

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED

The July-August bulletin asked members for their opinion regarding the publication of a membership directory which has brought a significant response—all of it positive. Here's a sample of what our members had to say:

"... different societies and stamp clubs in U.S. issue a list of their members..."

—F. Bubicz, Chicago

"I am in favor of a Membership Directory."

—E. Dreger, Floral Park, N.Y.

"I would like to have Polonus reinstate the publication of a membership directory."

—W. Marple, Michigan

"A roster is an integral part of the function of a society... a vote of 'aye.'"

—J. Bobo, Des Plaines, Ill.

Former Polonus President

"It is a good suggestion to reinstate this listing... but precaution must be taken."

—A. Piotrowski,

Moundville, W. Va.

In the next bulletin mailing will be a format for the members to complete and return for inclusion in the directory. Those who do not wish to have their addresses published shall **not** have their addresses published. It is

anticipated that the directory will enable collectors living in general geographic areas to correspond and possibly get together in their own discussion groups. Any suggestions on the new directory would be sincerely appreciated.

—T. J. Gobby

STECZYNSKI WORKING ON NEW PUBLICATIONS

Appropriately enough, October 11th was Pulaski Day by Presidential proclamation and Myron Steczynski delivered a special presentation to the Polonus members at their regular meeting that date. Mr. Steczynski is working on an updated and expanded book covering the topic: Copernicus, as honored internationally. The other book is on Poles who contributed so much to the American Revolution: Kosciuszko and Pulaski. Illustrating his presentation Myron showed some exquisite material, especially on the Kosciuszko and Pulaski themes. Our best wishes to Myron in his latest efforts — they should be first class as always.

**A REMINDER — HAVE YOU
PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1974?**

RARE POLISH STAMPLESS COVERS SOLD

On August 14-15, one of the most comprehensive collections of Russian material to come to the market in years was auctioned by the Robert Siegel Galleries of New York. The collection was formed by the famed conductor of the New York Metropolitan Opera, Mr. Kurt Adler.

Of special interest to Polish philatelists were three folded envelopes of the Independent Kingdom of Poland. Two of these are the actual covers pictured in Prof. Stanislaw Mikstein's book, *Pieczęcie Pocztowe na Ziemiach Polski w XVIII Wieku*.

The first of the three was a folded envelope sent from Krakow to Schetmnie. This envelope, pictured on page 3 of Mikstein's book, is one of the earliest known to bear the Crown and Posthorn postmark and is also one of the rarest items of Polish philately. The second folded envelope also was sent from Krakow, though erroneously described in the auction catalog as being from Bielsk. The manuscript date on the reverse reads the 15th of July, 1787. Its destination was Szczuczynie by way of Grodno. It is evident from seeing this cover that the photo on page 33 of Mikstein's book is retouched to better show the "K" of the postmark. Actually, the postmark is blurred so that the "K" could easily be mistaken for the "B" of the Bielsk post office. The third envelope is dated 1790 and was sent from Krzemenetz to Szpihowce. The postmark is the double circle type pictured on page 51 of the Mikstein monograph.

The prices realized for these covers reflect their rarity. The Krakow cover sold for \$550 while

the other two sold in the \$250 range.

It is unfortunate that these pieces of Poland's postal history remained in Mr. Adler's collection virtually unknown to Polish philatelists all these years. It is equally unfortunate that they were sold to a French dealer and no doubt will not be seen again in this country for some time.

—James P. Mazepa, M.A., A.M.

NEW YORK STUDY GROUP

Eugene Dreger would like to hear from other collectors interested in Polonica — stamps and philatelic material issued by other countries to honor Poles.

Interested parties may contact:

Eugene Dreger
198 Plainfield Ave.
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBER WINS NEW HONORS

Polonus member, Paul Keller of Capetown S. Africa, and his collection "Letters from Poland" have earned new awards since the last report. A Silver Bronze was awarded at Jerusalem '73, and a Silver "with the felicitations of the Jury" at SAPHIL '74 in Pretoria in early October. Polonus congratulates Mr. Keller!

POLONUS OUT OF TOWN EXHIBITORS

It's awfully hard keeping track of our out-of-towners who exhibit locally, nationally, and internationally. We would appreciate it if you would drop us a line and let us know whenever you win an award. We can then run it in the bulletin and let all of our members know of your honors and recognition. How about it?

POLISH LEGION FIELDPOST IN U.S.A. 1915-17

By JERZY KUCHARSKI

The title of this article may look strange since somebody might wonder what the Legion Fieldpost could do in U.S.A.—4,000 miles away during World War I (when the Legion was fighting the Tzar's armies—future allies of U.S.A.—during the blockade of Austro-German ports), how it could act in U.S.A., and how it could be even possible.

I will present in two different chapters the results of my findings: 1) Polish Legion's fieldpost-cards delivered from front line to U.S.A.; 2) Polish Legion's picture postcards reprinted in U.S.A., and postally used here during World War I.

Depending upon how this article will be received by Society members or Polish-American collectors, other articles about Polish Legion Fieldpost may also be published. They will contain only my research and findings which are different or do not agree with two important publications in this matter: 1) Dr. J. Dudzinski-Poczta Polowa Legionow, issued in 1938, accepted completely by P.Z.P. (Polskie Znaki Pocztowe) volume IV issued in Warsaw 1966, and 2) Col. J. Z. E. Berek (same title), Poczta Polowa Legionow first edition 1964, revised 1968—regarding the historical background of Legion Fieldpost.

Part 1.

I will describe eight postcards and two envelopes from my own collection and that of the Institute of J. Pilsudski in New York city. All of them are addressed to Chicago, mostly to Mr. Raysacher who was a member of a local Delegation of N.K.N. (Supreme Nat'l

Committee) and recruiting officer to the Polish Legion.

It is very interesting how the U.S. post office treated such mail from soldiers of other nations in World War I since the United States was neutral at that time. Interesting also is the fact that ten covers which I have found thus far had been mailed from the Polish Legion to the U.S.A. **without any postage!**

Perhaps legionnaires were poorly paid, perhaps they did not wish to support the Austrian Post Office (Austria was one of the three partitioners), or perhaps they expected free mail privileges abroad—but these ten covers presented below are nonetheless extremely rare. Even regularly paid letters or postcards from the Polish Legion to the United States are quite rare considering war time, blockade of ports, etc.

1. On fig. 1 is a "normal" postcard with 10 heller stamp for foreign mail—so it was no problem for the United States post office.

This postcard is very interesting, as it has Censor Stamp of the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment. Such censor mark in two lines is not known in Berek's catalog. The postmark FPO 118, dated 7.V.15 is of a very early date, as this mark replaced E.P. 118. (Etappenpost 118), previously used from March to May 1915. This date of FPO 118 is 3 days earlier than the earliest date mentioned by Berek's catalog (May 10).

2. On fig. 2 is a normal fieldpost card mailed from E.P. 118—20.III.15. This card was censored by the 1st Regiment, 1st Brigade (double impression). This Unit stamp is listed in Berek's catalog

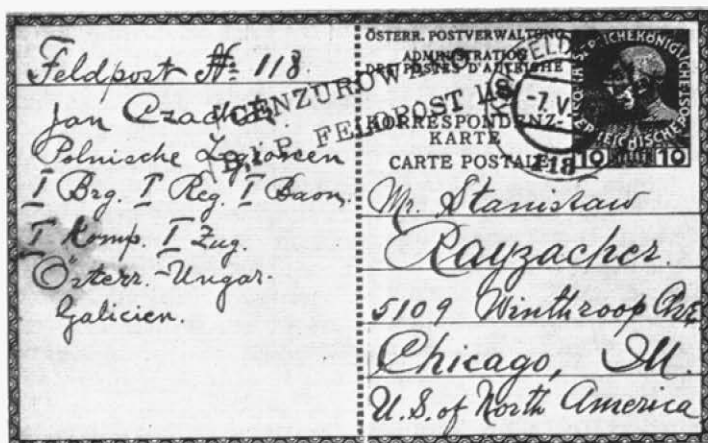


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

as P.23. Also scarce Militarcensur Oderberg (Bogumin) stamp is added. As postage was **NOT** paid in Austrian stamps, this postcard was charged with four cents postage due and stamped with a special marker, and dated April eighth, 1915, Hudson Terminal Station, New York. It shows that it took only nineteen days to travel from the frontline to New York city, which is very good time!

3. On fig. 3 is an envelope censored by commanding officer of machine gun unit of 2nd Regiment, 1st Brigade (listed as P.35 by Berek) mailed from FPO 118, 21.VI.1915. This letter was not pre-paid, so after arrival in the United States, it was charged with postage due by Hudson Terminal Station, New York with marker and date stamp July 20, 1915. This letter took thirty days to arrive in the United States. On the back it has Austrian censor label, "Militarcensur Innsbruck." Affixed United States postage due ten cents stamp is precancelled Chicago.



Fig. 3

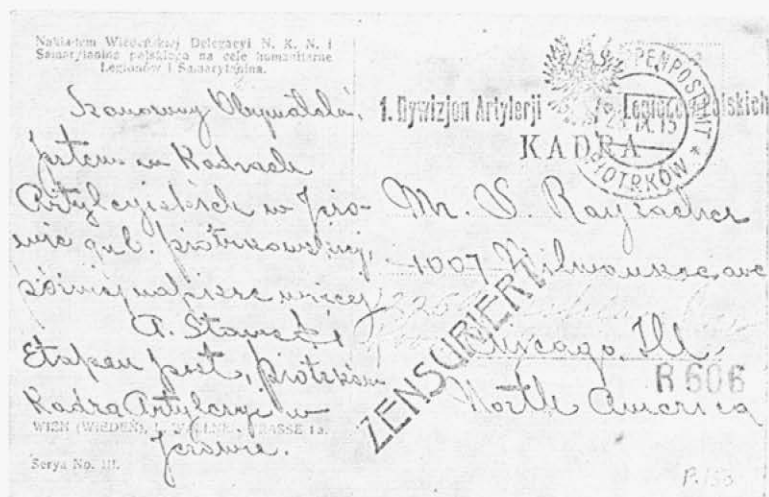


Fig. 4

4. Fieldpostcard sent September 28, 1915, from E. P. Piotrkow (fig. 4) has the sender in the artillery reserve unit (Kadra 1 Dywizji Art. Leg. Pol.), so it has a rubber stamp of this Unit (P. 150 in Bere's catalogue) with the eagle, and also "Zensuriert" of Piotrkow. This card was censored twice. After arrival in the United States it was censored by United States and rubber-stamped by R. 606, censor's number. Since the addressee moved in the meantime, his address was changed but no postage due was charged any time. It went **completely free** like U.S. soldier's mail.

The post card was issued by the Vienna Delegation of N.K.N. and shows, on the picture side, the whole group of Legion representatives there.



Fig. 5

5. Illustrated F.P.C. issued by 1st Inf. Rgt. of the Pol. Leg. as Fig. #5 — has the picture of Legion Unit passing over the Vistula river. This kind of F.P.C. is listed in Berek's catalog as K.8, but without description of any pictures. So far 40 different pictures are known, and registered by me.

This F.P.C. was mailed Oct. 21, 1915 from FPO 118 (acting for the 1st B-de) and was censored in the Unit as 3-line rubber stamp shows: Censurowano/1 Baon 1 Pułk Leg. Pol./Pocza Polowa 118. This stamp is listed in Berek's catalog as C.17. This F.P.C. has the same U.S. Censor mark as previous card: "R. 606".

The most interesting thing is the fact, that bearing no postage stamps for foreign mail, this FPC was charged at Penn Station, N.Y. with 4c postage due, which was marked with a special marker and date-stamp Nov. 16, 1915. It shows, that during W.W. I, almost from the front line in Poland, through the blockade of Europe, this card traveled to N.Y.C. by boat only 26 days.

The attached postage due stamps 2x2c (J. 46 Scott cat.) form an extraordinary combination of Polish-Austrian-American postal and censure markings.

6. To this same category belongs F.P.C. on Fig. #6. It is also K. 8 showing a different picture (Medical point by Kozinek). This card was sent by the same soldier, from this same Unit, with this same Legion censor stamp C.17 also from FPO 118, (Nov. 12, 1915). It has also postage due markings 4c and date stamp Penn. Station, Dec. 8, 1915, but different type. It has also U.S. censor mark C. 606 (different than before) and additional postage due marker of uncertain origin (T. 25 cts., in frame). It looks to me, as some marking for postage due in the transient neutral country (Switzerland or Italy). This card also travelled quite fast in war time — only 26 days to New York!



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

7. The card on Fig. 7 is not an official Legion issue. It was written Nov. 15, 1915 "in the trenches" as it says. Censored by 12 Company, 6 Rgt. Pol. Legion (not listed by Berek) it has also additional eagle, in oval rubber stamp, not completely legible. Mailed from FPO 118 on Nov. 18, 1915, has also U.S. censor mark C. 606 as before, but no postage markings, which could tell of the date of arrival in N.Y.C. It was delivered free of any charge.

8. Fig. #8 shows an envelope (which is quite scarce, since post cards were mostly used), sent by the C.O. of the 2nd Machinegun Unit of the 6 Infantry Regiment. As such a letter should be censored by the C.O. of another Unit, it has the stamp: Kompania 6 Pułku Piechoty, Polskich Legionów — which is listed as P. 189 by Berek. The date-stamp of FPO 355, April 13, 1916. This FPO served for 6pp and units of the 2nd and 3rd Brigade.

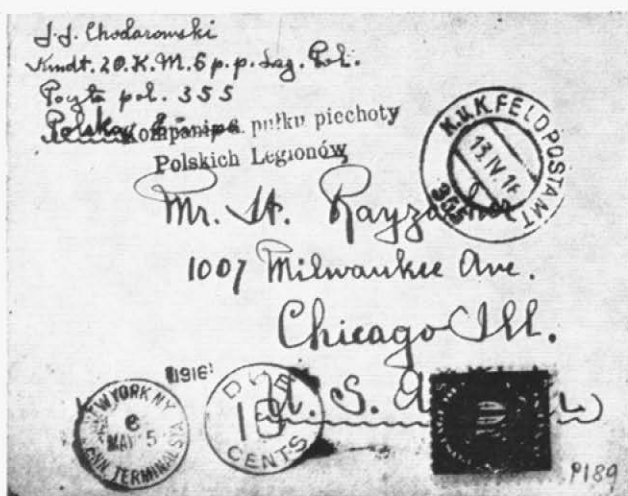


Fig. 8

Like previous letters, this cover had no Austrian stamps required for foreign mail. So after arrival in New York, it was charged with 10c postage due, and stamped with a proper marker and date stamp of the New York Penn. Terminal Station of May 5, 1916. In Chicago a 10c postage due stamp was affixed, and the fee had to be paid, as the stamp is pre-cancelled Chicago. This letter travelled 22 days to New York City.

Interesting is the sender's address. After the name, Unit and and FPO number, comes the description of the country. It is POLAND, which does not yet exist, but it shows the spirit and patriotism of the Polish Legion. The same address is on the letter inside.

After almost completing my article, Dr. P. Kozakiewicz sent me a photostat of a special Legion Fieldpostcard (fig. #9), mailed Oct. 17, 1916 from E. P. Piotrków to Chicago, Ill.

Various types of FPC are described in Berek's catalog, but this one differs in many details (eagle and imprints in two lines). As the sender was away from his Unit, this post card was censored by the Austrian Office in Piotrków, so the German stamp "Zensuriert" was put on. Such a stamp is also not listed by Berek.

Regarding American postmarkings: receiving cancellation on this postmark is only partly visible, but it looks like listed ad. 6. Only "New" (York NY) and "Penn" (Terminal Station) are visible, but the size and types of letters are the same. U.S. Censor mark is completely missing. But a very clear rubber stamp "Collect Postage 4 cents" — shows that the addressee was charged with postage due. As the date of the postmark is not visible, it is impossible to determine how long this post card travelled to the U.S. But it proves also that 1 year later, at the end of 1916, postal liaison between the Polish Legion and the Polish Americans in the U.S.A. existed, and functioned normally during W.W. I.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

10. Post Card on fig. 10 looks like K. 13, listed in Berek's catalog. But it differs in small details like the eagle, address lines and size. It was sent from the Reserve Unit of 1 Artillery Regiment, censored in this Unit, with the stamp listed by Berek as P. 184. The cancellation stamp is of E.P. Kozienice, Oct. 30, 1916. This post card, addressed also to Mr. Raysacher, 115 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, was re-addressed to 1248 Bryn Mawr Ave., but has no postage due charge, no New York date stamp, or censor mark. It simply looks like a U.S. soldier card mailed from a nearby Army Camp, not from W.W. I front, 4000 miles away. How it got to the U.S.A. without any U.S. postal markings is a mystery.

Very interesting are the receiving dates on five covers charged with postage due, as it is possible to find out how long it took such post cards to get to the U.S.

Post card on fig. #2 travelled only 19 days to New York City.

Post card on fig. #3 travelled only 29 days to New York.

Post card on fig. #5 travelled only 26 days to New York.

Post card on fig. #6 travelled only 28 days to New York

Post card on fig. #8 travelled only 22 days to New York.

It must be taken into consideration, that it was during World War I, almost from the front line, with censorship of all the correspondence, through the blockade of Europe. Even that was much faster then today's boat mail from the U.S. to Poland (or vice versa) that takes now about 6 to 8 weeks.

What fascinates me the most, is the fact, that of nine covers bearing only Austrian FPO postmarks, six of them were charged with postage due, three were delivered free of any charge! Although two post cards have U.S. Censor marks at least, but one post card has no U.S. postal markings at all!

Was there some reason for it, or was it just omitted accidentally? A year ago I had only five post cards without postage at my disposal, so I thought that some post cards depicting war scenes (fig. #5 and 6) or the Polish eagle and the word "Legion" (fig. 9) were charged with postage due as war propaganda. The other two post cards (fig. #4 and 7) were plain post cards without any military character, so they were not charged with postage due.

But later I found just the opposite: plain post cards with German inscription (fig. #2), was charged with postage due, but #10 with the Polish eagle was delivered free without any

postal marks! One thing is common: letters in envelopes always were charged with postage due (like fig. #3 and 8c, and also 10c postage due stamp was added. But postage due stamps were not affixed to every "charged" post card.

The answer is difficult, and possibly will never be found. Maybe sympathetic postal clerks deliberately did not charge for the three post cards, as coming from the "poor" Polish Legion fighting for Independence.

End of Part 1

(To be continued)

NEW ISSUES

Famous Polish Sailing Vessels

A set of five was issued June 29, 1974 in connection with "Operation Sail", a meet of sailing vessels and yachts from all over the world.

1.00 zł. — 16th century vessel with inscription "Maritime Commission — 1568" commemorating the first King's institution supervising marine matters in Poland. 8,000,000 issued.

1.50 zł. — "Dal", a sloop used by Polish seamen sailing the Atlantic in 1933-34. 8,000,000 issued.

2.70 zł. — "Opyt" yacht in which L. Teliga sailed alone around the world in 1967-69. 1,000,000 issued.

4.00 zł. — "Dar Pomorza" vessel which won first place in "Operation Sail" 1972. 2,000,000 issued.

4.90 zł. — "Polonez" yacht used by K. Baranowski, who having finished a race across the Atlantic, made a lone voyage around the world in 1973. 900,000 issued.

Multicolor printed in offset by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 30 stamps. Designed by Waldemar Andrzejewski.

—RUCH

TOM GOBBY, JUDGE AT ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

Tom Gobby served as a judge for the philatelic exhibit held in conjunction with Illinois State Fair in August. Tom said it was no easy task and the judging took almost all day because of the number of exhibits and large number of categories. He also said that he was impressed with the general level of quality — philatelic and presentation. Besides the large number of Illinois exhibitors there were a number of out of state exhibitors. Tom urges Polonus and Chicago collectors to check on next year's exhibition. Besides Silver Bowls and ribbons, cash awards are also made to the top three exhibitors in each category. While there, Tom also participated in a special contest, and took 4th place in the Amateur Black and White Photography Contest.

LONDON PHILATELIC AND COSTUMES EXHIBITION

An exhibition celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Polish Song and Dance Ensemble "MAZURY" was held Oct. 25-27, 1974 at the Polish YMCA, 46/47 Kensington Gardens Square, London W2 4BQ. Besides being a thematic philatelic show (featuring the costumes of many nations), it was also a display of various regional costumes.

In connection with this exhibition, the Post Office—London W2 issued a commemorative cancel:

"25th ANNIVERSARY POLISH YMCA DANCE AND SONG ENSEMBLE "MAZURY" — PHILATELIC AND COSTUMES EXHIBITION — 27th OCTOBER, 1974. LONDON W2."

Fully serviced special covers and postcards can be ordered from the Polish YMCA (Philatelic Exhibition)—price 20 p.

POLAND UP TO DATE

NEW ISSUES		MINT	USED	FDC
Zbowid & Victory	(2)	.20	.10	.60
Mutual Economic Aid	(1)	.10	.05	.30
Football Championship	(2)	.75	.35	.90
Football Souvenir Sheet	(1)	1.50	.90	.70
Sailing Vessels—Sport	(5)	1.05	.40	1.45
Chess Festival	(2)	.20	.10	.60
30th Polish Anniversary	(3)	.35	.15	.65
Lazienkowska Highway	(1)	.10	.05	.30
Fruits & Flowers	(8)	1.40	.60	1.75
30th M.O. & S.B. Anniversary ..	(1)	.10	.05	.30
Stamp Day 1974—PTGS	(8)	1.45	.70	1.85
●				
Complete Year 1972	(90)	13.95	7.50	23.50
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MEMBERS MART

Wanted: Forgeries of Polish issues for research. Also Austrian cancels World War I of Vistula Flotilla and Jasna Góra. Will buy or give in exchange Concentration camps covers or prestamp covers of Prussia.

W. Gruszczyk
56 Heathrow Drive
Downsview, Ont. Canada

Wanted: Polish covers from the period of the Napoleonic Wars. Covers from the Duchy of Warsaw (1808-1815). Have vast stock of Polish post-war issues, including all good miniature sheets to trade.

Paul Keller
7 Vredenburg Circus
Rosebank Cape 7700
South Africa

Wanted: Paper currency, ration stamps, ration cards, identity cards, passports, etc. of Poland for the period of 1914 to 1945.

Thomas J. Gobby
5713 W. Warwick Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60634

NEW ISSUES

World's 10th Soccer Championship

Two stamps of 4.90 zł. value each were issued on June 15, 1974 to commemorate the World's 10th Soccer Championship meet and to honor the Polish soccer team. One stamp shows two soccer players and the gold medal of the Olympic Games in Munich won by the Polish team in 1972. The other stamp shows symbols of the theme of the 10th Championship meet. Multicolor printed in rotogravure by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps and sheets (4 stamps in pairs). Designed by H. Chylin-ski. Quantity of stamps issued: 900,000; sheets: 300,000.

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— Annual Dues are \$4.00 —

Łazienkowska Expressway

A 1.50 zł. commemorative was issued in August, 1974 on the opening ceremony of the Łazienkowska Expressway. The stamp shows the cloverleaf on the left bank of the Vistula river. Multicolor printed in offset by PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps. Designed by Maria Wieczorek.

—RUCH

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