



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



The only known piece with three different provisional postmarks. See page 15.

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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 489, Rossford OH 43460

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President

Message from the President



by Bob Ogrodnik

I am pleased to report that our March issue (#558) was posted on our website on March 5 and the print version mailed prior to March 15. This on-time performance was due to the schedule and discipline established by our new editor, Vickie Canfield Peters. We are confident that such on-time performance will continue with future issues.

Thanks to members who took the time to give us your reaction to the slight changes with our **Bulletin**. In the event you hadn't noticed or do not subscribe to the print version, the March issue was mailed directly by our printer, Minuteman Press of Toledo, using a polybag with metered, first-class postage. This simplifies the distribution by eliminating a volunteer to stuff envelopes, apply mailing labels and frank with low-value postage stamps. The net result is a saving of time and money.

Another noticeable change is the use of full scale vs. cropped and reduced size images. This helps the reader see the detail on the covers featured many times in the articles. You will also note that the text is fully justified, i.e., the text is flush with both the left and right margins. This layout technique enhances the eye-appeal and readability of the articles. There are other subtle changes in our style sheet that I will not spend time on but to say that 100 percent of the comments received were positive.

This is the last **Bulletin** before our annual meetings and exhibition at APS StampShow 2015, scheduled for August 20 - 23, 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Therefore, be sure to: a) read the article in the Society News section titled "Countdown to APS StampShow 2015" (page 23) and b) let me know if you plan to attend so that we can prepare a personalized "welcome packet" for you. Our hospitality suite is booked at The Amway Grand Hotel, the official "show hotel" and located next to the De Vos Place Convention Center, site of APS StampShow 2015.

In this issue you will find the second of two installments of the feature article, "Part 8: LOT Polish Airlines: Domestic and International Routes (1929-1935)" by Kupiec-Węgliński / Kosmala. This is the story of LOT's speedy expansion of its network and reduction of its fares to the level of being competitive with train.

"The Gems of Polish Philately" article reviews the postal transition during the time of Poland's independence on November 11, 1918 and the unusual number of provisional postmarks used to circumvent the border. This re-

sulted in three different provisional postmarks on correspondence on one of the most important Warsaw provisional letters . . . a true Polish gem.

The second of three installments of the feature article, "Production Flaws and Defects of the 1924 Arms of Poland 'Orzeł' Issue" can be found in this issue. The author, Dr. Edwin Andrews, expands on "Plate Flaws" with examples illustrated for the 5 and 10 groszy issues.

Jan Niebrzydowski opens the first of a three-part article on "Exiled Polish Children in World War I." This is the story of the approximate one million Polish civilians deported by the Soviet invaders into the depths of the USSR and the exodus by General Anders following the realignment by the USSR with the Allies. The dislocation caused by the deportation and eventual exodus placed a high value on correspondence seeking information on the status and location of family members.

Our POW Camps Study Group Leader, Roman Sobus, brings us another Woldenberg project depicting Roman Dmowski that had been rejected. In spite of his contribution in negotiating and signing the Little Versailles Treaty, Roman Dmowski was very controversial and disliked for his right-wing nationalism.

The headline Society News article is about Dr. James Peter Mazepa, Polonus chairman, who was one of four people unanimously elected to sign "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists." Dr. Mazepa is one of the most highly respected philatelists in the United States. An invitation to sign "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" is regarded as the world's pre-eminent honor. May our glasses be raised on high as we toast Jim on this outstanding achievement.

Dan Lubelski reports a strong influx of new members (21 since January 2015), several of whom have indicated an interest in volunteering. This is good news! We welcome all new and returning members and look forward to meeting and working with you in the near future.

I am also pleased to report that sales from the Polonus Store are much better than expected (at least what I expected). We experienced a good response especially to the Index (Bulletin), complete sets of bulletins, souvenir sheets and CHICAGOPEX 2014 souvenirs. Do not miss the opportunities offered by the Polonus Store. In this issue, see page 26.

This issue contains a list of members who have made contributions above the normal dues payment during 2014. We thank all who have contributed to making 2014 a record year in financial giving. Confirming letters for tax purposes had been sent to all listed donors. A reminder, Polonus is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Finally, congratulations to members who have exhibited at various shows and were awarded medals. Recognition of these members can be found on page 24.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929-1939)

Part 8: LOT Polish Airlines:

Domestic and International Routes (1929-1935) Part 2 of 2

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

1930 – 1935:

Phase One Expansion

In 1930, LOT Polish Airlines joined the International Air Transportation Association (IATA). Despite rapid progress of civil aviation in technical and commercial fields, flying remained a rather exclusive means of personal transport. It was around 1930 when the General Directors of Civil Aviation met in Paris and coined the famous phrase: "The layman flies, the expert takes the train." Although such a statement sounds preposterous nowadays, it obviously reflected the uncertainties of air travel at that time, especially during the winter season.

However, the search for higher speed, greater reliability and the covering of greater distances continued. Each step forward in these fields brought potential mass public air transport closer to reality. This is exemplified by LOT's speedy expansion of its network as well as the affordability of its fares. In the early 1930s, the cost of air travel in Poland was about the same or even lower than by train.

On May 21, 1930, a Polish-Rumanian agreement granted LOT Airlines the concession to exclusively operate the Warszawa – Lwów – Bucharest route. This was an important milestone in a long-term strategy to connect Poland via the Balkan Peninsula with the Middle East.

A cover with a bilingual cachet, depicted in **Figure 7**, is one of 25 posted in Warszawa on June 1, 1930, and carried by trial flight to Bucharest. The "Pobrano/Perqu" cachet was used to apply 40 gr. air surcharge (1x basic postage). On the first regular mail flight, which took off the following day, Warszawa and Lwów each dispatched 78 covers to the Rumanian city of Galati (Galatz). In addition, there were 132 and 128 Bucharest-bound covers from Warszawa



Figure 7
One of 25 dispatches from Warszawa – Bucharest trial flight (June 1, 1930).

and Lwów, respectively. All bear violet (Warszawa) or red (Lwów) cachets. As of July 31, 1938, the Warszawa – Lwów – Bucharest route was operated jointly by LOT and Rumanian LARES Airlines.

The success of the Warszawa – Bucharest line prompted its extension to Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, and Salonika, the second largest city in Greece. The 1,533-mile (2,468 km) route from Warszawa to Salonika reduced the trip's duration from five days to just 14 hours. **Figure 8** shows a seldom-seen cover from the Warszawa – Sofia leg of the inaugural June 27, 1931 flight. The 1.00 zł rate was 50 gr. international letter rate (per 20 grams) plus 50 gr. (1x basic postage) airmail surcharge.

On June 29, the newly established postal service became available to the public. The first flight carried 65 covers to Sofia and 102 to Salonika from Warszawa, all with special violet circular cachet. There were also 62 covers from



Figure 8

This seldom-seen cover was flown from Warszawa to Sofia, inaugurating the extension of the southern LOT route to Salonika (June 27, 1931).

Lwów with a special black circular cachet. Several interesting items are recorded from LOT's return flight to Poland on July 8, 1931.

Figure 9 is a registered cover from the return flight to Lwów. It was posted in Athens (July 7) and flown by Greek E.E.E.S Airlines (Hellenike Eteria Anaerion Synghinonion A.E.) to Salonika (July 8 transit postmark) to catch the LOT return flight to Poland (Lwów, July 9 arrival cancellation). This letter, prepared by P. J. Drossos, a pioneer of Greek aerophilately, was addressed to Tadeusz Gryżewski, the godfather of Polish aerophilately.

The growth plan for LOT network included the expansion to the Baltic States and Finland. A new route from Warszawa via the Polish city of Wilno to Riga, Latvia and Tallinn, Estonia was opened on August 17, 1932. With its southern extension to Salonika, the north-south LOT route

now measured 1,796 miles (2,890 km), linking the north and south of Europe and crossing territories of six countries with Poland in the middle. About 500 covers dispatched from Warszawa and Wilno were flown on various stages of the first flight. All show a circular violet cachet that reads "First Postal Flight / 17-VIII-32 / Warszawa – Wilno – Riga – Tallinn." Figure 10 shows a cover flown from Warszawa to Tallinn, and then to Kuopio, Finland (August 19 arrival). It is franked correctly with the international printed matter rate (10 gr. basic postage plus 40 gr. air surcharge).

Figure 11 is an unusual example from the return flight to Poland. Postmarked in Tallinn on August 18 and cacheted "Par premier avion Tallinn – Riga – Warszawa," it was routed via Warszawa (August



Figure 9

Registered cover from the return Salonika – Lwów flight (July 8, 1931).



Figure 10

A cover carried by the first flight from Warszawa to Tallinn (Estonia), and then routed to Kuopio (Finland) (August 17, 1932).

18) and Poznań (August 19) to Cape Town, South Africa (September 6). This item was most likely flown by Imperial Airways on its route to South Africa from London with intermediate stops in Brindisi, Athens, Alexandria, Cairo, Assuan, Wadi, Halfa, Chartum, Malakal, Juba, Butiaba, Kisumu, Nairobi, Dodoma, Mbeya, Broken Hill, Salisbury

and Johannesburg. The London–Cape Town route was inaugurated December 9–21, 1931.

On May 1, 1934, the connection between Warszawa and Poznań was extended to Berlin. It was operated jointly with the German Lufthansa (DLH) in a “pool” air transport system, the only LOT air link with Western Europe at the time. Both Warszawa and Poznań used circular cancellations (violet and black, respectively) on mostly philatelically motivated printed-matter carried on the first flight to Berlin.

Figure 12 shows a postcard from the inaugural flight to Berlin. Posted in Nowy Tomyśl, a small town in western Poland, and addressed to Göttingen, this item was flown on May 1, 1934 from Poznań via Berlin to Hannover where special cachets were applied. The postage of 55 gr. is consistent with 35 gr. international postcard rate plus 20 gr. for Germany-bound air service.



Figure 11

A possibly unique dispatch from Tallinn by a return LOT's flight to Warszawa (August 18, 1932), and then by British Imperial Airways from London to Cape Town (South Africa).



Figure 12
A postcard carried by the first Poznań - Berlin flight (May 1, 1934).

The Free City of Danzig (*Freie Stadt Danzig* in German; *Wolne Miasto Gdańsk* in Polish), was established as an autonomous state in November 1920, under provisions of the Treaty of Versailles and under the protection of the League of Nations. The Post and Telegraph Management buildings in Gdańsk were considered extraterritorial prop-

erty of the Republic of Poland. There were three Polish post offices operating in Danzig, yet only Gdańsk 1 in the Old Town district was servicing the Polish community. The post office also maintained a direct telephone line to the mainland.

The airport in the Free City of Danzig in Wrzeszcz (Langfuhr) was built to service air traffic primarily by DERULUFT Airline between Moscow, Königsberg (the capital of East Prussia) and Berlin. Despite the official autonomy in *Freie Stadt Danzig*, working relations between Polish and German postal authorities were often tense, to say the least. Indeed, in one of his published columns in 1930, Kazimierz Gryżewski stopped just short of implying the German sabotaged Polish airmail efforts. Not only were the Danzig – Poland air fees almost three-

times higher than the corresponding ones in opposite direction, but in many instances air dispatches at Langfuhr were either purposely delayed or forwarded by surface altogether.

This notorious situation prompted the Polish government to build a new airport in the nearby Polish port city of Gdynia. Its opening in 1935



Figure 13
One of 50 covers carried by the first Gdańsk – Gdynia flight (June 1, 1935).

allowed the Warszawa – Gdańsk route to be suspended, and to channeled air traffic from Warszawa to Gdynia instead. On June 1, 1935, 50 covers with special cachets were flown on each leg of the Warszawa – Gdynia - Gdańsk route. The seldom seen cover shown as **Figure 13** is from the first postal flight from Gdańsk to Gdynia. Mixed Polish and Port Gdańsk postage was affixed in Danzig and a large “Gdynia Port Polski” datestamp was applied at arrival. The postage, 15 gr. paid 5 gr. for printed matter (up to 20 grams) and 10 gr. air surcharge, is correct.

The city of Gdynia on the Polish Baltic Coast was instru-



Figure 14

This cover was flown by LOT's first return trial flight from Malmö via Gdynia to Warszawa (September 5, 1935).

mental in the expansion of LOT to the northern Europe. Three trial flights took place on September 4, 11 and 18, 1935, between Warszawa and the Swedish city of Malmö (via Gdynia). **Figure 14** is a small registered letter, posted in Stockholm on September 5, 1935, and carried by LOT's first return trial flight from Malmö via Gdynia to Warszawa (September 6 arrival cancellation). Unclaimed, this item was re-

turned to the sender in Sweden, but must have been underpaid as it first received a 10 gr. Polish postage-due at Warszawa (September 21).

Figure 15 is an example of an uncommon philatelic cover (30 flown) from the second trial flight between Warszawa and Malmö on September, 11, 1935. Here, the correct postage of 35 gr. is consistent with 10 gr. international printed matter rate (per 50 grams) plus 25 gr. airmail surcharge for European mailing (per 20 grams).

Rapid growth of commercial aviation meant an urgent need for a new airport in the Polish capital. After a gradual transition from the country's oldest Mokotów airfield (operated since 1910), a new Warszawa-Okęcie Airport, with modern technical facilities, along

with hangars workshops and warehouses, officially opened on April 29, 1934. During the first years of operations, LOT Polish Airlines utilized German Junkers, Dutch Fokkers and Polish PWS-24 aircraft. Their capacity, however, was increasingly insufficient. Two 14-seat Douglas DC-2s and some smaller 10-seat Lockheed L-10A Electra American-made aircraft were added to the fleet in 1935. They were



Figure 15

One of 30 items carried by the second LOT's trial flight from Warszawa to Malmö via Gdynia (September 11, 1935).

used mainly on international routes, in particular to the Balkans.

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Polonus Bulletin Procedures and Deadlines

Deadline

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.

Illustrations

The most effective way to transmit illustrations is electronically. They should be TIF or JPEG, scanned at no less than 150 dpi and attached to an email. They can also be sent on CD. We can also retrieve copy and illustrations from electronic storage if provided with the correct routing.

DO NOT put the illustrations into a Word document before attaching to an email. Word has preset parameters that allows me to copy the image and place it in Photoshop but doesn't allow me to manipulate the image for color, clarity, sharpness or contrast. It's our goal to produce the best illustrations possible and this cannot be done using Word.

Questions can be directed to editor Vickie Canfield Peters by emailing vcanfieldp@gmail.com.

Your attention to and compliance with these procedures and deadline assures the best quality we can achieve. Thank you for your support of, and contributions to, the *Polonus Bulletin*.

Headed to the Big Apple?



Polonus will hold its annual meetings and exhibition at the World Stamp Show at the Javits Center on May 28 – June 4, 2016.

Once a decade, the United States is host to a World Stamp Show – an eight-day celebration with dealers, exhibits, seminars, first day ceremonies, world-class auctions and much more. Polonus is an Attending Society and we will have a booth, meetings and presentations. Members planning to exhibit and/or attend should visit the show website:

<http://www.ny2016.org>

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Email krpsl@earthlink.net for information.

Exiled Polish Children in World War II - Part 1

by Jan Niebrzydowski

Note: This is the first of a three part article that describes the fate of Polish citizens, especially children, who were deported, displaced and exiled to foreign lands. This important history is described through philatelic materials such as letters and postal stationery.

In his book, *Scattered Over Four Continents: A history of the Polish refugees from the USSR base on historical postal documentation*, the respected philatelist and historian Przemysław Drzewiecki described the fate of Polish civilians deported by the Soviet invader into the depths of the Soviet Union from February 1940 to June 1941. Overall, some 860,000 to 1,270,000 Polish citizens were imprisoned, sent to forced-labor camps, deported or executed in the forests of Katyń, Starobielsk, Ostaszków and other places.

Stalin invaded Poland from the east, in accordance with the secret protocol established by the Nazi-Soviet pact, 17 days after Hitler attacked from the west. Having established control over Poland's eastern territories, the Soviets began mass deportations of Polish civilians to Kazakhstan, the Archangel district and Siberia in order to rid the Eastern Polish territories of all traces of Polish administrative authority. The wives and children of military personnel, central and local government officials and members of the professions were rounded up, loaded into cattle trucks and taken away.

The situation changed after June 22, 1941, when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, which suddenly found itself alongside Britain facing a common enemy. Diplomatic relations were established between Moscow and the London-based Polish Government in Exile under Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, General Władysław Sikorski. The Soviets agreed to allow Polish Army units to set up in the USSR under the command of General Władysław Anders. This led to the announcement of the so-called amnesty.

Polish men, women and children started the long journey from their prisons or

places of deportation to the Polish recruitment centers set up in the south of the USSR. Disease, starvation and exhaustion took their toll but those who made it were evacuated to Persia (now Iran) in two waves, during March-April and August of 1942. General Anders insisted on taking the women and children along with the military personnel. Among the evacuees were 78,470 soldiers and officers, 37,272 civilians and 13,948 children, including a large number of orphans.

The British were keen to secure the oilfields and refineries in northern Iraq against potential German attack and, therefore, put pressure on Stalin to allow the Poles to relocate to Iraq. From there, the Polish civilian population was moved further afield. Special camps were set up in Persia, Lebanon, New Zealand, India, Africa and Mexico by the Polish Government in Exile and governments of Great Britain, India, New Zealand, Mexico and the USA, with support from Catholic aid organizations and private benefactors. These temporary camps provided for the educational, spiritual and social needs of displaced Poles. The Polish Scouting Association played a major role in socializing the young people and children.

After the war, these camps were gradually closed and by the end of the 1940s the former inhabitants were re-



Figure 1

WIELMOŻNA PANI! PRZESYŁAM NAZWISKA OSÓB WYSIEDLONYCH W GŁĄB

- 1) Rosji. Jadwiga Suchocka, 1910r. stałe zam. w Poznaniu, Stefania Suchocka, lat 6, córka Jadwigi i Mieczysława, Helena Suchocka, lat 4, córka Jadwigi i Mieczysława, Terlecki Teodozy, 68 lat, Konstancja Terlecka, lat 64 zam. stałe w Wisniowiec, Wołyn. Wywiezieni 20.II.1940. Obecny adres: Posi-
lenje Stiepanowka, poczta Iwaka, rajon Kizelowiskij, oblasć Piernskaja.
- 2) Stefania Chychlińska, 1906r., Mieczysław Chychliński, lat 6, syn Ludwika i Stefani. Wywiezieni 20.II.1940 ze Skaka n/z Bruczem. Obecny adres: Ka-
zakstan, siemipalatynskaja oblasć, Kokpiertinskij rajon, sowchoz Bol-
szewik, 3 ferma, Parnińska Agata, 60 lat, stałe zam. Kustowicze, Polesie, Wacław Mieszkowski, urodzony 1934, syn Wacława i Jadwigi z Parnińskich, zamieszkały w Warszawie. Wywiezieni 10.II.1940. Obecny adres: Archan-
ielskaja oblasć, Plisieckij rajon, Ostrowskij lesnoj lesopunkt, 10
rajon, Siewiernaja żeleznaja doroga, Stancija Jelec Bronisława
- 4) Sudnik, 1900r., stałe zam. w Siednim, wywieziona 12.IV.1940. Obecny adres: Siewiero-Kazakstańskaja oblasć, Prasnowski rajon, Ormiańskoj
- 5) S/Sowiet, kolkhoz 2, Oktiabr, Speidel Antonina, 65 lat, Wanda Musia-
łowa, lat 40, Wojciech Musiał, lat 57, Jadwiga Musiał, lat 19, Bogdan Mu-
siał, lat 18, Andrzej Musiał, lat 10, stałe zamieszkały w Nieciecz, woj. No-
wogrodzkie. Wywiezieni IV.1940. - Obecny adres nieznany. Helena Czajkowska,
urodz. 1921r., Jan Czajkowski, lat 50, Włodysław Czajkowski, lat 23,
Konstancja Czajkowska, lat 46, Eugenia Czajkowska, lat 18, Stani-
sław Czajkowski, lat 16, stałe zamieszkały w Gródek Jagielloński. Obecny
- 7) adres nieznany. Stefan Jarubowski, lat 68, zamieszkały we Lwowie, ul. Szymono-
wiczów 10. Obecny adres nieznany. Konstancja Jarubowska, lat 41 **Oflag II 4** **POZDROWIE-
NIA. Terlecki Kard, ppor. 8.5.41.**

settled in many different countries throughout the world. A large number came to Britain and some subsequently emigrated to the USA, Canada and Australia. Only a few returned to Poland, which was under Communist rule as a result of the Yalta agreement.

In writing his book, Przemysław Drzewiecki used his own collection of philatelic material and collections from philatelists the world over, including members of Polonus.

The six covers and cards illustrated offer insight into how difficult it was for families divided by war to make contact. Officers from Poland's eastern territories captured by the Germans were sent to oflags in Germany. In the meantime, after the Soviets invaded from the east, families of these officers were deported to various parts of the Soviet Union. Since neither side knew what had happened to the other and the postal service was haphazard, Polish families had to rely on the mediation of the International Red Cross or on the good services of private individuals in neutral countries. One such individual was Helena Lübke, who lived in Switzerland and was the private secretary to the renowned Polish pianist and former Polish Prime Minister, Ignacy Paderewski.

The letter shown as **Figure 1** was sent by a Polish prisoner in oflag IIE (Neubrandenburg) addressed to Lübke and dated June 8, 1941. In it (Figure 1a) he explained he was trying to identify the whereabouts of seven families exiled to various parts of the USSR. He listed their names, ages, last known place of residence in Poland and possible location in the Soviet Union.

Many of the Polish families deported into the depths of the USSR were split up or became separated en route. Women, the elderly and children were placed in collective farms (kolkhozes) where they were forced to clear forests. Men were sent to work in coal and iron ore mines, quarries and other places of forced labor.

After the "amnesty" of July 1941, a

Figure 1a

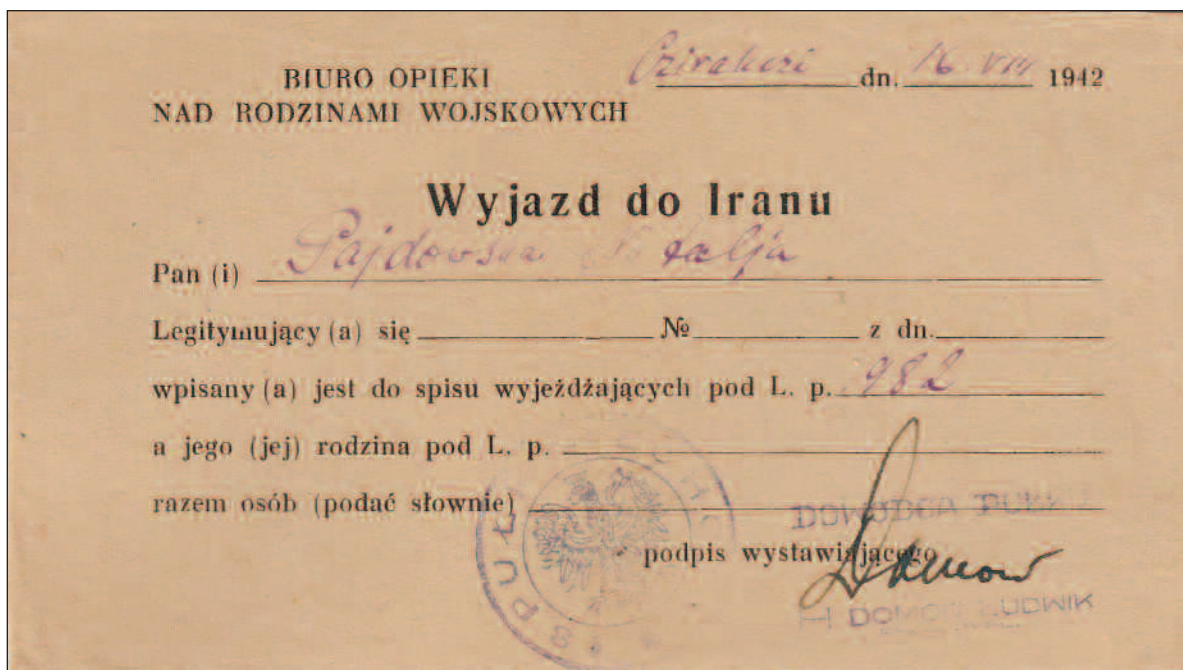


Figure 2

number of Polish civilian aid organizations and military support units were formed to help reunite those who had been separated by war and deportations. Both military and civilian personnel wishing to leave the Soviet Union were required to present appropriate permits to travel. An example of such a permit can be seen in **Figure 2**. This permit to leave the USSR for Iran, dated June 16, 1942, was issued for Natalia Pajdowska by the Charitable Bureau assisting families of Polish military personnel. The document bears the oval seal of the 18th Infantry Regiment with an eagle and is signed by its commanding officer L. Domoń (who later lost his life in the battle of Monte Cassino).

The card illustrated in **Figure 3** was sent from Andreyewka in Akhmolinsk oblast in August 1942 to a member of the 5th Infantry Division in Jalai-Abad, Kirghizia (Kyrgyzstan) from his mother, wife and daughter. They informed him that they were all alive with the exception of his young son, Mareczek, who had died and was buried in a wild steppe, 'where only the wind roared and whistled over his little grave.'



Figure 3

Figure 4 shows a registered airmail cover sent from the Polish Diplomatic Mission in Teheran to the USA in October 1942 and paid for with 43 rials in Iranian stamps. It was censored by the British and the Anglo-Iranian-Soviet joint censorship office. The sender was making an enquiry about family searches in the USA.

After crossing the Caspian Sea to Pahlavi the Polish exiles had to undergo a period of sanitary quarantine and were issued new documents. The Polish Embassy, aid or-



Figure 4

POLPEX 90
Polonus Philatelic Society
Annual Stamp and Coin Exhibition

Solidarność
1980-1990

March 23-25, 1990
Chicago, U.S.A.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY March 23-25, 1990 	Honoring the TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF Solidarność 1980 - 1990 	POLPEX 90 Chicago, U.S.A. 
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY March 23-25, 1990 	Honoring the TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF Solidarność 1980 - 1990 	POLPEX 90 Chicago, U.S.A. 

It Was 25 Years Ago . . .

POLPEX 1990 was held March 23, 24 and 25 at Przybyło's House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. The 10th anniversary of the Solidarity Movement in Poland theme of the event. 1980 was most significant year for Poland and all of Eastern Europe as it marked the beginning of an historic transformation to freedom and independence.

A pair of imperforated souvenir sheets were issued, one showing the Poland stamp commemorating the monument to the 1970 protest victims from Gdańsk (Fi 2634) and the leader of the Solidarity Movement, Lech Wałęsa; the other shows the Poland stamp commemorating the monument to the 1970 protest victims from Gdynia (Fi 2635) and the U.S. stamp commemorating Labor Day (Sc 1082) with a mosaic from the AFL-CIO Headquarters.

providing information on the anniversary theme. There were 2,000 sets issued and the Polonus Store has small amount left for sale (see page 26).

The Solidarity (Solidarność) Movement is a very popular topical subject and items such as this are in higher than normal demand. Consider adding this set of souvenir sheets to your collection.

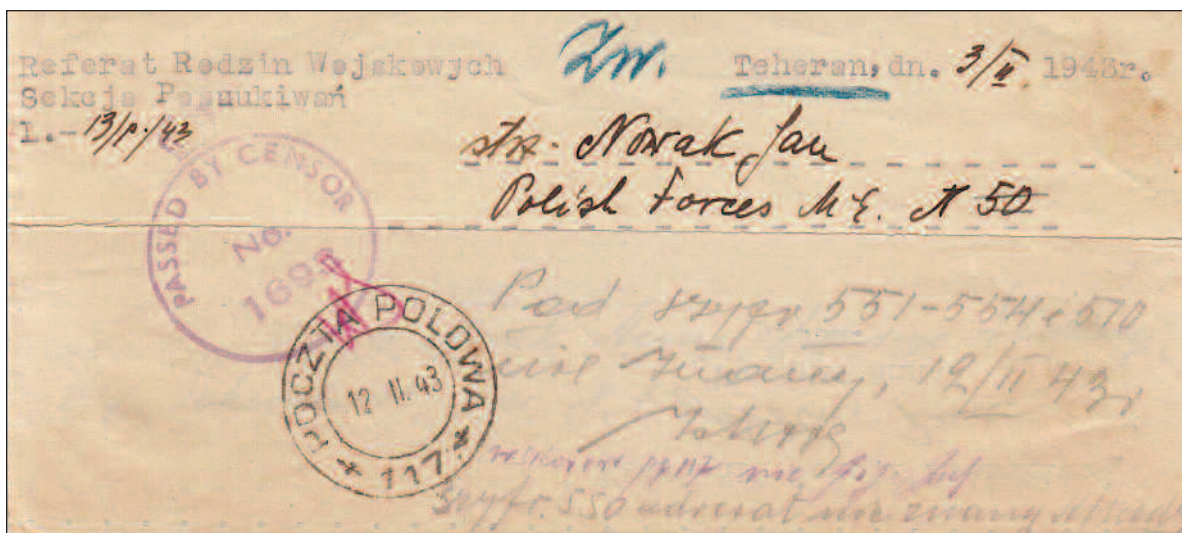


Figure 5

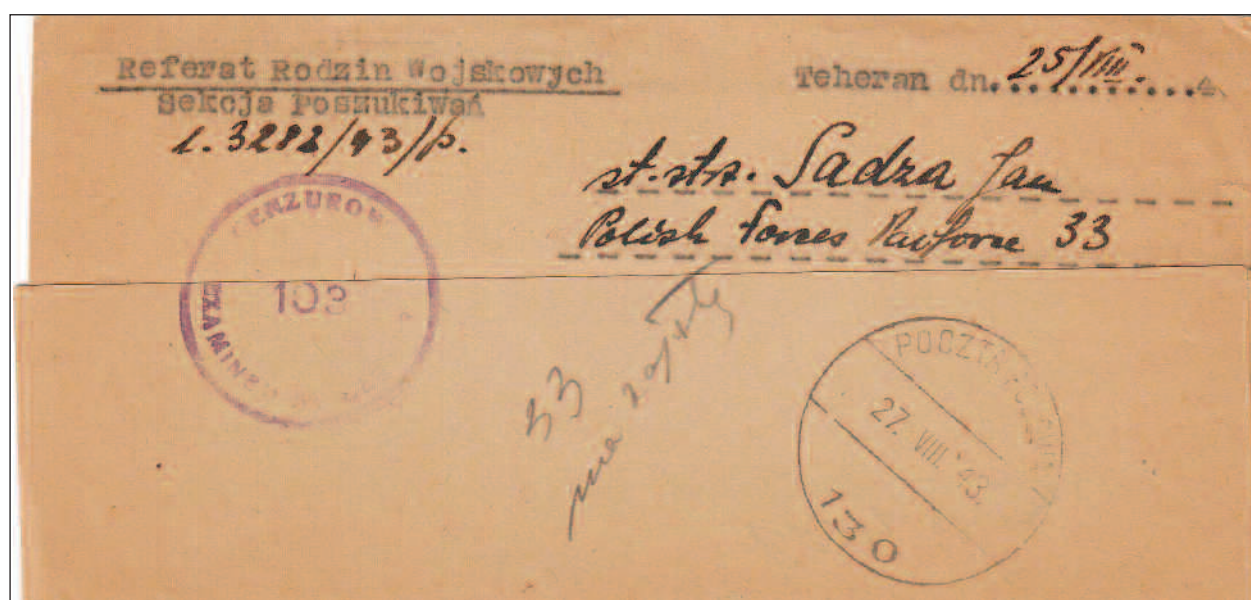


Figure 6

ganizations, the Red Cross, and Humanitarian aid centers looked after them and set up hospitals. **Figure 5** shows a letter sent by the Family Reunification unit within the Polish Army's Department for Military Families in Teheran. It was sent through Field Post Office 117 on 12 February 1943 and passed by censor No.1693. The letter informed the addressee, a soldier in General Władysław Anders' Army that his wife was alive and to could be found in civilian camp No.1 in Teheran.

The letter shown in **Figure 6** is similar to the Figure 5 but sent via FPO 130 on July 27, 1943. It contained the information that nothing was known about the whereabouts of the writer's wife and that it was certain she had not left the USSR. We shall never know her fate.

Przemysław Drzewiecki's book can be purchased from him directly. His contact details are: Opławiecka 225, 85-469 Bydgoszcz, Poland. Telephone: +48 52 340 2828. Price including postage to the USA is \$30.

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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 26 for ordering information.





Gems of Polish Philately



Praszka/g. Kalisz to Raszków, February 4, 1919, via Warta, February 11, and Sompolno

Three Provisional Postmarks on Card — February 1919

by Dr. James Mazepa

Within days of Poland's declaration of independence on November 11, 1918, the Post and Telegraph Department was formed. In the Warsaw Administration, this department was staffed by Polish clerks who worked in the

post office under the German occupation. Nationalism and anti-German sentiments were high and many post offices, mostly the smaller ones, refused to use the postmarks inscribed in German. These offices made their own "provisional" postmarks and these are among the rarest and most sought-after postmarks of the 1918-1919 period.

In the first months of independence there was continued unrest between Germany and Poland in the western part of Poland (Great Poland - Księstwo Poznańskie) and the border between the former GGW (Warsaw Administration) and "Great Poland" was closed.

This card was sent from Praszka, near Kalisz, to a village in Great Poland. To circumvent the border the card was sent south via Warta and Sompolno and received their provisional postmarks in transit to the destination in Raszków. The final armistice was concluded on February 16, 1919, and the borders opened.

This is the only recorded example of three different provisional postmarks on correspondence and one of the most important Warsaw provisional letters.

Special Polonus Anniversary 'Favor' For Sale to Polonus Members

A special "favor" was prepared for the CHICAGOPEX 2014 Awards Banquet and distributed to attendees with the compliments of the Polonus Philatelic Society. The theme of the "favor" is the canonization of Pope John Paul II and features a MNH Poland 5 zł souvenir sheet (Fi 4519). The souvenir sheet is accompanied with text on one side and the other side has the 75th anniversary logo with tag line. Both sides are housed in a sturdy acid-free protector, suitable for use as a book mark.

Only 100 favors were prepared. Approximately 20 were left over and are available to Polonus members. See Item 8 at the Polonus Store on page 26.



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promotion of Polish Philately
in the English language.*

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In a joint issue with the Vatican City, Poland honored Pope John Paul II's canonization with this 5 zł souvenir sheet released on 2 April 2014. The stamp shows the pope dressed in white with a halo around his head formed by using seven microprinted lines of quotes for which the pope is known. Born on 18 May 1920 in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Józef Wojtyła, or Pope John Paul II, was ordained in 1946, eventually assuming the role of archbishop in Kraków in 1964. After becoming a cardinal in 1967, he finally became pope in 1978 – the first pope in over four centuries who was not from Italy. Pope John Paul II is recognized for his role in ending communist rule in Poland and eventually all of Europe. He was one of the most travelled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate, which was the second longest in the history of the Catholic Church. He died on 2 April 2005 and was canonized Pope Saint John Paul II, also known as Saint John Paul the Great.

Compliments of the Polonus Philatelic Society
at CHICAGOPEX 2014

Production Flaws and Defects of the 1924 Arms of Poland ‘Orzeł’ Issue

Plate Flaws Part 2 of 3

by Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

Plate Flaws

As mentioned earlier, others have reported various plate flaws associated with certain denominations [2]. In general these are seen more than once and, therefore, verified as bona fide plate defects. In no case has the plate position of any of these plate flaws been reported. The following section will present new discoveries of plate flaws by denomination. In some cases the plate position could be determined.

1 grosz

A previously reported flaw for the 1 grosz denomination is a broken left foot serif for the left numeral “1.” Here shown in **Figure 23**, are the early state and late state of this flaw.

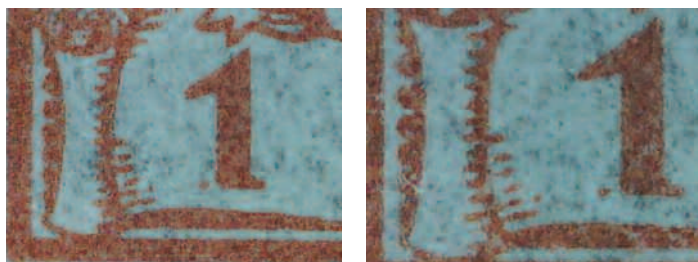


Figure 23
Early upper left), mid- (upper right) and late (bottom) state of the broken left foot serif plate flaw.



Figure 24
Complete break of the bottom right foot serif of the left numeral “1.”

Not previously reported is a complete break of the right foot serif of the left numeral “1.” **Figure 24** shows this flaw.

Figure 25 shows a plate scratch through the left scroll of the 1 grosz stamp. This has not been previously reported.

Breaks in frame and shade lines have been reported in various denominations but not in the 1 grosz.

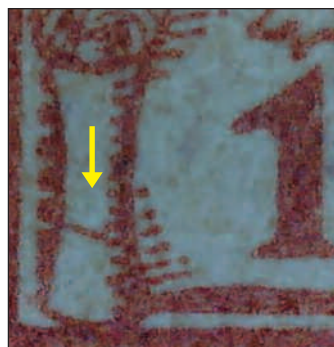


Figure 25
Plate scratch left scroll.



Figure 26
Break in shade line above “PO” of POCZTA. Early, left; late on right. Additional wear of shade lines create other breaks.

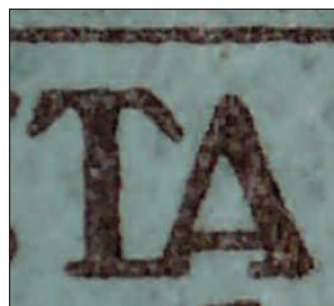


Figure 27
Normal, left, and broken left foot serif of the “T” in POCZTA.



Figure 28
Dent in left outer frame line adjacent to the fascies.

Figure 26 shows the early and late state of a break in the inner shade lines above the “PO” of POCZTA.

2 Grosze

The 2 Grosze stamp has only one reported flaw, the closed upper loop of the “S” in POLSKA. However, this is fairly common and appears to be a result of over inking



Figure 29
Defect in the laurel wreath

rather than a true plate defect. Several new discoveries include a broken left foot serif of the letter “T” in POCZTA (Figure 27) which was in a margin block allowing its location to be identified as plate position 70. A second defect is a damaged left frame line adjacent to the blade of the ax in the left fascies (Figure 28).

Figure 29 shows a defect in the wreath which on first glance might seem like plate debris with the “halo” effect. However, a very similar defect will be shown on the 20 groszy stamp. On the 20 groszy stamp the defect has been seen several times verifying it as a true plate flaw. Owing to the similarity, I believe this is also be a true plate flaw.

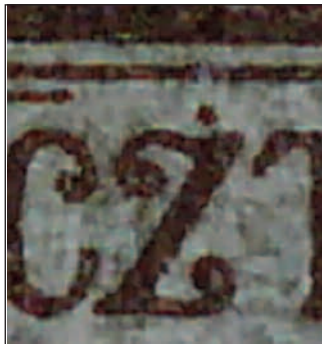


Figure 30
Dot appearing over the “Z” in POCZTA.”

Figure 30 shows a dot over the “Z” of POCZTA. While I have not seen a repeat of this flaw, I have evidence of similar dots over various letters which are repeatable, and therefore true plate flaws. Figure 31 also shows a dot, in this case over the “S” of POLSKA.

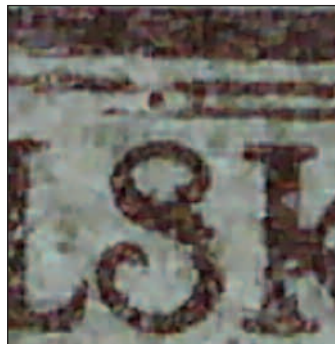


Figure 31
Dot in shading lines over the “S” in POLSKA.

As seen in the 1 grosz stamp, frame line breaks can occur from plate wear. Figure 32 shows such a break along with a defect in the “O” of POCZTA.

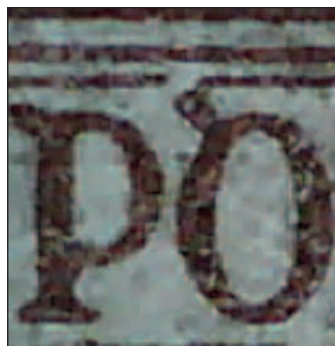


Figure 32
Break in shade line over “PO” of POCZTA and defect of the “O.”

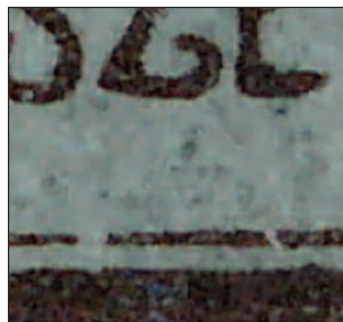


Figure 33
Left to right: Early and late breaks in the inner frame line under GROSZE. Note in the late state the completeness of the break, and a new break beginning under the letter “E.”

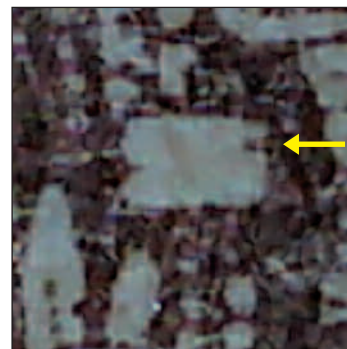
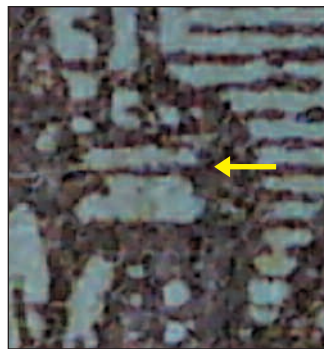


Figure 34
Horizontal line through the fascies box; normal to left, right nearly completely worn.

Another unreported frame line break occurs below the “SZ” of GROSZE; early and late states of these breaks are shown in Figure 33.

A fairly common result of plate wear is a diminished or completely missing horizontal line through the box on the fascies. This defect occurs in most denominations and is only shown here for the 2 grosze stamp as an example (Figure 34).



Figure 35
Wedge shaped break in the descender of the letter “P” of POCZTA.



Figure 36
Dot adjacent to the left numeral “3.”



Figure 37
Dot to left of “P” in POCZTA (left) and dot above inner frame line by “E” of GROSZE (right) on same stamp.

3 Grosze

The 3 grosze stamp has several reported plate flaws [2]. Following are new discoveries including a break in the letter “P” of POCZTA (Figure 35). Other discoveries are a number of dots appearing near letters or frame lines. These are:



Figure 38
Dot below right arm of the "T" in POCZTA (left) and, dot right of the "A" in POCZTA (right).



Figure 39
Dot above "P" of POLSKA (left image), and dot above the head serif of "L" (right image).

- Dot to the left of the left numeral "3" (Figure 36).
- Dot to left of "T" in POCZTA and dot above inner frame line by "E" of GROSZE on same stamp (Figure 37).
- Dot below right arm of the "T" in POCZTA and dot right of the "A" in POCZTA. I have several copies of the dot by the "T" verifying it as a true plate defect. Both these defects are shown in Figure 38.
- Dot above "P" of POLSKA (Figure 39).
- Dot above the head serif of "L" in POLSKA (also Figure 39).

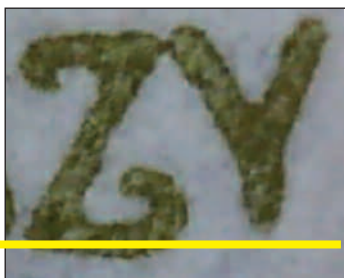
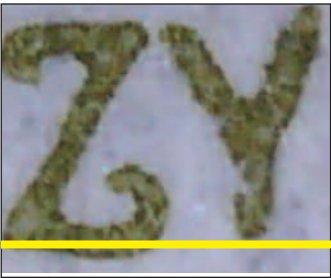


Figure 40
Normal (left) and (right) shortened tail of the "Y" of GROSZY.

5 Groszy

The most commonly reported plate flaw for the 5 groszy stamp is a shortened tail on the "Y" of GROSZY. Examples of the normal and shortened defect are shown in Figure 40. A previously unreported flaw is shown in Figure 41, a broken "G" of GROSZY. This stamp was one from the Colonel Larking collection remainder; however, he had not identified the flaw.

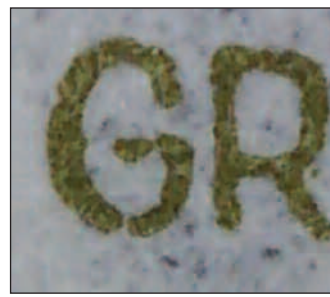


Figure 41
Broken base on the "G" of GROSZY (former Larking collection).

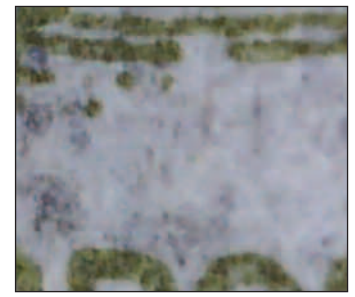


Figure 42
Break in frame lines over "RO" of GROSZY.

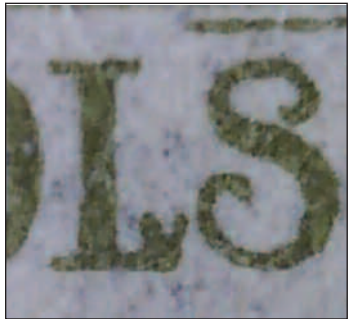
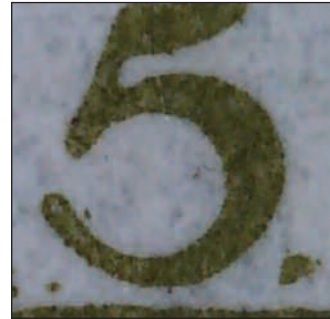


Figure 43
Dot to the right of the left numeral "5" (left image) and damaged foot serif on the "L" of POLSKA (right).

Breaks in frame lines above GROSZY have been reported for some denominations but not the 5 groszy stamp. Figure 42 shows this previously unreported flaw.

Other unreported flaws in the 5 groszy stamp are a dot to the right of the left numeral "5" (Figure 43) and damaged foot serif on the "L" of POLSKA (also Figure 43).

10 Groszy

The 10 groszy stamp has only one reported plate flaw, a hook on the left numeral "1" (Figure 44). Unreported flaws include a break in the left scroll ribbon. Early and late stages of this flaw are shown in Figure 45.

New discoveries are also shown in Figure 46. These

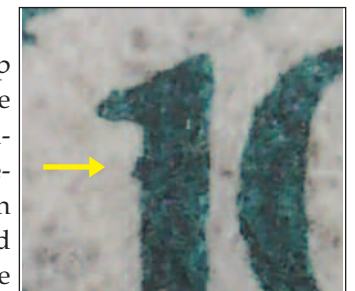


Figure 44
Hook flaw of the left numeral "1."

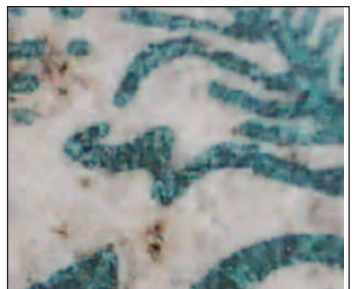


Figure 45
Left to right images: Early and late stage breaks in the left scroll ribbon.



Figure 46
Dot in the "G" of GROSZY (left) and broken "O" of POCZTA (right).

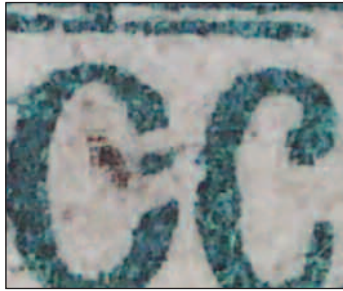


Figure 47
Plate scratch through "O" of GROSZY.



Figure 48
Multiple plate wear defects including a break over the "Z" of POCZTA, broken loop on the "Z" and broken left foot serif on the "T."



Figure 49
Worn head serif of "L" of POLSKA. Note the weakened top of the letter "O."

are a dot in the "G" of GROSZY and a clear break in the "O" of POCZTA. **Figure 47** shows a plate scratch through the "O" of GROSZY.

As seen in other denominations, breaks in frame lines also occur in the 10 groszy stamp. **Figure 48** shows a break in the inner frame line above the "Z" of POCZTA along with other plate wear defects; a broken loop on the "Z" and a broken left foot serif on the "T."

I have seen multiple examples of the broken left foot serif on the "T" but there is also a head serif defect in the "L" of POLSKA not previously reported (**Figure 49**).

A final unreported flaw for this denomination is in the word GROSZY. **Figure 50** shows a dot below the letter "O" and a clear break in the bottom bar of the letter "Z."

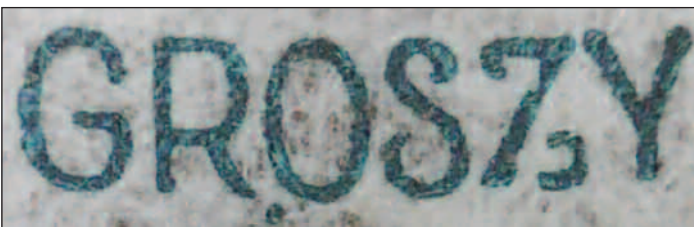


Figure 50
Previously unrecorded dot below "O" of GROSZY combined with a break in the "Z."

— To Be Continued —

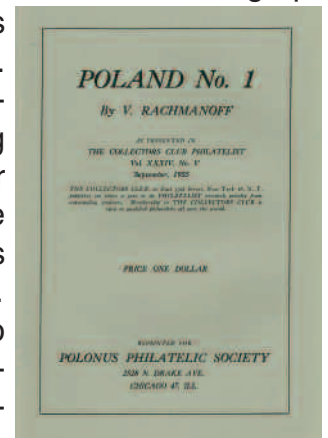
Part 3: Plate Flaws on the 15, 40 and 50 Groszy Stamps

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- [3] Negus, R., *Polish Definitive Issues 1920-1925*, European Philatelic Library, Kwiatkowski & Crimlisk, Edinburgh & Finley, Great Britain, 1959, pp. 7-20.
- [4] Fischer, Andrzej, *Katalog Polskich Znaków Pocztowych*, 2009, Tom 1, p. 66.

Poland No. 1 by V. Rachmanoff

This monograph is a 19-page reprint of the article as presented in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. XXXIV, No. V in September, 1955. At that time the price for this monograph was "One Dollar" (as noted on the cover). However, this monograph had been selling at stamp shows for \$7.50, reflecting the printing cost increases over the past 60 years. At \$5.00 we expect to sell out the limited supply remaining in our inventory.



This is a "must have" reference for anyone collecting Poland No. 1. Rachmanoff explains the decree that extended the autonomy in the Kingdom of Poland and led to the supervision and direction of postal services in 1858 and the eventual issuance of Poland No. 1 on January 1, 1860. The monograph covers the design, the printing materials, the printing process, the variations, the usage on cover, the withdrawal and demonetization and the cancellations. Included are lists of numerical cancellers used by postal establishments in the Kingdom of Poland.

See page 26 for purchase information.

A Second Woldenberg Project Depicting Roman Dmowski

by Roman Sobus

Seven decades have now passed since the POW-operated postal service in the Woldenberg prisoner of war camp ceased to function. It was also the time that members of the Postal Commission of Oflag IIC, members of the Philatelic Circle who volunteered in the posts' operation, as well as approximately 7,000 Polish officers interned there, stepped outside the camp gates for the first time in almost five years as free men.

In the middle of winter, they carried with them meager possessions accumulated during their time inside the wire. Among those prized possessions were protocols of the camp post, various projects and essays, and the stamps and cards produced there.

When I first became interested in collecting this material some 20 years ago, I assumed that it would be a rather easy segment of my philatelic collecting interest to complete and then I would move on to something else. How wrong I was! Here I am today, still documenting a new item which thus far does not appear in any literature.

In the March 2013 issue (*Bulletin* #550); I presented a stamp project depicting the likeness of Roman Dmowski. At that time, I assumed that only a single proposal was submitted. However, a different project by another artist having similar features recently came to light. It now appears that at least two, and perhaps more, projects bearing the likeness of Dmowski were submitted and subsequently rejected by the Camp Post Commission, considered perhaps too controversial a topic.

The design elements in both projects are similar. The letters R and D, the text - "POCZTA / OB-OF-IIC" and floral elements on either side of the text appear in both. This new "discovery" (see figure) is undated but is signed by engraver Lt. Zygmunt Pazda. The design image is 27 x 46 mm and is roughly centered on a 67.5 x 104 mm piece of thin, yellowish paper. Interestingly, neither project had a place for a denomination value.

Pazda's artistic style is rather unique and the work bears engraving similarities to his other works. Polish Philatelic Union (PZF)



Expert Lesław Schmutz examined this piece and issued an opinion in 2009, suggesting it had been prepared in 1944 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Dmowski's birth. I suggested in my original article that the date was most likely 1943 for the Little Versailles Treaty signing, based on another project on the reverse of the first.

Certainly different projects were prepared for a variety of occasions but were never issued as stamps. I would appreciate hearing from our readers regarding any new items as you come across them. I can be reached via email at roman.sobus@gmail.com.

Endnote: Roman Dmowski was a controversial personality and considered by many to be the prototype of Polish right-wing nationalism. Throughout most of his life, he was the chief opponent of the Polish military and political leader Józef Piłsudski. Dmowski opposed revolutionary methods of establishing an independent Poland and favored an autonomist solution within the Russian Empire vs. national aspirations. Ideologically, Dmowski favored an ethnically and religiously homogeneous state, whereas Piłsudski believed in a wide definition of Polish citizenship in which peoples of different languages, cultures and faiths were to be united by a common loyalty to the reborn Polish state.

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By Robin Gates Elliott

The subject of my previous column (*Polonus Bulletin* #558) was the Philatelic Union Catalog (PUC) and how to use it to search the American Philatelic Research Library's (APRL) holdings on Polish philately. In this column I will explain how to use the PUC to narrow and customize literature searches.

Getting Started: The Philatelic Union Catalog has its own website address: www.catalog.stamplib.org

Filling in the Blanks (in reverse order): This section of my previous column contained errors that may have made it difficult, if not impossible, for readers to follow the subsequent instructions. Therefore, I am beginning this column by repeating the information.

1. **Library Code:** The bottom entry is a drop-down box which lists the library codes for all of the libraries whose holdings are included in the Philatelic Union Catalog. To search the holdings of a specific library, click on the code for that library. For example, to search the holdings of the APRL, select the code "APRL." To search the holdings of all of the libraries simultaneously, click on the entry "All Libraries and Indexes." A key to the codes is located in the column on the right-hand side of the page.

2. **Record Type:** The middle blank specifies "Record Type." "Record Type" is library terminology for type of publication, such as book, journal, article or exhibit. For a complete list of the record types recognized by the PUC, click on the entry "about record types" located in parenthesis after the heading "Record Type." Please note:

a. Not all libraries use all of the record types listed. Check the list for the record types used by the APRL.

b. Be careful to spell the record type exactly as it is listed: "catalog," not "catalogue."

3. **Any Word(s):** the top blank. For the purposes here, "Any Word" can be a subject heading (broad or narrow), a Library of Congress classification number or an author's name. For additional information, click on the entry "search help," located in parentheses after the heading "Any Word (s)."

Searching by Subject – Adding Terms: In my previous column I explained how to search the APRL holdings by using various types of entries in the "Any Word" blank. It is possible to narrow and customize a search by subject by adding terms (additional subject headings) in the "Any Word" blank.

1. For instructions on adding terms, click on the phrase "search help," which follows the "Any Word(s)" blank. Then select the entry "narrowing a search."

2. Try the following subjects in the "Any Word" blank: "Poland & Philately," "Poland & Postal History." Be sure to follow the format and use the "&" sign. Then select "APRL" for "Library Code" and hit the "Submit Query" entry.

3. Experiment with other combinations. Some will work better than others. Remember: the more terms added, the more limited the search. This may be an asset or a liability.

Record Types: Filling in the "Record Type" blank (the middle blank) is another way to narrow and customize literature searches. For example:

Book: To limit a literature search to books:

1. In the space labeled "Any Word(s)," type in "Poland." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

2. In the space labeled "Record Type," type in "Book." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

3. For "Library Code," select "APRL."

4. Hit the "Submit Query" entry.

5. Experiment with other literature searches limited to books by using other subject headings (or combinations of subject headings) in the "Any Word(s)" blank, such as "Polish," "Poland & Philately," "Poland & Postal History."

Journal: For a list of journals in the APRL on Polish philately:

1. In the space labeled "Any Word(s)," type in "Poland." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

2. In the space labeled "Record Type," type in "Journal." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

3. For "Library Code," select "APRL."

4. Hit the "Submit Query" entry.

5. For additional information about any journal listed, such as the specific issues in the APRL, click on the phrase "full display," located under the title.

Article: Searching for articles on Poland in the APRL is a two-step procedure. Entries for articles in the PUC give the bibliographical information necessary to locate the article but do not list the libraries which have the article.

First:

1. In the space labeled "Any Word," type in a subject heading, such as "Poland," "Poland & Philately" or "Poland & Postal History." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

2. In the space labeled "Record Type," type in "Article." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

3. For "Library Code," select "All Libraries and Indexes," since articles are not listed by individual libraries.

4. Hit the "Submit Query" entry. Note: although the literature search for articles using the subject heading "Poland" produces a list of hundreds of entries, it does not contain all of the relevant articles in all of the journals in all

of the libraries that participate in the PUC. The indexing of journals is a time-consuming procedure carried out by volunteers, and, as such, is a work in progress.

Then: To determine whether the APRL has a specific article:

1. For complete bibliographical information on an article, click on the phrase "full display," located under the article entry. This will list the issue of the journal in which the article appears.

2. Return to the PUC Home Page.

3. In the space labeled "Any Word(s)," type in the name of the journal in which the article appears. Then hit the "AND" prompt.

4. In the space labeled "Record Type," type in "Journal." Then hit the "AND" prompt.

5. For "Library Code," select APRL.

6. Hit the "Submit Query" entry. This will determine whether the APRL has the journal which published the article.

7. If the APRL has the journal, click on the phrase "full display" located under the journal title. This lists the issues of the journal which the APRL has.

Advanced Search: In addition to the Basic Search, the PUC also provides an "Advanced Search" option. Advanced Search is another way to narrow and customize a literature search, since it provides additional blanks to fill in. To switch to "Advanced Search," click on the phrase "Switch to advanced search" located at the top of the column on the right-hand side of the page. "Advanced Search" provides blanks for author, title and publication date, so it can be used to search for a specific item. It also includes a language specification. So, for a list of books on Poland in Polish in the APRL:

1. In the "Record Type" blank, type in "Book."
2. In the "Subject" blank, type in "Poland."
3. In the "Language" blank, type in "Polish."
4. For "Library Code," select "APRL."
5. Hit the "Submit Query" entry.

Again, I suggest readers work through these instructions on their computers to become familiar with literature on Polish philately in the APRL and use of the PUC as a research tool.

Library Challenge to Membership

by Bob Ogrodnik

It has been three years since the Polonus Board unanimously approved the consolidation of Polonus library materials with the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). See **Bulletin #552** for details. Since then we have completed the move of materials from Clearwater, Florida

to Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, appointed Robin Elliott Library Liaison and initiated a column in our **Bulletin** titled, "From the Library Liaison," in which Robin has provided "cookbook recipes" for using the APRL and Philatelic Union Catalog (PUC) websites. The questions we are still left with are:

- How many members have tried using the APRL/PUC websites to locate materials?

- How many members have used the APRL/PUC websites to order materials?

- How many members conduct philatelic research?

- What value does the APRL library and Polonus library program provide members?

In order to encourage a response to these questions, we are offering limited edition philatelic folios issued by the Polish Post to the members who meet the following challenges:

1. "Test ride" the APRL/PUC websites, following Robin's instructions found in this and the March **Bulletin** issues and write a brief article explaining your experience.

2. Using the APRL/PUC websites and following Robin's instructions, actually order library material (book or journal) and write a brief article explaining your experience.

The first members to respond and meet the challenges described above will receive a "Freedom Day" philatelic folio that includes the Święto Wolności stamp issued May 28, 2014, and the accompanying first day cover. The folio cover is pictured above. In addition, the winning articles will be included in a future **Polonus Bulletin**.



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
Bob Ogrodnik at
krpsl@earthlink.net**



Polonus Philatelic Society News



Countdown to APS StampShow 2015

by Bob Ogrodnik

As I write this article, we have precisely four months to go until we meet in Grand Rapids, Michigan for our 13th Annual Meeting & Exhibition. The APS StampShow 2015 will be held at the DeVos Place Convention Center, 303 Monroe Avenue NW in Grand Rapids, near the recommended hotel (the Amway Grand Hotel), on 20-23 August 2015. Following is a checklist of important items if you are planning to attend and /or exhibit.

1. Members attending this show will receive a "Welcome Packet" but you must let me know if you are planning to attend. This packet will contain your nametag, list of members attending and exhibiting, final agenda details, room number and password for Hospitality Suite, etc. If you have not already done so, send me an email (krpsl@earthlink.net) or give me a call (314-821-6130) to let me know.

2. If you plan to attend and need a hotel, the Amway Grand Hotel is recommended. Located at 187 Monroe Avenue NW in Grand Rapids, it is very near the show. Special room rates for the APS block are \$124 a night plus tax. For reservations call 800-253-3590 or 616-774-2000 and state you are with the American Philatelic Society Conference. Block cut-off is July 27, 2015.

3. As of this writing 116 dealers have reserved booth space at the show. To plan your "hunt" review the list of dealers found on the APS website, www.stamps.org/SS-Dealers

4. Deadline for exhibitor entries was May 1. Based upon responses from Polonus exhibitors, we expect approximately 50 frames plus entry in the World Series competition by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński, the Grand Award Winner at CHICAGOPEX 2014.

5. Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 22 at 10:30 am. Location of this meeting and related details will be available in the "Welcome Packet."

6. Schedules, locations and related details regarding Polonus Board and Committee Meetings will be communicated to the appropriate members by email and will be included in the "Welcome Packet."

7. A "dutch-treat" dinner for members is planned for Friday, August 21. Location, time and related details will be communicated to members who let me know they plan to attend the show.

8. Volunteers for the show are still needed. Please contact me if you are willing to help with a) staffing the Society Table; b) hosting at the Hospitality Suite; c) tending the Polonus Store.

Grand Rapids is a pleasant destination in late August, approaching the beginning of autumn with plenty to do besides the APS StampShow. One venue you may look into is the "Discovery of King Tut," featured at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Once again, please let me know if you are planning to attend and I shall look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids.

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the 11 new members and one returning member to our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

1668 **Darryl Templer**, PO box 2911, La Jolla CA 92036

1782 **George J. Andrzejewski**, 3 Rosewood Drive, New City NY 10956

1783 **Kim Chojnowski**

1784 **Michael Kwiatkowski**

1785 **Alfred A. Carroccia**, 152 Windmill Road, West Seneca NY 14218

1786 **Raymond Klimuszka**, 105 Bonbrook Road, Wirtz VA 24184

1787 **Robert J. Szczudło**, 6473 Robbins Road, Portage IN 46368

1788 **Bruno Walenciak**, 5337 SW 120th Avenue, Cooper City FL 33330-4260

1789 **Ean HD Royan**, 47 Priory Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9DA England

1790 **James Durlak**

1791 **Bob Brandt**, 17436 Berwick Tpk, Gillett PA 16925

1792 **John Stasik**, 5035 Trowbridge Street, Hamtramck MI 48212

Invite a friend

to enjoy the fellowship and exchange of information about your hobby.

Give a gift membership to The Polonus Society.

See Page 2 for membership information.

Mazepa to put his 'John Hancock' on *The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists*

Taken from a Press Release of March 17, 2015

James P. Mazepa, FRPSL, was one of four people unanimously elected to sign "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists." The decision was made at a recent meeting of the board of The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The Signing Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2015 in Temple Newsam House, a Tudor-Jacobean house with grounds landscaped by Capability Brown, in Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

Dr. James Peter Mazepa is one of the most highly respected philatelists in the United States. He resides in Sarasota, Florida, and his own collections cover such diverse subjects as the first issues of Mexico and Poland, both extremely difficult to master. He has received high awards and recognition for both these subjects, and he is also known for his studies in the pre-stamp markings of Guatemala and in modern American postal history.



Perhaps the greatest contribution to philately lies in his organizational work. His presidency of FIAF (Federación Inter-Americana de Filatelia) between 2008 and 2014 was outstanding and the numerous high offices he has filled have been carried out with equal care and proficiency. He is an FIP judge and Team Leader and received the Luff Award in 2010 for exceptional contribution to philately.

Jim is the Chairman of the Board for Polonus, a mentor to exhibitors, a member of the Publication Committee and a regular contributor of a column (Gems of Polish Philately). Congratulations to Jim for achieving this highest of philatelic honors.

"The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" (RDP) was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain with the approval of His Majesty King George V, who was the first secretary. An invitation to sign "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" is regarded as the world's pre-eminent honor.

Not including the newly elected RDPs, 368 philatelists from 41 countries have achieved this distinction. At present there are 79 signatories from 27 countries including 17 from the United Kingdom, 10 from the USA and the remainder distributed among 25 countries.

Jim Mazepa is the second Polonus member to sign "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists." Mirosław Bojanowicz was afforded the honor in 1966 (see Bulletin #250 pg. 6).

Polonus Exhibitors Continue to Excel

Paul Phillips reports that he is back on the "exhibitor circuit" and received vermeil medals for his multi-frame exhibits, *The Coronation Year of King George V* and *The War Contribution Taxes of Croatia 1944-1945*, at SANDICAL 2015 in San Diego in January. He also received a gold medal at the SPRING STAMPEX in London in February for his exhibit, *Evolution of British Overseas Mail, 1840-56*.

Ed Andrews had outstanding results with his exhibit *Hitler Youth – The Generations of Lost Innocence*. He was awarded a gold medal at ARIPEX 2015 in Mesa, Arizona in February and at TEXPEX 2015 in Grapevine, Texas this past March. At the SAINT LOUIS STAMP EXPO 2015 in St. Louis in March, Ed received the Reserve Grand and Display Champion awards in addition to a gold medal. He was also recognized by the German Philatelic Society, receiving that society's grand and special prize awards, and by the Ephemera Society, receiving a certificate, and by the Military Postal History Society.

Andrew Urushima received gold medals at SANDICAL 2015 for his one-frame exhibit, *Spoiled by War, The Games of the XIIth Olympiad* and at ARIPEX 2015 for his one-frame *The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics*. He also received the American Topical Association award at SANDICAL 2015.

Jim Mazepa received a vermeil medal at ARIPEX 2015 for his multi-frame exhibit, *The United States Overrun Countries Series*.

Other Polonus exhibitors at SAINT LOUIS EXPO 2015 this past March received the following medals:

- Gerard Menge, gold medal, *Generalgouvernement Protectorate: Regularly Printed Definitive Issues, 1940-1944*;
- Marcus Meyerotto, vermeil medal, *Hyperinflation Germany – November 1925*;
- Terry Kurzinski, vermeil medal, *Louisiana Purchase Exposition*. Terry also received the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) Gold Medal and Novice Award.

• Al Kugel, silver medal, *Commemorative and Semi-Postal Issues of the Third Reich 1939-1945*, and a vermeil medal for his one-frame, *Mail of the Congress of Versailles 1919*.

You will note from the above that Polonus members collect and/or exhibit more than just stamps of Poland. This reflects the unique philatelic pleasures provided by exhibiting. We congratulate all for the accomplishments listed above.

2014 Polonus Donors

Polonus Philatelic Society gratefully acknowledges the following members who have generously made a donation during the past year. A letter acknowledging the tax-deductible gift has been sent to each donor.

Patrons

Ambridge, Trevor
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Wierzbowski, Frank
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Wzacny, Christopher
Zaremba, Chester
Zarko, Stephen

Polonus Participating in 'Best Article' Competition

by Bob Ogrodnik

In **Bulletin # 558**, we announced that Polonus is participating in the APS Articles of Distinction program by hosting an annual "Best Article" competition. The following are the details and rules for this competition:

1. The annual "Best Article" will be selected from feature articles in the March, June, September and December **Bulletins**. Columns, Society News and New Issues are not eligible for consideration in this competition.
2. Polonus membership will determine the annual "Best Article" by casting a ballot to be included in the December issue. The ballot will include all feature articles for consideration in this competition.
3. The winning article will be announced in the March issue following the contested year and the winning author will receive the annual "Best Article" award at the Annual Membership Meeting & Exhibition.
4. The winning article will also be submitted to the American Philatelic Society, Articles of Distinction. APS will post the article to the "Articles of Distinction" archive, located on the APS website, and provide a certificate of achievement to the author.

The purpose of the "Articles of Distinction" program is to encourage philatelic writing and to provide an archive area in which winning articles can be shared by APS affiliates and clubs.



A rectangular sign with a colorful, multi-colored border. The word "Welcome" is written in a large, bold, black serif font on a light-colored background.

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 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 (3/4" size).

Item 6 – Polonus Anniversary Shot Glass..... \$10.00

Perfect for toasting with Żubrówka. Supply limited and available on "first come – first served" basis.

Item 7 – POLPEX 1990 Souvenir Sheets (2)..... \$3.00

Two imperf sheets with descriptive folder honoring the 10th anniversary of Solidarność. See article on page 13.

Item 8 – Special Polonus Anniversary "Favor" \$5.00

A limited number prepared for the CHICAGOPEX 2014 Awards Banquet. This attractive "favor" houses a MNH Canonization of Pope John Paul II souvenir sheet in protected sleeve. See article on page 15.

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. See article on page 19.

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 krpsl@earthlink.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.

New Issues



450th Anniversary of William Shakespeare

This 4.20 zł stamp appears to portray a thespian caricature from the Shakespearian play "As You Like It" in shades of gray, light green and yellow.

Date	November 21, 2014
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak
Size	27 x 54 mm



600 Years Turkish-Polish Diplomatic Relations

This large 5.0 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet depicts Polish diplomats traveling to visit the Turkish head of state and Turkish diplomats reciprocating. The diplomats are wearing historical dress attire. The background of the stamp is colored a light yellow-green. In 1415 the ruler of the Byzantine Empire was Mehmet I Chelebi, while Poland was ruled by Wladyslaw II Jagiello, the longest-reigning king of Poland. He appears on a 1964 Polish stamp with his wife, Queen Jadwiga, to honor the founding of the Jagiellonian University

Date	November 28, 2014
Sheet Format	Single in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk
Size: stamp	39.5 x 31.25 mm
Size: sheet	90 x 70 mm



World Youth Day

The larger 1.75 zł stamp shows children circled around a symbolic host and viewed from overhead in dark olive and blue colors; the smaller 5.0 zł stamp portrays the market square in Kraków in lighter olive and gray colors. World Youth Day is an event for young people in the Roman Catholic Church initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985. Since 2002, the event has been held every three years at different venues around the world. At the last World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, Pope Francis announced that Kraków will be the venue for the 2016 event. Youth from many different countries will come together, proclaiming their own themes of Catholicism, singing national songs and trading flags, shirts, crosses and other Catholic icons. A theme of unity and acceptance between different cultures is expressed. On the last day of the event, the pope traditionally appears for a final mass. In 2013 an estimated 3.7 million people participated in World Youth Day.

Date	December 19, 2014
Sheet Format	Two stamps in panes of 12 and 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz
Size	1.75 zł - 40 x 40 mm 5 zł - 45 x 22.5 mm

23rd Final of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity

Another in a series of stamps, this colorful 2.35 zł stamp honors the major annual Polish charity event. The stamp design shows a heart that encloses numerous colorful swirling lines, with snowflakes in the bluish sheet margin. A very festive official first day cover shows colorful toy pin-wheels. Founded in 1993, this national charity event takes

What's the most interesting item
in your collection?

Write about it in the Polonus Bulletin!



place on the first or second Sunday of every new year. Volunteers collect money in tin cans labeled with a red heart and give a small paper red heart to donors. Numerous different events and parties are held, the largest being at the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. Fireworks are set off in the evening at many locations throughout Poland. In 2014 more than \$17 million

was raised with primary objectives of treating children in pediatric and oncology wards and helping with the treatment of the elderly.

Date	January 7, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designers	Magdalena Jabłońska, Katarzyna Sasin, Gawel Andrzejewski and Jerzy Owskiak

I Love You ("Kocham Cię")

This 2.35 zł stamp shows a bright red heart on a white background, issued in time for St. Valentine's Day mailings. The stamp's perforations are around the heart within the stamp design.



Date	February 6, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

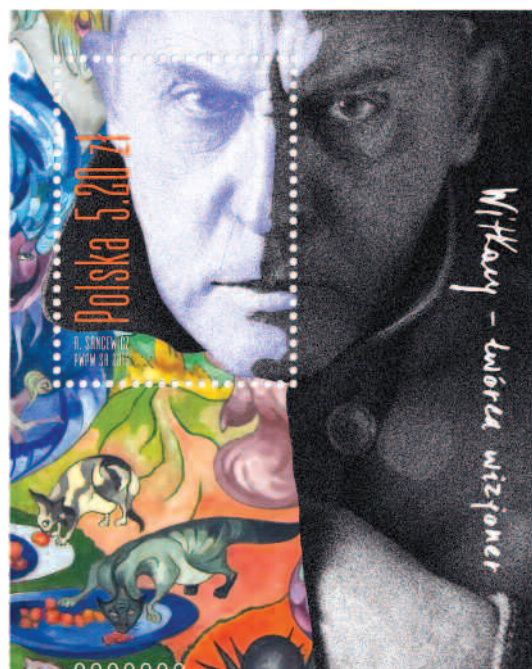
150th Anniversary of Birth of Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer

This 1.75 zł stamp portrays Polish poet, novelist, playwright, journalist and writer Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary. Born on February 12, 1865, at Ludźmierz in Podhale near the Tatra Mountains, he was educated at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. He wrote seven collections of poetry before World War I and is especially well known for his works relating to the Tatra



Mountains, on the subject of love in frank and provocative terms. He served as president of the Warsaw Society of Writers and Journalist, and in 1934 was made honorary member of the Polish Academy of Literature. Later in life he suffered from a mental illness, and when evicted from a hospice in Warsaw in 1940 by the Nazis, he became homeless and died shortly thereafter.

Date	February 12, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak
Size	31.25 x 55 mm



Witkacy – Creator, Visionary

This 5.20 zł stamp celebrates the 130th birth anniversary of Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, commonly known as Witkacy, the famous Polish writer, philosopher, playwright, novelist and photographer, born on February 24, 1885, in Warsaw. Home schooled by his parents, he pursued a wide array of artistic interests. As a writer and novelist, his books included *Insatiability* and *Farewell to Autumn*. He employed the use of drugs in his artistry. Following the Soviet invasion of Poland, he committed suicide in Velyki Oзера, Ukraine (previously known as Jezioro, Poland) on September 18, 1939. The stamp shows a photograph of him together with colorful cats.

Date	February 24, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in numbered souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz