

BULLETIN of the

POLONIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at Polish American Congress, 5844 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

ISSUE No. 442

Price: \$2.00

July-August, 1990

WERE CONFEDERATE STAMPS USED IN PANNA MARIA, TEXAS?

By: JAMES MAZEPA



I recently ran across a very rare and interesting item of Polonica. The Polish settlement at Panna Maria (sic) in Texas is well known. But what is not known is the use of Confederate States stamps in this town. The cover shown is franked with a pair of five cents Jefferson Davis blue local printing issue. The stamps covered the cachet of "Leland's Rancho, (Helena), Texas. The pair was manuscript cancelled "Panna Maria, Tex. July 13, (18)63. The pair has been removed to show the cachet. I would like to hear from other members who might have such Confederate usages from this town. Please write me at P.O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304.

OUR FRIENDS IN AUSTRALIA

By FRED SZEBEL

In May of 1989, Mr. G. Borucki was in the U.S. and visited my new condo. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon, talking about Polish stamps and exchanging ideas. He invited me to come to Melbourne, Australia.

While visiting life-long friends in Australia in December of 1989, I was invited by individual members of the Polish Philatelic Society of Australia to visit the homes of G. Borucki, R. Jablonski, Z. Zasiedka, R. Aszniewicz and R. Winiarski.

Since it was just before Christmas, a special meeting was called. In a most friendly atmosphere, a variety subjects discussed, pages of Polish philatelic material shown, and a short auction held (Fig. 1).

After the meeting a group picture was taken by the Christmas tree. (Fig. 2).



FIG. 1: Mr. G. Borucki raising glass of wine in salute for Happy Holidays, with R. Winiarski in foreground.



FIG. 2: from left to right: J. Kraczmanski; Visiting F. Szebel; G. Borucki, Secretary; T. Kuzma, Editor; H. Trofimiuk; R. Aszniewicz, President; R. Winiarski, Vice-Pres.; Z. Zasiedka; R. Jablonski; A. Alwast; K. Jeziorowski, Treas.; K. Nowwak; T. Denison

A few days later, Mr. Borucki, world renown entertainer, invited me with my friend, to a Christmas show at the Kosciuszko House, presented by him and a large group of Polish artists in Melbourne. Over 300 guests were present, mostly from local Polonia.

During our years of friendship, I and other Polonus members often took part in POLPHIL Exhibitions in Melbourne during 1966, 73 & 79.

P.P.S. of Australia members as well, took part in many POLPEX Exhibitions in the U.S.A. Our personal friendship was strengthened during our visit to Poland for POLSKA '73, at which five of our friends from Australia were present. Many P.P.S. of Australia members were also members of Polonus and we exchanged Bulletins for many years.

In 1989 the Polish Philatelic Society of Australia celebrated its 30th Anniversary. A special souvenir album was planned with Polonus Society as one of the sponsors. In its context, the story of the Polish Philatelic Society:

In July, 1959, nineteen people in Melbourne, who had some interest in Polish philately, received attractive numbered invitations to a meeting which was to discuss the possible establishment of a society for philatelists collecting Polish stamps. To give this first step both a Polish and philatelic flavour all invitations were posted from Cracow in Queensland and postmarked with the postal stamp of the Cracow Post Office.

The idea of forming such a society and of calling a meeting of people in Melbourne who might have an interest in joining, originated with Mr. I. Gust and Mr. T. W. Kuzma. Needless to say, the preliminary task of searching out names and addresses and preparing invitation cards took a lot of effort as well as time. Initial contact was also made with many philatelists in other States of the Commonwealth, who had no way of attending such a meeting.

Fifteen of the nineteen invited collectors attended that first meeting on the 2nd of August, 1959 at the YWCA in Russell St. Melbourne. They were:

A. Alwast	J. Korewa	S. Ratkowski	R. Winiarski
R. Asznowicz	T. W. Kuzma	J. Silberbach	J. Wisniewski
J. Goldberger	J. Landau	J. Skiba	Z. Zasiedka
I. Gust	C. Malecki	B. Szalencow	

Those present were informed that in all, 27 philatelists from Victoria, seven from N.S.W., three from Queensland, three from South Australia and one from New Zealand, had expressed some interest in belonging to a society of collectors of Polish stamps.

All present decided unanimously to support the formation of a new organization to be known as the "Polish Philatelic Society, Melbourne" and elected the first Executive Board. Namely:

Mr. I. Gust	President
Mr. T. W. Kuzma	Secretary - Treasurer
Mr. J. Landau	Superintendent of Exchange
Mr. C. Melecki	Editor of the Bulletin

The meeting decided that the new Society would:

- establish an exchange service
- publish its own bulletin
- be in contact with other philatelic societies
- hold monthly meetings
- have a membership fee of one pound till 1. 1. 1960
- have its own emblem

It was agreed that the Society would have as its aim the promotion of interest in philately in general and the collecting of Polish stamps in particular.

A committee was selected to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the Society. The members were: Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Asznowicz and Mr. Ratkowski.

Because of the number of interstate members who joined the Society in the first few months the name was formally changed to "Polish Philatelic Society of Australia."

An indication of the activity during the first few months of the Society's existence can be gleaned from the fact that the Secretary sent out over 100 letters in the first five months i.e. August to December, 1959.

In line with our objectives the first contact with Polonus, U.S.A., the Polish Union of Philatelists (P.Z.F.) in Poland and with Polish philatelic societies in Great Britain was made in the first month of our existence.

OFFICE HOLDERS

Presidents:

1959-1963	I. Gust	1978-1979	R. Asznowicz
1964	B. Kowalski	1980	R. Winiarski
1965	I. Gust	1981	J. Landau
1966-1975	G. Borucki	1982-1984	R. K. Jablonski
1976-1977	T. W. Kuzma	1985-1989	R. Asznowicz

Society activities over the past thirty years included the following:

1. The issue of a Bulletin which won recognition at a number of national and international exhibitions e.g. Silver/Bronze at "Polska 60", Silver at "Polska 1000", Vermeil at "Philaserdika" at Sofia in 1979;
2. regular monthly meetings of members;
3. an exchange sheet service;
4. regular sales by tender;
5. the issue of special publications such as the Millennium Commemorative Album, a Catalogue of Commemorative Covers produced in Australia, and a reprint in booklet form of the work "First Stamp of The Kingdom of Poland" by Joachim Bielski.
6. establishment of a Numismatic Section;
7. displays by members during special philatelic and Polish National events in Melbourne;
8. active support during the 60's for the Rabka TB Sanatorium in Poland; and
9. the staging of a series of "Polphil" exhibitions, three of which included participation by exhibitors from other countries.

Members who were particularly active in Society affairs during their lifetime or who are currently active, include (in alphabetic order):

Mr. A. Alwast, Dr. R. Asznowicz, Mr. G. Borucki, Mrs. M. Fruchtman(*), Mr. A. Frydman, Mr. I. Gust(*), Mr. R. Jablonski, Mr. K. Jeziorowski, Mr. B. Kowalski(*), Mr. T. Kraus, Mr. T. W. Kuzma, Mr. J. Landau(*), Mr. Cz. Malecki, Mr. S. Ratkowski, Miss J. Resch, Mr. R. Winiarski and Mr. Z. Zasiedka. (*)—Deceased.

POLPHIL EXHIBITIONS

At the Society's inaugural meeting in August, 1959, members decided that one of the objectives of the Society would be to hold annual philatelic exhibitions which would be known as "POLPHIL". While this

decision was adhered to for the first few years, in that Polphil exhibitions were held annually from 1960 to 1966, it became obvious that given the Society's limited resources it would not be possible to organize such exhibitions each year. That objective was accordingly amended and Polphil exhibitions are now held in association with major events which give them a particular theme or purpose. Consequently, subsequent Polphils were held in 1969 on the Society's 10th anniversary, in 1973 for the 500th Centenary of Copernicus, in 1979 on the Society's 20th anniversary, in 1984 on the 25th anniversary and in conjunction with PolArt 84 and in 1986 for the Papal Visit.

All but three of these Polphils were competitive. Three had an international character with participation by philatelists from other countries and other societies in Australia. Australia Post displayed in the Court of Honour in six of our Polphils and at some of these there were also displays by other postal administrations and invited prominent philatelists.

While most of our Polphils were held on the premises of Kosciuszko House, a number of the larger ones had to be staged in larger and more central locations. Polphil 73, which was held in conjunction with coordinated celebrations for the anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus, was staged in the Sir Dallas Brooks building. Polphil 79 was held in the chambers of the CBC Bank in Collins Street.

A range of souvenir sheets, covers, postcards and other cinderella issues were produced for these "Polphils" and many of these are now in demand.

—A total of 192 medals or diplomas for medals were awarded together with further 21 diplomas of merit or diplomas of participation.

	POSTPAID
1990 Ruch Catalogs - 4 Volume Set	\$20.00
Bound Volumes of Filatelista	\$15.00
Album Legionów Polskich - 362 Pages	
Mostly Photos and Descriptions	\$25.00
Polski Mundur Wojskowy by Zygulski & Wielicki	
Polish Military Uniforms	\$25.00
Lata Okupacji by Kopf - Heavily illustrated	
Years of Occupatio n.....	\$25.00
Warsaw Getto - mostly photographs	\$20.00

— Supplies are limited —

BIENIECKI INC.

BOX 100 ■ GRANITE CITY, IL 62040

Phone: 618 - 451-9616

Fax: 618 - 451-6066

A two sheet inner Society competitive display is held at each November meeting. Since 1965, the member whose sheets are voted most appealing by those present at the meeting has had his or her name engraved on the travelling "Galaska Cup" trophy and has been allowed to keep the trophy at home, and of course clean it, for the following year.

The following statistics may help to provide an overview of the Polphil Exhibitions which have been held to date:

—Countries represented included: Australia, Canada, England, France, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, the United States and West Germany.

The "Galaska" Cup was presented to the Society by a prominent Geelong businessman of the same name early in 1965 and has been featured in our annual program since. Members who were successful in the competition and had their names engraved on the Cup are:

1965—Z. Zasiedka	1977—G. Borucki
1966—A. Alwast	1978—R. Jablonski
1967—R. Aszniewicz	1979—Not held
1968—R. Aszniewicz	1980—R. Aszniewicz
1969—S. Ratkowski	1981—G. Borucki
1970—J. Landau	1982—R. Winiarski
1971—R. Aszniewicz	1983—R. Jablonski
1972—H. Gorny	1984—C. Bromser
1973—R. Aszniewicz	1985—R. Aszniewicz
1974—H. Gorny	1986—R. Aszniewicz
1975—G. Borucki	1987—R. Aszniewicz
1976—G. Borucki	1988—G. Borucki



THE GALASKA CUP

More On Inflation Rates

A recent postcard from Poland was franked with a 1000 zł. stamp plus two 350 zł. stamps (350 overprinted on the old 15 zł. stamps).

The card was cancelled at the Warsaw post office on the 20th of June, 1990 (20.6.90). I received it on the 29th of June.

A light pamphlet sent from Łódź as a book/surface mail (we would pay 60¢) cost 3100 zł. It was mailed on the 8th of May, 1990 (1990.5.8) and was delivered to me on June 30th, 1990.

Notice the difference in the dating systems: Łódź uses the order: year-month-day, and Warsaw uses day-month-year. I wonder why the dating order is not standardized.

—E. D. Wolski

RE "STAMP MARKET TIPS"

John Ross mentioned in #439 p. 7, that the 1990 Scott catalog listed the 1 zł. Port Gdańsk stamp "hinged" for \$82.50, down \$27.50 from the 1989 catalog value.

It really is not a down trend, because the 1990 Scott gives the market value, and average stamps are given at about 50% of the 1989 catalog value. The fact that the 1 zł. stamp was rated at \$82.00 instead of \$55.00, means that this stamp shows a strong up tendency confirmed by the European dealers willing to buy it for \$50.00 as Ross points out.

—E. D. Wolski

Cataloging Solidarity Propaganda Labels

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

From 1981 through 1989 Solidarity in Poland was banned. This resulted in the issuance of numerous propaganda labels by different underground organizations which forcefully affirm and reaffirm that the Solidarity movement still exists and is doing well. Most of these issues pretend to be postage stamps, but they are not, because they were not used for the prepayment of postage. Other issues pretend to be banknotes and some to be postal cards. In many cases they are certificates for donations made for the underground activities.



A complete cataloging of these issues is an almost impossible task because no single person knows how many different ones were issued or all dates, locations, and other information concerning them.

I have seen two catalogs of these labels.

1. The Catalog Made in Poland.

It has no title or (for obvious reasons) author's names. It consists of four volumes which list these issues by the years. The total number of listed "stamps" is 4059 not counting "banknotes" and postal cards. The catalog is typed by means of a poorly adjusted manual typewriter. Typing through multiple carbons often on a poor quality paper makes some pages difficult to decipher. The illustrations are color photographs in reduced size.

The effort that went into the making of this catalog is enormous. Being typewritten only a few copies can possibly exist.

The entries describe the year of issuance, the issuing organizations, colors, dimensions, and often the description of the designs of these labels. Issues of 1981 through 1988 are listed, supposedly the 5th volume for 1989 is being prepared.

2. The book: "Six Years of the Underground Post in Poland (1982-88)" by Anotol Kobylinski

The author who lives now in Germany was assisted by the Polish

Museum in Rapperswil, Switzerland in making this book which came out in the fall of 1989. It was printed by the Polish Printing Company "Kontrast" in West Germany. In its 315 pages are shown in reduced size, in dark brown color, labels, covers, stamps, postal cards, banknotes, and leaflets issued by the Solidarity Underground in Poland. The brief but well written text is in Polish, German, English, French and Italian. The nicely made illustrations are not individually described; no colors, dates, and places of issuance or issuing organizations are indicated. The author subdivides the presented material into numerous topics. This seems to be a clever approach because it makes the locations of individual items much easier than a chronological listing.

The book costs 38 DM (approximately \$22.00) and it can be purchased from author, St. Cajetan Str. 3, 8000 Munchen 80, W. Germany.

General Comments

Both catalogs described here show very many designs but nevertheless both are far from being complete. Numerous "stamps" recorded in one of these catalogs are not recorded in the other. I myself have a very large collection of these issues (over 3000 items) and about 20 percent of those I have are not shown in either one of these two catalogs. On this basis I estimate that probably as many as 7000 different issues of Solidarity underground labels may exist. If one considers that many of them are printed in different colors, perforated and imperforate, and on different papers, even more varieties should exist than I indicated above.

Since Solidarity has won in 1989 and left its underground status one would have expected that the printing presses which produce these labels have stopped by now and that the case of the underground labels is closed. This did not happen; more issues are being produced now. For example, I just obtained the 1989 X-mas "stamps" which are illustrated here. It appears that as long as collectors are willing to buy these issues, their production will continue.

While the Solidarity labels are not a part of real philately I believe that collecting them is a lot of fun. They range between being tastefully designed and well printed and being primitively designed and poorly made. Some designs are humorous and some others are very sad. Many designs provide information which is not available from other sources. These labels are a typical Polish phenomenon without a precedent on such a large scale anywhere in the world. They most certainly represent an unique, original and valuable historical documentation.

POLISH CONSTITUTION US COMMEMORATIVE REQUESTED

The Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids, Mich., has asked the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to request on behalf of all Poles, that a new "3rd of May - Polish Constitution Day" bicentennial commemorative stamp be issued on the 3rd of May, 1991 in Philadelphia, PA at the Kosciuszko House National Historic Monument and at the Royal Castle, Warsaw, Poland.

Support is needed from Polonia to make this idea a reality. Polish Americans who would like to support this commemorative stamp effort, should write to the USPS Committee in Washington, D.C. 20260-6351.

The Stratosphere Flight That Never Took Off

By RYSZARD K. WAGNER - First Editor of "P.P.R."

(Reprint from "Polish Philatelic Review" No. 1 - January, 1956)

The fate of "STAR OF POLAND" (Gwiazda Polski, designed and built by the Poles, largest balloon in the world, is well known to us.



On the 14th of October, 1938, during inflation, an unexpected and extremely strong wind developed. Deflation was ordered during which an explosion occurred damaging the gas bag and the flight had to be abandoned. Preparations for the ascent that lasted 14 months and cost about 360,000 zł. were ruined in a few seconds. But the idea of the flight was not abandoned.

After the gas bag was repaired the organizing Committee decided that helium should be used instead of hydrogen during the next ascent.

Negotiations took place between Poland and the U.S.A., regarding helium and the gas arrived at Gdynia from the U.S.A. in August, 1939. Capt. Stevens (USA), the altitude record holder, who was present during the first unsuccessful trial - arrived in the character of an

adviser on the procedure of using helium. As the flight was planned primarily for scientific purposes, it was of great interest to him.

There is no need to guess what happened next. "STAR OF POLAND" never took the air. There was no time to explore the skies when the earth burned. The invasion of Poland by Germany put an end to the project.

Note: The supposition that miniature sheets used on Stratosphere mail in 1938 were pre-cancelled is erroneous. Practice of pre-cancelled miniature sheets did not exist. Many of these sheets due to their size, were not, but many were properly tied to cards and covers.

FIRST FLIGHTS OF THE AIR MAIL SERVICE IN POST WAR POLAND - 1945

Reprinted also from "Polish Philatelic Review" No. 1

15.04.—Warsaw-Poznań and return, by Polish Air Lines "LOT"

15.04.—Warsaw-Katowice (later renamed Stalinogród & return "LOT"

18.04.—Warsaw-Gdańsk (Danzig) and return by "LOT"

01.05.—Warsaw-Cracow and return by "LOT"

18.06.—Stockholm-Visby-Warsaw and return by "Aktie Belaget Transport" ("ABA"). Trial flight.

01.08.—Stockholm-Warsaw by "ABA" (Pilot Bosson).

08.-15.8.—Paris-Warsaw by "Lignes Aeriennes Militaires" ("LAM").

New Publication . . .

CENTRAL LITHUANIA

Specialized Stamp Catalogue

By A. G. PACHOLCZYK

This catalogue is intended to familiarize the collector with specialized Central Lithuanian philately. It is the first work of its kind published in English, and the first catalogue of Central Lithuanian stamps in any language containing detailed information on forgeries, which, unfortunately, are very abundant. The standard Scott catalogue of stamps dedicates only one page to issues of Central Lithuania. The present catalogue discusses postal and semipostal issues, postal stationery, revenues, proofs, errors, plate varieties and essays in over 200 pages with a considerable degree of detail, and includes a description of the issues of Samorząd Warwiski and of their forgeries.

Table of Contents: Preface - 7; Acknowledgements - 9; Central Lithuania, a Historical Introduction - 11; Stamp Coding System - 23; Organization of Postal Services - 27; A Note on Cancellations - 32; Notes on Printer's Waste - 33; Coat of Arms Issue (Nos. 1-6,) - 35; "Na Śląsk" Surcharges (Nos. 7-12) - 57; Overprint Issue of 1920 (Nos. 13-22) - 71; 1921 Pictorials (Nos. 23-28) - 89; Red Cross Surcharges (Nos. 29-30) - 101; White Cross Surcharges (Nos. 31-33) - 113; Deno-Chancellery (No. 34) - 111; Warsaw Issue (Nos. 35-42) - 113; Denomination Error Overprints (Nos. 43-48) - 129; Red Cross Proofs (Nos. 49-52) - 141; Parliament Issue (Nos. 53-56) - 145; Anniversary Issue (Nos. 57-58) - 153; Postage Due Stamps (Nos. 59-65) - 161; Revenues: Treasury (Nos. 66-71) - 183; Warwiski Uprising Issue (Nos. 72-74) - 187; Postal Stationery (Nos. 75-78) - 197; References and Bibliography page 201.

The catalogue has 207 pages, perfectbound, size 6" x 9". Price is \$67.50 postpaid. Check/money order should be sent to Stochastic Press, P.O. Box 35542, Tucson, AZ 85740.

No COD please. Foreign customers must pay by checks or drafts drawn on a U.S. bank and denominated in U.S. dollars.

Poles Were Here First

In the book: "Strange Stories, Amazing Facts of America's Past" published by **Reader's Digest**, a short essay acknowledges America's first settlers. "The First Polish Immigrants," describes the arrival of Poles in Jamestown, VA, a full year before the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, MA.

NEW ISSUES

By ROMUALD ODROWSKI

Poland's new issues in 1990 began when the 15 zł. was surcharged with a 350 zł. overprint and released on January 31st. Official detailed information was not supplied with any of the stamps here listed. We hope to print such information when it is available.





A set of opera singers appeared on February 9th showing:

100 zł.—Krystyna Jamroz

150 zł.—Wanda Wermínska

350 zł.—Ada Sari

500 zł.—Jan Kiepura

Designed by M. Piekarski. Perf. 12 x 11½.



Six sport stamps appeared March 29th showing:

100 zł.—yachting

200 zł.—rugby

400 zł.—high jumper

500 zł.—figure skating

500 zł.—diving

1000 zł.—gymnastics

Designed by J. Brodowski.

The Battle of Narvik in WWII is commemorated with this 1500 zł designed by H. Chylinski.

On the occasion of the World Soccer Championships in Italy a 1000 zł was issued.

The designer was J. Wysocki.

The need for a 700 zł value resulted in overprinting of this 60 zł stamp.



The 130th anniversary of Poland No. 1 initiated a 1000 zł. value miniature sheet designed by S. Malecki. (see next page).

The 70th birthday of Pope John Paul II was honored with a 1000 zł. value designed by S. Malecki. (see next page).

130 LAT POLSKIEGO ZNACZKA POCZTOWEGO



K-LINE PAGES FOR POLAND



1989 SUPPLEMENT #34

\$5.80

(Plus \$1.70 Shipping)

Write us for a special price on
complete Poland pages

Also Pages for the 500th
Anniversary of Copernicus -
\$13.00 including shipping;

and Blank Pages for
Pope John Paul II - 15 for \$4.50

K-LINE PUBLISHING, INC.

Geo. C. Kobylka

Box 159, Berwyn, IL 60402

OLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A.P.S. Affiliate #119

ROMAN STRZELECKI, President
7006 West 29th Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI, Vice Pres.
7353 West Estes Street
Chicago, IL 60631

TED KWIECINSKI, Secretary
3 North Forrest Avenue
Arlington Hgts., IL 60004

AL RYBARKSI, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82
River Grove, IL 60171

FRED SZEDEL, Membership Chrm.
1615 E. Central Rd.
Arlington Hgts., IL 60005

Board of Directors:

ALEX JUSKOWICZ

JOSEPH PALECZNY

CHESTER SCHAFER

Bulletin Editor:

CHESTER SCHAFER

864 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the 'Bulletin' are \$12.50 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to: Al Rybarski, Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New 'tins' for the year in which they join. members will receive all the 'Bulletin'. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Among our members there
are those — who complain,
and those — who blame
and those — who act.