



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



For a Wonderful Holiday Season

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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 Polish Philatelic Society, PO Box PO Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510

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

Ed Andrews
afacinc@yahoo.com



Bylaws Change

At the October 25, 2017 board of directors telecon a change to the bylaws was approved for consideration by the membership. Recall that about a year ago we added the word "Polish" to the official name of the society, but in order to make that change in our corporate registration with the state of Illinois we need membership approval.

The change affects Article 1 of the bylaws, which will be amended to read as follows, the change being bold italicized:

"The organization shall be known as the Polonus ***Polish*** Philatelic Society, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a Non-Profit Corporation."

Per Article 9, Section 2 of the bylaws, a vote of the membership will be taken at the next annual meeting. The meeting will be at the St. Louis Stamp Expo, on Saturday March 17, 2018. The show is set from March 16-18 at the Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63134. The exact time and room location for the annual meeting of members will be available at a later date.

Holiday Greetings

I extend warm wishes to all our members from myself and our board, for a joyous holiday season and hopes for peace in the New Year. *Wesołych Świąt*.

Secretary Opening

Unfortunately Andrew Urushima has found it necessary to step away from his position as secretary and board member. We are temporarily filling the secretary position but welcome interest from any member to fill this important slot.

Website, Polonus Store and Expertizing Updates

Many improvements to the website have been made over the last several months by Hank Bieniecki and his web consultants, including adding the Polonus Store offerings. In addition, Hank has revamped the expertizing service.

New Polonus Store Annex on eBay

In addition to now having the Polonus Store offerings on our website, we decided to try to reach a wider global audience and so have established a store annex on eBay. Since opening the site in August we have had steady sales and have even garnered one new member as we send an application form with each purchase. The site can be found by using the seller name "polonusstoreannex-0" (note the double ss in the name).

This new eBay presence offers both POLPEX mate-

rial as well as a large range of worldwide philatelic material that has been donated to the society. Many lots offer free shipping to encourage purchases, so please take a look. If you have any philatelic material you would like to donate to the society please contact me at my email address above. We welcome any and all donations of sellable material.

Preparation for St. Louis

Bob Ogrodnik, Ray Pietruszka and Regis Hoffman are beginning preparations for our next gathering of Polonus members at the St. Louis Stamp Expo. Our local representative is Polonus Bob because he lives in the area. Those of you who are exhibitors are also encouraged to submit an exhibit. Regis is coordinating this effort and will be sending emails to all our known exhibitors. Later in this issue of the Bulletin, Regis has an article on exhibiting and under Society News there are more details regarding the St. Louis show.

Kościuszko Bicentennial Event in Chicago

We thank Immediate Past President Bob Ogrodnik and member Adam Giegel for coordinated our presence at the event. Read more details under Society News.

Making Polonus Better

In the last several issues I asked for volunteers to help fill a number of positions. While several have been filled we still have many open positions where even minimal assistance can help us improve our operations and services. If you would like to help but are not sure what to consider, please send me an email so we can openly discuss opportunities to fit your needs.

Please Continue to Let us Know your Needs

We are only as good as our ability to service the needs of the membership. We need to hear from you if we are not providing an activity, service or resource that you believe would help you and other members. Feel free to contact me at any time using the email address above.

Many thanks for your continued support and interest in Polonus and Polish philately.

Moving?

Please send address changes to:
Polonus Polish Philatelic Society,
PO Box 2212, Benicia CA 95410

A Mystery Lurking Behind a Fieldpost Card Sent from Wilno *Rzepicha* Finally Unraveled

by Raimundas Marius Lapas

One of the prize gems in my Polish fieldpost collection of the Wilno region is a postcard sent from the armored train (Polish: *pociąg pancerny*) *Rzepicha* (Figures 1a and 1b). It

like? How long was it in operation? No one really knew. I thought my good friend Professor Julian Auleytner, residing in Warszawa, would come to my rescue. Alas, in his

email of November 10, 2014, Julian briefly replied:

Polish armored train *Rzepicha* according the Polish historical sources has been created from Germany train used during the Great Poland Uprising in 1919. You have my scan from that train from Posen 1919. The team of that train has been moved from Posen to Vilnius probably on the end of 1919.

A digital version of his card from Poznań was included (Figure 2).

That's was fine and good, but what next? Two days later I got a follow-up from Julian:

There is no more info about



Figure 1a

sports an excised Wilno postal date cancellation and a two-line cachet of the train unit in green. The postcard was sent to Panna H. Plucińska. The recipient lived in the town of Września near Poznań on the Street of the Holy Spirit (*ulica świętego Ducha*) with a very bleak text: *Zasylam Ci moje najserdeczniejsze pozdrowienia z Wilna. Tutaj bieda aż strach.* ("Am sending you my warmest greetings from Wilno. Here fear grows").

But what is the story behind this armored train? What did it look



Figure 1b



Figure 2

that train. Rzepicha armored train has been sent to Vilnius after Great Poland operation. It means it could come to Vilnius in January 1920 and on the 6.th Febr. 1920 was connected with the another armored train Goplana taking new number 17, given for Polish armored trains.

However, I was not going to give up so easily. After all, there is more than one way to skin a cat! I shelved this topic for another day.

Earlier this year, merely by chance, I discovered an excellent Polish-language website about armored trains: www.derela.republika.pl. Its webmaster, Michał Derela, wrote me a short email:

Thank you for nice words, although my site has not been updated for a long time. Unfortunately, Rzepicha is one of more mysterious trains, and I don't even recall any photo. I'll try to consult a friend about the postcard.

Within a matter of a few days his friend Krzysztof Margasiński answered. The end of my beginning? His response seemed promising. I learned that along with Józef Jurczyk, Chris authored a fascinating book, *Dziennik pociągu pancernego "Hallerczyk."* (Częstochowa: Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Czechowic-Dziedzic, 2010). He warned me that this would not be an easy task to accomplish.

On March 21, 2017, he emailed me a skimpy five-liner bio about the legendary wife of Piast - Rzepicha - from Wikipedia. I thanked my new correspondent but told him that "that won't cut it." "Chris, its not the broad I'm after - its the train!!!" On April 1, he wrote that he was in the process of getting everything ready. Ha! I'm not about to fall for an April Fool's joke! But it was no prank. On April 30, I received all the desired information about this train as well as several historic photos of Rzepicha from his personal col-

lection.

A face behind a name

Rzepicha (also Rzepka) was the wife of the semi-legendary Piast the Wheelwright (founder of the Piast dynasty) and the mother of Siemowit. She is mentioned twice in Gallus Anonymus' chronicle *Cronica et gesta ducum sive principum Polonorum*, (English: Deeds of the Princes of the Poles) The chronicle was probably completed between 1112 and 1118. This book is one of the earliest written documents on the history of Poland, but also gives a unique Eastern European perspective on

the general history of Europe, supplementing what has been handed down by western and southern European historians.

According to Gallus Anonymus, Rzepicha lived in the 9th century. Her ancestors are unknown. According to legend described in this chronicle, she owned a house with Piast and hospitably entertained two guests who came to celebrate their son's first haircut.

Aaalll aaabbbboooooaaarrrddd!

During the spring of 1919 in Poznań, the old *Rynarzewo* (formerly known as the *Pz. Zug. 2* and possibly built by Germans in Latvia on February 17 of that year) was refurbished into a new armored train named Rzepicha. Wagon repairs and modifications were executed by the military workshops. The final work was completed on May 29, 1919, with two armored trains of *Wielkopolska* (English: "Greater Poland") named Rzepicha and Danuta. The dedication of the armored train took place in Poznań on May 30 in the presence of General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki.

Rzepicha was assigned to the Armoured Train Squadron of the Wielkopolska Army. Together with Danuta, Rzepicha participated in the battle at Duwka, repelling German troops in June. Until the end of 1919, the train was stationed in Gniezno, later in Poznań. In September 1919, three units were in the line of the Wielkopolska Front (WF): No. 9 Danuta, No. 17 Rzepicha and Goplana. At the end of the year Rzepicha and Goplana were assigned to the II Wielkopolska Division of Armored Trains.

The train soon appeared on the Lithuanian-Belarusian Front near Bobrujsk. For about three months both squadrons supported Wielkopolska Group General Daniel

Konarzewski. After the unification of the Wielkopolska Army with the Polish Army on February 6, 1920, the NDWP (*Naczelne Dowództwo Wojska Polskiego*, Supreme Command of the Polish Army) ordered *Goplana* and *Rzepicha* combined into one unit, which was registered by the SKP (*Szefostwo Kolejnictwa Polowego*, Head of Field Railway) No. 17 and simply renamed *Rzepicha*. In connection with the NDWP order in March 1920 to close four battle stations, No. 17 was sent to the KBPP (*Kierownictwo Budowy Pociągów Pancernych*, Management of Armoured Trains Construction) workshops in Warszawa. Here on May 5, 1920, *Rzepicha* was totally decommissioned. The remaining 41 men were sent to Kalenkowicz as a supplemental crew to service P. P. No. 7 *General Rydz-Smigly*.

Faced with the loss of a considerable number of armored trains on the front in July 1920, No. 17 *Rzepicha* was refurbished and assigned a different registry number as well as a new name – No. 24 *General Konarzewski*. It was used only temporarily and by the end of August 1920, No. 24 was demolished.

Armored train No. 17 *Rzepicha* was headed by Commander Lieutenant Franciszek Tuchołka and Lieutenant Józef Kostro. It was created from a Prussian steam locomotive with a biaxial wooden construction T 9 - 7278 wagon. Its weapons included two Russian mountain guns (76.2 mm

wz.1909), two German mortars (7.58 cm leichter Minenwerfer (IMW) n.A.wz. 1916), a German revolver (caliber 3.7 mm) and nine machine guns.

Polonus Annual Meeting / Exhibition Schedule

Polonus has made arrangements with the organizers of the following APS World Series of Philately shows to participate as a "convening" or "featured" society:

2018 - ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO

March 16 - 18

Renaissance Hotel

St. Louis, MO

www.stlouisstampexpo.org

2019 - CHICAGOPEX

November 22 - 24

Westin Chicago Northwest

Itasca, IL

www.chicagopex.org



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Buyer Beware: Part II

Misidentified 'Port Gdańsk' Overprinted Stamps of 1925-1938

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler



Figure 1a

A problem exists in that many "Port Gdańsk" (PG) overprinted stamps on eBay are either misidentified or counterfeit. This is also true for other internet sales and auction stamp sites [1]. To avoid this problem, buyers should try to examine the stamps as best as possible on the internet site and ask questions of the seller before making a purchase. Most sites have a return policy, as with eBay and the APS Stamp Store [2].

In a recent PG stamp purchase on eBay (**Figure 1a**), a set of Michel 1-11 (also identified as Scott 1K1-1K11 for the Offices Abroad for Poland), the dealer misidentified four of the stamps. These should have been Michel 4-7 but were actually Michel 14-17. It is interesting that the latter stamps have the same postal monetary values for the "correct" stamps which should have been Michel 4-7 (see **Figure 1b**) for the correctly identified Michel 1-11 P-G stamps.

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Contact Bob Ogrodnik (robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net) for ordering information





Figure 1b



Figures 2 and 3, above; figures 4 and 5, below.



This is not an isolated incident. Other misidentified stamps frequently appear, for example, Scott 1K12 compared to 1K15, and 1K13 compared to 1K16. Correct identification of these stamps is important, as values may vastly differ. Further inspection to determine if the stamp is genuine as claimed is in order for many issues.

In the case of Scott 1K12 and 1K15, the perforations are one of the distinguishing factors. Scott 1K12 (Figure 2) is perf $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, while Scott 1K15 (Figure 3) is perf $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$. In the case of Scott 1K13 (Figure 4), the "PORT" overprint does not touch the number "15," whereas Scott 1K16 (Figure 5) the "PORT"

overprint touches the number.

In summary, the careful examination of the PG stamps with the help of a good catalog and by comparison with genuine stamps is helpful to avoid purchasing misidentified stamps. When in doubt, the stamp should be expertized.

References

1. Stanley R. Sandler, "Buyer Beware: How to Preliminarily Identify Counterfeit and Genuine 'Port Gdańsk' Overprinted Stamps," *Bulletin of the Polonus Polish Philatelic Society*, No. 567, pp. 19-20, June 2017.
2. Wendy Masorti, "Buyers Ask: Why, and When...?, Answers Can Help Those Buying on StampStore," *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 131, No. 8, Whole No. 1,399, 782-784, August 2017.

What's the most interesting item in your collection?

Write about it in the Polonus Bulletin!

The Poland Flag of the United States Overrun Country Series

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP



(Ed. note: Part 3 of this series originally ran in the September 2017 Bulletin. Some of the text was omitted. Therefore, we are running the corrected version in its entirety. My apologies to Dr. Mazepa. vcp)

Part 3: First Day of Issue

The POLAND flag stamp of the Overrun Series was printed and issued with unusual speed. President Roosevelt proposed the idea for the Overrun Countries Series on October 22, 1942. The sample design was approved on March 21, 1943, and the public announcement of the series was

Chicago in addition to Washington as a first day city, a second announcement was sent on June 10 (**Figure 2**). These announcement cards and the May 11 public announcement are very collectible and can be found in dealer's stock from time to time.

A standard practice of the post office was to send publicity photos to newspapers to announce the issue of stamps. **Figure 3** is the post office publicity photo and memo sent to the *Chicago Sun Times*. These publicity photos themselves measure 2¾ x 1½ inches and with the border they are 3⅝ x 2⅝ inches. These should not be confused with the

photo essays described in Part 2. These photo essays are the approximate size of the issued stamps and are all rare.

The First Day Ceremony

The Polonus Philatelic Society put forth the idea to add Chicago as a first day city. The first day ceremony was to take place in the lobby of the Main Post Office Building. Presumably, Polonus was in charge of the ceremony and two of its members were listed in the

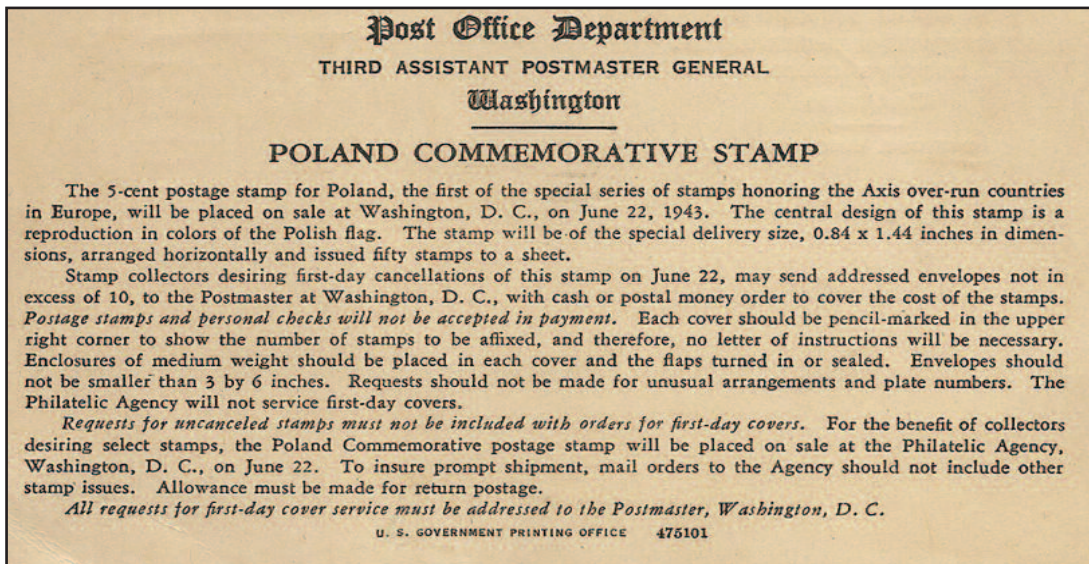


Figure 1

made on May 11, 1943. The American Bank Note Co. (ABNC) was awarded the contract on June 2, 1943, and had the first flag stamp, the Poland stamp, ready for a June 22 First Day release.

Following the usual procedures of the United States Post Office Department, announcement cards for the POLAND Flag stamp were sent to collectors. The first of these was sent May 25 (**Figure 1**). When the post office decided to add

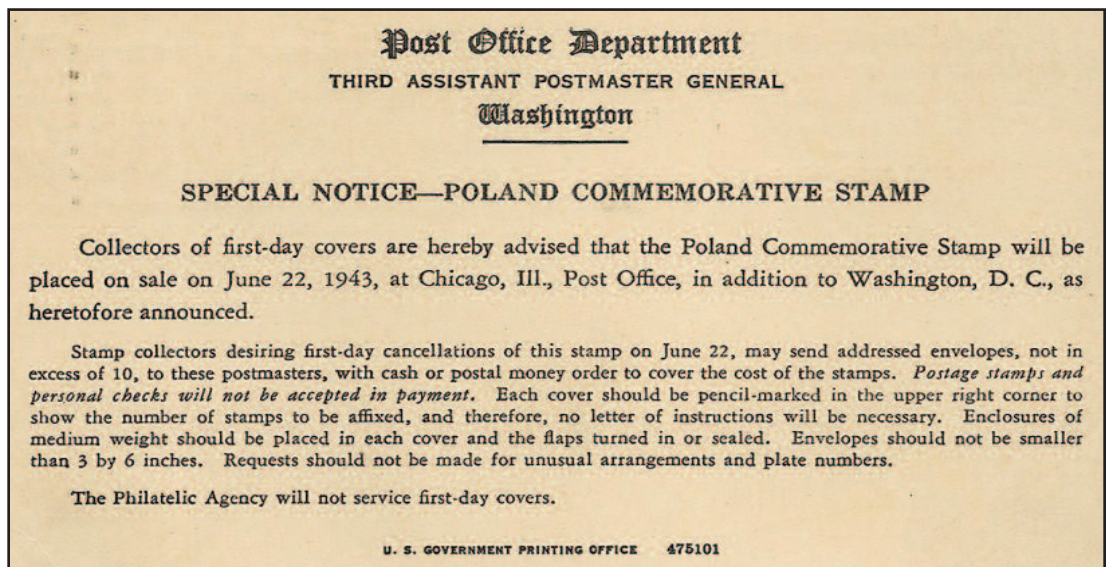


Figure 2

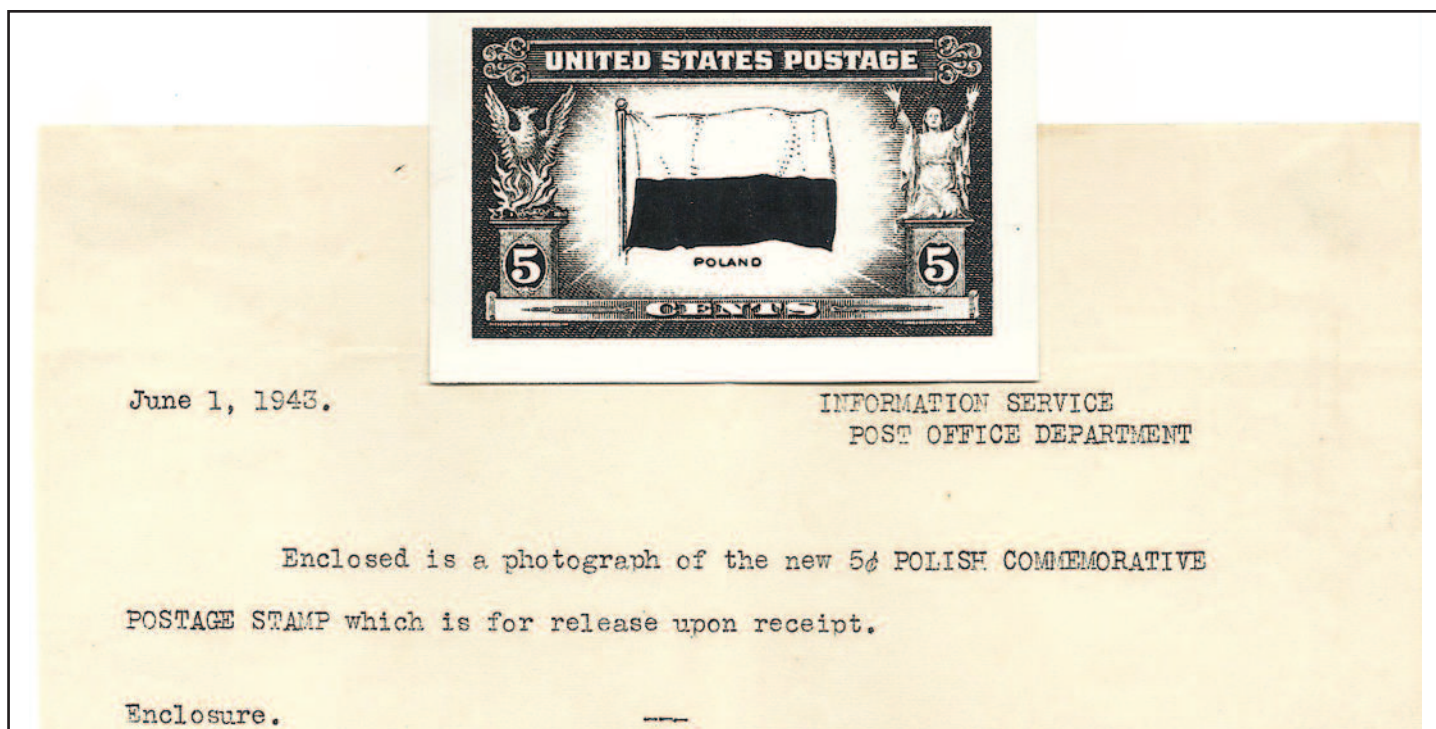


Figure 3

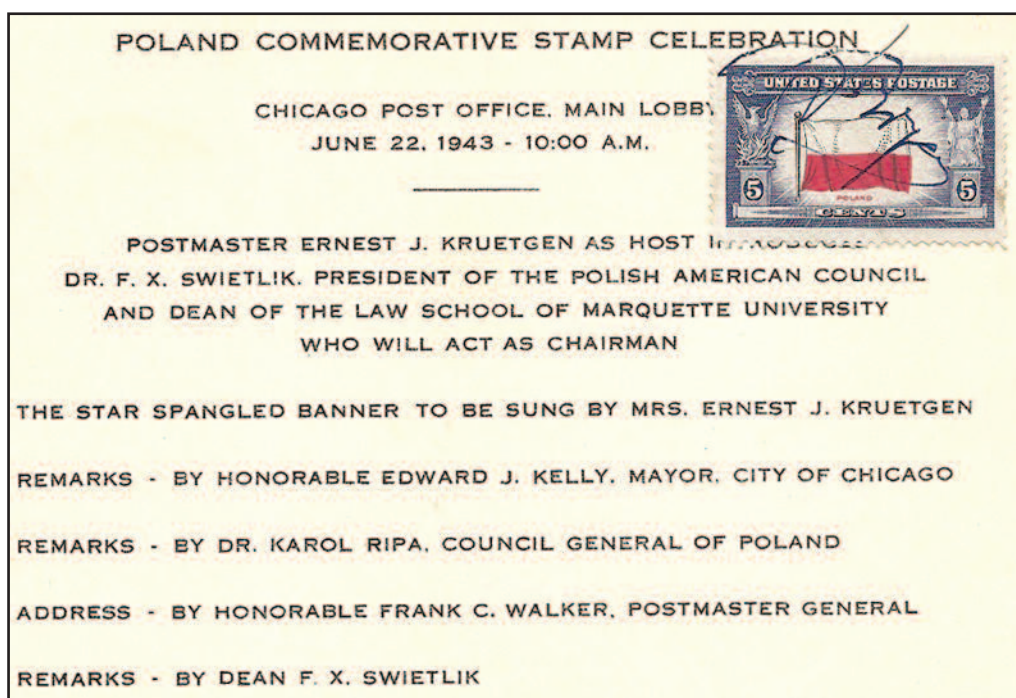


Figure 4

first draft of the program. However, when the final program was printed the two Polonus members were omitted. The August 14 issue of *Stamps Magazine* reported that another Polish-American organization tried to take over the event and run the ceremony. The program was 45 minutes late because the postmaster general was giving an interview to the press. This gave the Polonus members time to regroup.

Another report said there was "pushing and shoving" between two of the Polish organizations, but the Polonus representatives made their way to the rostrum and

Myron Steczynski, Polonus president, prevailed on Dean Swietlik, president of the Polish American Council and dean of the Marquette University Law School, to introduce him. Steczynski then gave what was reported as the most informative address of the ceremony.

Figure 4 is the official invitation for the ceremony and is signed by the Honorable Karol Ripa, consul general for the Polish Government in Exile. After Steczynski's address, Postmaster Frank Walker sold the first sheet of the POLAND Flag Stamp to Ripa.

Figure 5 is a full-size souvenir card signed by all the notables attending the Chicago ceremony and a first day cover prepared by the Polonus Philatelic Society. There will be more about this

cover later.

In Washington, Herbert Chamberlain, assistant superintendent of the Division of Stamps for the Post Office Department, was in charge of the first day ceremony. The ceremony in Washington was less dramatic. North who was in charge of stamp issues for the post office, sold the first sheet of stamps to Ambassador Ciechanowski, who then addressed the participants and thanked the post office for issuing the stamp.

UNITED STATES STAMP HONORING POLAND'S HEROIC RESISTANCE TO THE NAZIS

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1943
AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Irwin Ciesla
POSTMASTER GENERAL

J. J. Domar
CONSUL GENERAL OF POLAND

Jak Baranski
BRIGADIER GENERAL U. S. A.

Robert A. Loska
SECRETARY, POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL

Myron E. Steczynski
PRESIDENT, POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

J. J. Domar
CHAIRMAN, POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL

Edward Kelly
MAYOR OF CHICAGO

Ernest J. Krueger
POSTMASTER, CHICAGO

J. S. Hankin
DIVISION OF STAMPS, U. S. P. O.

Anthony Zarnecki
THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

Figure 5

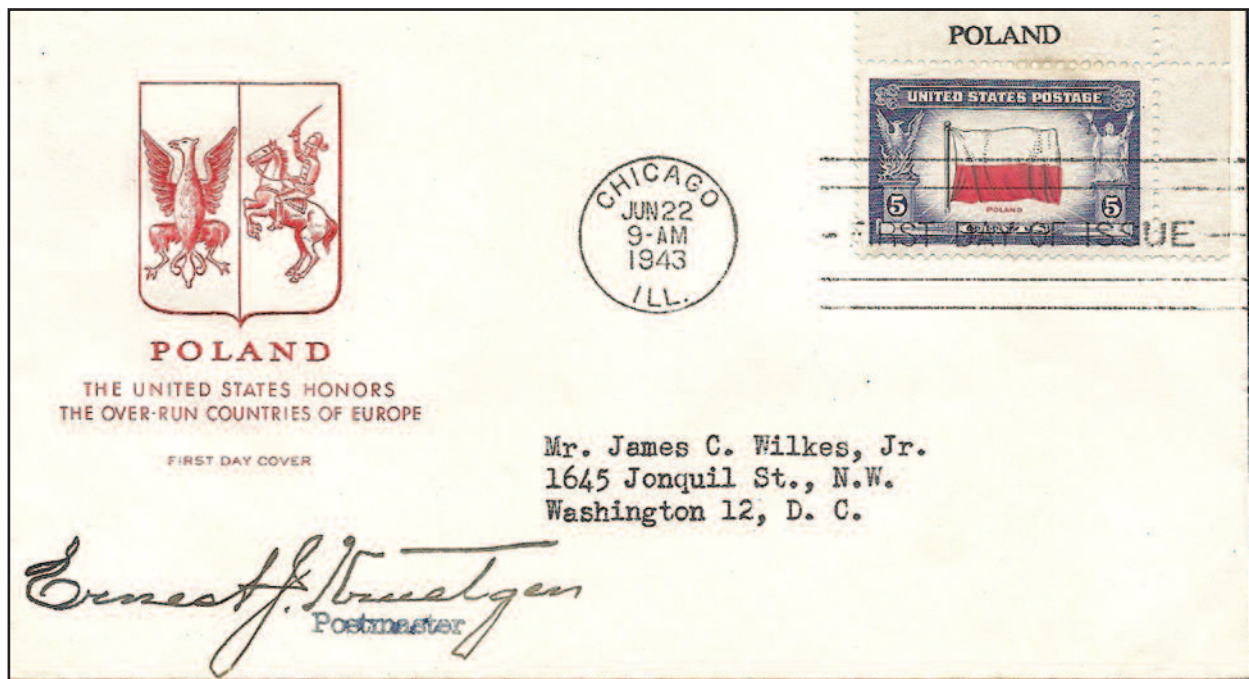


Figure 6: 20-mm Chicago signed by Kruetgen

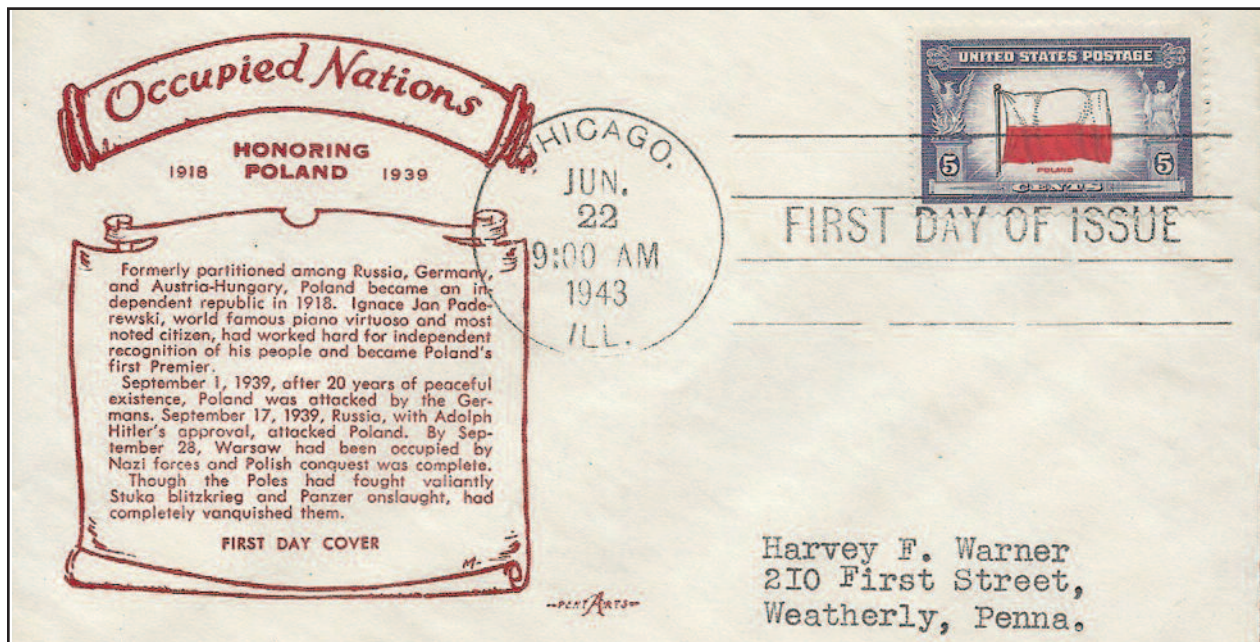


Figure 7: 33-mm Chicago

Because of the difficulties encountered in Chicago, the post office restricted all future first day ceremonies to Washington.

The POLAND Stamp and First Day Cancellations

A total of 19,999,646 POLAND Flag stamps were printed. The stamp was withdrawn from sale April 10, 1944. The final number sold is unknown, but from the number still seen today, many were purchased by collectors and dealers. This is true for all the Overrun Countries stamps.

In Chicago, 88,170 first day covers were canceled, and in Washington, 136,002 covers were canceled. Both cities used two cancelers: a smaller 20-mm circular cancel and a

larger 33-mm circular canceler. Be sure to look for these different cancels in dealer boxes. The larger canceler is more difficult to find than the smaller canceler. **Figure 6** is an example of the 20-mm Chicago canceler on a cover signed by Postmaster Ernest Kruetgen. **Figure 7** is the 33-mm Chicago canceler. The small-size Washington canceler is seen in **Figure 8** on a cover signed by Ambassador Ciechanowski and the large-size Washington canceler in **Figure 9** is on a cover sent to President Roosevelt.

In Part 4 I will discuss the multitude of first day cachets. In the meantime, do start to check dealer stocks to find any of the above mentioned material.

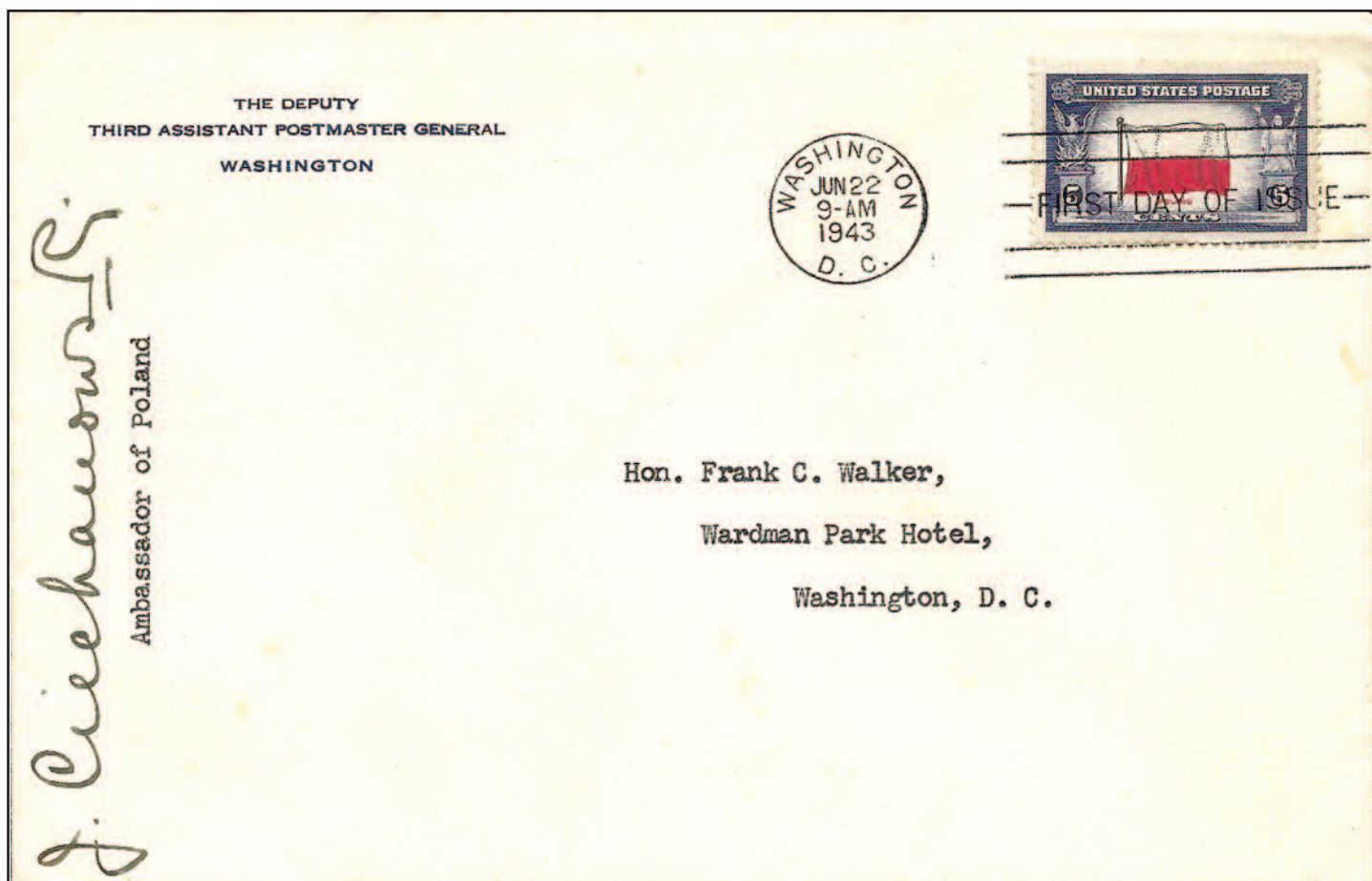


Figure 8: 20-mm Washington signed by Ciechanowski

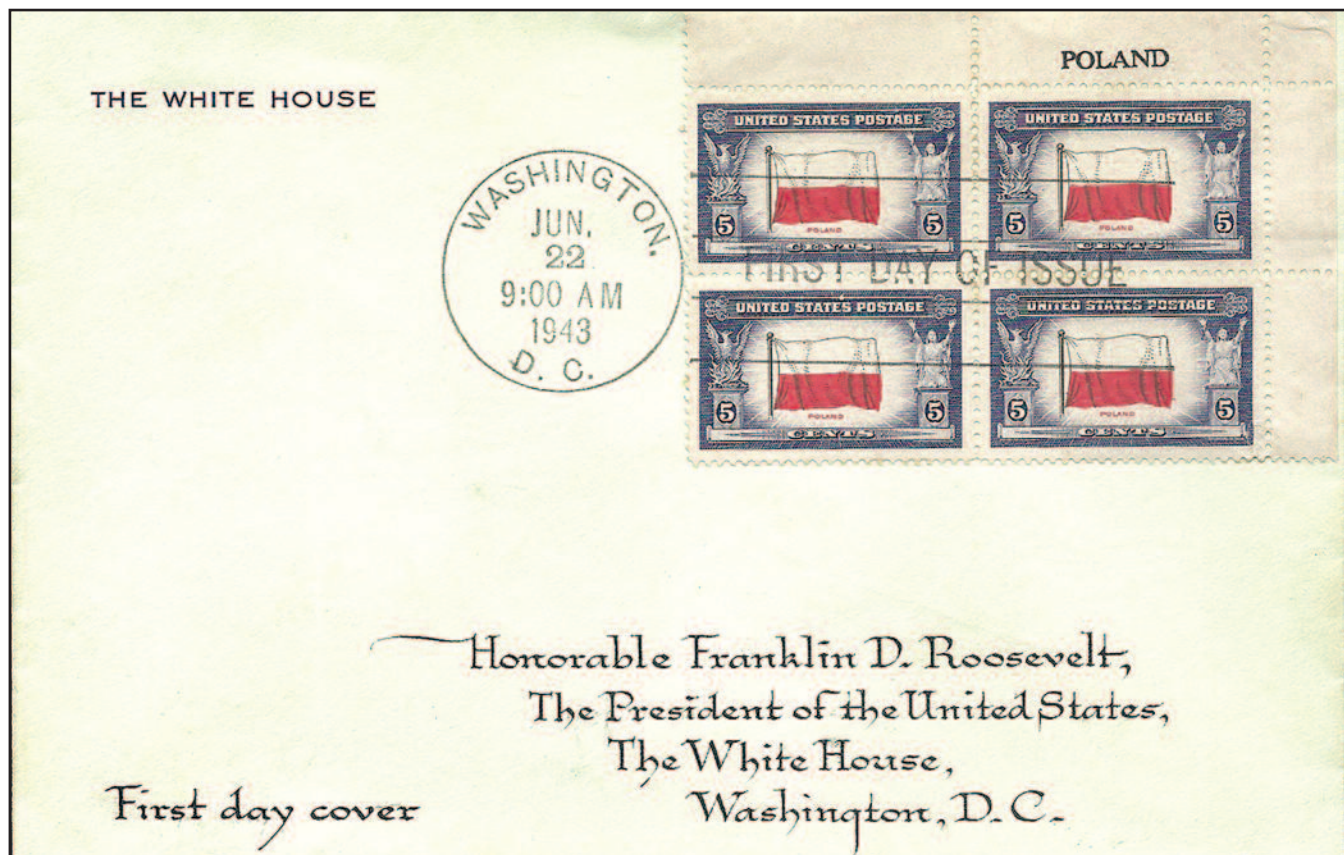


Figure 9: 33-mm Washington to Franklin D. Roosevelt

A Letter from the Polish Destroyer O.R.P. *Piorun* (Thunderbolt)¹

by Jan Niebrzydowski

This happened 40 years ago at a flea market in a New Britain, Connecticut, sports stadium. Anybody could set up their stall for a small fee. At one stall, an elderly couple had various documents for sale. There was a big box full of old postcards and letters. As I leafed through the contents, I happened upon an envelope bearing a seal with the words "OPENED BY EXAMINER" [at] "POLISH NAVAL HEADQUARTERS" (Figure 1).

The envelope contained a Christmas and New Year's greeting card from 1944. On the front of the card (see cover illustration) is an image of the Polish eagle with a sword in its claws and underneath is a profile of the Polish destroyer O.R.P. *Piorun*. Inside the card (Figure 2) are greetings in Polish and English; the sender's name M. Niklarz; O.R.P. "*Piorun*;" and c/o GPO London. A 10 gr. Polish stamp (Fi J338) commemorating the Polish Merchant Marines was included but not canceled.

The handwritten note at the bottom says, "To Mr. O'Brian and the girls and boys of Dept. 42 and 2. The same to the whole of factory. From Maksymilian." The envelope was addressed to The Stanley Works, a well-known manufacturer of household hardware in New Britain.

I could not believe my eyes. What a treasure! One of my earliest childhood memories was being told that the destroyer *Piorun* on May 26, 1941, was the first to locate the German battleship *Bismarck* and the first to engage in battle until British ships arrived to

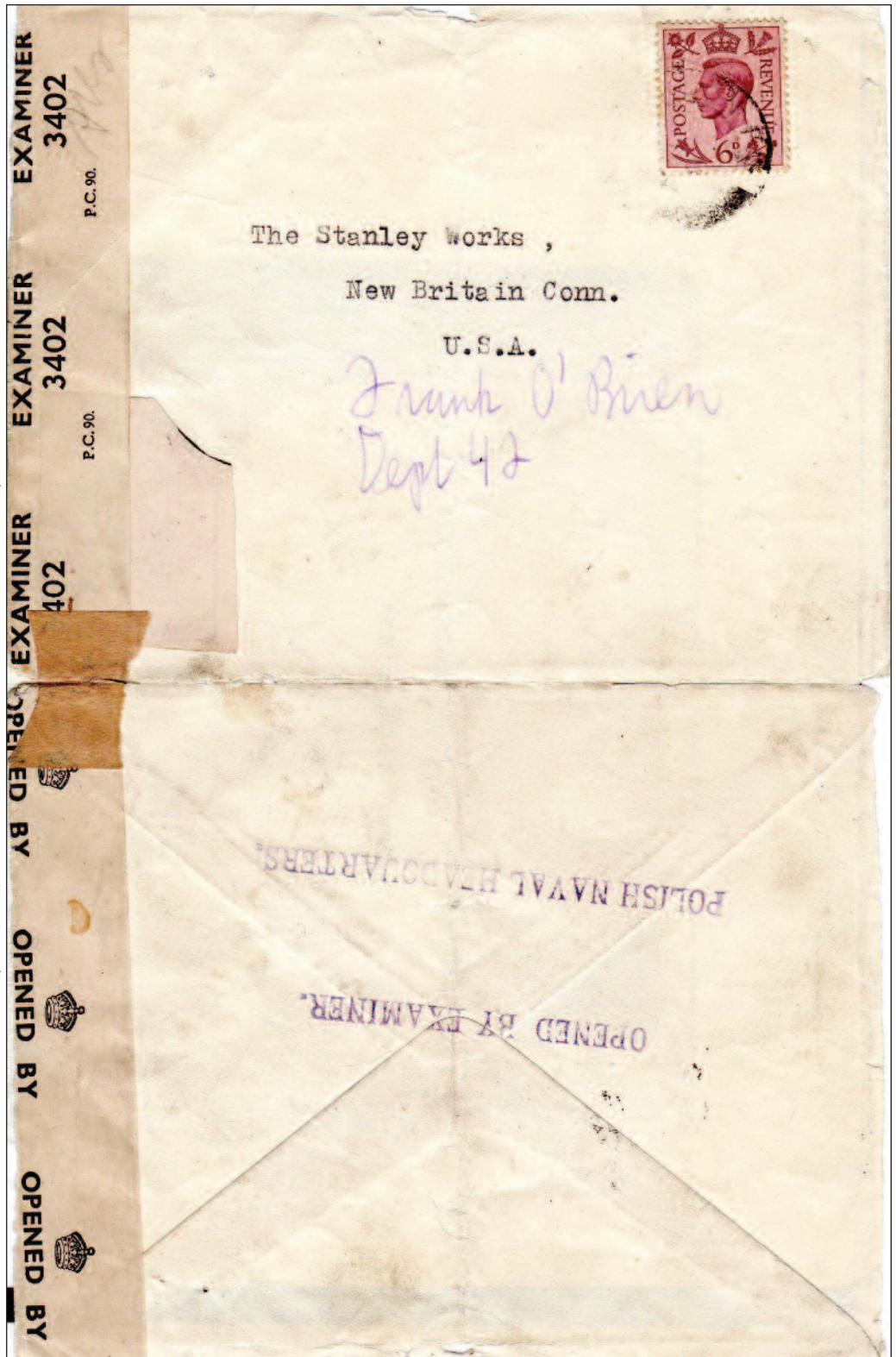


Figure 1

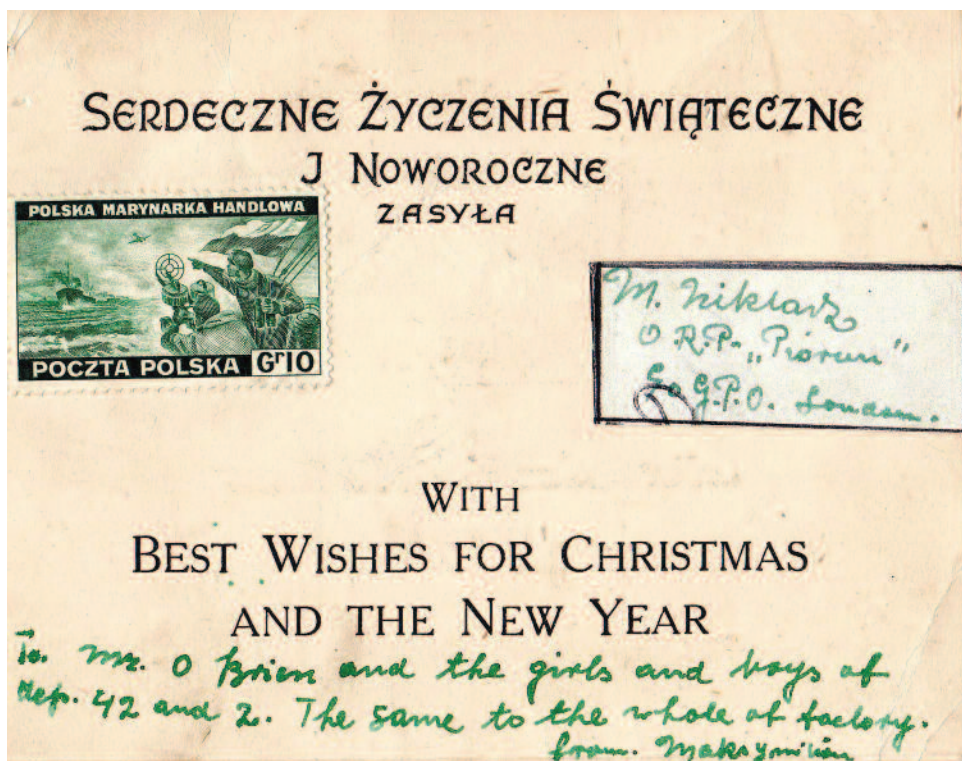


Figure 2

support the Poles. The *Bismarck*, with a crew of 2,200, was the pride of the German navy. It was finally sunk after several hours of combat.

The asking price for the cover was \$1. I handed over a \$20 bill and did not take any change. The sellers asked if I was Polish and I replied that I was, explaining that this envelope was part of the history of my country.

That same day, I made my way to the Polish Veterans' Club in New Britain in the hopes of finding someone there who knew the sender or could help me contact him. To my surprise I learned that he was actually a member of the Veterans' Club. Within half an hour he joined me at the club and, over a good cognac, told me his story.

Before World War II he had lived and worked at the Stanley Works in New Britain. In 1942 his parish priest, Fr. L. Bojnowski, encouraged him and other Poles to join the Polish Army in Great Britain and fight for Poland. As a result he enlisted, first training in Windsor, Canada, then sailing to England where he trained as a radar operator and served on the destroyer *Błyskawica* (Lightning)²

While serving on the *Błyskawica* he took part in the allied landing operation in North Africa in 1942. The destroyer patrolled the North African coast and took part in several naval battles. On October 12, 1942, during heavy bombing, Niklarz was wounded and sent to England for medical treatment. When he recovered he was assigned to the destroyer *Piorun*, which sailed on dangerous missions to Murmansk, a Soviet naval port on the Barents Sea, carrying arms, food and medication for the Red Army. It then sailed to the allied base in the Mediterranean Sea. From there it

took part in the invasion of Sicily and mainland Italy. In the course of its battles the *Piorun* shot down two German dive bombers. It returned to Great Britain in July 1944 and took part in the Normandy operations providing fire cover for the allied troops as they landed.

Maksymilian Niklarz remained in Britain until 1948, returning home to New Britain and continuing his employment with Stanley Works until retirement. He died in October 1995 at age 75 and is buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in New Britain.

Footnotes

¹ The preferred English translation of the Polish word "piorun" is "thunderbolt," however, the internet uses "lightning." The traditional ship prefix in the Polish Navy is ORP (Okręt Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej) which translates to "Vessel of the Republic of Poland." The *Piorun* was

built in England, launched as HMS *Narissa* on May 7, 1940, transferred to the Polish Navy in October 1940 and returned to the Royal Navy in 1946. It was scrapped in 1955.

² The preferred English translation of the Polish word "błyskawica" is "lightning;" the internet uses this term for the Polish word "piorun." The *Błyskawica*, also built in England, launched October 1, 1936 for the Polish Navy, was decommissioned on May 1, 1976. It is now a museum ship in Gdynia. The distinguishing characteristic of ORP *Błyskawica* is that it is the only ship of the Polish Navy awarded the *Virtuti Militari* medal and it is the oldest preserved destroyer in the world.

Endnote

Piorun's wartime exploits were described in *Weteran*, New York, April 1982

Errata

There is a correction to the article, "Letters to Jan Erdman," from the September 2017 issue (#568).

The Polish government-in-exile was allowed to reestablish an embassy in Moscow effective with an agreement signed July 30, 1941. However, on July 5, 1942 the Polish embassy was moved to Kuybyshev where it remained until April 25, 1943.

Therefore, reference to the "Kuybyshev consulate" is incorrect and should be changed throughout the article to the "Kuybyshev embassy." We apologize for this error.



Gems of Polish Philately

Overprint on Letter – 1919

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

The Lublin Postal Administration was the first of the Polish Postal administrations to become operational. A postal instruction dated November 5, 1918, states that existing Austrian stamps and postal forms were to continue to be used. The Provisional Government of the Polish People's Republic was formed in Lublin on November 7, 1918, four days before official independence was proclaimed in Warsaw.

At first, the remaining stamps of the Austrian Field Post and those of Bosnia-Herzegovina were used. In December 1918 two issues of Austrian field post stamps were overprinted into Polish stamps. We know these issues as the First and Second Lublin issues (Fischer #17-19 and #20-29; Scott #27-29 and #30-40). These were complicated times and the Lublin stamps were used during two different rate periods. Double overprints can be found with the overprint on the back of the stamp. Bisects and even quadrasects of the Second Lublin Issue exist.

Both the Fischer and Scott catalogs list inverted overprints on the Lublin issues. How did this happen? One story I've heard is that the government ordered the stamps to be overprinted, but did not have the money to pay the printer, so the printing firm was allowed to print some of the stamps for their own use. First they made the 10/30 haller with an overprint in violet and then they made inverted overprints. Neither the violet overprinted stamp or the inverts were placed in general circulation. The violet stamp is known on a few obviously philatelic covers.

Only two stamps of the Second Lublin issue inverted are known on letters. Shown is the 90 haller with inverted overprint sent on a registered letter from Jędrzejów January 29, 1919, and received in Łódź (backstamped) the next day. I know of only one other Second Lublin stamp sent through the mails. I don't remember which value, but it was



on a badly damaged postal card. Certainly, if these inverts were in general circulation, one would expect other examples to exist.

Fischer Catalog Vol. II Still Available

We have a limited supply of the 2016 TOM II (Vol II) Fischer catalogs available at the discounted member pricing of \$50 plus \$4 shipping in the U.S. / \$15 shipping to Canada. This volume contains the specialty side of Poland collecting and is not updated every year as TOM I. The last TOM II was published in 2010. Do hesitate to add this valuable resource to your philatelic library.

It also makes a thoughtful holiday gift!

Terms of sale: Email your order to info@polonus.org. Please submit payment via PayPal to: info@polonus.org or send your check to Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510. (If you elect to send payment by check, please include that information in your email order.)

Dues and Donations Online Selection and Payment Guide

by Bill Williges

2018 dues are due. Polonus' website has a new dues and donations payment option available to members. You may pay your 2018 dues and make tax deductible donations to the society using the new functionality described below.

Donation Note:

a) For checks, please indicate which tax year, 2017 or 2018, you want your tax deductible donation to apply. Also, use the desired tax year date on your check.

b) For PayPal the date you send your donation will govern the tax year. If you have any questions about your tax deductible donations please contact treasurer Bill Williges at billwil@znet.com or 1-707-334-0972.

Dues and Donation Options Summary

Subscription Types and Durations

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Print Bulletins, US Residents	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Print Bulletins, Foreign	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years

Summary of Donation Levels Offered Online*

\$10 - \$25 - \$50 - \$75 - \$100

*Donations are voluntary. Polonus is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization. To donate more than \$100, please contact the treasurer at billwil@znet.com

User Guide: Online Selection and Payment

1. Log in to the website. *Login should read Logout.* (Only registered users may use this function. See the last section).

2. Click *Dues & Donations* in Menu. Next click *Pay Dues & Donations*.

3. Select a *Dues Option*. Click the *Buy* button to put it in *MyCart*. If you wish to add a donation, click selected *Buy* button in *Donations* for the level you select. (Donation levels are listed after Dues Options.)

4. Click on *MyCart* at the top of page to view the selected dues option and donation levels. If selection(s) in *MyCart* are incorrect change quantity to zero. Click on *Pay Dues & Donations* in Main Menu to return to list. *Do not use back arrow. Doing so may disconnect and require you to log in again.*

5. In *MyCart* select either *Pay by Check* or *Pay by PayPal*. Add a short note to indicate year(s) for which you are paying and include your membership number if you know it.

6. Click Send Order.

7a. Payment by Check Option

After *Send Order* is clicked a Numbered Confirmation will appear on the screen. The payment process is complete. Confirmation will be sent to your email.

Please send this form along with your check to:

Polonus
PO Box 2212
Benicia, CA 94510

7b. Payment via PayPal

After *Send Order* is clicked a numbered confirmation with a PayPal button at the bottom will appear on the screen. Click the *PayPal* button.

PayPal's login page will display. Confirm email displayed in PayPal login page is your PayPal account email. If not correct, enter a correct email address. Enter your password to log in to PayPal.

Confirm that payment amount appearing on PayPal invoice is correct. Click *Pay Now*. The payment process is complete. You will be sent confirmation emails by Polonus and PayPal.

Polonus Website Registration

Members and guests must be registered on the website to use some functions. To register, click on *Membership* in the main Menu. Next click on *Benefits*. On the lower part of the *Benefits* page click on button labeled *Website Registration*. Complete and submit the digital website application.

Registration will not be effective immediately after submission. To accelerate registration email the website administrator at info@biistamp.com

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Polonus Society News



Dr. James P. Mazepa, RDP Wins 2017 APS Champion of Champions

by Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

Jim Mazepa is well known to many in Polonus as he has been an honorary life member for many years and is presently the chair of our board of directors. Jim has previously been the subject of notices in the **Bulletin** for many of his philatelic achievements.

To say he has been honored, awarded and otherwise lauded by the philatelic community is an understatement as he has gained virtually every major accolade that can be bestowed on a philatelist, not only here in the United States but by many foreign countries including Poland. That being said, these many honors were not simply awarded; they were earned through years of service to philately, scholarly research and writing and exemplary exhibiting.

Jim's most recent achievement is winning the 2017 APS Champion of Champions (CoC) award for his exhibit *Colonial Central America*. The CoC is the crowning jewel of competitive exhibiting in the United States and each year

brings together the Grand Award winning exhibits for all APS-accredited World Series of Philately. This year, Jim's exhibit stood against a powerful list of 27 exemplary exhibits covering an array of subjects. Some individuals competing for the 2017 CoC were previous winners, but only a few have been able to garner two CoC awards. Jim now enters that exalted level having previously won the award in 2010 with his exhibit *Mexico: First Issue, 1856-1861*. Only four other individuals have won the CoC more than once so the accomplishment is one to applaud.

The fact that both Jim's CoC wins relate to Latin American subjects does not detract from his many achievements in Polish philately. Over the last 40 years he has had notable Polish collections and exhibits including:

Kingdom of Poland –Prestamp Period

Kingdom of Poland 1858-65

The Warsaw Provisional Issues 1918-1919

Air Post in Poland to 1939

He has also exhibited in an area closely related to Poland, *Independent Ukraine 1918-1919*.

In addition to being chair of the Polonus Board, Jim is a regular columnist in the **Bulletin** with his "Gems of Polish Philately" series. He also collects and writes on the Poland Flag of the United States Overrun Country Series, and rumor has it, he is working on a Pulaski exhibit. Jim's personal heritage is a link to his passion for Polish philately. We as a society are justly proud to have him as a member, advisor and contributor to our efforts.

'Meet Me in St. Louis' at EXPO 2018

by Bob Ogrodnik

Our 16th Annual Meeting and Exhibition is at the Renaissance St. Louis Hotel on March 16-18, 2018. Polonus is one of two convening societies, the other being Scouts on Stamps Society International. Our primary obligation as a convening society is to promote Polish philately with a strong turnout of Polish exhibits.

Official entry forms are available on the show's website www.stlouisstampexpo.org. The deadline for entries is December 31, 2017. Remember, you do not have to attend the show to exhibit because shipping instructions and mounting are provided for accepted entries. First-time exhibitors are encouraged. Mentoring support from experi-



Dr. Mazepa, left, receives the Champion of Champions award from APS president, Mick Zais, while Liz Hisey, looks on.

enced Polonus exhibitors and judges is available and Polonus offers an attractive Novice Award for the best first-time exhibitor of Polish material. For more information on exhibiting or preparing the entry form, contact Regis Hoffman, chairman of exhibits and awards, at rgmmhoffman@comcast.net.

A schedule of events and activities is being posted on both the Saint Louis Stamp Expo and Polonus websites. Plans include a society table with the Polonus Store; the annual membership meeting; a Dutch-treat dinner for members and guests; a hospitality room for members and guests; presentation on collecting Poland and possibly other Polish philatelic subjects open to the show attendees; a docent tour of Polish exhibits; annual board of directors meeting and committee meetings; and Expo 2018 awards banquet. You may not have time to read about the show details in the March issue of the **Bulletin** so we encourage you to visit the websites to keep current on the planning for this show.



One special request: let us know if you plan to attend and/or exhibit. We prepare welcome packets for members we know are coming. You can let us know by email (robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net) or by phone (314-821-6130), I look forward to meeting you in St. Louis.

Exhibiting at the Polonus National Meeting

Regis Hoffman, Exhibit and Awards Chairman
rgmmhoffman@comcast.net

A wonderful way to support Polonus and showcase Polish philately is to exhibit at next year's annual meeting at the St. Louis Stamp Expo, March 16-18, 2018. Polonus is one of the convening societies at this event and we want to have a good showing of Polish-area exhibits.

A number of members are frequent exhibitors and I encourage them to continue. I would also like to ask new exhibitors to display their collections.

There is amazing depth to Polish philately, but little of it has been shown competitively. Some topics that would be fantastic exhibits are:

- *Polish Martial Law Censorship* - a poignant modern topic



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that was a move by the Communist authorities to squelch the burgeoning Solidarity movement.

- *Pope John Paul II* – the first Polish Pope and an icon of the past century. John Paul II is recognized as helping to end Communist rule in his native Poland and eventually all of Europe.

- *Polish Peacekeeping Missions* - as of 2008, Poland had deployed 985 personnel in eight separate UN peacekeeping operations. This would be a marvelous exhibit of modern postal and military history.

- *The Stamp Designs of Czesław Ślania* – one of the world's most famous stamp designers has designed some of the most beautiful stamps.

- *Polish Revenues* – revenues are an increasingly collected area of philately and demonstrate all the ways governments try to extract money from their citizens.

- *Postal History of German Occupied Poland* – a topic that intersects Poland, Germany and World War II.

If anyone is interested in exhibiting, but is not sure how to start, please contact me. I am a long-time exhibitor and an APS judge and am happy to answer any questions about exhibiting.

For more details about the show go to the Saint Louis Stamp Expo website, www.stlouisstampexpo.org.

Kościuszko Bicentennial Event

by Bob Ogrodnik

The Great Hall at the Polish Museum of America (PMA) was the site of the Kościuszko Bicentennial opening event and reception on Sunday, October 15. Many of the original Kościuszko letters exchanged with Thomas Jefferson and other notables from the American revolutionary period were on display.

Polonus added to this occasion with a 14-frame, award-winning philatelic exhibit that featured the U.S. 1933 5-cent Kościuszko stamp by Jay Stotts of Houston, Texas; an exhibit of the U.S. 1943 5-cent Poland Flag stamp from the Overrun Countries series, by Jim Mazepa; a Kościuszko Polonica exhibit by Adam Giegel; an exhibit of Marienwerder (Kwidzyn today) Plebiscite stamps by Ed Andrews; a Collecting Poland by Topic exhibit by Bob Ogrodnik; and our traditional Polonus History exhibit.

This philatelic exhibit and the Kościuszko letters and artifacts are on display at the PMA until March 2018. If you are in the vicinity of the PMA, I highly recommend that you to add a visit to your to-do list and see this display. More information on the museum can be found at:

www.polishmuseumofamerica.org.

Figure 1 is a special cover designed by member



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Figure 1



Bob Ogródnik in front of the philatelic exhibits

Adam Gigiel and features the 5-cent Kościuszko stamp with a USPS-approved pictorial postmark using the October 15 date and PMA location. The quantity produced was limited to 100 covers that were sold at the PMA event and are available for purchase by Polonus members. Price for this attractive cover is \$10 or 3 for \$25. Payment may be made by PayPal (info@polonus.org) or by check payable to Polonus Polish Philatelic Society. Send all orders and check payments to Polonus, PO Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510.

Overall, Polonus participation was a success measured by the opportunity to promote Polish or Polish-related

philately via exhibition and docent services, to solicit membership in Polonus (none signed at the event but a few indicated interest to join or rejoin) and to sell Polonus Store items, including a new book on Haller's Blue Army. Sales recorded at this event were \$429.

Special thanks to Adam Gigiel for setting up the frames and mounting the exhibits, as well as designing the special cover and getting them postmarked by the USPS.

Also to Małgorzata Kot, executive director of the PMA, and her staff for assistance in organizing the exhibits and to Richard Owsiany, president of PMA and Polonus member for his support of Polonus' participation in this event.

Polonus Welcomes New Members

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

1873 **Jacek Napiorkowski**, PO Box 430, Cranbourne
Victoria 3977 Australia

1874 **Mark Fountain**, 103 Birkhaven Drive, Cary NC 27518

Adlets

WANTED: I am looking for scans (600 dpi on a white background) of mail with legible cancellations of Łódź post offices 1918-1939, especially mechanical cancellations and those of railway ambulances to and from Łódź. I am also interested in cancellations of military units related to Łódź. Contact Leszek Ośródka at ciemiorek.c8@wp.pl

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New Issues

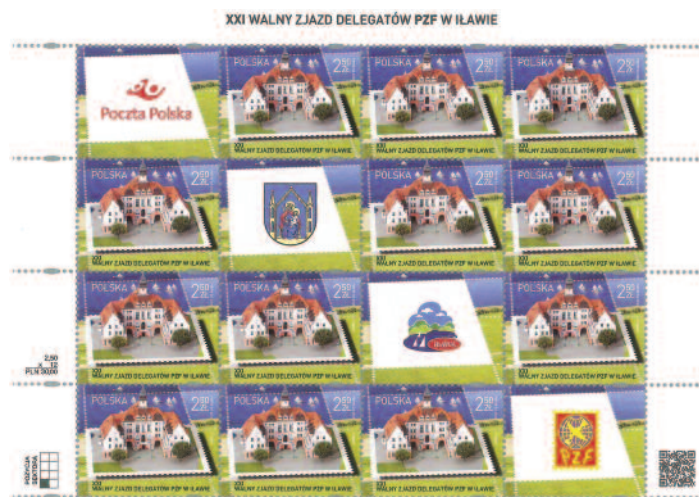
Year of Cichociemni

This 3.70 zł stamp honors the “silent unseen” special-operations paratroopers of the Polish Army in Exile or Home Army (Armia Krajowa) during World War II. The group was trained in Great Britain to operate in occupied Poland. The first operation of the unit (Air Bridge) occurred in February 1941. Other operational engagements included Operation Tempest, Operation Ostra Brama and the Lwów and Warsaw uprisings. After December 1944 operations were discontinued because most of Poland was then occupied by the Soviet Red Army.

Of the 316 Cichociemni fighters, 103 perished in the war and an additional nine were executed after the war by the Communist Polish People’s Republic. Recently the Cichociemni were honored in London on the 75th anniversary of their operations. The lone surviving member of the group, Aleksander Tarnowski, 95, attended the gathering. The stamp depicts a symbolic black raptor in flight, about to attack below.



Date of Issue	September 1, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 35
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Ewa Szydłowska



XXI Congress of the PZF in Iława

This 2.50 zł stamp commemorates the 21st gathering of the International Congress on Factoring, hosted by the Polish Factors Association (*Polski Związek Faktorów*) in the town of Iława in northeastern Poland. The use of factoring in

finance allows businesses to expeditiously raise cash for operations by selling their accounts receivable to a third party (called a factor) at a discount. Factoring provides an alternative to financing by bank loans. About 9½ percent of Polish business firms use asset-based financing or factoring to grow their businesses.

The PZF is a federation of the largest factoring companies now operating in Poland. The stamp shows the large lakeside resort where the meeting was held. Both perforated and imperforate panes of the stamps were issued.

Date of Issue	September 8, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12 with four tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Beatification of Father Władysław Bukowiński

This 6 zł stamp recognizes the recent beatification of Father Bukowiński (1904-74) by the Roman Catholic Church. Father Bukowiński was born in the Ukraine, but later became a naturalized Pole. He studied law and theology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and later became a priest in 1931.

After being imprisoned in a Soviet gulag, he was released and served as a priest in the diocese of Karaganda in Kazakhstan for many years. Pope Francis proclaimed him to be venerable in 2015 based on his life of heroic virtue; a miracle was attributed to him, leading to his beatification on September 11, 2016.



Date of Issue	September 11, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of four
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

The Witcher

The Polish Post issued this 6 zł stamp to recognize a very popular fictional character, the Witcher (*Wiedźmin*), found in various multi-media outlets. The character and his story began in 2007 when Polish author Andrzej Sapkowski wrote a novel about Geralt of Rivia, a fictionalized character living in a medieval fantasy world; he is one of a few remaining Witchers who are traveling monster-hunters for hire, possessing supernatural powers.

The story has expanded into many different media



adaptations, including other books, comic books, films, television and games (on cards, boards and in videos), as well as on Twitter, YouTube and Wii. Perhaps the most famous of these is the action, role-playing video game developed by CD Projekt and published by Atari. The game employs a system of moral choices as part of the story line that often includes graphic violence. In addition to the souvenir sheet, a related special folder was also issued.

Date of Issue	September 16, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	CD Projekt

200 Years of the Biblical Society in Poland



This 2.50 zł stamp recognizes the long-standing activities of the Biblical Society in Poland (*Towarzystwa Biblijnego w Polsce*). Headquartered in Warsaw, the BSP has translated and distributed the Holy Bible (*Pismo Święte*) since its founding in 1816 as an auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was founded because of the general lack of bibles in Poland. Originally it distributed a Catholic translation of the scriptures translated by Father Jakub Wujek (1599) and a Protestant translation (1632) known as the Gdańsk (Danzig) Bible.

In 1975, the BSP completed and distributed a translation of the bible known as the Warsaw Bible (*Biblia Warszawska*) done by Lutheran biblicists and used mainly by Polish Protestants. In 1991 the BSP published a common English

version of the New Testament in contemporary Polish. The translation team was composed of biblicists from different Polish Protestant churches and the Polish National Catholic Church. More recently the BSP initiated an Ecumenical Bible Translation: the New Testament was published in 2001 and parts of the Old Testament were completed in 2012. The process of translating and editing continues, using biblical scholars from many different Polish churches.

The BSP is an associate member of the United Bible Societies and the Polish Ecumenical Council. The cover of the bible depicted on the stamp shows a sower (*siewca*), presumably spreading the seeds of Christianity; the sower is also seen in the margin of the pane and in the official first day cover cancellation.

Date of Issue	October 3, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of six
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Mother of God of Incessant Help – Icon of Love

This 3.70 zł stamp recognizes the famous icon from 15th century Crete, the *Mother of God of Incessant or Unremitting Help or Succor – Icon of Love* (*Matka Boża Nieustającej Pomocy – Ikona Miłości*). This painting and a few similar Madonna of the Passion are attributed to artist Andreas Ritzos, although traditionally it is said to have been painted by St. Luke the Evangelist. It is commemorated each year on April 30 and on the sixth Sunday after Pascha (Sunday of the Blind Man) and celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church on June 27.

Venerated by both Orthodox and Catholic Christians, the painting portrays the tiny Christ-child turned toward the Archangel Gabriel, who is shown in the upper right holding a cross and nails. In the upper left, the Archangel Michael approaches, holding a spear and holy sponge (all symbols of the Passion). Mary is looking toward the faithful, while pointing to her Son. The official first day cover shows the church in Rome where the icon is housed: the Church of St. Alphonus Liguori on Via Merulana on Esquiline Hill. We note that in 1866 the icon was restored by the Polish painter Leopold Nowotny. Further restoration work was completed in 1990.

Date of Issue	October 3, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of nine
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Ewa Szydłowska

Flowers and Fruits (Cranberry)

The cranberry (*żurawina*) is recognized on this 15 gr stamp, another in the continuing series of colorful stamps on flowers and fruits (*kwiaty i owoce*). The cranberry comprises a group of evergreen dwarf shrubs or trailing vines in the subgenus *Oxycoccus* of the genus *Vaccinium*. (In North America the cultivated cranberry generally refers to *Vaccinium Macrocarpon*.) The plant is cultivated in central and northern Europe for its berry, initially light green in color, turning red when ripe. It is harvested for food and juice despite its acidic taste and sweetened for consumption. The plant is also known as mossberry, fenberry or bearberry.



Date of Issue	October 20, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska



Lost Works of Art

These three stamps are part of an intermittent series of postal issues aimed at focusing attention on lost works of Polish art (*utracone dzieła sztuki*). These art works were surreptitiously removed from Polish museums and private collections during wartime. The lettering on the stamps is broken, an effort to further demonstrate the missing pieces in Poland's art history.

All three stamps are denominated at 2 zł: (1) Józef Chełmoński's painting titled *Shepherd With a Whip on a Lace* (*Pasterz z Biczem na Łące*) (1892); (2) Aleksander Gierymski's self-portrait (*Autoportret, Aleksander Gierymski*) (1899); and Leon Chwistek's *Portrait of Wife Olga* (*Portret Żony Olgi*) (1933). The three official first day covers show additional missing art works as well as several symbolic empty frames.

Date of Issue	October 24, 2016
Sheet Format	2 copies of 3 different stamps in pane of 6
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk



Achievements in Polish Science

These six stamps, each denominated 2.50 zł, honor Polish scientists and historians for their notable accomplishments.

Professor Hilary Kaprowski (1916-2013) was a doctor, virologist, immunologist and polio vaccine maker (*lekarz, wirusolog, immunolog, twórca szczepionki przeciwko wirusowi polio*) who was born in Warsaw and died in the United States. He invented the world's first effective live polio vaccine. He wrote or co-wrote more than 875 scientific papers on microbiology and co-edited several scientific journals. During World War II he and his family relocated several times in order to escape the Nazis.

Professor Władysław Kunicki-Goldfinger (1916-95), a microbiologist and philosopher (*mikrobiolog, filozof*), was

born in Kraków, died in Warsaw and is now buried in Lublin. He was a professor at Warsaw University and published several textbooks, including *The Life of Bacteria*, and books on evolution. He was a socialist activist who participated in the Solidarity-opposition party and was a co-founder of Solidarity of Labor.

Professor Edmund (Faustyn) Biernacki (1866-1911) was a doctor who formulated the erythrocyte sedimentation (OB) test (*lekarz, odkrywca zjawiska sedymentacji erytrocytów OB*). Using this test, he discovered a relationship between the sedimentation rate of red blood cells in humans and their general health. This test, also known as the Biernacki Reaction, continues to be used worldwide in medicine. He was born in Opoczno and died in Lviv, Ukraine. While at the University of Warsaw, he wrote the first Polish hematology textbook.

Professor Aleksander Gieysztor (1916-99) was a famous medievalist historian (*historyk mediewista*). A graduate of Warsaw University, he was involved in underground activities during World War II. After the war he underwent an ideological shift towards applying Marxism-Leninism to historical research. He helped in the reconstruction of the Royal Castle.

Professor Witold Kula (1916-88) was an historian and representative of the Polish school of social and economic history (*historyk, przedstawiciel polskiej szkoły historii społeczno – gospodarczej*). As historian and professor at Warsaw University, he researched the social and economic history of Poland using metrology, a separate branch of science. His work employed an interdisciplinary approach along with theoretical innovation. From the Marxist tradition, he studied the origins of Polish capitalism and proposed a model of peripheral feudalism in Poland during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Professor Gerard Labuda (1916-2010) was another medieval-era historian (*historyk mediewista*) whose major focus was on the Western Slavs. Born in Nowa Huta in the Polish Corridor in West Prussia to a Kashubian family, he later lived and died in Poznań. As a professor at Poznań University, he edited the multi-volume *Dictionary of Slavonic Antiquities* and was author of more than 30 books and about 2,000 other scholarly publications.

Date of Issue	October 29, 2016
Sheet Format	6 diff. stamps in pane of 6
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak

People of Cinema and Theater

These three stamps, more in the series of recent issues on this theme, honor famous Poles from cinema and theater (*ludzie kina i teatru*).

Actor Franciszek Brodniewicz (1892-1944), honored



on the 2 zł stamp, was born in Kwilcz and died in Warsaw during a raid in World War II. He starred in many films in the interwar period, including: *Prosecutor Alice Horn* (*Prokurator Alicja Horn*) (1933), *Faithful River* (*Wierna Rzeka*) (1936), *Entailer Michorowski* (*Ordynat Michorowski*) (1937), *Heather* (*Wrzos*) (1938) and *Doctor Murek* (1939).

The 2.50 zł stamp honors the beautiful Polish stage, film and TV actress Elżbieta Barszczewska (1913-87) from Warsaw who starred in more than 13 movies, including: *Charlatan* (*Znachor*) (1937), *Profesor Wilczur* (1938), *The Three Hearts* (1939) and *Pan Twardowski* (1936). During World War II she participated in the underground theater and after the war she worked at the Polish Theater in Warsaw and later at the National Theater. Her life was marked by several scandals.

The 6 zł stamp recognizes stage and film actor Tadeusz Fijewski (1911-78), also from Warsaw, who appeared in more than 50 films. He came from a humble background and was a child stage actor before World War II. After the outbreak of the war, he joined the Home Army and was victim of one of the first roundups on the Warsaw streets. He was imprisoned at the Oranienburg and Dachau concentration camps and released in 1944. Thereafter, he performed in different venues as an actor in Polish camps in occupied Germany. In 1945 he returned to Poland as a performer in theater, movies, radio and TV. His most famous movies included *Nikodem Dyzma* (1956), *The Noose* (*Pętla*) (1957), *First Day of Freedom* (1964), *Doll* (1968), and *Peasant* (1973).

Date of Issue	October 31, 2016
Sheet Format	Pane of 12 for each and SS with all 3 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Christmas

These two stamps for Christmas 2016 are consistent with the Polish Post's emphasis in recent years to portray



strictly religious themes for the holiday. (See article in the December 2011 issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* on this matter.) The 2 zł stamp shows the Archangel Gabriel's visit to Mary announcing that she would give birth to Jesus (the Annunciation or *Zwias-towanie*). The 6 zł stamp shows the Holy Family, Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus (*Święta Rodzina*). The stamps were issued in both a sheet format and in numbered and unnumbered souvenirs sheets; the souvenir sheets also show other religious works of art. In addition, two official covers were issued in bright gold and red with first day cancellations (*pierwszy dzień obiegu*).



Date of Issue	November 16, 2016
Sheet Format	2 stamps, each in sheets of 100 and SS's
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak

25 Years of Radio Maryja

This A denominated stamp (2 zł) recognizes the controversial religious and politically conservative Polish radio station named after the Virgin Mary. Founded in 1991 by the Catholic Redemptionist Tadeusz Rydzyski, the station's programs consist of news broadcasts, frequent transmissions of the rosary, the breviary and other Catholic religious recitals, discussions of Catholic catechism, daily transmissions of the Mass, coverage of papal trips and sociological and political programs. It has taken positions against feminism, gay rights, the "Islamization" of Europe, Middle East refugees in the European Union (EU), and has been accused of antisemitism.



The Radio Maryja Family (*Rodzina Radia Maryja*) consists of hundreds of clubs and offices across Poland and conducts a pilgrimage to Częstochowa every year. The station has sparked many controversies and is frequently criticized in Poland and abroad. The Vatican has officially expressed concern over the station's political views, and warned of sanctions against activities damaging to the Church.

The primary audience for the station is reported to be in the rural and elderly communities of Poland. Jarosław Kaczyński, former Prime Minister of Poland (2006-2007), has

been a regular guest on Radio Maryja, along with many other right-wing Polish politicians. In 2004 Radio Maryja strongly opposed Poland joining the EU.

Date of Issue	November 25, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska



Polish Gold Medal Winners

These two stamps, each denominated 2.50 zł, honor Poland's gold medal winners at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games. One of the stamps shows Anita Włodarczyk, winner of the women's hammer throw competition (*Lekkoatletyka – Rzut Młotem Kobiet*). The other shows Natalia Madaj and Magdalena Fularczyk-Kozłowska, winners of the women's doubles rowing (Sculls) competition (*Wioślarstwo Dwójka Padwójna Kobiet*). The 2016 Summer Olympics involved more than 11,000 athletes from 207 countries in 306 events in Rio de Janeiro and five other Brazilian cities from August 5-21. Poland sent 243 competitors in 23 events and ranked 33rd overall in medals won, including two gold, three silver and six bronze.

Date of Issue	November 28, 2016
Sheet Format	2 stamps, ea. in pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Success of Poland's Para-Olympians at Rio 2016

This stamp, denominated B (3.20 zł), recognizes the accomplishments of Poland's para-olympians at the 2016 Summer Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which occurred in September, following the main Summer Olympic Games. The 15th such world event



saw more than 4,000 athletes from 159 nations in 22 different sport competitions. Poland had 90 competitors in 13 sports and won 39 medals, including nine gold, 18 silver and 12 bronze, the 10th best performance among all the nations participating. The stamp features Kolarstwo Szosowe. Other Polish gold winners in a wide variety of sports were: Ewa Durska, Maciej Lepiato, Maciej Sochał, Natalia Partyka, Jakub Tokarz, Barbara Niewiedział, Iwona Podkościelna, Katarzyna Marszał and Karolina Pęk. The official first day cover shows the Polish athletes entering the main stadium wearing white shirts and red pants.

Date of Issue	December 3, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Sport Club Vive Kielce

This 3.70 zł stamp honors the Polish professional handball team based in Kielce. The team, founded in 1965 as *Iskra Kielce*, is now known as *KS Vive Tauron Kielce*, playing in the Men's *PGNiG Superliga*. In 2002 the club was taken over by Berlus Servaas, owner of the Vive Textile Recycling Company. In 2006 the club began playing at the sports hall *MOSiR*, now called the Hall of Legions, with a seating capacity of 4,200. The club has earned many domestic and international awards. The player shown on the stamp appears to be the bearded Mariusz Jurkiewicz (central back, #20). The official first day cover shows the entire team.



Date of Issue	December 9, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka

Polish Design

This 6 zł stamp portrays a prototype red sports car believed by many in Poland to be the most beautiful and innovative car ever designed and built in Poland. The FSO Syrena Sport was a Polish prototype sports car designed by Cezary Nawrot and built in the late 1950s by a group of engineers at the *Fabryka Samochodów Osobowych* (FSO) car factory. It was a two-door coupe with a fiberglass body on a steel chassis. The engine was a four-stroke, two-cylinder, air-cooled boxer engine with an aluminum block, designated S-16, designed by Władysław Skoczyński.

At the time, the standard Syrena sedan was already



in mass production. After the presentation of the prototype sport model, the car quickly became a worldwide sensation and was widely recognized in the automotive press of the day. However, it was never mass produced. It was reported that either Prime Minister Józef Cyrankiewicz or First Secretary of the Communist Party Władysław Gomułka ordered the project ended because of insufficient state funding for the enterprise. The car was placed in storage until the late 1970s when it, together with other prototype vehicles, was destroyed. The surviving record includes a few dozen photographs, press articles and engineering design plans. Using this information, Polish entrepreneur Rafal Czubaj, in cooperation with other auto enthusiasts, built and sold an updated limited edition version of the Syrena Sport in 2013 by modifying a Nissan 370Z.

Date of Issue	December 30, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

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