when the Swiss stamp was washed off. The card was purchased by Keith Tranmer at the Bute sale of Robson Lowe



Figure 1 – Field postcard written by Hans Wanneck, the pilot, after completing the Carpathian flight from besieged Przemyśl on December 9, 1914.

in 1959. In a later flight during the Przemyśl siege, Hans Wanneck landed in the Russian lines and ended up as a P.O.W. inside the Siberian Chita Camp. He died in an air crash on August 29, 1930.

Many families tried to stay in touch with their loved ones, but there was no "official" mail service to the fortress and only some of the defenders were able to receive a letter from home by infrequent inbound courier flights. **Figure 2** displays the only known private letter flown into the fortress a day prior its surrender. It was sent by A. Lubański of The War Press Quarters in Kraków, and addressed to Major J. Bąkowski in Przemyśl ("*mit Fliegerpost*" - by air). It carries the Kraków "K.u.K. FPO 39 / 13.II.15" postmark and "K.u.K. Kriegspressequartier" cachet. A confirmation on the flap in the pilot's handwriting states: "*Brief angelangt mit der letzten Fliegerpost am 21/3 - 915 um 5 Uhr Nm*" (Letter arrived by the last flight on March 21, 1915 at 5 PM). Indeed, records show that on that very day two aircraft landed in Przemyśl (pilots Stanger and Meltsch). The fortress surrendered to the Russians on March 22, 1915. This exceptional cover (*ex. Newall collection / Mikulski certificate*) was exhibited at "MonacoPhil 2002" as one of the World's 100 Greatest Philatelic Rarities (**Figure 3)**.



Figure 2 *– Private letter carried by the last flight to Przemyśl fortress on March 21,1915.*



Figure 3 *– Cover as exhibited at MonacoPhil 2002.*



Reminder.....

To renew your membership for 2012

By: Miłosz Rzadkosz and Roman Sobus

In the previous Bulletin #545, the authors presented a preliminary catalog of hand stamps and labels indicating that Foreign Currency Control Inspection had been carried out in accordance with prevailing regulations. It was this article that inspired some of our readers to inspect items in their collections and add previously un-cataloged items to the list.

In addition to newly uncovered Foreign Currency Control Inspection items, two hand stamps denoting "Exempt from Currency Controls" also surfaced. The authors do not have a list of the institutions that were able to use such an exemption, but can state with confidence that foreign embassies and consulates were definitely granted this privilege. The first such example (**Figure 1**) is a letter mailed on 12.X.1938 by the German Consulate (formerly Austrian) in Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). You will notice that the return address has the Austrian name crossed out and replaced by the German name, as Austria had already been annexed by Germany. The procedure for sending such mail appears to be the same as for those that had to undergo inspection, with the single difference being the envelope was presented sealed. The letter was then hand stamped "Wolne od Kontroli Dewizowej" and a canceller impression applied and signed by the inspector.

The second item is a letter from the Embassy of the United States of America in Warsaw mailed at Warszawa 1 on 17.VIII.1939 to Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York, a mere two weeks before the German invasion. The same hand stamp indicating an exemption from currency controls can be found on the reverse side of the cover (**Figure 2**). The likelihood exists that other hand stamps exist from different post offices indicating inspection or exemption was applied.

The final and most interesting letter to surface is one from Bydgoszcz with a hand annotated "Kontrola Dewizowa Przeprowadzona, dnia 27/IV.36r". To the authors, this is the earliest known usage of the Currency Control, only one day after the date stated in our original article [1](**Figure 3**).

The results of these additional discoveries are reflected in the supplementary catalog found in **Tables 1 and 2**.

We would like to acknowledge and thank members Jacek Kosmała and Dr. James DeLine for sending scans of their covers contributing towards the discoveries mentioned in this article, as well as, all readers of our article in Bulletin #545 who sent us comments and words of encouragement.



Figure 1 - Hand stamp indicating Currency Control exemption on a letter mailed at Lwów 1 on 12.X.1938 by German Consulate in Lwów to Vienna.

Bibliography:

[1] Rzadkosz, Milosz and Sobus, Roman; Postal Enforcement of Foreign Currency Controls, 1936-1939; Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society; Number 545, December, 2011, pp.13-17.

Postal Enforcement of Foreign Currency Controls (Cont.)



Figure 2 - Hand stamp indicating Currency Control exemption on a letter mailed at Warszawa 1 on 17.VIII.1939 by US Embassy in Warsaw to Rochester, New York.



Figure 3 - Earliest known usage of the Currency Control. Letter dated 27.IV.1936 from Bydgoscz to Paris.

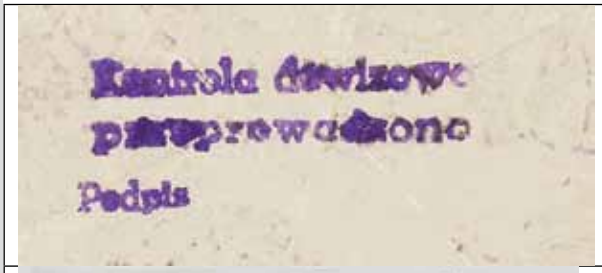
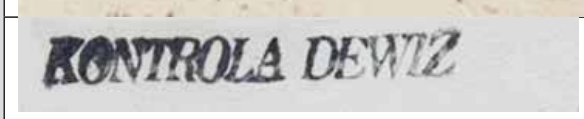
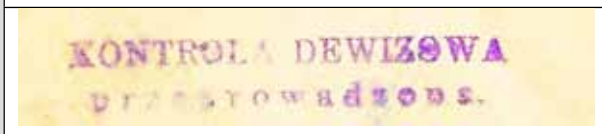
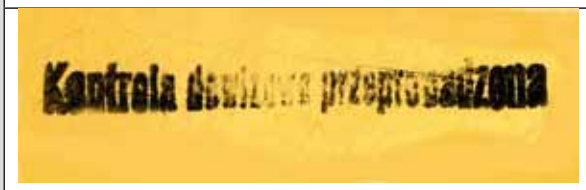
	Łomża 27.IV.1937	Text length, First and second line-42 mm; Third line- 12 mm; Letter height- 4/2,5 mm
	Lwów 1 23.XII.1935	n.a.
	Warszawa 11 28.II.1938	Text length- First line-37 mm; Second line- – 33 mm; Letter height- 2.2/1.5 mm
	Warszawa 13 20.III.1939	Text length – 70 mm. Letter height 7/6 mm.

Table 1 *Currency Control Hand Stamps – Supplement*

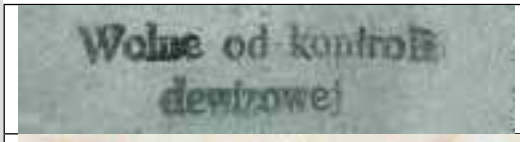
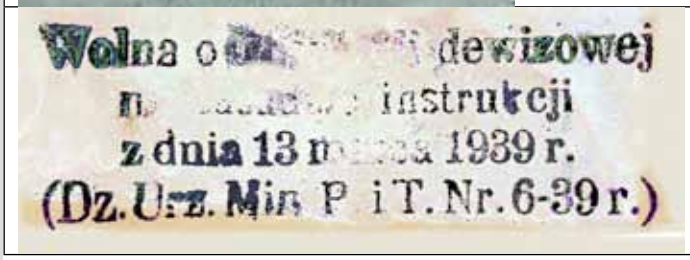
	Lwów 1 12.X.1938	n.a.
	Warszawa 1 17.VIII.1939	Text length: First line – 80 mm; Second line – 60mm; Third line - 60 mm; Fourth line- 81 mm Letter height – 5/3.5 mm

Table 2 *Currency Control Exemption*

Wanted to Buy

Austrian stamps, singles, on piece and on cover, used during the occupation of Poland (Galicja) by Austria during the partition of Poland. Please e-mail offers to Zbigniew Korszen at zkorszen@onet.pl.

Polish Schools in Palestine and Egypt - 1942-1947

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

In 1942, the Polish Army under the command of General Władysław Anders was evacuated from the Soviet Union to Persia (today's Iran). A total of 115,742 people left the USSR during this evacuation, of which 78,470 were servicemen/servicewomen and 37,272 were civilians. Amongst the civilians, 13,948 were children. The Army's immediate priorities were training the troops and protecting the oil wells in Northern Iraq against the risk of German attack.

The younger children, as well as those civilians who were unfit or unable to serve in the Army, were sent to special camps in Africa, India, Persia, New Zealand, Mexico and Lebanon, where they were given care and schooling. Schools for boys and girls between the ages of 13-17 were set up in Palestine and Egypt. There were different types of schools: handicraft, technical, grammar and military cadets.

Between 1942 and 1947, 6,000 students completed their education or training in these schools. There were five technical schools: Nr. 1 Tel el Kabir (Egypt), Nr. 2 Rafah (Palestine), Nr. 3 Qastina (Palestine), Nr. 4 Sarafand (Palestine), and Nr. 5 Beit Nabala (Palestine).

I have in my possession only five letters from students of the technical schools, all addressed to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska. They were all from Władysław Kędziora, who was evacuated from the USSR to Persia at the age of 14. It is clear from his letters that his mother, younger brother, and sister were in one of the Polish camps in Africa but he had no knowledge of the whereabouts of his father. His letters told of his longing for his family and his beloved country – Poland. He expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Bardziłowska for her support, aid and comforting words.

All the letters were sent by registered air mail post, with British stamps and with the censor's marks. The stamps were cancelled by the British FPO No. 66 and 149, as well as, by the Polish FPO 112. Below are five covers from this collection:

Figure 1 is a registered air mail letter with 3D (D for the old British pence and derived from the Latin term "denarius", meaning "containing ten") and Ten Pence stamps, cancelled by FPO 66 on 5 March 1944. It has a "PASSED BY CENSOR" cachet No. 926 with two censor's labels: No. 6030 and "EXAMINED BY BASE CENSOR". The return address listed refers to technical school Nr. 2 (Rafah, Palestine).



Figure 1 – Registered air mail cancelled by British FPO 66 on 5 March 1944

Figure 2 is a registered air mail letter with a different type of registration and air mail labels than shown above. This cover has 3D and Ten Pence stamps cancelled by FPO 66 on 8 June 1944 and a "PASSED BY CENSOR" cachet No. 5202. The return address listed refers to technical school Nr. 2 (Rafah, Palestine).



Figure 2 – Registered air mail cancelled by British FPO 66 on 8 June 1944

Polish Schools (Cont)

Figure 3 is a registered air mail letter with 3D and Ten Pence stamps cancelled by British FPO 149 on 31 October 1944. It has a “PASSED BY CENSOR” cachet No. 5975 and a label “EXAMINED BY BASE CENSOR”. The return address listed refers to technical school Nr. 3 (Quastina, Palestine).



Figure 3 – Registered air mail cancelled by British FPO 149 on 31 October 1944

Figure 4 is a registered air mail letter with 3D and Ten Pence stamps cancelled by British FPO 149 on 13 December 1944. It has a “PASSED BY CENSOR” cachet No. 5975. The return address listed refers to technical school Nr. 3 (Quastina, Palestine).



Figure 4 – Registered air mail cancelled by British FPO 149 on 13 December 1944

Figure 5 is a registered letter with 3D and 2½D stamps cancelled by Polish FPO 112 on 7 June 1945. It has Polish censorship mark “OCENZUROWANO EXAMINED BY CENSOR” No. 109. The return address listed refers to Polish Forces ME 6.



Figure 5 – Registered air mail cancelled by Polish FPO 112 on 7 June 1945

The location cited for the five schools refers to the student’s initial period of activity. They were subsequently transferred to other locations. Some students were moved between schools. Władysław Kędziora was originally at school Nr. 2 and later moved Nr. 3.

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Polonica - Ukraine Issues and Special Covers

By: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: As Polish people and their achievements become globally acclaimed, there is a growing trend for countries in the world to commemorate such people and their achievements with the issuance of postage stamps, postal stationery and special cancellations. Examples are: Madame Marie Skłodowska-Curie, Fryderyk Chopin, Pope John Paul II et al. Collecting Poland as a subject on foreign stamps is what is commonly called "Polonica". This article describes stamps, cancellations and covers from the Ukraine used to commemorate Polish historic events and institutions, fitting the description of Polonica collectibles. Future articles are planned on Polonica, a collectible category growing in popularity. Recently, the Ukrainian Post issued several items which should be of interest to collectors of Polonica. The first is a commemorative cachet cover marking the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway line between Przemyśl and Lviv (Lwów). The passenger train "Yaroslav" (Jarosław) was the first to travel the route from Vienna, through Kraków, Przemyśl, and finally on 4 November 1861, to the main city in Galicia, Lwów. It is also noteworthy that the current L'viv Railway Station was designed by Władysław Sadłowski and built in 1904. It is acclaimed to be one of the best in Europe from an architectural and technical standpoint.

Fellow philatelist and president of the Lviv Philatelic Society, Aleksandr Zharivskyj, prepared a series of four railway-themed cachet envelopes. Two of these envelopes are shown in **Figures 1 and 2.** Note, the envelopes are franked with current Ukrainian definitives invalidated with the special anniversary cancellation. The cachet and special cancellation commemorate the first passenger train to arrive at the new neo-Gothic train station in Lviv (from Przemyśl) on 4 November 1861. Note the cancellation date of 04.11.11 on the cover, the 150th anniversary date. The train engine illustrated on the



***Figures 1 & 2** - Covers commemorating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway line from Przemyśl to Lviv (Lwów).*



cachet is the “Yaroslav”, a brand new engine used for the inaugural trip.

The second item is a cachet cover with a commemorative 350th anniversary stamp depicting the Lviv University (formerly Jan Kazimierz University). It is now officially called The Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. Six different cachet envelopes were created by the Lviv Philatelic Society, each featuring items and people associated with the University’s history. The covers illustrated in **Figures 3 & 4** have cachets commemorating the Cresovia Leopoliensis, a Polish Academic Fraternity, and Madame Maria Skłodowska-Curie. Cresovia Leopoliensis was founded in 1926 in Lwów by a group of twenty-five students of Jan Kazimierz University and Technical University. Thanks to the long lasting ties of friendship between its members, Cresovia managed to survive both WWII and the dark communist era to resume official activities in October 2007.



Figures 3 & 4 *– Covers commemorating the 350th anniversary of founding of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (originally Jan Kazimierz University of Lwów).*



Space limitations do not permit illustrating all 10 items in this Bulletin. Members interested in adding one or more covers to their collections may write me at Rsobus@cs.com. Limited quantities are available at US $2.00each. Postage is US $5.00 for registered mail from Ukraine, regardless of quantity. I will send scans of all the available items upon request and mediate completion of transactions.

Speculative Falenica Overprints - Original or Forged?

By: Piotr Pelczar
Translated by: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: This Polish language article was first published in the Przegląd Filatelistyczny, issue 101, 2 February 2011. Falenica is a part of Wawer, one of the districts of Warsaw, located on the right bank of the Vistula, in the far southeastern corner of the city. Falenica overprints have surfaced on internet auction sites and the question of authenticity is a timely subject.

The local overprinting of occupation issues during the period from 1944 – 1945 was never authorized by Poland's central postal authorities. However, local postal agencies unaware of this restriction, overprinted occupation issues that had previously been used on non-philatelic correspondence. Additional overprinted issues were also created by private individuals to defraud collectors.

The Falenica overprints were created as speculative issues through the initiative of private individuals. They were not authorized and they are not know to have been used commercially [1][2] To date, Falenica overprints are known to exist only on General Gouvernment stamps issued in 1941 and 1942, all depicting a portrait of Hitler.[3] **Figure 1** shows a philatelic cover with a series of ten General Gouvernment stamps, ranging in value from 6 gr to 1 zł,



Figure 1 – Philatelic cover with Falenica overprints CTO

Philatelically inspired covers were created and were frequently canceled to order with a canceller having the following text: "FALENICA / uher / WARSCHAU C1". (**Figures 2 and 3**)

Original overprints were created utilizing a rubber stamp. It consisted of a large letter "F", oriented with the top edge slanting to the left. Reoccurring defects appear in the impressions as a result of cracks in the edges of the letter "F". Note the defects on the stamp in **Figure 3**, in the upper part of the upper crossbar and in the two places in the shorter crossbar.

Dimensions of the overprint are as follows: width (length of the upper crossbar of the letter "F") = 11.5 - 12 mm, height = 27 mm (not 11 X 22.5 mm as is erroneously stated in [1][2]). Violet [1] or violet-black ink was utilized for the overprints [3]. In reality, original overprints were printed using violet ink, while forgeries, both large and small, were printed using black ink of postal service origins.

Examples of forgeries of these speculative overprints with the letter "F" tilted towards the left on stamps with the portrait of Hitler are known to exist. The large forged overprint of Falenica has a width of 12 mm and a height of 28.5 – 29 mm (**Figure 4**), has thicker lines, and lacks the characteristic defects. A small



Figure 2 – Philatelic cover with 50 gr Falenica overprint CTO

speculative Falenica overprints on postal stationery. The question is, do such items exist? Not long ago, one of the internet auctions offered several General Gouvernment postal stationery cards with Falenica overprints. (**Figure 6)** The card bore an overprint having a width of 9 mm and a height of 19.5 – 20 mm, with the right tilted “F”. This piece did not resemble an original speculative overprint. It was a small forged overprint to defraud collectors.

forged overprint in which the letter “F” is tilted towards the right and exists on a 60 gr Hitler portrait stamp (**Figure 5**). This particular example even bears the guarantee mark of a Polish expert. (Note: Forgeries of expert’s marks were frequently applied to forgeries)

No source materials mention the existence of the original

The other card (**Figure 7**) had the same small forged overprint in which the letter “F” was tilted to the left. The author has not seen any cancelled examples of postal stationery with the original speculative Falenica overprint including those that were cancelled to order.



Figure 3 – Genuine 24 gr Falenica overprint cancelled and with characteristic defects



Figure 4 – Forged 40 gr Falenica “large” overprint with letter “F” tilted to the left



Figure 5 – Forged 60 gr Falenica “large” overprint with letter “F” tilted to the right

Speculative Falenica Overprints (Cont.)



Figure 6 – Postal stationery (postcard) with forged "small" overprint and letter "F" tilted to the right



Figure 7 – Postal stationery (postcard) with forged "small" overprint and letter "F" tilted to the left

Experts are precluded from authenticating speculative issues, i.e. issues that have not been authorized by central postal authorities. Therefore few examples bear any kind of backstamps or signatures except for the stamp illustrated in **Figure 5**. When such an item is submitted for authentication, the expert is limited to advising that the item is either the original speculative overprint or a forgery or a based on the measurements and ink of that overprint. If a collector is willing to pay an additional fee most experts would provide a special type of certificate that simply documents the nature of the item(s).

Bibliography:

[1] praca zbiorowa, „Polskie Znaki Pocztowe" (PZP), tom 4, PPF „Ruch", Warszawa 1966, str. 238 (1312)

[2] prace zbiorowa, „Katalog Specjalizowany Znaków Pocztowych ziem polskich 1990" (KSZPZP), wydanie III, tom2, KAW-RSW, Waerszawa 1989, str. 310

[3] prace zbiorowa, „Katalog Polskich Znaków Pocztowych 2010", FISCHER, tom II, Bytom-Kraków 2010, str. 248

Accessing Polish Diacritic Marks

By: Bob Nowicki and Sam Ginsburg

The Polish alphabet utilizes various letters that are not available on the English-language computer keyboard. These letters resemble the usual Roman alphabet letters, except that they add "diacritic" marks above, below or within the letters to indicate sounds different from those of the corresponding Roman letters. In Polish, nine such letters are used:

Ąą Ćć Ęę Łł Ńń Óó Śś Źź Żż

This article briefly describes several ways of accessing these letters or other special characters when using an English-language computer keyboard and a Windows-based computer. This information can prove to be very helpful when preparing text for exhibits and articles for the Polonus Bulletin, and when using the Polish language in answering e-mails and letters.

1. Character Map

The Windows operating system comes with a utility called Character Map. You can find Character Map in the Accessories folder in the Start menu, in the sub-folder called System Tools. Using Character Map, you can select the font you wish to use and then select the symbol(s) you desire. You can then copy and paste the desired symbols into the text you are creating. You may then have to adjust the font size of the pasted characters.

Some of us find it convenient to put a Character Map shortcut on the computer desktop. One way to do that is to find the program with Windows Explorer. You can do a search for "charmap.exe" (omit the quotes from the search query). On many computers, it's in the **system32** directory. **Right-click** on the file name, select "Create Shortcut" and say OK if you see a message saying "Windows can't create a shortcut here. Do you want it placed on your desktop instead?" Alternatively, you can open the start menu, click on "All Programs", then click on "Accessories", then click on "System Tools". This will give a drop-down menu that contains "Character Map" as one of the listed items. **Right-click** on "Character Map", then click on "Send To" and then "Desktop".

2. Insert+Symbol

In any recent Microsoft Office application, clicking "Insert" on the menu bar and then clicking "Symbol" will drop down a list of selectable symbols. (This feature may not be available on some older apps, such as Excel 97.) Clicking "More Symbols…" at the bottom of the list opens up a box that somewhat resembles Character Map. You can specify a symbol set from which you wish to choose (for example, "Latin Supplement" or "Latin Extended", where you will find all the Polish diacritic-marked characters).

3. Decimal Keystroke Codes

You can also insert symbols into text by turning on NumLock and then holding down the Alt key and using the number pad to type the four-digit decimal code for the symbol on the number pad. Thus, for example, when I turn on NumLock, hold down the Alt key and type '0243' on the number pad, the letter **ó** appears. But not all characters have such codes assigned. In fact, of the Polish characters listed above, only **Ó** and **ó** have such codes assigned. These codes can still be useful for other characters commonly used by philatelists. For example, Alt+0189 produces the fraction ½, useful for describing perforations, and Alt+0234 gives **ê**, as in **tête-bêche**. Using such codes obviously requires one to remember them or look them up each time, but some find the procedure less cumbersome than selecting, copying and pasting from Character Map. You can find these codes on the lower right of the Character Map window when you select a character. You can also find a complete list of the codes at http://www.starr.net/is/type/altnum.htm, along with instructions for using them.

4. Unicode

Unicode is a system for encoding characters using four- or five-digit hexadecimal numbers. Unicode

provides a unique number for every character, no matter what the platform, no matter what the program, no matter what the language. Lists of Unicodes are available on various internet sites. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Unicode_characters has a complete list. http://www.starr.net/is/type/altnum.htm, mentioned above, gives the Unicodes for all Polish letters that do not have a decimal keystroke code. Unicodes can also be found within the Character Map utility described above, at the lower left of the window. The method for entering Unicodes to generate characters varies from application to application and may not be available in some applications, (see, for example, http://www.fileformat.info/tip/microsoft/enter_unicode.htm). In Microsoft applications, type the Unicode (minus any initial zeros), then immediately press Alt+x. For example, the Unicode for **ź** is 017a. Typing 17a immediately followed by Alt+x generates **ź**. The Unicode list is frequently expanded, so that more languages and special characters are being added. For example, version 6.0 was released in October, 2010. Read more about Unicode at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode.

Some people find it convenient to maintain a document in their favorite word processor, adding new special characters when they are first needed. Then in the future, the document can be opened and the character copied and pasted in any application where it is needed. One of the authors, Ginsburg, has an "oddball characters.wpd" file, which he keeps handy. It has about 60 characters – Polish, Cyrillic, German, Hebrew, and special characters such as arrows, fractions, etc.

Macintosh and Unix users can use some of the above techniques. On a Mac, Word uses the same "Insert Symbols" syntax as in PC Word. Some other Mac applications use "Edit > Special Characters". If you use Unix/Linux, etc, then you'll have to look around.

Deceased Member

We were recently informed that Tom Podl passed away in March 2011. Tom was a great friend of Poland, renowned Polish art collector, longtime active member of the Polish community in Seattle, Washington, and an active member of Polonus. Born in Chicago in 1938 as Thomas Matthew Podlaśinski, he graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1963. He settled in Seattle in 1974 and established *Intralife*, a very successful medical device company. Over a span of two decades he amassed one of the most important collections of Polish art in America. He is best known for his *Colors of Identity* collection of over 150 paintings, which toured the most important museums of Poland. He was an active member of the Polish community and served in leadership positions with several organizations. His unwavering support for Poland and Polish culture was honored with the *Gloria Artis* Gold Medal, the highest Polish medal awarded for accomplishments in Polish arts and culture, and the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (awarded by the President of Poland), among other awards.



Lost Works of Art

Date of Issue	October 21, 2011
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski

Three stamps were issued to highlight art objects once housed in Poland, but now missing – an abstract painting by Stanisław Wyspiański (1.95 zł), a sculpture by Wit Stwosz (2.4 zł), and a piece by Jean-Antoine Watteau (3 zł). The paintings of Wyspiański are well represented in Polish philately. He painted as a modernist, with themes from Polish folk tradition and romantic history. He was acquainted with fellow artist Jan Matejko at the School of Fine Arts in Kraków. The missing painting depicted is an abstract portrait from 1905. The work of Veit Stoss (Wit Steosz), the Bavarian sculptor, is mostly in wood, his style emphasizing pathos and emotion, helped by his virtuoso carving of billowing drapery. His best known work is in St. Mary's Church in Kraków, where he produced the enormous polychrome wooden altar, completed in 1489 after 20 years of effort. His name is Polonized on the stamp as Wit Stwosz. He later returned to his native home in Nuremberg. The art depicted on the stamp is a religious carving portraying one of the last days of Christ's life. Watteau, the French painter, is credited with inventing the genre "fêtes galantes" in his work, showing scenes of bucolic and idyllic charm. The missing art piece on the stamp is of a gowned woman standing. Three distinctive first day covers were issued with colorful cachets and cancellations indicating "Utracone dzieła sztuki" (Lost art division).

Wiesław Kostka Exhibits At Prix d'Honneur

Polonus member Wiesław Kostka exhibited his award-winning single frame "1945 Traugutt 25 Groszy Stamp w/ Surcharges 5 Zł / 22.1.1863" at the APS Ameristamp / Southeastern Expo 2012 on January 27-29, 2012. This exhibit earned the distinction for the Best One-Frame Exhibit at the PNSE 2011 and received the George H. Dewsnap Memorial Award.

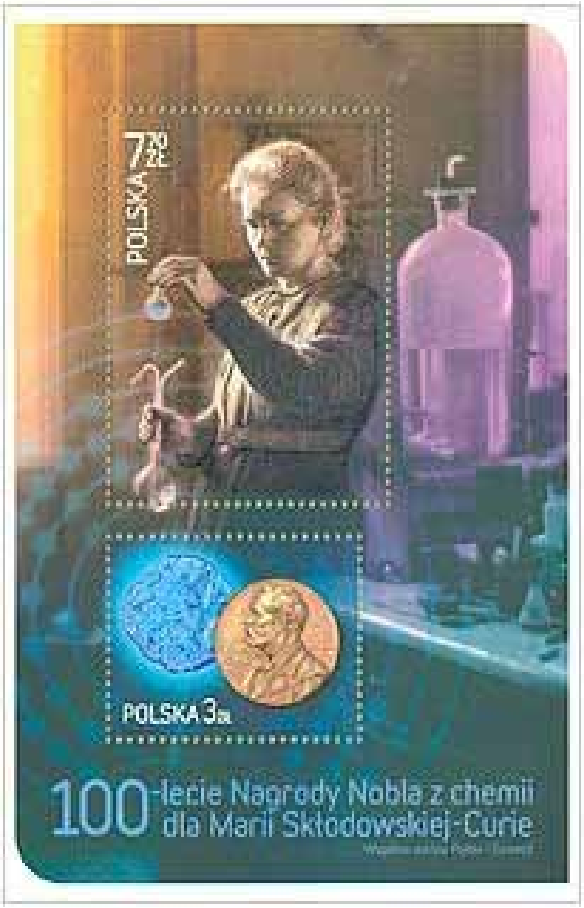
We congratulate Wiesław Kostka for being honored by this invitation to exhibit in the Single Frame Prix d'Honneur at the show in Atlanta, an event from which the Champion of Champions is determined.



Date of Issue	November 4, 2011
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Brodowski

First Polish Satellite

This 4.15 zł stamp celebrates the completion or integration of Poland's first scientific satellite – Brite-PL 1, or LEM, named in honor of world-renowned science-fiction novelist, Stanisław Lem. It was developed by a consortium of Canadian, Austrian, and Polish interests, and was the brain-child of University of Toronto Emeritus Professor Slavek Rucinski. The satellite will have five siblings, one Polish (called Hevelius), two Canadian, and two Austrian. Together, the six satellites will form a family of nanosatellites whose mission will be to observe the 500-800 brightest stars in our Milky Way Galaxy. Each of the satellites weighs less than 10 kg and form what is termed the BRITE Constellation; LEM is 20 cm long, weighs 5 kg, and will be sent into space in September 2012. [The LEM scientific satellite program is distinct from the PW (Politechnika Warszawska) education satellite program, a university effort designed to train students in space-age technology. The PW launched its small satellite from spaceport Kouron in French Guiana on a Vega rocket in February 2012.] The stamp and numbered souvenir sheet depict LEM orbiting the earth; and the official first day cover depicts a part of our galaxy and the astronomer Copernicus.



Date of Issue	November 17, 2011
Sheet Format	Two stamps in SS
Printing Method	Steel Engraving Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

100th Anniversary of Madame Curie's Nobel Prize

These 7.70 zł and 3 zł stamps depict Maria Skłodowska-Curie at work in her laboratory and the Nobel Prize medal, respectively. The famous physicist and chemist is renowned for her pioneering research on radioactivity. Born in 1867 in Warsaw in the Kingdom of Poland, she was educated and taught at the University of Paris. She is most famous for her discovery of radium and polonium, and won the Nobel Prize in physics with others in 1903, and won a second Nobel prize on her own in chemistry in 1911. She died in 1934 as a French citizen with a Polish identity. In addition to the souvenir sheet, a special collectors' edition albino souvenir sheet was issued with a value of 16.26 zł + VAT. The colorful official first day cover shows various elements from the periodic table.



Date of Issue	December 2, 2011
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jędrysik

30th Anniversary of Fire Service School Strike

This 4.15 zł stamp commemorates Poland's famous student strike at the Main School of Fire in Warsaw, a state service technical university supervised by the Minister of Interior and Administration. The strike was apparently an instrumental event in helping bring down the former communist regime. The numbered souvenir sheet depicts a line of striking students outfitted in full fire-fighting uniforms and carrying associated gear.



Date of Issue	December 8, 2011
Sheet Format	50 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Aleksandra Ubukata

20th Anniversary of Kazakhstan Independence

This 2.40 zł stamp recognizes the 20th year of independence for Kazakhstan, the world's 9th largest country in land area and rich in natural resources. Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union, was the last Soviet Socialist Republic to declare its independence in 1991 under President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The stamp was issued along with a Polish translation of the Kazakh heroic poem "Koblandy Batyr" to honor the special relationship between the countries. The stamp depicts a colorful map representation of the nation state, and the official first day cover shows many horses galloping across Kazakhstan.



Date of Issue	December 16, 2011
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Flowers and Fruits

This 1.55 zł stamp, part of a continuing series, depicts the red raspberry, a favorite item in the Polish diet. The official first day cover includes an attractive cachet and cancellation depicting the fruit.



Date of Issue	January 8, 2012
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jerzy Owsiak Magdalena Jabłońska Katarzyna Sasin

20th Finale of Great Orchestra for Holiday Assistance

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Foundation (Polish: Wielkiej Orkiestry Świątecznej Pomocy) is one of the largest non-governmental, non-profit, charity organizations in Poland. Beginning in 1993, the Grand Finale has occurred on the first or second Sunday of every New Year. It's sponsored by many Polish and Worldwide companies, and is a day-long nationwide fund raising event. Volunteers collect money in special cans labeled with a red heart. Those who contribute receive a red heart sticker in return. The Foundation has collected over $100 million over the years for cardio surgery, neonatology, and pediatric oncology; efforts to combat kidney diseases, congenital defects, urological and nephrological diseases; and for the rescue of accident victims. Apart from the Grand Finale, the Foundation also organizes one of the largest rock concerts in Poland – Woodstock Festival Poland. The colorful stamp, souvenir sheet with a 1.95 zł stamp, and first day cover endeavor to portray the grand size of the event and the enormity of human effort involved.



Date of Issue	February 14, 2012
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

70th Anniversary of the Polish National Army

This 1.55 zł issue commemorates the founding of the Polish National Army or Home Army (Polish: Armii Krajowej or AK) in 1942, the dominant Polish resistance movement in World War II German-occupied Poland. The AK had an estimated membership of over 400,000 and fought several full-scale battles with the Germans during Operation Tempest. The most widely known AK operation was the failed Warsaw Uprising. It was officially disbanded in 1945 when the Polish territory was cleared of German forces by the advancing Soviet Red Army. However, some conflicts between AK and Soviet forces occurred both during and after World War II. The stamp depicts the Polish eagle and the official first day cover shows a photo scene from World War II.