



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Century of Progress Zeppelin cover. See Page 5.

Message from the President	3	End of an Era — New Beginnings.....	17
<i>Graf Zeppelin</i> Tours the World	4	Exiled Polish Children in World War II, Part 4	18
Gems of Polish Philately	7	Polish Stamps Featured in <i>Linn's</i> Article	22
Annals of Polish Aerophilately		Society News	23
Part 9: LOT Polish Airlines 1936-1939 (3 of 3)....	8	New Issues.....	26
Provisional Stationery for the Lublin Postal Administra-		Polonus Store.....	28
tion 1918-1919	12		



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

www.polonus.org

Officers and Directors

President Bob Ogrodnik
PO Box 240428
Ballwin MO 63024-0428
robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net

Executive Vice President Open

Vice President Administration Dan Lubelski
111 Helen Drive
Rossford OH 43460
Dplubelski@gmail.com

Secretary Roman Sobus
1110 N. Oakley Blvd
Chicago IL 60622
rsobus@gmail.com

Treasurer William Williges
570 Phelps Court
Benicia CA 94510
billwil@znet.com

Directors Dr. James Mazepa, chair
jmazepa@comcast.net

Hank Bieniecki
info@biistamp.com

Dr. Paul Phillips
PaulXLPE@gmail.com

Bob Nowicki
philatelist@comcast.net

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews
afacin@yahoo.com

Publication Committee

Chairman Bob Ogrodnik
PO Box 240428
Ballwin MO 63024-0428
robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net

Editor Vickie Canfield Peters
vcanfieldp@gmail.com

Senior Contributing Editors Hank Bieniecki
info@biistamp.com

Dr. James Mazepa
jmazepa@comcast.net

Senior Editors & Translators Robert Puchala
rib3@ce3.pl

Przemek Konopka
info@profilex.pl

Roman Sobus
rsobus@gmail.com

Associate Editors Sam Ginsburg
samgins1730@yahoo.com

Dr. Paul Phillips
PaulXLPE@gmail.com

Bob Nowicki
philatelist@comcast.net

New Issues Andrew Urushima
aurushima@yahoo.com

Frank Karwoski
sunvoyager43@gmail.com

Website Committee

Chairman Hank Bieniecki
info@biistamp.com

Website Developer Przemek Konopka
info@profiles.pl

Committee Chairpersons

Expertizing Hank Bieniecki
info@biistamp.com

Library Liaison Robin Elliott
rmgrge@gmail.com

Membership Dan Lubelski
Dplubelski@gmail.com

Back Issues John Dunn
jdunn@valdosta.edu

Study Groups

POW Camps Roman Sobus
rsobus@gmail.com

DP/ Intern Camps Open

Aerophilately Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Wegliński
jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu

Cinderellas and Labels Open

The Polonus Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the state of Illinois. 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 the 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; Electronic Bulletin (via website) 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 prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan- Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, PO Box 60438, Rossford OH 43460

Articles for publication to be sent to: Editor

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President

Message from the President



by Bob Ogrodnik

This may or may not be the last opportunity to communicate with you prior to the World Stamp Show-NY2016, so I will begin by asking you to read my article in this issue, "Countdown to WSS-NY2016." In this article you will learn why we are an "Attending Society, and other than scheduling our Annual Membership Meeting and Exhibition, what we plan to accomplish for the good of the Society and Polish philately. If there are just two (2) thoughts that I could leave with you, they are:

1. WSS-NY2016 is the show of the decade with an eight-day schedule and a projected 250,000 visitors, 200 dealers and 3,800 frames of competitive exhibits. A must attend show! Visit www.ny2016.org for more and up-to-date information.

2. Polonus will have a Society Table (#1478) and we are obliged to continuously staff it every day for the eight days of the show. **We need volunteers** to share the load and request that you let me know if: (a) if you are planning to attend; and (b) if you are willing to volunteer to help staff the Society Table (indicate dates and times available).

If you have any questions regarding this show, Polonus participation, and/or how you can volunteer to help, please contact me at robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net or (314) 821-6130.

We do not currently have the number of Polish exhibits being entered, however, I expect to have a listing of Polish Exhibits included in your "Welcome Packet." Polonus member Professor Julian Auleytner of Warsaw, Poland, is the Commissioner for Poland and, in spite of the visa issue, we are expecting many visitors from Poland. Needless to say, there will be a significant number of networking opportunities.

I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors successfully concluded its first teleconference meeting on February 6. The option of meeting via teleconferencing vs. in-person gives us significant advantages in keeping current on society issues and opportunities, as well as, eliminating an obstacle for new directors, i.e., in-person participation in board meetings. As a result of this experience, we have scheduled additional teleconferencing meetings leading up to the Annual Meetings in New York.

If you have attempted to email me with your choice for the Annual "Best Article" Competition but found it un-

deliverable, I apologize. My new address is: robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net. I am not sure this was the reason we received a very disappointing response (by email or by post), however, we have decided to extend the voting period through the end of March. Announcement and award will be given at the Annual Membership Meeting in New York. Be sure to vote by the end of March!

Turning to this issue, we have several interesting feature articles, society news and some interesting ads. Please be sure to read about "End of an Era – New Beginnings" by Hank Bieniecki. This article announces a major change in BII's business and introduces Dan Lubelski as a new dealer for the Scott-listed Polish issues. The other ad is an appeal to Polonus / APS members to vote for Ed Andrews for the position of Treasurer of the American Philatelic Society. I endorse Ed for this position and urge you to vote for him in the upcoming May APS election. Ed is also a Director of Polonus and currently the Nominating Committee Chairman.

I want to thank the many members who have not only remitted their 2016 dues but generously added a tax-deductible contribution. We are most appreciative of this support and encourage those who may not have renewed their membership to do so by the end of March. This will minimize the time and expense related with the follow-up for dues.

We are looking forward to a good turn out of Polonus members at the WSS in New York and I personally look forward to meeting many of you for the first time. In the interim, send in your comments, questions, recommendations and anything that you would like us to address in our annual membership meeting, being held June 3.

2016 Dues Payable Now

Notices of 2016 membership dues have been distributed.

Members can make a tax-deductible contribution just by indicating the amount desired when returning the dues notice.

Payments may be made by personal check (payable to Polonus Philatelic Society) mailed to: Polonus, P.O. Box 60438, Rossford, OH 43460 or by PayPal to: info@polonus.org.

We greatly appreciate your prompt remittance as this eliminates the need for time-consuming and costly follow-up.

Graf Zeppelin Tours the World

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

This article highlights flights of the *Graf Zeppelin* to Danzig (Gdańsk) and the United States [1-4]. The zeppelin was the first aircraft able to make commercial passenger trans-Atlantic trips a reality until modern aircraft did it safely by the mid-20th century [5].

Zeppelins are classified as rigid airships pioneered by Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin. The design was patented in Germany in 1895 and in the USA in 1899 [1]. The framework held flammable hydrogen gas to provide lifting power. Zeppelins were first commercially used in 1910



Figure 1



Figure 2

and then in warfare during World War I. In 1926 the Allied restrictions for the Zeppelin Company were lifted and the LZ-127 *Graf Zeppelin* was built for international travel.

The *Graf* (German word for count) *Zeppelin* was the most successful zeppelin ever built. It was put into service on July 8, 1928 [2] with Hugo Eckener as commander. It carried a crew of 40 with 20 passengers as well as many mail bags. The various onboard cancellations were highly sought by stamp collectors. Over its career it made 590 flights (more than one million miles with more than 34,000 people aboard, including crew and passengers) without an accident. The ship flew all over the world for pleasure and scientific exploration.

The *Graf Zeppelin* operated for nine years and was retired on June 18, 1937. The catastrophic fire of the *Hindenburg* on May 6, 1937 at Lakehurst, New Jersey, adversely impacted zeppelin travel as did the difficulty of obtaining non-flammable helium to replace the hydrogen. The ship was scrapped in 1940. The Luftwaffe used the aluminum alloy frame in fighter plane construction in World War II.

Germany was invited to display the *Graf Zeppelin* for many occasions all over the world. In particular, the *Graf Zeppelin* made visits to the Danzig Airmail Show of 1932 and the Chicago Century of Progress Exhibition (World's Fair) in 1933.

The Danzig (today known as Gdańsk) International Air Post Exhibition, also called LUPOSTA, was held July 23-31, 1932 [3]. This international philatelic airmail exhibition concentrated on airmail postage usage by various countries all over the world.

Figure 1 is the *Graf Zeppelin* LUPOSTA Flight G260. The flight left Friedrichshafen, Germany at 7:30 p.m. July 30 and arrived in Danzig-Flughafen the following morning at 8:15. The blue flight cachet is a drawing of St. Mary's Church. The rate was RM 1.50..

Figure 2 is an airmail cover that went on the return flight from Danzig. Flight G261 left Danzig July 31, 1932 at 8:48 a.m. This is an interesting airmail cover in that it has a complete set of the five Danzig airmail stamps of 1932. The stamps have special cancellations: "DANZIG 30 7 32 17 18" and the wording: "Internationale Luftpost Ausstellung." The green *Graf Zeppelin* cachet reads: LUFTPOSTA DANZIG 1932 Luftschiff – Graf Zeppelin Rundfahrt Ab Danzig. This translates as: "Danzig Airmail Show of 1932-Air Ship Graf Zeppelin Round Trip from Danzig."

The 1932 Danzig airmail stamps (the same as the original stamp designs of 1924) are overprinted with surcharges. These stamps were issued in connection with the 1932 International Air Post Exhibition in Danzig to help pay exhibition expenses. What makes this cover particularly interesting is that it also has a circular postmark: "Ronne 31 7 32 12.30." In addition is typed, "Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin Ab Danzig Rundfahrt Postabwurf." This translates as: "Flown with the use of the airship of the Graf Zeppelin from Danzig via a mail drop in Ronne."



Figure 3

Figure 3 is a cover with the picture of the *Graf Zeppelin* on U. S. Airmail Stamp Scott# C18. This cover was flown aboard the *Graf Zeppelin* on the return flight from the Century of Progress Chicago's World's Fair in 1933 [4].

In summary, the *Graf Zeppelin* had some distinct advantages as far as air transport, trans-Atlantic passenger flights, sightseeing/surveillance and exploration. Its main disadvantages were the use of the large crew needed to fly it and the use of very flammable hydrogen gas that also necessitated the need for an unheated interior.

New advances are currently reportedly underway by NASA [6] in the USA and others in England [7]. If proven successful, they may spark a new era for these modified airships.

References:

- [1] Ferdinand Graf Zeppelin, U. S. Patent 0, 621, 195, March 14, 1899 "Navigable Balloon."
- [2] "LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LZ_127_Graf_Zeppelin
- [3] Hans Georg Mencke, *The Internationale Luftpostausstellung Danzig-LUFTPOSTA, 23. bis 31. Juli 1932, Dortmund, 1984. Douglas Armstrong, Flight, August 5, 1932 "Air Post Stamps" & "Luposta Impressions."*
- [4] "The Century of Progress Flight (by the Graf Zeppelin)"

lin) to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair," <http://www.airships.net/lz127-graf-zeppelin/history>

[5] "Transatlantic Flight," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transatlantic_flight

[6] Sept. 3, 2011. See www.telegraph.co.uk/...new-generation-of-airships-to-transport-goods-around-the-world/.html.

[7] Richard Westcott, BBC News, Feb. 27, 2014. See www.bbc.com/news/business-26337673

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge Scott Tiffney of the American Philatelic Research Library for helping me obtain many of the references used in the preparation of this article.

About the Author

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler is president of the Haverstown, Pennsylvania, Stamp Club. He has a strong interest in Poland and Danzig/Gdańsk, in the history of flight and air-mail and in worldwide fakes & forgeries. He is a member of the APS and the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Your Polonus Lapel Pin . . . Don't Leave Home Without It!

*It's attractive. It's unique. It's a way to show your pride as
a member of the Polonus Society.*

Visit the Polonus Store on Page 28 for ordering information.



Dr. Edwin J. Andrews for APS Treasurer

As a member of POLONUS I ask for your vote in the upcoming APS election. *The American Philatelist* will have a ballot in May. If elected it will not affect my service to POLONUS and could serve to strengthen our ties to the wider community of collectors. I am a seasoned executive having worked for Johnson & Johnson (VP R&D, and Director of Global Marketing) and Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals (Senior VP). My academic career included my being a Professor and Dean at the University of Pennsylvania. Recently I was Director of Academic and Educational Programs & Services for the Project Management Institute. In all of these executive positions I had responsibility for budgets often exceeding 50 million dollars. I am grounded in financial management and oversight of expenses.

Presently, I am Principle of Andrews Consulting Enterprises LLC, specializing in support of not-for-profit organizations providing financial planning, budgeting, strategic planning, marketing, international relations, project management and general management consulting. I have been a board member of many national and international not-for-profit organizations. Presently I am a member of APS CANEJ, an accredited Chief Philatelic Judge, Editor of the forthcoming 7th Edition of *the Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*, and a former member of the APS Membership Committee. Also, I am Treasurer of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and a Board member of POLONUS. Formerly, I was a Director of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp and Collectors Club and a Director of the Philadelphia National Stamp Exposition. I have been a lifelong stamp collector and began exhibiting in 1985. My current philatelic memberships are APS, AAPE, ARA, ATA, USPCS, MPHS, The Collectors Club (NY), GPS and POLONUS.

Your vote is appreciated. For direct contact email me at afacinc@yahoo.com



Gems of Polish Philately

Trial Use of the St. Petersburg City Post Envelope in Warsaw

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

The first Russian stamps were issued on January 1, 1858. Three values were printed, 10, 20 and 30 kopecks, for use in Russia and the Kingdom of Poland. These stamps used in Poland are all rarities. However, postal stationery

eight St. Petersburg envelopes used in Warsaw, however, I believe as many as 12 may exist. The Bojanowicz collection had three, the Mazepa collection, one, The Rachmanow collection, three, and the Weichsel collection had two. I have photocopies of these nine and they are all different. In addition I have seen two other examples in Poland.

At least two corner "cut outs" are known.

Of these medium-size envelopes, slightly varying sizes are known: 118mm x 75mm; 135mm x 105mm; 138mm x 110mm; 132mm x 105; 141mm x 85mm; 123mm x 90mm.

Three cancellations can be found on these envelopes: the large and small red "Warszawa" and the numeral "1" in four concentric circles.

The St. Petersburg envelope was replaced by hand-stamped trial stationery for the Warsaw City Post in 1859, and, finally, definitive Warsaw City Post stationery in 1860.

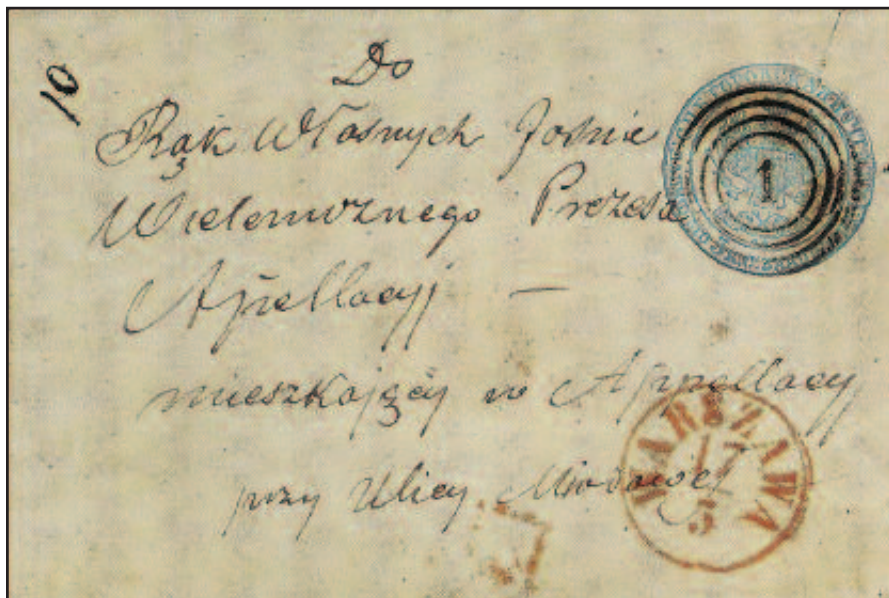


Figure 1
St. Petersburg envelope canceled by the four ring "1" of Warsaw with additional large circular date stamp, envelope size 118mm x 75mm (Mazepa collection)

was used in Russia 13 years before stamps were issued. City Post stationery was used in Moscow and St. Petersburg beginning in 1845 and stationery was used nationwide beginning in 1848.

When the Russian postal authorities authorized the use of the first Russian adhesive stamps in Poland in 1858, they also authorized a trial use of a city post envelope in Warsaw. For this trial they decided to use the St. Petersburg envelope. The St. Petersburg envelope had three sizes, but only the medium-size envelope was used in Poland. Even this medium-size envelope comes in slightly different dimensions.

The literature mentions



Figure 2
St. Petersburg envelope canceled by large Warsaw circular date stamp, envelope size 135mm x 105mm (Rachmanow collection)

Development of Airmail Services in Poland

Part 9: LOT Polish Airlines:

Domestic and International Routes (1936 - 1939) Part 3 of 3

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala

[Ed. Note: This article was originally planned in four parts, but is being presented in three. The first two parts appear in *Polonus* bulletins 560 and 561.]



International and domestic routes serviced by LOT Polish Airlines in summer 1939.

1939: Epilogue

By the end of August 1939, LOT Polish Airlines was a rapidly growing company (see map). It had nearly 700 employees and a state-of-the-art fleet of 26 aircraft carrying 218,000 passengers in its 10 years of service. The length of its air route system, covering 25 destinations in 14 countries, increased four-fold, 85 percent of which was the international network. The volume of commercial and postal operations also quadrupled. The multi-segment "Levantine Line," spanning Scandinavia and the Middle East, exclusively serviced by LOT, was the longest in Europe. At the same time, LOT penetrated the Western European market only modestly, with flights from Warszawa to Berlin, Paris, and London in conjunction with Lufthansa, Air France and British Airways, respectively.

Soon after the German invasion of Poland on Sep-

tember 1, 1939, the majority of LOT employees managed to escape to Romania. Many of them then headed to France or England and some went to Africa, the United States or Canada. LOT pilots and ground crewmen were actively engaged in military actions, especially flying Polish combat squadrons with the Royal Air Force in Great Britain. One of them was Captain Klemens Długaszewski, who flew more than 621,000 miles (a million kilometers) during his 20-year career in independent Poland. With such an unpronounceable surname, Długaszewski was widely known in Great Britain as "Captain Double Whisky." Despite being a recognized aviation champion and RAF fighter ace, he did not have a driver's license and had to hire a chauffeur.

It remains unknown when exactly LOT terminated its operations after the German invasion. There were few flights in early September 1939 from Warszawa to Stockholm, Helsinki, Bucharest and Budapest, primarily with diplomatic personnel. On the last day of August, 17 of its airplanes stationed at the Warszawa-Okęcie airport were moved to a secret military airfield in Ogródzieniec, some 30 miles from the capital. The remaining nine machines remained in the eastern city of Lwów and abroad. The entire LOT fleet of 26 aircraft was split up between Great Britain and Romania. Ultimately, after September 23, about 350 LOT employees, 16 of its aircraft, 32 engines, 20 cars and a tractor were interned in Romania. Sadly, most of the evacuated property of LOT Polish Airlines was never recovered.

Figure 12 is a letter flown from Warszawa to Helsinki on August 31, 1939, the last regular flight by LOT from the Polish capital before World War II. This overweight cover, addressed to the Polish Legation in Stockholm, was posted on August 30, 1939, at 14:00 at LOT's headquarters, where it received cancellation from Warszawa 2 P. O. (on reverse). The postage was canceled at Warszawa 19 Airport P.O. at 15:00. LOT Flight No. 1549 (Lockheed-Electra) via Wilno, Riga and Tallinn departed from Warszawa Okęcie airport on August 31 at noon, arriving in Helsinki at 18:50. The connecting flight (No. 1800) from Helsinki arrived in Stockholm at 21:00. Swedish cancellations of August 31/10.20 p.m., and "Stockholm Flyg / 31.8.39" are seen on reverse. A handwritten manuscript "opened by mistake" confirms this item was still in Warszawa on August 31, 1939.

The correct postage of 1 zł. 90 gr. is consistent with the foreign letter rate: (third weight increment, 40-60g) of 55

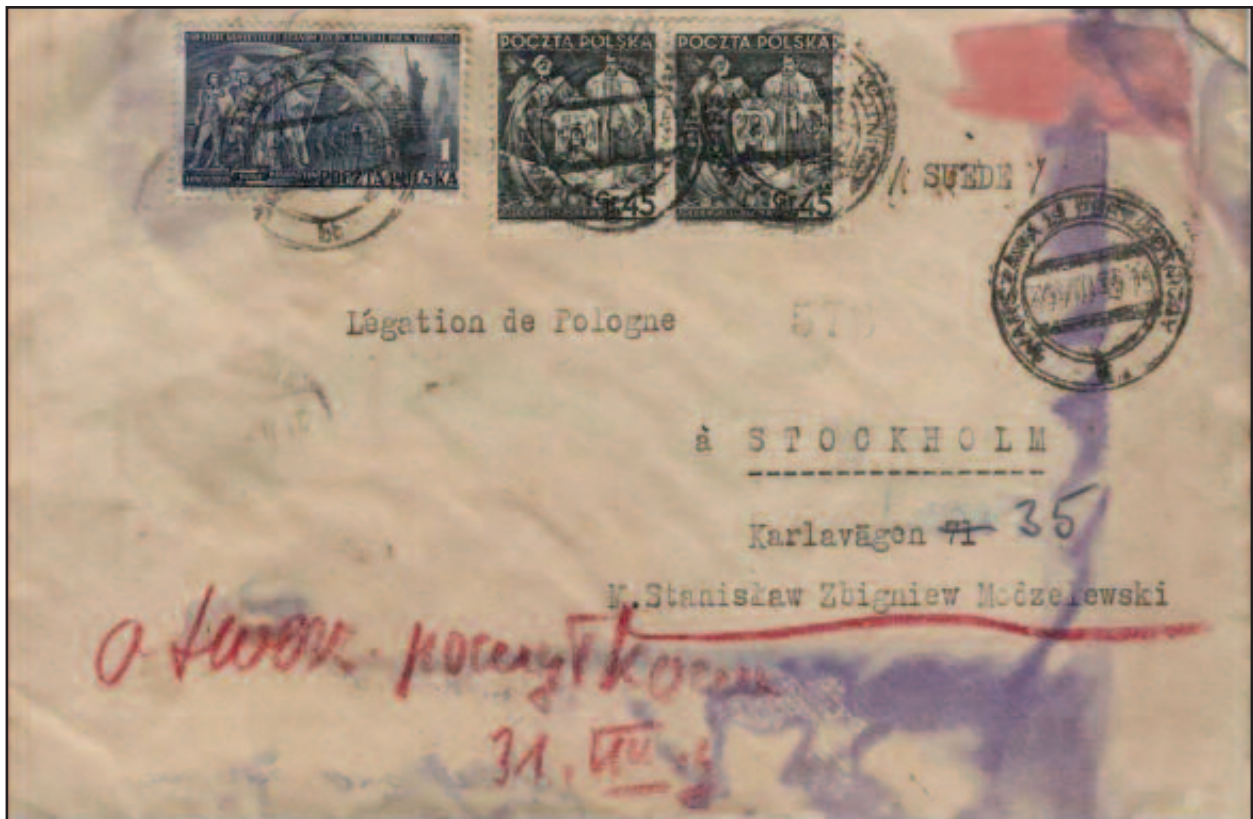


Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

gr. (for the first 20g) + 30 gr. (for additional 21-40g) + 30 gr. (for additional 41-60g) and airmail supplement of 75 gr. (25 gr. per 20g).

Figure 13, with intact content written in Polish and Yiddish, was posted at Haifa, Palestine, on Wednesday, August 30 at 20:00. It is addressed to Lwów (present-day Lviv, Western Ukraine), the third largest city in the Poland with 318,000 inhabitants, one-third of its population Jewish. The cover is correctly franked at 20 mills (airmail rate for a 20-gram letter to Poland, effective October 27, 1937), and bears a "By LOT Air Mail" etiquette that attests to its transport by the Polish carrier.

A second item (**Figure 14**) was also dispatched at the very same date from Haifa to Lwów (August 30 at 20:00) and franked with a single 20 mills adhesive. Instead of Polish airmail etiquette, a handwritten "LOT" annotation was applied. These two covers, posted at Haifa on August 30, 1939, were carried by the last regular LOT service before World War II from Palestine to Poland (September 1, 1939).

In the summer of 1939, there were weekly LOT Airlines flights (No. 1578), on Mondays and Fridays. These flights originated in Beirut via Lydda (present-day Ben Gurion International Airport) and Athens to Warszawa. One may expect both covers left Palestine by the first scheduled flight to Poland, i.e., on Friday, September 1, 1939. The major

LOT competitors of the era, providing airmail services between Europe and British Palestine, were Dutch KLM and British Imperial Airways. KLM had weekly flights from Amsterdam via Lydda to Batavia, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; Imperial Airways flew on Sunday and Wednesday via Lydda, on its England – Indian subcontinent route.

There is an interesting "real-life" story behind these two airmail items, which the authors only recently discovered in a memoir published in 1993 by the second pilot of that LOT flight. In his book, Captain Aleksander Onoszko recalls that, accompanied by Captain Karol Pustówka, he took off from Warszawa-Okęcie airport on August 31, 1939, at 1 a.m., flying Douglas-DC2 aircraft on the regular route via Athens and Lydda to Beirut. The crew carried a mail bag, delivered a day earlier by British Airways from London, to be handed over to Lydda-based Imperial Airways representative. The Royal Mail carried from London via Warszawa (British Airways) and Lydda (LOT) to the Indian subcontinent (Imperial Airways) was shortened by some 48 hours by not using the slower Sunderland flying-boats via Gibraltar and Cairo.

Captain Onoszko also recalls his departure from Lebanon on September 1, 1939, when the news about war activities in his native Poland was announced. Records show that LOT Flight No. 1578 took off from Beirut at 7:40 and

after a short stopover in Lydda at 8:40 to pick-up mail (including "our" covers), it arrived in Athens at 13:15. Greeted by the local LOT office manager and a Polish military attaché, the crew was introduced to a mysterious group of 17 British officers under the command of Colonel Collin Gubbins. They were to be flown on a secret mission to Poland. The pilot's first impression of Englishmen was as merry-looking bunch of civilians of different trades going on safari, nothing to do with the military.

Anyhow, they all happily boarded the Polish aircraft and LOT Flight No. 1578 took off from Athens at 14:15. However, instead of the usual direct route to Warszawa, the plane diverted eastward toward Bucharest. This maneuver prevented flying in a full daylight over the Polish territory and allowed British officers to directly communicate with their superiors on the ground in Bucharest. After arriving in the Romanian city of Cernauti (present-day Chernivtsi, Western Ukraine), just across the Polish border, the Brits were greeted by their consul, who informed the group about heavy German bombardment of southern Poland. Now dressed in military uniforms, the officers changed their travel plans.

Escorted by Captain Onoszko, they hired five taxi cabs to the Śniatyń railway station to catch a night train heading to Warszawa. Meantime, after an overnight stay at Cernauti, the LOT crew took off on September 2, flew at low altitude over bombed Lwów airport at Skniłów and the military training facilities of the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin. They landed safely at the auxiliary military airfield Ogrodzieniec near Grójec, some 30 miles from Warszawa.

However, the tale of two covers carried by PLL LOT Flight No. 1578 on the very day World War II erupted, does not end here. The first cover received German "ZURÜCK" and Romanian "ZURÜCK-Postpen" cachets (front), along with its English "RETURN TO →" equivalent (reverse), and the Haifa arrival postmark of November 12, 1939 (front). The second cover shows German "ZURÜCK" in addition to "retour" and "traffic interrompu" cachets in French. It was censored (boxed "Palestine Opened and Passed by Censor" handstamp plus pink paper tape along the left edge) and marked with "UNDELIVERED FOR THE REASON STATED ON THE COVER" cachet, along with a Haifa December 10, 1939 receiving postmark. The "BY AIR MAIL" etiquette seen on the second cover was attached at some later time point over the "retour" cachet.

We believe both covers, along with many others carried by Flight. No. 1578, arrived in Poland and were retained at the Ogrodzieniec military airfield until captured by the German forces (otherwise the covers would show Polish censorship interference). The letters were then processed by the occupying postal authorities who endorsed them "ZURÜCK" for return to Palestine. The first one was dispatched via Romania, a neutral country at the time, where another "ZURÜCK-Postpen" cachet was applied. The sec-

ond cover was most likely carried via Romania as well. Ultimately, back in Palestine both received "RETURN TO" markings and Haifa arrival postmarks. Unlike the first item, the second was inspected by the censor, explaining the additional month in transit. Thus, it took 73 days and 101 days, respectively, for two letters flown on September 1, 1939 by PLL LOT from the Middle East to Germany-invaded Poland, to reunite with their senders in Haifa, Palestine. It took another 75 years for the covers to miraculously reunite on the same exhibition page of a Polish aerophilately collection in California.

Bibliography

1. Bura F: *Polskie porty lotnicze w okresie międzywojennym. Filatelista* 1983 (18); pp. 414-7.
2. Glass A, Mikulski M: *Polish Airplane Services. Warszawa*, 1980.
3. Kupiec-Wegliński JW, Kosmala J: *The Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-1939). The Congress Book*, 2012, Sacramento, CA. *The American Philatelic Congress* 78; 54-123, 2012.
4. Kupiec-Wegliński JW, Kosmala J: *The winds of war: An unusual aerophilately saga. Airpost Journal. American Air Mail Society*; 85(9); 368-72, 2014.
5. Onoszko A: *Mimo wszystko latać (wspomnienia). Agencja Lotnicza Altair*, 1993; 126 pp.
6. Zbierski M: *Polskie taryfy pocztowe 1918-1939: Zbiór tabel i dokumentów / Polnische Postgebühren 1918-1939: Sammlung von Tabellen und Dokumenten / Polish postal rates 1918-1939: a compilation of tables and documents. 2004; Poznań: 561pp.*

We Want to Hear from YOU!

The Polonus Bulletin is our member publication and we depend on our members to fill the pages.

We encourage articles of any length with accompanying illustrations. You don't have to be a writer . . .

that's what editors are for!

Just write what you know, send it along and we'll work together to make it a piece everyone can enjoy.

**Submit articles or send questions to
Vickie Canfield Peters at
vcanfieldp@gmail.com**

Provisional Stationery for the Lublin Postal Administration 1918-1919

by James Mazepa, Ph.D. and Robert Puchala

(Reprinted from the *Collectors Club Philatelist* with the permission of the authors)

Introduction

When Poland regained independence on November 11, 1918, the new government was confronted with the task of integrating the postal systems of the former occupying nations of Austria and Germany. This was complicated because of two different currencies, two different postal rates and regulations and a lack of distinctive Polish stamps. The various Polish postal administrations adopted the then current postal rates and for a short time used the stamps of Austria and Germany. Soon these stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps and used until official Polish Governmental stamps were printed.

In the Lublin Postal Administration, Austrian Field Post stamps were provisionally overprinted into Polish stamps beginning on December 5, 1918. These are Scott #27-40 and Fisher #17-29. Austrian Field Post postal cards were also overprinted and these are H&G #4-5 and Fisher #4-5. To date no definitive study has been written about these provisional postal cards.

Postal Rates

The Lublin Administration used the existing Austrian postal rates. The domestic and foreign rate for a postal card was 25 halerzy. On January 7/8, 1919, the postal rates were lowered and the postal card rate was changed to 15 halerzy.

Proofs of the Provisional Postal Cards

There are no essays of the provisional cards. The authors believe the following are proofs for the 25 hal. card. There are no proofs of the 15 hal. card.

In the 1933 edition of *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*, (1) Professor Laszkiewicz described three variations of the 25 Halerzy card: Type A, without border; Type B, with wavy line border only and; Type C, with both wavy line and solid line borders. Type C is the issued design. The great expert in Polish stationery, Stanislaw Zolkiewski, added the follow-

ing information in his 1960 monograph (2): "According to recent findings, types A and B have come into existence when the stone plate was damaged, and they come from the final stage of production." This information has been copied into the H&G Catalog.

With further study and analysis we now believe these are not varieties of the final issue but proofs. Our conclusions are based on the following: First, only five such cards are known, three in the collection of one of the authors and two in other collections. With a printing of 15,000 cards, five is a very small number to have gotten into circulation. Secondly, one would expect to see progressive errors where the borders are seen to deteriorate, but none are known. Thirdly, one has to ask, if these were in normal circulation, why did information about these varieties only appear 15 years after their issue?

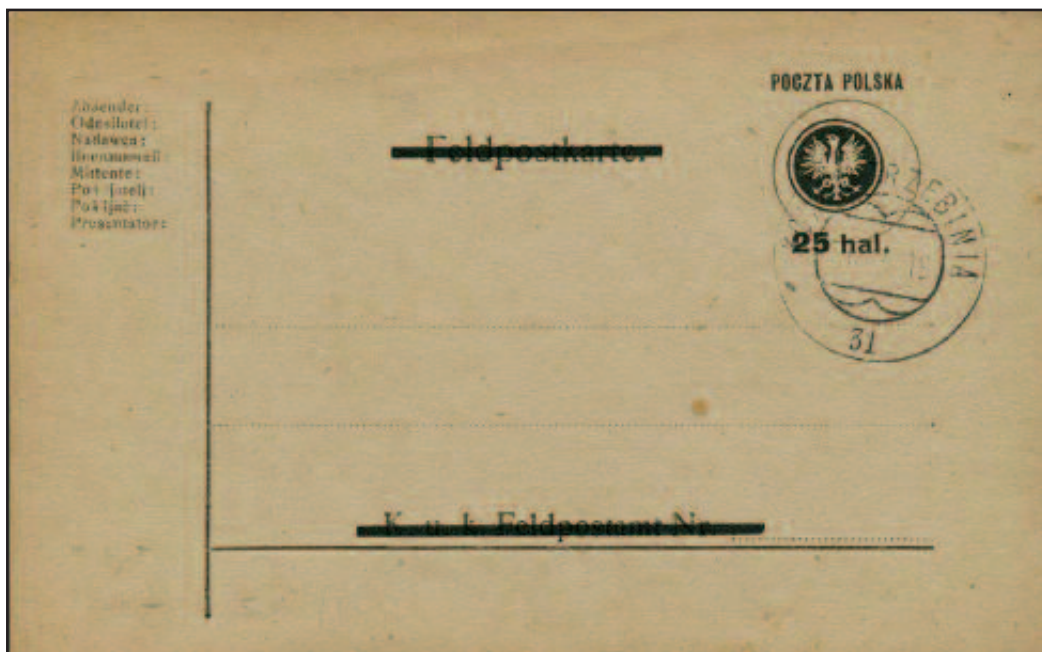


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the card with individual bars across the German language inscriptions and the value imprint inscribed without framing. Both bars are 1.5mm thick: the top bar is 35.8mm long and the bottom bar 53.9mm long. These bars show a slight "chip" at the bottom right corner. This card corresponds to what was described as "Type A." These bars were too thin to obliterate the German inscription. We designate this as "P.1." One example is known.

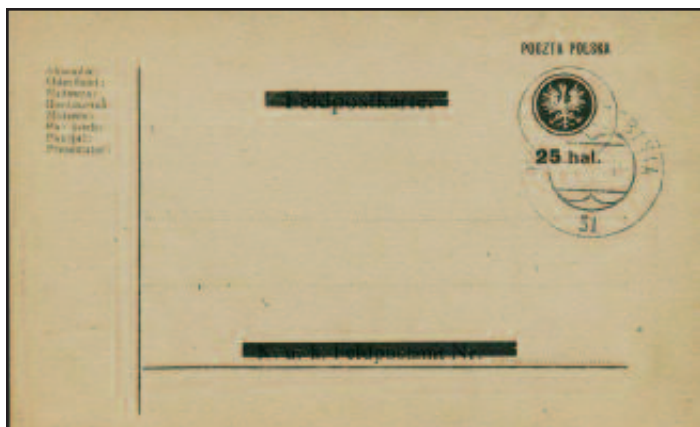


Figure 2

Because the obliterating bars were too thin, a second bar was added. **Figure 2** shows the card with double bars and with the value imprint still without any frame. This is an unrecorded variation of the "Type A" overprint. We designate this "P.2." Three examples are known,

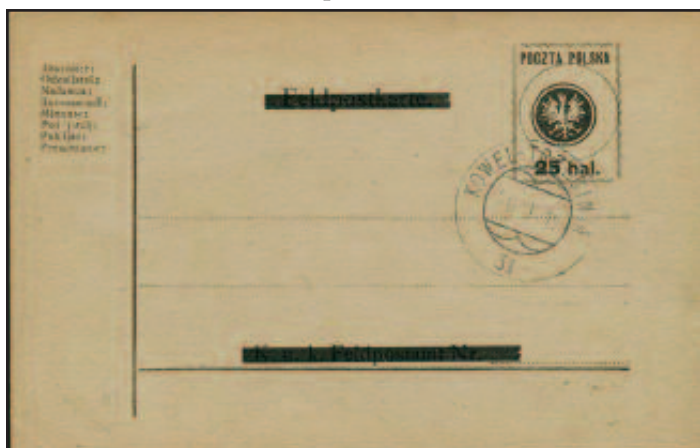


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows an example with double bars over the inscriptions and a wavy line frame around the Eagle/25 hal. imprint. This corresponds to the old "Type B." We designate this "P.3." One example is known.

These cards have a postmark of the Kowel-Trzbinia #3, 20 January 1919, traveling post office. While this is a genuine cancel, it used here as a favor cancel.

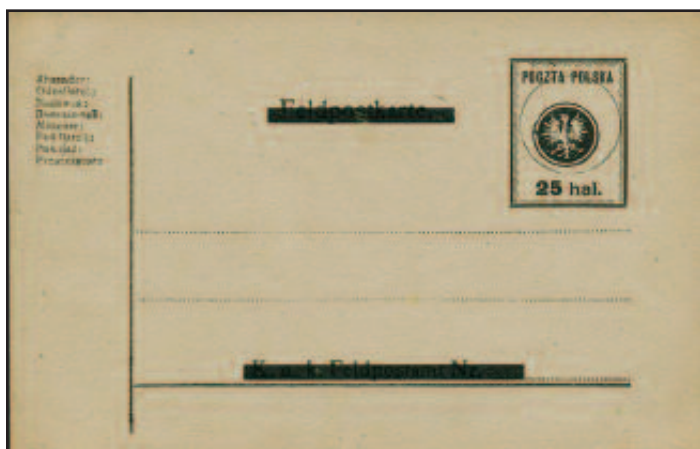


Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the final design with the double bars over the inscriptions and wavy and solid lines around the value imprint. There are varieties with a "dot" in various positions between the circle and the eagle (**Figure 5**).



The 25 Halerzy Card

According to the Fisher catalog, the 25 hal. card was placed in service on December 23, 1918.

The exact date of printing is unknown. However, note that the eagle-in-circle design is identical to the eagle-in-circle design of the First Lublin stamp issue (Sc. 27-29) but without the ornaments. This issue was placed on sale December 5, 1918. The 12mm diameters of the circle are the same and neither eagle has a crown (a very important nationalistic symbol).

We have a vague reference from an old book that the Director of Lublin Posts, a Dr. Urbanski, ordered stamps to be overprinted "by a Jewish printer" and he did not have enough money to pay for the printing. We can deduce that the same printer overprinted the stamps and postal cards. Note that the first stamp of the Second Lublin issue (Sc. 30-40), the 45/80 hal., was overprinted on December 19, 1918, shortly before the postal cards, with the other values following until January 8, 1919. This issue has the circle reduced to 11mm and a crown has been placed on the head of the eagle. An overprinted 25 hal. postage stamp which would have paid the postal card rate was not available until January 3, 1919.

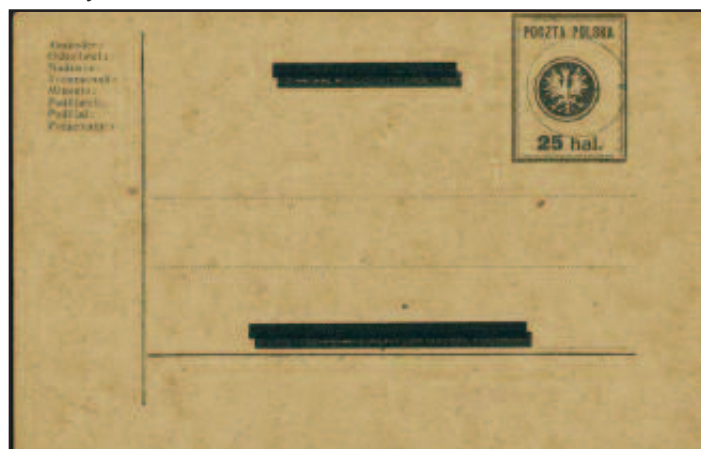


Figure 6

The postal card was printed by typography on gray stock and yellowish-gray stock. The value imprint is in black and 15,000 cards were printed. Two printing errors are known. The first has a double bar print (**Figure 6**) and four examples are known. The second is a double overprint (**Figure 7**) and only one example is known.

The 25 hal. card was in use for only 17 days and gen-

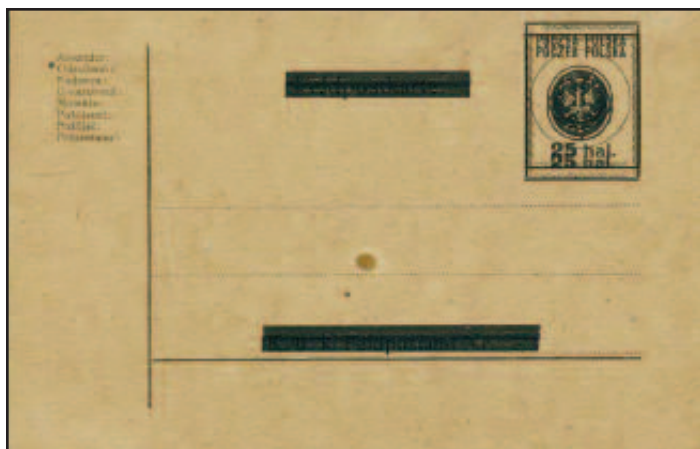


Figure 7

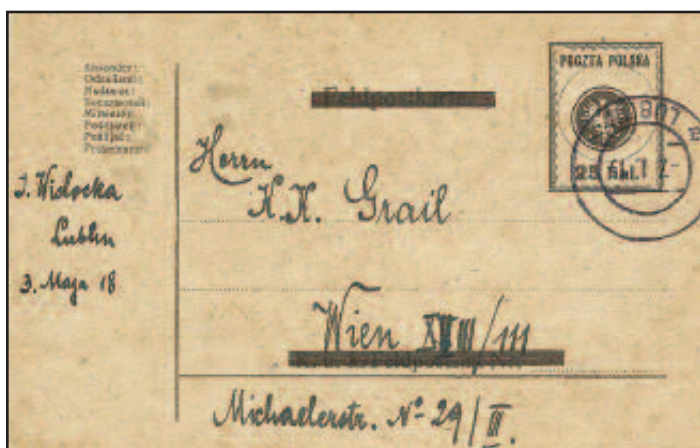


Figure 8

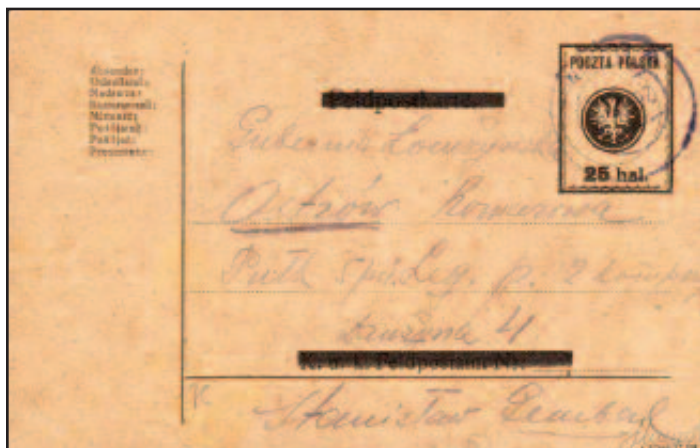


Figure 8a

unely used examples are very difficult to find. All known used cards are postmarked in Lublin. A foreign use (Figure 8) is sent on the last day of the first rate period, January 7, 1919, to Vienna. Figure 8a is a domestic use to Ostrow December 26, 1918.

The 15 Halerzy Card

The change of postal rates on January 7/8, 1919, necessitated a card with the new value of 15 halerzy. This card is similar in to the 25 halerzy card except it is overprinted in shades of reddish-brown. The bars that obliterate the Ger-

man text are solid as opposed to two bars. The card is printed by lithography on a gray or brownish-gray stock in an edition of 35,000.

The 15 hal. card was printed from two lithographic forms:

Type I:

- Distance between the upper bar and outline of the imprint is 10.0mm;



Figure 9

- The right wavy line has a break about 2/3 of the distance from the top (Figure 9);
- The top wavy line begins 2mm from the left bar;
- The bottom wavy line almost touches the right vertical wavy line;
- The left wavy line touches the top bar;
- The circle around the eagle has a "bump" at the 10 o'clock position;



Figure 10

- The right end of the bottom bar extends 0.3mm to the right of a vertical line running from the right side of the imprint (Figure 10).

Type II:

- Distance between the upper bar and the outline of the imprint is 10.8mm;

- The left wavy line has a break about 1/3 of the distance from the top (**Figure 9**);
- The top wavy line begins 3mm from the left bar
- The bottom wavy line begins 2mm from the left bar;
- The left wavy line does not touch the top bar;
- The right end of the bottom bar extends 3mm to the right of a vertical line running from the right side of the imprint (**Figure 10**).

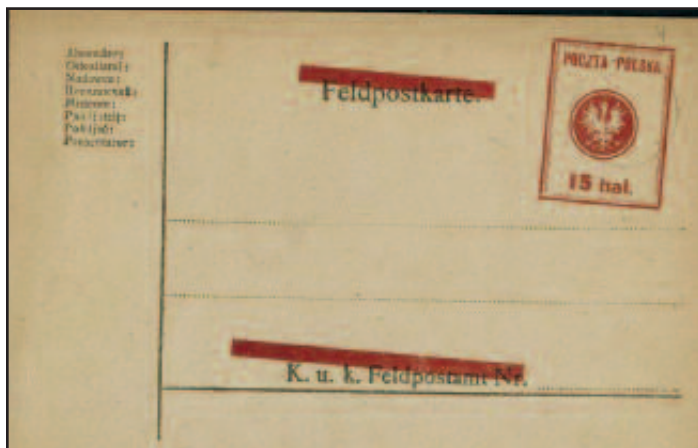


Figure 10a

One misprint is recorded (**Figure 10a**).

The color of the overprint can be classified by the shades of reddish-brown:



Figure 11



Figure 12

1. Intense light reddish-brown with a bright hue (rare, perhaps less than ten exist, **Figure 11**).
2. Light to medium reddish-brown with a matte finish (the most common)
3. Dark reddish-brown (scarce, **Figure 12**).

This card was used until the government-issued card was available sometime in January. The exact date is unknown. Both the provisional and government-issued cards were used simultaneously until supplies of the provisional card were exhausted. The latest date seen is November 10, 1919 (**Figure 13**), on a censored card sent to Berlin (this card also has the light shade described above).

Figure 14 is a domestic example sent to Lodz on January 7, 1919, the first day of the new reduced rates. It seems the postal officials in Lodz were unaware of the rate change and assessed the card 10 fenig postage due, which is roughly the conversion for double indemnity from halerzy to fenig.

Figure 15 is the only recorded example from the



Figure 13



Figure 14

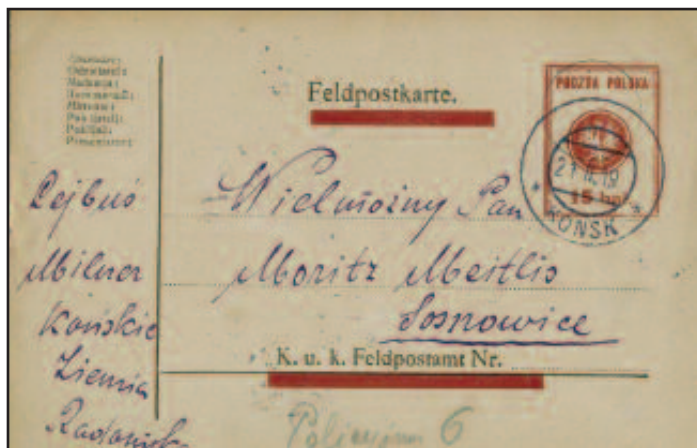


Figure 15

small town of Konec, February 7, 1919, to Sosnowice. **Figure 16** is a foreign destination sent to Munster, Germany, on February 7, 1919, but returned due to the conflict with Germany on the Western frontier. The pencil notation says that the card was later placed in an envelope and forwarded. Only one registered card is known. It was sent from Puławy to Warsaw February 19, 1919 (**Figure 17**).

Forgeries of the Lublin Provisional Cards

To date we have not seen any forgeries of the cards themselves. Genuinely used cards of both values, but espe-

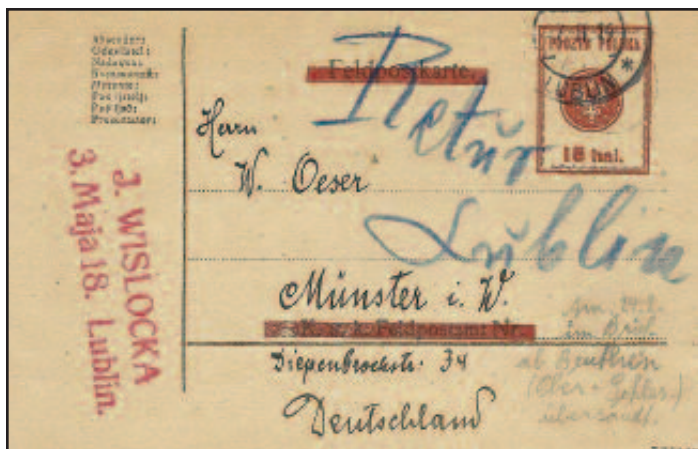


Figure 16



Figure 17

cially the 25 hal. card, are very difficult to find. However, many cards, especially of the 15 hal, were canceled to order and have addresses and even messages added at a later date.

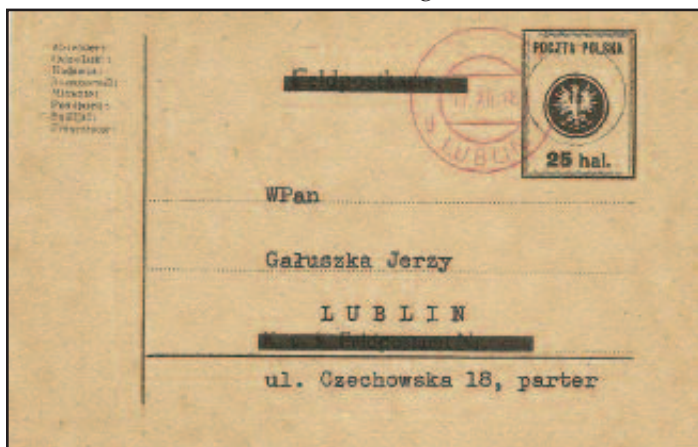


Figure 18

Some 15 hal. cards can be found with a forged red Lublin date stamp of December 17, 1918, postmark (before the card was issued!) (Figure 18).

Bibliography

1. Łaskiewicz A. ed.: *Polskie Znaki Pocztove*, published by Ikaros magazine 1933, p. 344.
2. Zolkiewski, S., *Calostki Polskie oraz Majace Obieg na*

Ziemiach Polskich, Wydawnictwo Komisji Naukowo-Badawczej PZF, Warszawa 1960, część II, pp.12-13.

3. Schmutz L., Sztaba K., *Papier kartek pocztowych wydania lubelskiego z 1918 roku*, *Filatelista* 16/1982, p. 369-370.

4. Schmutz L., Sztaba K.: *W sprawie techniki wykonania nadruków kartek pocztowych Cp 4 i Cp 5 tzw. „wydania lubelskiego” z 1918 roku*, *Filatelista* 11/2001, p. 583.

5. Puchała R., *Próbne nadruki całostek prowizorycznego wydania lubelskiego z 1918 roku dla terenów byłej okupacji austro-węgierskiej*, *Filatelista* 4/2011, p.160-161.

6. Puchała R.: *Całostka prowizorycznego wydania lubelskiego dla terenów byłej okupacji austrowęgierskiej z 1918 roku o nominale 15 halerzy (numer katalogowy Cp 4)*, *Przegląd Filatelistyczny* 3/2014.

It's Free!

Members have the opportunity to post member-to-member ads **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number of punctuation mark. Member name and address is not included in the count.

Send copy to vcanfieldp@gmail.com

Poland Dealer Dan Lubelski

Lubelski Philatelic LLC



- Classic to Current
- Back of Book
- New Issue Service
- Specialized Items
- Personalized Prompt Service
- 10% Discount to Polonus Members

Member of Polonus, APS, ATA

Contact Information:

**111 Helen Drive
Rossford, Ohio 43460**

Tel: (419) 410-9115

Email: dan@lubelskistamps.com

Website: www.lubelskistamps.com

End of an Era — New Beginnings

by Hank Bieniecki



In **Polonus Bulletin 516** issued in 2004, I wrote an article titled, “Death of a Father, End of an Era.” For those of you who do not know, the predecessor to Bieniecki Int’l. Inc. (BII) was formed in a single roll-top desk by Joseph Bieniecki in 1946 after returning from military service in the 20th Armored Division in Europe during World War II. I was four at that time.

Given that in my younger years I was essentially an indentured servant used by my father for philatelic scut work such as soaking stamps off of kiloware and sorting them, I did not form a close bond to philately. I was not infected until 1977 when my father had the opportunity to acquire a major Polish collection, but was reluctant to proceed, given the significant investment of time and finances required. Given my financial background, I perceived the acquisition as purely financial with virtually no understanding of how it would ultimately change my life. BII was born. From that point forward, I was never able to escape the clutches of Polish philately.

During the years that followed, I formed close associations with a large number of collectors of Poland, made multiple trips to Poland where I established close working relationships with key dealers and had the good fortune to acquire numerous major collections of Poland. The business grew exponentially and was transformed by the adoption of technology.

For years I have advised clients to sell their collections while they were capable or to put a plan in place for the sale after their demise. In 2015 I realized that four decades had passed and I had not taken my own advice. Given the magnitude of BII’s inventory, the only viable option was to initiate a sale of that inventory. I arranged for a long-time colleague from Poland to visit me twice in 2015 to acquire major sections of BII’s pre- and early post-World War II inventory. BII is engaged with others to sell 90 percent of what remains during 2016.

A key concern was that BII’s exit would leave North America without a dealer specializing in Poland. In discussion with Dan Lubelski, a fellow member of Polonus, I dis-

covered that he had been considering becoming a dealer in Polish philately. We discussed how my exit would present a unique opportunity for Dan to enter this niche. It was ultimately decided that Dan would obtain a virtually complete stock of Scott listed Poland issues, establish a website predicated on BBI’s and arrange to obtain and supply new issues. The name of his firm is Lubelski Philatelic, LLC, and his website is lubelskistamps.com. You may contact Dan at dan@lubelskistamps.com. I trust that Polonus members will support Dan the way they have supported BII.

While BII is reducing its involvement in Polish philately, its exit will not be absolute. The Poland Standard List and Poland Year Unit Lists will be removed from BII’s website. The Poland Specialized List will be populated with material from the following areas plus others: Krakows, Errors, Varieties, First Airmail and Balloon Flights, Labels, Slania, Solidarity, etc.

The Poland Specialized List is in auction format and will provide both text descriptions and images of all listed items.

As BII slowly fades away, starting in March we invite you to visit our Poland Specialized List at biistamp.com. We will continue to offer discounts for Polonus members on a constantly changing list of Polish philatelic material. If you have any questions, email me at info@biistamp.com.

I want to thank all of you who patronized BII over the years and especially those of you who gave us the opportunity to help you build world class exhibits. It has been my pleasure to form a symbiotic association with my fellow Polonus Members.

Polonus Bulletin Deadlines

Deadline for the receipt of articles, letters, advertising and news is the first of the second month of the quarter. For example, we need everything for the June issue by May 1, everything for the September issue by August 1, everything for the December issue by November 1 and everything for the March issue by February 1.

The preferred method of receiving copy is via an email attachment. Please send as an MS Word document. We also welcome compact disks (CDs). Hard copy is acceptable but it must be rekeyed so we prefer electronic transmission.

All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and content. Every effort will be made to retain the facts without changing the meaning or thrust of the article.

Exiled Polish Children in World War II - Part 4

Camps for Polish Refugee Children in Africa 1942-1950

by Jan Niebrzydowski

Polish resettlement camps for displaced civilians and children were established on British-administered territories in Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, Southern and Northern Rhodesia and the dominion of South Africa. The camps were based at Tengeru (the largest with 4,000 residents), Ifunda, Kidugala, Kondoa, Morogoro, Masindi, Koja, Makindu, Rongai, Lusaka, Abercorn, Bwana M'Kubwa, Marandellas, Rusape and Digglefold.

Africa had the largest concentration of Polish refugees, with numbers reaching 18,000 at the end of 1944 and swelled additionally by refugees arriving from India as camps there were gradually closed. The camps were run jointly by the British government and Polish Government in Exile. Polish American aid organizations, in particular the Catholic parishes and International Red Cross, provided support for these refugee camps. The Polish Government in Exile was represented by the Polish Consul General in Nairobi (Kenya) who provided a variety of services including such practical assistance as searching for missing persons and redirecting correspondence.

Life in the camps was very well organized. Polish schools were set up for children at primary and secondary levels. The Polish scouting movement was very active and

there was a cultural program that included theatre, concerts and libraries. Churches provided pastoral care. Camp residents used the local postal service where they purchased local stamps and aerograms.

The camps were finally closed in 1950 and the residents dispersed. Most were taken first to Great Britain and from there some went on to the United States, Canada and Australia. A small number went back to Poland and about 1,000 were allowed to settle in Africa.

A detailed account of these camps can be found in Przemysław Drzewiecki's book, *Dispersed Across Four Continents 1942-1950*, which can be purchased from the author for US\$50. His email address is: przew@onet.pl

The following covers from my collection serve as evidence to the history of Polish refugees in Africa. **Figure 1** is a registered letter mailed on 14.XII.43 via Polish Field Post Office nr. 116, which served the Polish Army in Italy under General Anders, to a Polish refugee in Abercorn in Northern Rhodesia. The letter was delivered on 2.II.44. It took two and a half months to reach its final destination.

Figure 2 is an airmail letter sent 3.12.1945 from Koja camp in Uganda to Stefania Bardziłowska in the USA.

The registered air mail letter shown in **Figure 3a** and



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 3b was sent on January 6, 1944, from Iringa camp in Tanganyika to Mrs. Helena Lübke in Switzerland. It was delivered on 4.V.44, taking some four months to reach the addressee. The letter was censored twice and has two censor's labels. This cover is featured on the cover of Przemysław Drzewiecki's book and is considered to be the most beautiful philatelic item originating in Polish civilian refugee camps known to collectors.

A prepaid postal form is the example shown in Figure 4. It was sent from the German Oflag VIIA in Murnau on 8.V.1944. It was from a Polish officer trying to find his wife and children who had been deported to the USSR. It was addressed to J. Szeligowski at the Polish Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, from where it was read-dressed to the Polish Embassy in Teheran. It was then forwarded to Ahwaz camp in Iran and finally to Karachi, India. As the card was not claimed there, it was mailed



Figure 3a

Are You Moving?

Please send address changes to:
 Polonus Philatelic Society,
 PO Box 60438, Rossford OH 43460



Figure 3b



Figure 4

to the Polish Consulate in Nairobi, Kenya. This was certified by an official consular label. The consulate established that the officer's wife was in the Tengeru camp in Tanganyika

where the card was finally delivered. This complicated circulation is documented by various references. It is one of the more interesting cards I have in my collection.

Enhance your collecting experience by joining a Polonus Study Group.
Information can be found on Page 2.



POLPEX 1966



26th Annual Exhibition and Bourse
of the
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

at the
Polish Museum of America
984 Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, U.S.A.

August 26th, 27th, 28th, 1966

It Was 50 Years Ago . . .

POLPEX 1966 was held August 26, 27 and 28, 1966, at the Polish Museum of America on Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago. This was the 26th Annual Exhibition and Bourse of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

This event honored Poland's Millennium of Christianity and, in particular, celebrated the July 30, 1966, issuance of a U.S. 5-cent postage stamp commemorating this milestone. A Polonus committee, led by Chairman Myron S. Steczynski, was instrumental in the successful drive for this commemorative stamp, commonly known as the "Polish Millennium Stamp." This was the sixth U.S. issue to honor Polish subjects. In 1931 a 2-cent stamp was issued to honor Pułaski; in 1933 a 5-cent stamp was issued to honor Kościuszko; in 1943 a Polish flag stamp (the first of the 13 overrun countries series) was issued; and in 1960 the U.S. honored Paderewski as a Champion of Liberty with 4-cent and 8-cent stamps. More on the "Polish Millennium Stamp" and the effort by Polonus to favorably influence the U.S. Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

The POLPEX 1966 souvenir sheets and descriptive folder have been a very popular collectible and the Polonus Store is pleased to announce that a limited supply is still available. To purchase your set, see page 28.

Polish Stamps Featured in *Linn's* Article

by Bob Ogrodnik

The February 1 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* features an article by Gary Dudney titled, "Two pivotal years in Polish history and the colorful stamps behind them. Covering a page and a half, Dudney focuses on the choices made for subject matter of commemorative stamps that were influenced by political change. To illustrate his point, he uses stamps issued in 1980 and 1990.

As collectors of Poland, we recognize that the difference between the years was more than a mere political change. It was the re-emergence of a free and independent 3rd Republic of Poland from the communist rule in the region and the Soviet-controlled People's Republic of Poland. In fact, we recognize two periods of collecting interest between the People's Republic of Poland (1945-1989) and the 3rd Republic of Poland (1989-present).

Dudney's article demonstrates how stamps reflect the history of a country. Stamps illustrated in the article serve as good examples and here are just two that make this point. The stamp shown in Figure 1 was issued in 1980 for the 35th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Poland and the USSR. The souvenir sheet shown in Figure 2 was issued in 1990



Figure 1
Stamp issued 21 April 1980 – Sc 2385 / Fi 2533



Figure 2
Souvenir Sheet issued 25 May 1990 – Sc 2967 / Fi Blok 96

showing the first Polish stamp coupled with a 1,000 zł commemorative version of the first stamp.

The significance in contrasting these stamps is the Polish eagle, symbol of Poland, has regained its crown, which had been forbidden to show during the communist era. Other stamps with subject matter forbidden during the communist period were being showcased in stamps of 1990 and beyond.

Due to a turbulent history, including two world wars and other regional conflicts, Poland's boundaries and political system has been frequently changed. This is the primary factor contributing to the multitude of diverse collecting interests and specializations that makes "Collecting Poland" a most fascinating philatelic adventure. The Polish post (*Poczta Polska*) does an excellent job in not letting us forget the history of Poland. We are thankful to *Linn's* for publishing this article demonstrating how Poland remembers its history and, just perhaps, has sparked an interest in some of its readers to consider "Collecting Poland."

Endnote: Members who do not have access to Linn's and would like to receive a copy of the referenced article, send in your request to Bob Ogrodnik (via email: robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net or via snail mail: P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 or via phone: [314] 821-6130). A copy will be mailed gratis.

Back Issues Available

Bulletin back issues and index books are available for purchase.

Back Issues

- Complete set of Bulletins (#1-558)\$300.00 (30.42)
- Individual issues (#1-525) 2.00 (0.70)
- Individual Issues (#526-558) 5.00 (1.82)
- Individual pages (per photocopied page) 0.75 (0.49)

Index Books

- 1940-1983 (#1-401) 10.00 (2.69)

Note: Mailing charges are indicated by () for domestic shipments only. Request quote for mailing outside USA.

Send inquiries and orders to:
John Dunn, History-VSU,
1500 N. Patterson St.,
Valdosta, GA 31698
or email jdunn@valdosta.edu



Polonus Philatelic Society News



Countdown to WSS-NY2016

by Bob Ogrodnik

As I write this article there are three months and 24 days before the opening of the “once-a-decade” event that will attract 250,000 people over the eight-day period. The World Stamp Show – NY2016 is being held at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City on May 28 – June 4, 2016.



What makes this event especially special is that Polonus is an “Attending Society” and this show is the setting for our Annual Membership Meeting and Exhibition.

The best way to follow the progress of this event is on the show’s website, www.ny2016.org. I strongly recommend you visit this site, especially if you are planning to attend (no charge for admission), as it will help you with hotel reservations, let you find the dealers who are attending (some 200 expected), decide upon program events you choose to attend, etc.

The best way to prepare for Polonus’ activities at this event is via the articles in the **Bulletin** and under the “News” menu tab on our website, www.polonus.org. If you are planning to attend, I would greatly appreciate advising me on the following:

- Let me know if you plan to attend the show and if so, on what days.
- Are you planning to attend the annual meeting on June 3?
- Will you join us for the “dutch-treat” dinner on June 3?
- Are you willing to volunteer some time tending to our Society table?
- If so, what days and what times?

Send your responses to the above to: **Bob Ogrodnik** via email: robert.ogrodnik@sbcglpbal.net or by phone: (314) 821-6130.

Our objectives in attending this show, other than having our normal Board and Membership Meetings and supporting our exhibitors, are:

- > Promote Polish philately and Polonus
- > Solicit New Members (Target = 20)
- > Generate Polonus Store sales (Target=\$1000)

Important points to remember about the show are:

1. Our Society Table is at **Booth #1478**. We have an obligation to continuously staff our table and we are looking for

members willing to volunteer some time for this undertaking.

2. We will have “Welcome Packets” for attending members, therefore, it’s important to let me know if you are attending.

3. Presentations on the subject “Introduction to Collecting Poland” are scheduled for May 29 from 1 to 2 p.m. in **Room 1E06** and again on June 3, same time and location.

4. Our 14th Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled on June 3 in **Room 1E09**, beginning at 10 a.m. and finishing by noon.

5. The “dutch-treat” dinner is scheduled for Friday, June 3, at 7 p.m. with the restaurant to be determined based on the number of members indicating interest.

Any further updates on Polonus’ plans will be communicated via the Polonus website and included within the “Welcome Packet” upon your arrival at the Polonus “Society Table.”

Plan to join us in the “Big Apple!”

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the newest and returning members of our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

1661 - **William Kelligan**, Melita, 1 Deevview Road, Banchory, Kincardineshire, AB31 5US UK

1813 - **Jeffrey Lough**, 2612 Redbud Lane, Apt. C, Lawrence, Kansas 66046-4279

1814 - **Krzysztof M. Skwara**, Zarecka 13, Biskupice, Śląskie, 42256 Poland

Odds & Ends

Note: This section of the Bulletin will be used from time to time for brief messages that do not warrant a full article status.

1) Annual ‘Best Article’ Competition Ballot

Due to the very light response in ballots, we are extending the voting period through the end of March. Ballots were included with the mailing of Bulletin #561 and attachments were made with announcement to members receiving the electronic version Bulletin. The winner will still receive an award at the WSS – NY2016 and the article submitted to APS for their Articles of Distinction archives. PLEASE CAST YOUR BALLOT!

2) Polonus Store Shipping Expense

This is the last issue for the Polonus Store to offer pricing that includes shipping and handling expense to any destination in the USA. A price for shipping and handling will be included with future issues with the Polonus Store. Take advantage of this situation. PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

3) WESTPEX 2017

Polonus is holding its 15th Annual Membership Meeting and Exhibition at WESTPEX 2017 on April 28-30, 2017. We are one of three philatelic societies accepted as a "Guest Society." More information will be available on the websites: www.westpex.com and www.polonus.org.



by Robin Gates Elliott

In previous Library Liaison columns I have provided an introduction to the American Philatelic Research Library (Polonus Bulletin #557) and instructions on how to use the APRL's on-line catalog, the *Philatelic Union Catalog* (Polonus Bulletins #558 and #559). This column explains how to obtain material from the APRL without ever leaving home. The information here appears in each issue of the *Philatelic Literature Review*, the quarterly publication of the APRL, and is quoted directly from the most recent issue (vol. 64, 3rd qtr. / 2015, p. 240).

What will the library do for me?

If you are a member of either the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) or the American Philatelic Society (APS), you can make direct use of library services. Non-members may access materials through inter-library loan. Fees are charged for most services to cover the library's costs.

The APRL's catalog [the *Philatelic Union Catalog*] is accessible online at www.stamps.org. You can search for titles and request materials directly from the catalog. Most library services are provided by mail or email. You contact us with requests for specific titles or the library staff can provide a list of suggested titles in your area of interest. You may keep books for two weeks. The loan period begins on the estimated date you receive the book in the mail. Photocopying or scanning service is available for most library materials, some of which do not circulate due to their rarity or fragility. Library staffers will check and photocopy indexes and bibliographies for you, but do not have the time to undertake in-depth research.

What does it cost?

Library fees offset the library's cost of providing services. Please do not pay in advance; a bill will be included with the materials/information requested.

- Base fee: \$10.00 per shipment/request (includes up to 15 minutes of staff time)
- Books: Base fee plus \$3.00 for the first book, \$1.00 for each subsequent book, and \$.25 per page for any photocopies or scans
- Photocopies (without any books): 15 pages included in the Base fee plus \$.25 per page afterwards
- Scans (without any books): \$4.00 for the first page plus \$.25 per page afterwards
- Extensive photocopies/research requests: after the initial 15 minutes included in the Base fee, \$20.00 per hour, billed in half-hour increments

If we anticipate that a request will require additional time (long photocopy requests, etc.) we will notify the requestor by email whenever possible. Given the difficulty of locating specialized philatelic literature and the expense of purchasing books and journals, these fees constitute a philatelic bargain. You may borrow up to five books at a time. All borrowed items must be returned using USPS Tracking. In some cases the library will ask you to have insurance coverage, but you will be notified on the invoice of any such requirements.

'BEEBA' – What is it?

by Bob Ogrodnik

When a recent applicant for membership asked the question, "What is 'BEEBA'?" I was moved to conduct some research about the early days of Polonus to find an explanation and example.

To begin, the word "BEEBA," or "BEEBAH" as referenced in the early 1940s Polonus publications, cannot be found in Webster's dictionary. If you search the internet, you may find it to be a Punjabi name referencing a recent movie called "Beeba Boys." However, if you were around for any of the POLPEX events you certainly heard plenty about the "BEEBA," which typically referred to the banquet at the conclusion of a POLPEX.

The word "BEEBA" is a phonetic pronunciation of the Polish word "biba" which means "drinking party" or "bash". This was the Polonus trademark for showing Polish hospitality in a grand manner. Here is an excerpt from the Polonus Bulletin #23, dated July – August 1944.

BEEBA! What a night, what a party! Over three hundred tired and hot (hottest August 11th in years according to the weather man) came from the Hotel La Salle to learn the answer to the question they had been asking, "What is a Beeba?" Were we to tell the story of

the Beeba in detail from the moment of its first mention to the glorious hour of its achievement, it would be telling the story of the acme in accomplishment and co-operation among members of a club. Who did what and when? Should we mention the names of a few and be damned for having failed to name all? No. It is better to say, Polonus did it again, not any one individual, but under the able management of the Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Anne Mikucki. It was she who looked after all of the details, reminded members of their promises to bring things, supervised the preparation of the food and then the tedious task of clean-up. It was she who arranged for the dancers in native Polish costumes, it was she, oh, why go on – she did it all.

After the Exhibition closed at the LaSalle at 10:00 P.M., the trek to the Beeba began. By street car, by auto, by taxi they came to learn at first hand the answer to the question, "What is a Beeba?" Now they know. They also know what good fellowship among stamp collectors can really mean. Each one of the guests at the Beeba received a souvenir of the occasion – a beautiful folder, printed in red, in which was reproduced the five POLPEX souvenir sheets in miniature.



David Lidman, Stamp Editor of the *Chicago Sun* and Publicity Director of the S.P.A. Golden Jubilee and Chipex III, had this to say about the Beeba:

One of the most pleasant events on the program was the Beeba, put on by the Polonus Philatelic Society on Friday night. More than 300 attended the affair, which was sparked by native dances by daughters of Society members. Jack Domar's Natzek jokes, musical numbers by the wife and daughter of John Rux, and plenty of excellent native food. It was an evening long to be remembered by those who attended."

What more can we say.

Over the years of POLPEX events, the "BEEBA" be-

came synonymous with the Awards Banquet. However, in the past 13 years Polonus has held its annual membership meeting and exhibition at one of the National World Series of Philately Shows and has not carried on the POLPEX, nor the "BEEBA" tradition. With one exception, perhaps, and that was our 75th Anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014 when we included the traditional "BEEBA" and a trip down "memory lane."

From the Palmares

Polonus exhibitors are an active group who participate in more than just our annual exhibition. This section of society news recognizes those members for their achievements. Congratulations to:

- **Dr. Edwin J. Andrews** for receiving a Gold Medal at FLOREX 2015 in Orlando, Florida, for his exhibit, *The 1924 Eagle in Wreath Issue: The First Gold Currency Stamp of Poland*. He also received the APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence. Dr. Andrews' one-frame exhibit received a Silver Medal.
- **Alfred F. Kugel** for receiving a Gold Medal at CHICAGOPEX 2015 in Itasca, Illinois, for his exhibit, *The Germans in the Pacific – Postmarks & Unusual Items*. He also participated with a one-frame exhibit for which he received a Silver Medal and the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award.
- **Ray Pietruszka** for receiving a Vermeil Medal at CHICAGOPEX 2015 for his exhibit, *The Dis-Union of the Soviet Union*. He also received the APS Post 1980 Medal of Excellence.
- **Dr. Ross Marshall** for receiving a Silver Medal at Filatelic Fiesta 2015 in San Jose, California, for his exhibit, *Transcontinental Flights Between Russia and Antarctica*. He also received the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award. Dr. Marshall's one-frame exhibit received a Vermeil Medal.

Polonus Advertising Rates

The following advertising options are available. Contact the president for more information.

- 1. Full-Page ad: \$100.00 per issue**
7.5 in. wide x 10 in. high
- 2. Half-Page ad: \$50.00 per issue**
 - 7.5 in. wide x 5 in. high (horizontal) or
 - 3.5 in. wide x 10 in. high (vertical)
- 3. Quarter-Page ad: \$25.00 per issue**
 - 7.5 in. wide x 2.5 in. (horizontal) or
 - 3.5 in. wide x 5 in. (vertical)
- 4. Business Card ad: \$50.00 for insertion in four issues**

New Issues



Antique Music Organs in Poland

These two stamps, denominated 4.20 zł and 8.30 zł, show two vintage church organs of Poland (*Zabytkowe Organy w Polsce*). A black print version of the souvenir sheet was also issued for collectors. The vintage Baroque organs shown are located at two historic churches/monasteries in Jędrzejów, a town near Kielce (*Świętokrzyskie województwo*).

Date of Issue	July 30, 2015
Sheet Format	2 stamps in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Offset and Steel Engraving
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska
Size: stamp	51 x 39.5 mm (stamp only)

Dealers:

Do we have a deal for YOU!

Run a business card ad in four consecutive issues of the *Polonus Bulletin* for only \$50! Full page and insert ads are also accepted.

Email robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net for information.



200th Anniversary of the Birth of St. John Bosco

This 5.20 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet honors St. John Bosco. The stamp in brown color shows a caricature of him with a line of young boys. Popularly known as Don Bosco, St. John Bosco (1815-88) was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator and 19th century writer who founded the Salesians of Don Bosco in Turin. He dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth.

Date of Issue	August 16, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Photogravure and Steel Engraving
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk
Size: stamp	40.5 x 54 mm (stamp only)



Air Show – Radom 2015

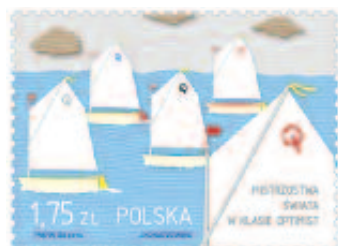
These two stamps, each valued at 2.35 zł, portray a helicop-

ter on one and a small plane on the other to recognize this summer's Air Show – Radom 2015.

Date of Issue	August 22, 2015
Sheet Format	2 stamps in pane of 8
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Andrzej Gosik
Size: stamp	39.5 x 31.25 mm

Optimist World Championship 2015

This 1.75-zł stamp, colored light blue and white, portrays symbolic sailboats competing at the Optimist World Championship in Poland from August 25 to September 5, 2015. More than 300 sailboats were entered in the competition held in Pomorska Bay in the Baltic Sea, near Dżinnów. Sponsored by the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA), the event saw 275 sailors from 58 nations participate. The individual championship (the Beacon Challenge Cup) was won over nine nine races by Rok Verderber of Slovenia. Jodi Lai of Singapore received the Optimist World Girls Trophy. The Nations Cup (the *Miami Herald Cup*) went to Singapore, as well.



Date of Issue	August 26, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski
Size: stamp	43 x 31.25 mm



Enchanted Beauty in the Metal

These four colorful stamps, denominated 1.75 zł and 2.35 zł, show the visually complex colors of polished metal, or metallic shine. Metals are materials (elements, compounds or alloys) that are typically hard, opaque and shiny. Their color is defined by their absorption and re-emission of light. Metals always have some roughness and, therefore, scatter light from a range of angles. These light rays typically have a range of wavelengths and definition. The stamps and associated official first day covers show the enormous variety of metallic colors or metallic shine.

Date of Issue	September 11, 2015
Sheet Format	4 different stamps in pane of 4
Printing Method	Offset, Screenprinting
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska
Size: stamp	40.5 x 50.5 mm (stamp only)



Flowers and Fruits

These two stamps, another set in a series, share a single sheet, thus offering the collector an opportunity to collect se-tenant pairs from the center of the sheet. The 5-zł stamp shows a dark red rose, a perennial of the genus *Rosa*, within the family *Rosaceae*. There are more than 100 known rose species and thousands of cultivars.

The other 10-gr stamp shows what is identified as a waterlily (*grzybienie*). More specifically, the flower appears to be the *Nymphaea alba*, also known as the European white waterlily, or white lotus, white water rose or nenuphur. The flower has white petals and a gold center. The official first day cover is franked with a se-tenant pair of the stamps.

Date of Issue	September 15, 2015
Sheet Format	2 different stamps in a sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska
Size: stamp	31.25 x 25.5 mm

What's the most interesting item in your collection?

Write about it in the Polonus Bulletin!



Welcome

to the
Polonus Store

(We're Always Open for Business)

The Polonus Store is open and sales have exceeded expectations. We still have ample Inventory of souvenir items from CHICAGOPEX 2014 and we have added a couple new items to the menu below. If you do not find the item you are searching for, let us know as we have a wide variety of POLPEX souvenir sheets, covers, show cards, etc.

Item 1 – Commemorative Catalogue..... \$2.00

A 52-page souvenir of the 75th anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014 in Itasca, Illinois. This publication contains proclamations, congratulatory letters, listing of Polish exhibits and exhibitors, history of Polonus, timely articles, etc.

Item 2 – Show Covers \$5.00 ea. / set of 3 for \$12.00

Cachet covers featuring anniversary logo, Westerplatte, and Jan Karski with special personalized stamp issue and special show cancellation for each day of the show.

Item 3 – Cachet Envelopes..... \$1.00 ea. / 6 for \$5.00

Your choice of the three cachets available.

Item 4 – Personalized U.S. Postage (\$0.49)..... \$1.00 ea.

Limited printing in two styles featuring the Polonus anniversary logo. Available as single stamps or in strips of five stamps.

Item 5 – Polonus Lapel Pin \$5.00

Attractive red, white and black cloisonne lapel pin (¾" size).

Item 6 – Polonus Cuff Links \$10.00

Attractive red, white and black cloisonné face (¾" size) mounted on black nickel link. Very limited supply.

Item 7 – POLPEX 1966 Souvenir Sheets (2)..... \$3.00

One perf and one imperf sheet with descriptive folder honoring Poland's Millennium of Christianity, celebrated by the issuance of a U.S. 5-cent commemoratives stamp. See article on page 21.

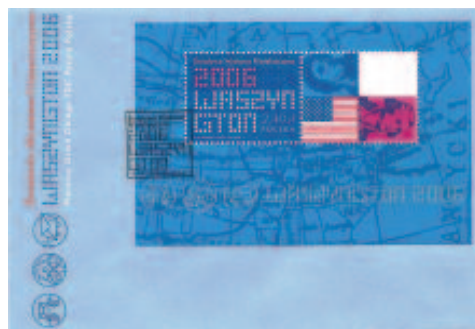
Item 8 – Poland FDC with Washington 2006 Souvenir Sheet \$1.00

2.40 zł souvenir sheet (Fi Blok 167) issued 19 May 2006 in honor of the World Stamp Show in Washington, D.C. See image.

Item 9 - Poland No. 1 by V. Rachmanoff.....\$5.00

As presented in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* of New York in September 1955. Limited supply remaining at this reduced price.

Prices for the items listed above include shipping and handling to any destination in the USA. For shipments outside US destinations, the incurred cost will be added.



Inquiries and orders are to be sent to: **Bob Ogrodnik via snail mail to P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428** or via email to robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net

Payments are to be made to: Polonus Philatelic Society via personal check or via PayPal (info@polonus.org) If paying by check, include payment with order, mailed to the above address.