



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Season's Greetings



Registered airmail letter from Warsaw to Beirut via first LOT postal flight. See Page 6.

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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 60438, 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

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to extend to all my best wishes for the holiday season and for a happy and peaceful New Year. I would also like to express my gratitude to Polonus members who contributed their time, talent and/or treasures towards making 2015 a successful year.

This issue contains an in-depth review of our activities at the APS StampShow 2015 held in Grand Rapids this past August. Overall, it was a good show for Polonus, especially when measured by the number of frames exhibited by members, the number of members attending the show, the number of new members recruited and the revenue generated by the Polonus Store. The Society News section of the Bulletin has plenty of information about this event including: show highlights, exhibitor awards, President's report (state of the society), list of new members and the Financial report for 2014. Whereas progress was made during this past year, most noteworthy the addition of a professional editor (Vickie Canfield Peters) and the upgrading of print and distribution of the Bulletin, we still have short list of issues that need our immediate attention. Be sure to read my report for a good insight into the organization.

Plans for the World Stamp Show – NY2016 are also included in the Society News section of this issue. This is a "once in a decade" opportunity to promote Polish philately and Polonus to the largest audience attending a single stamp show. We need your help, especially in staffing the Society Table, as this is an eight-day event and the organizers insist upon staffing the table for the entire eight hours per day. Be sure to read this article to note the schedule for meetings and most importantly, to respond to the questions regarding attendance and staffing. Updates to our plan will be added to our website and the final countdown will be covered in our March 2016 issue.

An ongoing organizational issue and one needing our immediate attention is the succession of leadership in the society. With elections of a Board of Directors scheduled in April 2017, Dr. Edwin J. Andrews has been appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee. It is not too soon to consider candidates for the Board of Directors with interest and leadership capability for officer's positions. Andrews and the committee will be initiating contact with the membership in search of candidates. Your cooperation and support in this search is very important to the future of Polonus.

Congratulations to Jim Mazepa for being honored in England with the signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Also, congratulations to Jim Mazepa, Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala for striking gold in Singapore 2015. Both topics are covered in this issue.

2016 dues notices have been distributed and I would like to point out that the annual dues (print or electronic version) have not changed. However, our costs, especially for the Bulletin, have increased. The mitigating factor in deciding not to increase dues at this time is the generosity of a majority of members whose contributions supplement normal dues payment. We will take a look at our current costs for the Bulletin and website vs. our sources of revenue and re-evaluate the dues structure for 2017. This will be on the agenda for our annual membership meeting in New York.

A BALLOT for the Annual "Best Article" Competition – 2015 has been inserted with this issue. I urge you to participate in this voting as the winning article will be posted in the APS "Articles of Distinction" archive. Please take a moment, make your selection and either mail or email your choice to me at P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 or krpsl@earthlink.net.

This issue has the second of four installments of the feature article, "Part 9: LOT Polish Airlines Domestic and International Routes (1936-1939)" by Kupiec-Węgliński / Kosmala. Featured on the cover of this issue is a letter sent from Warsaw to Syria some 76 years ago with a unique routing (including "Aleppo" heard frequently in today's news) before being returned to the sender.

Mazepa's "Gems" article demonstrates some of the challenges faced by Poland in the 1944-1945 time period with a selection of some unique provisional usage and post marks.

Sandler's "Port Gdańsk Overprinted Polish Stamps" article sets the record straight on the use of overprinted stamps for letters sent from Poland to foreign destinations.

This issue also features the third of three installments of "Exiled Polish Children in WWII" authored by Jan Niebrzydowski.

Raimundas Lapas, a long-time friend of Polonus, has submitted his first article titled "Uncle Sam in Poland? YMCA Activities in Wilno 1920-1926." This is an interesting piece of post-World War I history explaining the why and how a Polish YMCA was set-up with the help of the American YMCA.

In addition to the featured articles mentioned above, this issue contains an revised offering from the Polonus Store, New Issues and several other bits of interesting news and information. We hope you enjoy this issue. Your comments are always appreciated. Remember . . . be sure to vote for your favorite article.

Development of Airmail Services in Poland

Part 9: LOT Polish Airlines:

Domestic and International Routes (1936 - 1939) Part 2 of 4

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

1938 – 1939:

Phase II Expansion

On July 1, 1938, LOT embarked on a new connection between Warszawa and Budapest (managed jointly with Hungarian MALERT from July 6, 1938). On July 15, 1938, the Lithuanian capital of Kowno (Kaunas) was incorporated into the northern air network linking Warszawa with the Baltic States. On October 3, 1938, a route from Kraków to Budapest was launched and an unspecified volume of mail with a commemorative three-line cachet in black was transported on the first flight. On November 6, direct flights commenced between Warszawa and Athens. This was important for various reasons including flight safety, especially in the winter season.



Figure 6

The new route from Warszawa bypassed the treacherous Balkan crossing, eliminated the Rhodes stopover and al-



Figure 7



Figure 8

lowed a direct link between Poland and Palestine via Athens only.

Special LOT first flight covers from Poland on these new European routes are relatively common. However, mail from return flights is unusual, as exemplified by a card flown from Budapest to Warszawa on July 1, 1938 (Figure 6); or a cover flown from Kowno to Wilno on July 16, 1938 (Figure 7), both with commemorative cachets depicting countries' coats of arms.

The year 1939 marked the 20th anniversary of civil aviation in Poland and LOT's 10th anniversary. The double-milestone celebrations began February 28 with the launch of another extension to the "Levantine Line" from Lydda, Palestine to Beirut, Lebanon. On May 15, a Warszawa – Gdynia – Copenhagen line was inaugurated, the first step in newly envisaged north-to-west European air transport system.



Figure 9

On June 14 additions were made to the southern Warszawa – Budapest route, with extensions from Budapest to Belgrade and from Budapest via Venice to Rome. The lat-



Figure 10

ter was operated jointly by LOT and Italian ALI (*Avio Linee Italiane*) Airline. These events are well represented in aerophilately and are not uncommon. However, cacheted mail from LOT's return flights of 1939 is scarce, as exempli-

fied by the Beirut dispatch to Athens of March 3 (Figure 8) or the Rome dispatch to Warszawa of June 14 (Figure 9).

The overwhelming majority of airmail dispatches on LOT domestic and international first flights were philatelically motivated printed matter items to minimize mailing costs. Certainly, non-philatelic mail without pictorial cachets must have been flown, but these are hard to find some 80 years later. Figure 10 presents an example of such a "less attractive" airmail collector item flown by LOT from Warszawa to Kowno on July 15, 1938. This registered postcard shows departure and arrival date stamps of the first flight, but

no cachet (similar to that in Figure 7). It is properly franked with 95 gr. postage: 30 gr. international postcard rate plus 45 gr. registration and 20 gr. surcharge for airmail in Europe.

Figure 11 shows both sides of a cover carried on the

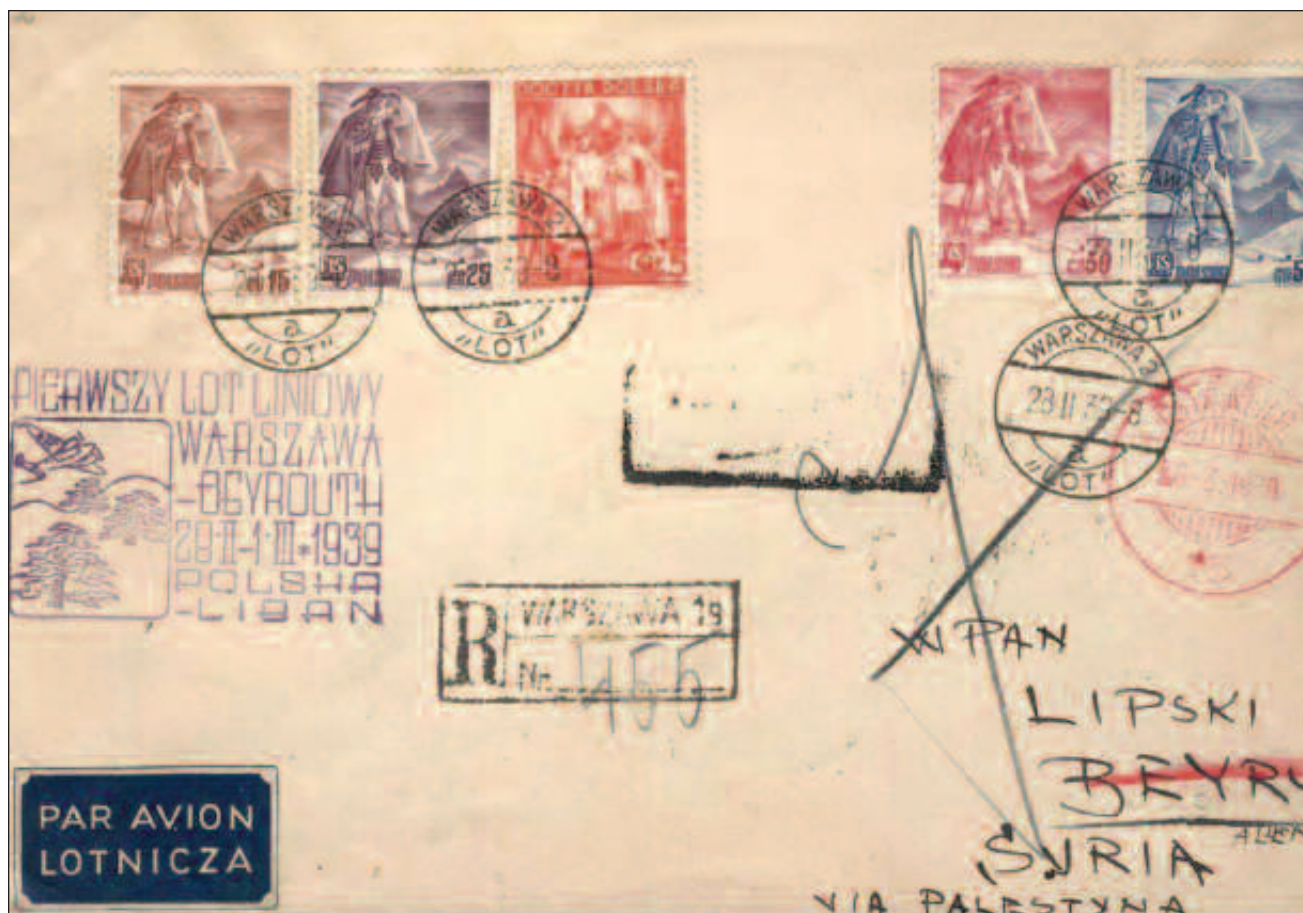


Figure 11, front



Figure 11, reverse

first LOT postal flight to Beirut, posted at Warszawa 1, registered and checked for currency control (label on reverse). Rate: 85 gr. international letter, 21-40 grams (effective October 1, 1934) + 45 gr. registration = 1.30 zł. No airmail surcharge was required for LOT-flown airmail to the Middle East (effective October 27, 1936).

After a commemorative cachet was applied, this item was flown by LOT (flight 1578) on Tuesday, February 28, 1939, via Athens and Palestine to Beirut, arrival postmarked (March 2 and March 3, 1939). The addressee was unknown (faint "Inconnu" black boxed cachet), so an attempt was made to return the letter to the sender. Polish LOT airlines had two weekly flights from Beirut to Warszawa (#1578) on Tuesdays and Saturdays. As this cover was still in Lebanon on Saturday, March 3, 1939, it could not be carried back to Poland by LOT (via Athens) until the next Tuesday, March 6. Other transport options had to be considered.

The British Imperial Airways, Air France and Dutch KLM maintained regular services with the Middle East, primarily via Cairo and Baghdad, on the way to their Indian and Asian colonies. However, one transit marking raises questions. There is a transit postmark, "Alep / 4.3.39" (Aleppo / March 4, 1939), on the reverse, indicating the ancient Syrian city (then under the French mandate) was on the route, most likely by surface mail from Beirut. It may have been transported by Nairn Transport Co., a pioneering

motor transport company, which operated a trans-desert route from Beirut, Haifa and Damascus to Baghdad (since 1923).

Anyhow, the cover arrived in Istanbul two days later, March 6, 1939, where a double-ring red marking was applied. The 980 km (610 miles) from Beirut via Aleppo to Istanbul was covered in three days. Istanbul (also known as Constantinople) was once an important destination in the pioneer period of airmail services (1920 – 1925) by CFRNA (The French-Romanian Company for Air Navigation; and later (1925 – 1933) by CIDNA (International Air Navigation Company). However, by 1939 Deutsche Lufthansa (DLH) was the only major European air carrier servicing the Turkish capital twice weekly to Sophia (Monday and Saturday; flight No. 107).

In the Bulgarian capital, the cover was most likely transferred to the Polish LOT (flight No. 1570), which had three weekly flights via Bucharest and Lwów to Warszawa (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). The letter was arrival postmarked at Warszawa 1 (March 11, 1939) and then Warszawa 41 (March 13, 1939) delivering post office. The total transit time from Beirut, Lebanon, via Aleppo, Syria, and Istanbul, Turkey, to Warszawa of eight days in 1939 might be very hard to beat utilizing the 21st-century postal services on that route.

— To Be Continued —



Gems of Polish Philately

Polish Post in 1944-1945

by Dr. James Mazepa

As World War Two was coming to an end, Poland had the daunting task of reorganizing the post service. Many of the post office workers continued the task of moving the mail, but often lacked the necessary equipment to do so. This included stamps and stationery, as well as postal markings. These problems inaugurated a period of provisional usages and postmarks similar to those of the 1918-1919 period.

The first Polish stamps were made in Lublin after the Russians occupied the city. This issue is called the "Wodzowie" or "Heros" issue. Three stamps were issued on Sep-



Figure 1

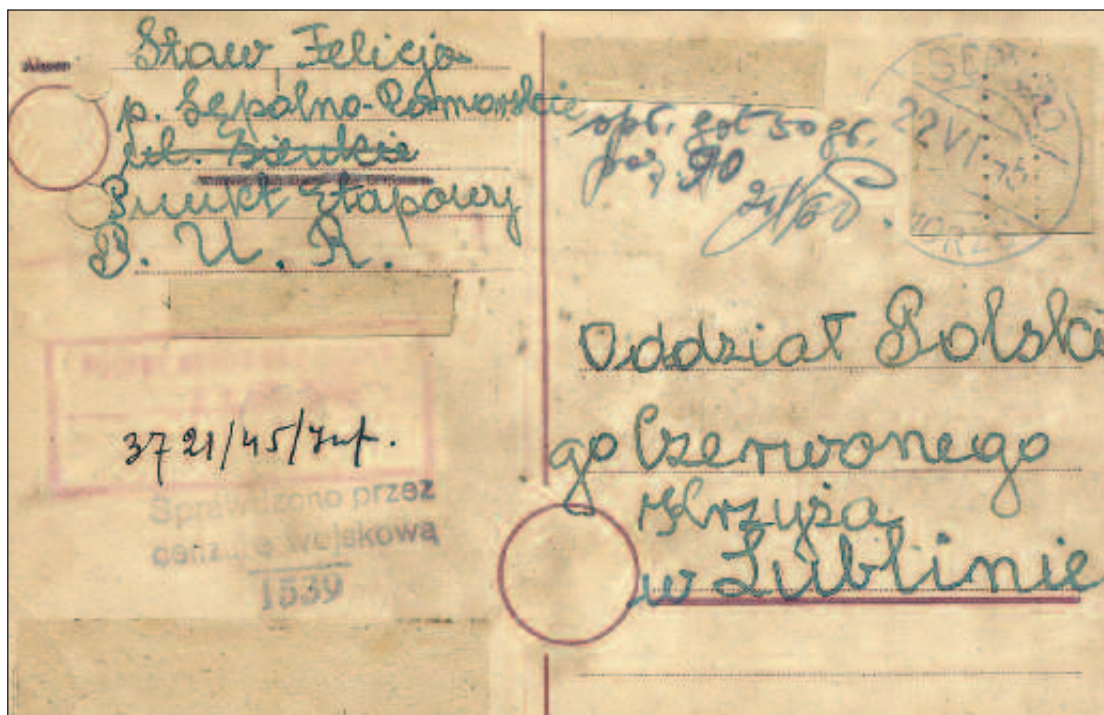


Figure 2

tember 7, 1944. These hastily made stamps were a 25 grozy with Romuald Traugutt, a 50 grozy with Tadeusz Kościuszko and a 1 złoty with Jan Henryk Dąbrowski. A second set was issued on September 13 and is called the "Goznak" issue because it was made at the Goznak printing office in Moscow. These are a 25 groszy with a Polish Eagle (without crown) and a 50 groszy with the Grunwald Monument in Kraków. Specialized collections of these issues can be fun and challenging.

Philatelists made a variety of stamps and overprints, but the true gems of



Figure 3

this period are former Generalgouvernement postal stationery used by Polish citizens due to the absence of Polish postal material. How these stationery items were used reflects the population's understandably strong anti-German sentiments.

Figure 1 is a Generalgouvernement card with the Hitler head stamp and all the German text inked out. It was

sent from Dobroń to Częstochowa March 1, 1945. It has the manuscript note "opłac got," indicating postage was paid.

Figure 2 is especially interesting because the sender cut out pieces of paper to cover the offending German stamp and text of the original Generalgouvernement postal card. It was sent from Sępólno-Pomorskie to Lublin June 22, 1945. The card also has a similar manuscript "opł. got. 50 gr."

The sender of the card in **Figure 3** scratched out the Hitler head stamp and paid the registry rate with four Grunwald stamps. This undated card was sent from Nowy Targ

to Chynów. Because no registry label was available, the sender made his own registry cachet, "NR 77," marking it in red.

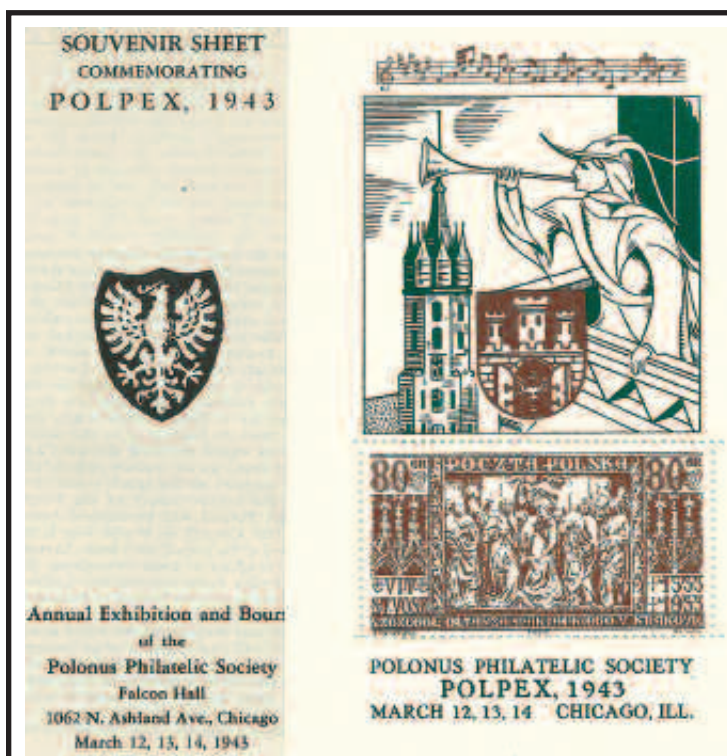
Also note that all three cards have a military censor cachet, but each in a different color: red, violet, and blue. The censor marks are a study in themselves.

1943 POLPEX Souvenir Sheet Is Special

POLPEX 1943 was held March 12, 13 and 14, 1943, at the Falcon Hall on North Ashland Avenue in Chicago. This was the fourth consecutive year for the exhibition and for the issuance of a commemorative souvenir sheet. What makes this issue "special" is that, for the first time, a descriptive folder was included with the souvenir sheets.

The souvenir sheets, one perf 12 and one imperf, depict the "Trumpeter of Kraków" and an 80 gr. stamp commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death of Wit Stwosza, sculptor of the largest Gothic altar piece in the world and a national treasure of Poland. Both the trumpeter and the altar piece are located at St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków.

There were 2000 sets issued and the Polonus Store (see page 26) has a limited supply available.



‘Port Gdańsk’ Overprinted Polish Stamps: Allowed Usage for Mail from Poland Proper to Foreign Countries

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler



Figure 1
1938 Cover from Bydgoszcz, Poland to Czechoslovakia franked with the following 4 Stamps: Poland Scott #309 and “Port Gdańsk” Overprinted Polish Stamps Scott # 1K31 (1) and 1K32 (2). The back cover has no postal markings to indicate that it arrived in Czechoslovakia.

According to Nowak [1], the “Port Gdańsk” overprinted Polish stamps (described for Poland in Scott Catalog as # 1K1-1K36 for stamps issued between 1925-1938) were affixed to Polish mail going from the Polish Post Office in Danzig to anywhere in Poland.

Recently, an unusual postal usage was found on a cover (see **Figure 1**) sent from Bydgoszcz, Poland to Czechoslovakia (Czechoslowacja) on January 21, 1938. The cover bears four stamps: Poland Scott# 309 and also “Port Gdańsk” stamps listed as Poland Scott # 1K31 (1) and 1K32 (2). To determine if this was truly a rare usage a literature search was initiated at the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). It was found that there were no references on this specific subject.

As a result, I enlisted the help of Hank Bieniecki of Bieniecki Int’l for his opinion on this question of the rarity of

this type of usage. Hank, in turn, raised this question with Grzegorz Marzec, a preeminent Polish stamp dealer in Krakow, Poland, who was visiting him. Marzec’s response was that all “Port Gdańsk” overprinted stamps were valid postage throughout Poland during the period in which they were valid in Danzig. Later, it is shown that Grzegorz Marzec was correct.

Perhaps this may also have been helped by the fact that one of the stamps (see **Figure 1**) was a Polish non-“Port Gdańsk” stamp and also that the underlying “Port Gdańsk” stamps were overprints on Polish stamps.

While I was searching for a more definitive answer to this question of usage of “Port Gdańsk” overprinted stamps, I was fortunate to recently come across another cover [6] (see **Figure 2** and **Figure 2a**) that definitively showed that both Polish stamps together with “Port



Figure 2
1937 Cover from Warszawa, Poland to New Britain, CT USA via Registered Airmail containing the following 10 stamps: Poland Scott #s: 1K31 and 1K32; #308, 309, 310, 311 (2), 312, and 313 (2).

Gdańsk” overprinted stamps were allowed to be used from inner Poland.

This cover was sent in 1937 from Warszawa, via both registered and airmail, to the United States. The back of the cover (Figure 2a) has all the confirming receiving cancellation marks that indicate its route and times of arrival at its destination in New Britain, Connecticut. It is interesting to note that the letter has several departure postal cancellations from Warszawa on August 16, 1937, and a receiving cancellation on August 23, 1937 in New York and another receiving cancellation at its destination of New Britain on August 24, 1937. Other markings show that the letter was sent registered and by airmail from (Warsaw) Warszawa which confirms its arrival in the USA.

In summary, the usage of “Port Gdańsk” overprinted Polish stamps appears to have been allowed by the Polish Post Office for postage not only in Danzig but also for mail from other cities in Poland (and for international mail) during its period of usage in Danzig as mentioned by Marzec [5].



Figure 2a
Back of Figure 2

first brought the cover shown in Figure 1 (purchased on eBay for me) to my attention. It has no back stamps or receiving marks to indicate that it arrived at its destination.

References:

1. E. Nowak, *Polonus Bulletin*, Vol. 168, pp. 8-11, March 1959 (Issued by the Polonus Philatelic Society).
2. I would like to acknowledge the help of Mr. Louis Ricker who

3. I would also like to acknowledge the help of Mr. Scott Tiffney who helped in the literature search at the APRL.

4. I would like to acknowledge Hank Bieniecki of Bieniecki Int'l Inc., P. O. Box 760, Maryville, IL. 62062 (www.biistamp.com) for his helpful literature references, comments and suggestions.

5. Grzegorz Marzec, a preeminent Polish stamp dealer, from Krakow, Poland.

6. Shown in figures 2 and 2a (back cover) is a Polish cover purchased on eBay in July 2015. The seller of this cover was Universal Numismatics who is located in New Britain, CT. The back (see Figure 2a) has receiving marks to show that it was used in international airmail and that it arrived at its destination in the USA.

Poland Wins St. Gabriel Award

by Bob Ogrodnik

Poland has done it again by winning, for the third time in recent years, the most prestigious award for the best religious stamp: the St. Gabriel International Award. With more than 100 stamp issues from around the world selected as nominees, a 5 zł souvenir sheet issued by Poland on April 2, 2014, to celebrate the canonization of Pope John Paul II (Fi 4519 / Sc 4114) was selected as the "best religious stamp" issued in 2014 (see Figure 1). The award ceremony was held on September 29, 2015, at the Fioroni Museum in Legnago, Italy.



Figure 1

Marzanna Dąbrowska, working with her husband Jacek Dąbrowski, designed the award-winning souvenir

sheet. Piotr Naszarkowski, understudy to the late Czesław Ślania, did the engraving. Marzanna also designed the award-winning 2009 issue (Fi 4306 / Sc 3963) in memory of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko and the award-winning 2011 issue (Fi 4519 / Sc 4009) honoring the beatification of Pope John Paul II. The 2011 and 2014 issues were joint issues with the Vatican.

This award-winning stamp issue was selected for a special "favor" prepared for the CHICAGOPEX 2014 Awards Banquet and distributed to attendees with the compliments of the Polonus Philatelic Society. (See Bulletin #559 pg.15.)

An article covering the "St. Gabriel Award" can be found in the November 2, 2015 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, pages 14 and 16.

The award was established in 1969 in Verona, Italy, and is named after "the Lord's postman,, St. Gabriel. "An article titled the "Polish Post Awarded Philatelic Oscar" can be found in the Polonus Bulletin #556, pg. 8, as well as reports on other awards that can be found in Polonus Bulletins #549, pg. 20 and #541, pg. 19.

Internet Philatelic Club of the PZF

Remember the Polonus PURLS (Polonus Philatelic URLs)? Well, we just found an interesting and relatively new website of the Internet Philatelic Club of the PZF at www.i-kf.pl.

This PZF affiliate uses the internet as the virtual meeting place for a global membership. Focus is on promotion of Polish philately in the Polish language only at this time. In addition to publishing articles on a regular basis, this site includes digitized versions of the following Polish philatelic publications:

- Łódzki Biuletyn Filatelistyczny – 1972 to 1976 (nr. 39-58)
- Historyczno – Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny – 1977 to 1993 (nr. 59-126)
- Przegląd Filatelistyczny = 2002 to 2004 (nr. 1-12)

„i-kf” stands for Internetowe Koło Filatelistów. You can access this website from the „links” on the Polonus website. If you can handle the Polish language, this site can be an excellent resource.

Uncle Sam in Poland?

YMCA Activities in Wilno 1920 - 1926

by Raimundas Marius Lapas



Figure 1
1920 Wilno registered cover sent from Dr. Leon Obrowicz at the local war hospital to the industrial branch magistrate in Kraków

The Young Men's Christian Association (commonly known as YMCA or simply the Y) is a worldwide organization based in Geneva, Switzerland with more than 57 million beneficiaries from 125 national associations. It was founded by George Williams, a London draper. Williams' idea grew out of meetings he held for prayer and Bible-reading among his fellow-workers in a business in the city of London. On June 6, 1844, he founded the first YMCA with the purpose of "the improving of the spiritual condition of young men engaged in the drapery, embroidery, and other trades." By 1851, there were YMCAs in the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

Witam YMCA

With the end of World War I in 1918, Poland regained its freedom and was deemed independent after having been partitioned between Prussia, Austria and Russia for more than 100 years. Its frontier provinces on all sides were still occupied by enemy troops. Polish soldiers, who had been fighting in France, came to Poland as an organized army, and with them, at their request, came the American YMCA.

American secretaries arrived in Warszawa in 1919

and opened huts for soldiers; 40 by July 1919. Eventually the American YMCA worked in 90 locations and had rolling canteens that followed the Polish army. In addition to Polish soldiers the American YMCA worked with thousands of Russian prisoners of war remaining after the defeated invasion. The YMCA helped fight a typhus epidemic, assisted railway men who were restoring lines in the eastern provinces and cooperated in feeding needy students and children.

The Dramatic 'Twenties

Impressed with the wartime work of the YMCA, the leaders of Poland quickly united in a request that the American YMCA help Poland organize a Polish YMCA. Eight American and Canadian secretaries were sent at first, but 1921 brought a reduction to staff and equipment in Poland. Operations were confined to five localities, with several YMCAs in Warszawa and Kraków, all under the leadership of senior secretary Arthur Stuart Taylor.

In 1922, Paul Super succeeded Taylor as the senior secretary for Poland. Super emphasized the importance of training local secretaries and focused the YMCA in three capitals within the country: Warszawa, Łódź and Kraków. In 1923 Marshal Józef Piłsudski, the man largely responsible



Figure 2
1922 cover sent from C.C. Kent in Wilno to Mr. B. F. Stevenson at the YMCA Railroad in Atlanta, Georgia

for Poland's independence, became the first honorary member of the Polish YMCA. His name connected to the YMCA gave the association a wide acceptance and influence within Poland.

Near the end of 1923, American YMCA organizers felt the movement was sufficiently established for the Polish National Council to take charge completely. The American YMCA in Poland was terminated and property, bank balances and staff transferred to the Polish YMCA's central committee. Super was elected general director of the Polish YMCA. He continued to be supported by a North American staff that included E. O. Jacob and Earle R. Cummings.

With strong Polish leadership aided by North American secretaries the YMCA grew rapidly. It introduced sports and games, camping and training schools for YMCA work. The Polish YMCA declared itself to be non-political, aiming instead to the intellectual, spiritual and physical development of its members. Gifts for buildings came from the United States and the North American International Committee continued to provide financial aid to the Polish National Council. In 1926 a building in Kraków was completed; a plant in Warszawa was finished in 1936. A building in Łódź was also begun and in use by 1935. Membership and activity multiplied for the YMCA in Poland. Boys' camps grew and a radio school and automobile school were cre-

ated. Since within Poland religious and formal education were considered strictly the domain of the Roman Catholic Church, the YMCA stressed growth through creative activity.

Economics Likes to Play Dirty Tricks

During the 1930s the depression resulted in cuts in North American personnel and appropriations, as well as a decline in the YMCA's membership and income. By 1936 the North American staff had been reduced to only Paul Super. Financial relief measures were taken and construction continued on the incomplete buildings in Warszawa and Łódź. In 1938 and 1939 German advances into Czechoslovakia and Austria prompted the YMCA to offer its facilities to the Polish government.

Courses were conducted in civilian war service to prepare citizens for the impending hostilities.

In September 1939 the German invasion of Poland made Paul Super a refugee along with thousands of Polish citizens. He went to Romania and organized a relief effort for refugees. After transferring his responsibilities to Polish citizens in Hungary, Super went to France to help Polish citizens there. When the Germans invaded France, he returned to the United States where he traveled, creating interest in Poland's cause and developing funds for Polish YMCA budgets. He helped give direction to the Polish YMCA in exile as it spread from country to country.

During German occupation, the Polish YMCA continued to be a useful institution to those remaining in Poland. The Warszawa building hosted day nurseries for children where they could obtain food and professional training courses aimed at preparing people who could no longer work at their previous professions. A first aid program for refugees on the western part of Poland, an area incorporated into the Reich, was begun. The branch of the Warsaw YMCA called the "Section for Working Youths" continued with its work.

The Polish YMCA was forced to discontinue its language courses because the only language that was permitted to be taught was German. The buildings in Kraków and

Łódź were taken over completely and the town of Łódź was in the part of Poland incorporated into the Reich. Contact with Polish YMCA work in Poznań and Gdynia was cut off due to the two towns also being incorporated into Germany. Sports were prohibited, secondary schools were closed, there was no Polish press and officially neither the State of Poland nor the Polish people were recognized, instead becoming a General Government Area and National Group in the General Government Area. On one occasion a branch of the Warszawa YMCA was surrounded by German police and one worker and 16 boys were arrested. They were accused of illegally playing volleyball. None that were arrested survived. Ultimately, the Polish YMCA was closed and its property confiscated.

I possess two YMCA covers from Wilno. They must have an interesting story behind them! After all, that is why I've spent the last 40 years collecting postal history. As a former librarian and archivist with an excellent knowledge of eight Western and Eastern European languages, I did not foresee any major obstacles revealing their history. However, initial googling proved absolutely fruitless results until I came across the Kautz Family YMCA Archives in a highly unexpected place: the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

My "Mighty Mouse" who flew in to "save the day" was reference librarian and outreach archivist Ryan Bean. It took only one phone call to convince Ryan to assist in this project. What I learned was a true revelation: the university houses the records of YMCA international work in Poland 1919 – 1992 (bulk of the material being from the 1920 - 1960 period). Collection Y. USA.9-2-49 consists of correspondence, minutes, financial documents, sheet music, pamphlets, maps, photographs, journal and newspaper clippings as well as other records of the YMCA movement in Poland. It's a truly impressive sight – a collection housed in 18 archival boxes spanning 7.1 cubic feet.

The local scoop

On December 3, 2014, Ryan emailed me an article published by Merle Scott in the May 1924 issue of *Association Men* titled "Volunteers Who Carry On. At fourteen railroad division points along the eastern border of Poland, Association activities run full blast, and in thirteen of them the work progresses without a single employed secretary."

Ryan commented: "Attached please find a copy of a YMCA publication that mentions the work in Wilno. Unfortunately it does not mention an address for the work but based on the description it seems that the Y did not operate a facility but rather performed outreach work in the city."

Let extracts from this article speak for themselves: " . . . George Williams would, I believe, have been much pleased with what I had the opportunity of observing during a six day's trip among the Railroad Associations, located



Figure 3
1926 Poland YMCA Wilno branch document declaring its admiration and friendship for the United States

along the Eastern borders of Poland . . . More than anywhere else in Poland, this town [Baranowicze in Polish, Баранавічы in Belorussian – R.M.L. notation] saw the devastating effects of the war. Into this haven of hope, this land of promise, poured an utterly miserable stream of humanity – demobilized soldiers, released war prisoners, refugees from all parts of Russia – footsore, weary, starving, freezing, typhus ridden. For many Baranowicze was the end of the earthly pilgrimage. Consecrated nurses, doctors and relief workers faced awful odds. One hundred and thirty – nine of them, mainly doctors and nurses, died at their posts in this one town alone., mostly from typhus. In that number were three Y.M.C.A. Secretaries.

"And in this sort of atmosphere thrives one of the finest places of volunteer work, which the Association can produce. Railroad Associations are humming with activity in fourteen Division Point towns. At thirteen of these places, the work is carried on without a single paid Secretary. The exception is Wilno, a city of some 300,000 population, where one Secretary is employed. Here there are nearly 2,500 privilege using members . . . Officials and workers of all grades [finance, library, music, kinograph, education and sports – R.M.L. notation] are interested in the work. The general Superintendent of the Wilna Division, who carries the title of

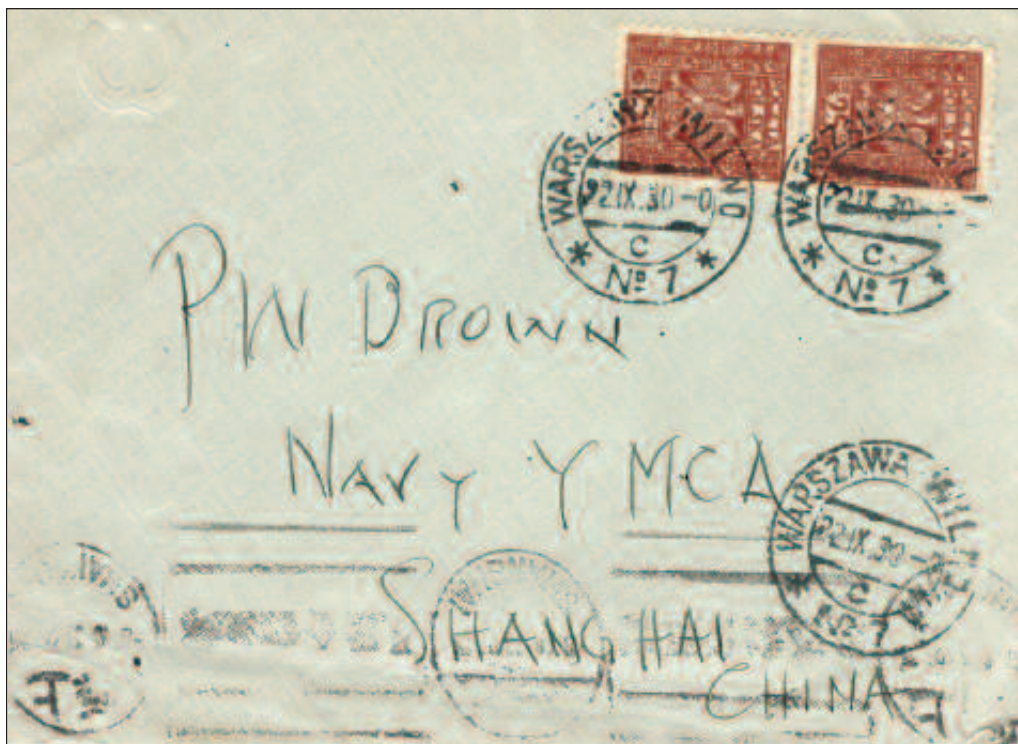


Figure 4
1930 Warszawa – Wilno railroad wagon #7 cover sent to P.W. Brown at the Navy YMCA in Shanghai, China. (Courtesy of Al Kugel)

“President,” is recognized as the best railroad executive in Poland. He is a member of the National Committee and gives large time to its work, as well as personally interesting himself in the work of the Railroad Associations . . .”

So who's the “Prez?”

The answer we found in Paul Super's typewritten letter on Y.M.C.A. stationery (Związek Młodzieży Chrześcijańskiej, 22 al. Ujazdowskie, Warszawa) dated May 27, 1924, and addressed to Mr. C. V. Hibbard, American International Y.M.C.A. 347 Madison Avenue, New York, USA:

“ . . . A new situation has developed which is giving us no little concern and which may prove to be a major disaster. President Landsberg of the Wilno direction has been attacked for some time by personal and political enemies. After a thorough investigation he has been exonerated on any misuse of his power. For my part I would say that he, Pilsudski, and Grabski, have done more for Poland than any three men living. But after his exoneration he resigned his Presidency and is leaving the railroad service. You understand, of course, that it is his backing which has made the Y.M.C.A. possible, for he has not only erected or given us buildings, but has provided heat, light and service for these buildings as a proper charge against railroad administration. American railways take the same position. If the new President should prove to be unfriendly to the Y.M.C.A. it would be a very great calamity for our railroad work. Our Central Committee sees this and is preparing to meet the situation. Believing that the best defensive is an offensive we are

preparing to call upon the Railroad Ministry and ask for even more than they have previously given us, seeking indeed, a status for the Railroad Y.M.C.A. even higher than that which it now enjoys. We are conferring with our friends as to the wisest procedure and are preparing for a conference with the Railway Ministry in which we shall set forth the theory of the Railway Y.M.C.A., seek its highest official endorsement and try to secure the continuity of our work on the Wilno Direction. This will be my most important work during June. It is a very serious matter. Meanwhile I wish I had at hand a copy of the report of the Railway Y.M.C.A. Convention in St. Louis. It would give me valuable material. If it has been issued please send me three copies. It might be a graceful gesture if you would have the

chairman of the Railroad Department autograph one of these for the Minister of Railways, Republic of Poland. Never mind his name, it may change by the time the book gets here, and indeed it might even be that President Landsberg himself will be the Minister of Railways . . .” Alas, the fate of President Landsberg is unknown.

There is one other artifact from the YMCA activities in Wilno worth mentioning. In the Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.) manuscript division we find a 1926 document (call number 0843N, volume one, image 201) classified as “Polska. YMCA. Związek Młodzieży Chrześcijańskiej. Ognisko w Wilnie” (Poland. YMCA. Young Mens' Christian Association. Wilno branch). This document declares the Polish YMCA's admiration and friendship for the United States and features signatures of local chapter members.

Were YMCA activities in Wilno suspended shortly afterwards? Perhaps future in-depth research might answer the question.

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Exiled Polish Children in World War II - Part 3

'Orphans and Refugees in Lebanon 1939-1950'

by Jan Niebrzydowski

During World War II, part of the civilian population from Poland's Eastern border was deported by the Soviets into the depths of the Soviet Union. After the so-called "amnesty" following Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union, many of these civilians made their way to assembly points where Polish army units were being formed with the consent of the Soviet authorities. Those who survived the long journey by train and by foot, and who made it by August 1942, were evacuated to Iran, along with the newly formed army under the command of General Anders. Most of the women and children were sent from Iran to Africa, Palestine, India and other places. However, some 5,000 remained in temporary camps in Teheran and Isfahan.

In the winter of 1945-1946



Figure 2



Figure 1

the British, who had authority over part of Iran at that time, moved the people to a transit camp at Ahwaz and from there to Lebanon. The refugees were initially accommodated in Saint Simon and then settled in permanent camps in Beirut, Ghazir, Zouk, Mikael, Baabda, Beit Chbab and Romie. Medical centers were set up in Bhanne and Bhamdoun. The Polish diplomatic mission was responsible for the Polish refugees. The Polish population enjoyed the same rights as Lebanese citizens.

The children were taught in specially organized primary and secondary schools and 400 Polish students were admitted to Lebanese universities. The Poles had their own research institute, aid committees, churches, scouting, libraries and radio broadcasts.

The last Polish refugees left Lebanon in 1950. They went to Great Britain, the United States, Argentina and other places. Only a small number returned to Poland, which was now a Soviet satellite state under Communist rule.

Some 200 remained in Lebanon, married local people and became part of the local Lebanese community.

I am illustrating four covers from my collection that represent the postal history of the times and places.

Figure 1 is an "AIR LETTER" from Ahwaz camp in Iran to Edinburgh, Scotland, sent via Indian Field Post Office nr. 8 on September 23, 1945. This cover is an example of the "air letter sheet" introduced by Great Britain in early 1941 as thin and lightweight stationery initially intended for use by their overseas military forces and later extended for use by civilians. The inscription on the front of the cover, "If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail," serves to remind the sender of the weight qualification for air mail.

Figure 2 is an airmail letter sent from Beirut, Lebanon on September 3, 1945 and addressed to Karol Wachtl in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Wachtl was the pub-

lisher of the Polish newspaper, *The Star*, and a major supporter of Polish refugees all over the world.

Figure 3 is a registered letter from Ghazir, Lebanon (near Beirut) to Wachtl in Philadelphia September 14, 1945.

The last cover, **Figure 4** is an airmail letter sent from the Polish center in Ghazir, Lebanon, to Helena Lübke in Lausanne, Switzerland on July 28, 1945. In this censored letter the sender was anxious to know whether her husband, who had been held at the German Oflag VII A in Murnau, was still alive.



Figure 3



Figure 4

**Dues are . . .
DUE!**
Renew your
membership today
and keep your
Polonus Bulletin
coming.



Polonus Philatelic Society News



Polonus Exhibitors following the Awards Banquet (L to R): Roman Sobus, Dariusz Grochowski, Jim Mazepa, Wiesław Kostka, Frank Karwoski, Ed Andrews, Bob Ogrodnik and Ron Klimley.

Polonus Exhibitors Excel at APS StampShow 2015

The Polonus Society put in a good showing at APS StampShow 2015. The show was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in August. Polonus members contributed 96 frames in 18 exhibits. Of this, nine exhibits and 41 frames featured Polish philatelic material. The remainder was focused on other parts of the world.

In the World Series Champion of Champions competition, **Dr. Paul Phillips** was awarded the World Series of Philately Prix d'Honneur for his exhibit, *Reform of the British Overseas Mail System, 1840-56*. **Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński**, who was invited and scheduled to participate with his exhibit, *Air Mail in the Polish Territories (1914-1939)*, was forced to withdraw as his exhibit could not be transferred from Singapore to Grand Rapids in time for the judging. (Refer to the article later in this section covering the members who participated in the World Stamp Exposition – Singapore 2015.)

Wiesław Kostka was given the Polonus President's Award for his one-frame exhibit, *Postal Wax Seals on the Letters of the King*. Wiesław also received the show and Polonus gold medals. His eight-frame exhibit, *Postmarks of the Eastern Territories of the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1871*, received a show vermeil and Polonus gold medal.

Dr. James Mazepa was awarded the Polonus Grand Award for his eight-frame exhibit, *Poland: First and Second Warsaw Provisionals*. In addition, Jim received the show and Polonus gold medals.

Dr. Edwin Andrews took home show and Polonus gold medals for his five-frame exhibit, *The 1924 Eagle in Wreath Issue: The First Gold Currency Stamps of Poland*. **Dariusz Grochowski** received show and Polonus silver medals for his one-frame exhibit, *Essays and Proofs of Post War Lublin Issue*.

Frank Karwoski received a show vermeil and Polonus gold for his four-frame exhibit, *Poland's 10-Mk Sower Stamp (1921-23)*. **Bob Ogrodnik** received show and Polonus silver medals for his five-frame exhibit, *First Polish Air Mail After WWII*.

Roman Sobus was awarded show and Polonus gold medals for his eight-frame exhibit, *Internal Camp Post at Offizierlager IIC – Woldenberg 1942 – 1945*. **Andrew Urushima's** one-frame exhibit, *The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics*, received a show and Polonus golds.

In the "non-Polish" category, Polonus members received two gold and six vermeil show medals, including the "Best Illustrated Division and Gold" award to **Ronald Klimley** for his eight-frame 1964 – 65 *New York World's Fair Issue*. Other members exhibiting in this category were **Alfred Kugel**, **Regis Hoffman**, **Dr. Paul Phillips** and **Dr. Edwin Andrews**.

Congratulations to all our exhibitors for representing Polonus in such a positive manner and for a job well done!



President's Report

Polonus Annual Meeting ~ August 22, 2015
APS StampShow 2015 ~ Grand Rapids, Michigan

In this the 13th anniversary of our "Annual Meeting & Exhibition" format and, as your president for the past eight years, I am pleased to report that Polonus continues to thrive as a viable philatelic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our "financial health" is good, thanks to the continued generosity of our membership, who make tax-deductible contributions in addition to the normal membership dues. In addition, revenue from the Polonus Store, in its first year of operation, has become a welcome boost to the top-line.

This past November, I mentioned that "organizational health" continues to be an issue. Today I am pleased to report that we have made progress in expanding organizational resources. Earlier this year, we hired a professional editor and added a volunteer to chair the Back Issues, both of which lightened my load. More progress is needed in this area, which I will address later in my report.

Before I present a summary of the highlights since our last meeting, we have two business items that need the attention of the membership present at this meeting.

1. At our November 2014 Board Meeting, we approved an Ethics Policy for the Society and I am pleased to present this policy to our membership at this meeting. In addition, it will be posted on our website and included in a future issue of our Bulletin.

2. We have one official act to perform at this meeting and that is to vote on the acceptance of amended By-Laws. The Board of Directors have decided to amend the By-Laws to reflect the organizational structure and the practices that were accepted at the November board meeting, that is the creation of an Executive Vice President position (currently unfilled) and a Vice President of Administration position, currently held by Dan Lubelski; the sending out of dues notices prior to the end of the calendar year; and the distribution of powers with the addition of an Executive VP.

The following is a summary of the 2014 and 2015 year-to-date highlights:

- Our financial position has declined in 2014 due to expense exceeding income by \$1,733.54 resulting in a year-end cash balance of \$10,749.72, but this is better than we projected at our November meeting. Our 75th anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014 was special and expenses were extraordinary. A Financial Report will be included in the December issue of the Bulletin.
- Our financial position in 2015 has improved through June with a cash balance of \$13,003.95. However, the impact of expenses in the second half of the year with less revenue translates to a slight loss for the year. We project a year-end cash position of \$10,000.00.
- Contributions represented 58% of our income in 2014, with approximately half of our membership participating. This was an extraordinary year of giving due to the appeal made for our 75th anniversary. In 2015, contributions represent 35% of our income due to the new revenue generated by the Poland Store. As a 501(c)(3), contributions are tax-deductible. Many employers offer matching gifts for contributions by their employees. Acknowledgement letters are sent to donors and recognition is given with a listing of donors in our Bulletin.
- One of the highlights of CHICAGOPEX 2014 was the Polonus Bulletin receiving a GOLD MEDAL in the Literature Competition. We are proud of this accomplishment and congratulate all who are involved with this publication. The Bulletin continues to be one of the major benefits of membership. The hiring of a professional editor adds to the quality and on-time performance. Since joining Polonus as editor, Vickie Canfield Peters, has contributed greatly to the appearance and readability of the Bulletin and has not missed a deadline in getting out the Bulletin earlier than the mid-month target. Since launching a "digital version" accessible to "Members Only" on our website we have seen a decline in the percentage of members opting for the "digital version." In 2015, only 28% (down from 31%) of the membership have opted for the "digital version" Bulletin. It may be the aesthetic appeal that is causing a shift to "print" vs. "digital."
- The Publication Committee has decided to join the APS "Articles of Distinction" program and sponsor a Polonus member "Best Article" competition. 2015 will be the first year for this competition with the members voting in December and the winner announced in the March 2016 issue and award granted at the World Stamp Show in New York.

- Since his appointment as Membership Chair, Dan Lubelski has welcomed 34 new and returning members. These results are outstanding. I will let Dan tell you more about our membership; about a program to continue adding more than losing by attrition; and how you can help.

- Our performance as a “featured” or “convening” Philatelic Society at major stamp shows continues to be exemplary and our reputation among show organizers is excellent. This means we can enjoy the privilege of choosing the shows at which we are “featured.” I want to thank our membership for their support at shows, especially by their turn out at this Show, APS StampShow 2015. We have 12 exhibitors with 90 frames, of which 49 consist of Polish philatelic material. Next challenge is the World Stamp Show NY 2016, scheduled as an eight-day show from May 28 to June 4.

- The Polonus library has been physically transitioned from Florida to the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, nearly two years ago. However, we have very little evidence to date that our members are taking advantage of this resource. Our Library Liaison, Robin Elliott, is focused on helping APRL with the processing of library material from Polonus and explaining to our members how this tremendous resource can be accessed, as well as illustrate some of the benefits of its use. Robin reports that she will be working on indexing, expanding on the work completed by Dudek and his index book covering the first 400 issued of the Bulletin.

- Our Study Group program continues to have mixed reviews. On the positive side, we are seeing more articles on POW camps and especially on aerophilately. On the negative side, we have lost the Study Group Leader on DP / Intern Camps and Cinderellas & Labels. We are looking for volunteers to take the lead on these, as well as expand into other areas. I am convinced that active Study Groups represent a valuable benefit to our membership and could attract new members.

- Polonus provided the only professional expertizing service for Polish philatelic material in North America. Zbigniew Korszeń, Expert of the Polish Philatelic Union and Polonus member, served as the primary expert in this program. Hank Bieniecki served as Chair of the Expertizing Committee and was your “go-to” person for expertizing. Due to circumstances beyond the control of Polonus, this program is no longer viable and will not be offered until a suitable alternative is found.

- Our website is our #1 issue. Very little, if any, of the plans presented in Chicago this past November have been realized. Many of the problems we have and are dealing with are due to outside services that are unreliable. Most recently, we lost a significant amount of data when the host company was making a change in our server. This necessitated sending out an alert to our members that re-registration may be necessary in the event they could not log in on our website. The Polonus website must be restored to a level of effectiveness so that it becomes the “beacon” for the future of Polonus. We have recently changed host companies handling our server and retained the services of a tech to oversee the performance of our website. We will also be working on strengthening our volunteer base to facilitate populating the “Under Construction” areas.

- We may have a new three-year term for Board of Directors and Officers but the reality is still that not much has changed, i.e., where is our succession of leadership for the future and where are the volunteers for the various committees that provide the programs for membership. The addition of an Editor and Back Issue Chair is a positive step, however, we sorely need volunteers for the following jobs: WebMaster, Website Updaters, Polonus Store Manager, Translation Services, Awards Chair, Annual Meeting & Exhibition Chair, etc., etc. Notwithstanding, we will be having another election in 2017 and I look forward to turning the job of President over to a successor.

- In summary, our key issues are:

1. Website
2. Expertizing
3. Leadership succession
4. Volunteers

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their contribution towards the accomplishments reported and look forward to working with all towards meeting the challenges ahead, continued success and philatelic enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Ogrodnik, President
Polonus Philatelic Society

APS StampShow 2015 Highlights

By Bob Ogrodnik

There were five highlights that are noteworthy for this summary, especially for those members who were unable to attend this event.

1. Polonus members responded well to the call for exhibits with a total of 18 exhibits and 96 frames. However, this total was shared by exhibits featuring Polish material and exhibits featuring other parts of the world. An article focused on Polonus exhibitors at this show can be found on Page 19

2. Grand Rapids in August was delightful and at last count there were 25 members in attendance. Welcome packets were available for all who pre-notified us of their intent to attend the show. In addition to the hospitality suite that was available for networking and socializing, the "dutch-treat" dinner at the Bull's Head Tavern was a big hit. Located across the street from the show and featuring specials during "restaurant week," approximately 16 members attended this event.

3. The Society Table was well stocked, well staffed



Starting the "dutch-treat" dinner at the Bull's Head Tavern

and well attended. In addition to being a good meeting place, we recorded 14 new members and generated more than \$800 in sales for items from the Polonus Store. Relative to other shows, these results were outstanding.

4. The Board of Directors Meeting was held August 22, 2015, and with seven of the nine directors present a quorum was confirmed and the business of annual reporting followed. The major decision at this board meeting was the approval of amended by-laws (see Item 2 in the President's Report), subject to approval at the Annual Membership Meeting. In addition, Dr. Edwin J. Andrews was appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2017 elections.



Polonus members between meetings, left to right: Jan Rudnicki, Dariusz Grochowski, Thomas Wrzosek and Wiesław Kostka

5. The Annual Membership Meeting was held August 22, 2015, with 15 members in attendance. The major action was the approval of the amended by-laws recommended by the Board of Directors. In addition to passing out copies of the Code of Ethics, copies of the amended by-laws were made available. The Code of Ethics is currently posted on the Polonus website (under "About Us") and the by-laws are in the process of being posted also. In the interim, anyone wanting to review our by-laws may request a copy (contact me).

Overall, the APS StampShow was successful for Polonus and, I believe, enjoyed by members who attended. Evidence of the good time had by all can be seen in the accompanying photos from this event.

Moving?

Please send address changes to:

**Polonus Philatelic Society,
PO Box 60438
Rossford OH 43460**

Plans for 'The Big Apple'

by Bob Ogrodnik

Polonus is an "Attending Society" at the World Stamp Show 2016, being held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City, on May 28 – June 4, 2016. This was reported in the previous Bulletin, together with early action notes. This article is intended to update earlier action notes and to identify the critical actions that remain to be taken.

1. Members intending to exhibit had a deadline of this past August 15, 2015 to submit the "Exhibit Application Form" to the designated Commissioner. By this time, each individual should have received a reply from the Commissioner advising whether or not the exhibit has been accepted.

2. The official website for the World Stamp Show 2016 is www.ny2016.org. If you are exhibiting or planning to attend be sure to visit this site for answers to your questions, whether they be FIP regulations governing the exhibitions, a list of hotels with special rates for show attendees, lists of dealers more than 200 expected), lists of postal bureaus (more than 50 expected), attending societies (more than 60 expected), etc.

3. The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on June 3, 2016, in Room 1E09 beginning at 8 a.m. and finishing by 9:30 a.m.

4. Our 14th Annual Membership Meeting is set for June 3, 2016, in Room 1E09 beginning at 10 a.m. and finishing by noon.

5. Presentations titled "Introduction to Collecting Poland" are scheduled for May 29, 2016,, in Room 1E06 from 1 – 2: p.m., and again on June3, 2016, in Room 1E12 from 1– 2 p.m.

6. We have reserved a Society Table (Booth # 1478) that need sto be continually staffed during the show hours (normally from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) for the eight (8) days of the show. If you are planning to attend, we need your help to staff the Society Table. In addition to welcoming visiting members (Welcome Packets will be available), we plan to have an active campaign to sign on new members, to sell-out the Polonus Store and to promote Polish philately.

7. We are having a "dutch-treat" dinner on Friday, June 3, 2016, at 7 p.m. The restaurant will be selected based upon the number of members participating.

8. Convention headquarters is located in the Marriott Marquis – Times Square. The show website has a listing of more than 25 hotels with rates varying from \$99 to \$359 at the Waldorf-Astoria. Good deals are selling out quickly and,

assuming you plan to attend, I encourage you to pick and confirm your hotel as soon as possible. Due to the wide selection of hotels and the expense, we have decided not to have a hospitality suite at this show.

9. The critical action is for you answer the following:

a.) Are you planning to attend the show and if so, on what days?

b.) Are you planning to attend the annual meeting on June 3?

c.) Are you planning to attend the "dutch-treat" dinner on June 3?

d.) Are you willing to volunteer time at the Society Table and if so, what days and what hours?

Send your responses to my attention via email (krpsl@earthlink.net) or via snail mail (P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024) or via telephone (314-821-6130)

More information about Polonus' plans for the World Stamp Show- NY 2016 can be found on the Polonus website and in Bulletin #562, the March 2016 issue and the last before the opening of the show.



Financial Report for 2014

Cash Balance as of December 31, 2013 \$12,519.29

Income

Membership Dues 5,087.50
 Donations 4,296.50
 Sales 996.57
 Fundraising for CHICAGOPEX 2014 & 75th Anniversary...
 3,980.00
 • Ads 1,000.00
 • Testimonials 1,450.00
 • Patrons & Wellwishers..... 1,530.00

Total Income..... \$14,360.57

Expenses

Bulletin Print & Prep..... 3,244.69
 Website 897.50
 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (CHICAGOPEX 2014).....
 6,171.78
 • Beeba Reception & Ann. Dinner..... 870.70
 • Collectors Club Dinner..... 1,621.50
 • Hospitality Suite 760.62
 • Polish Judge Honorarium 600.00
 • All Other..... 1,318.96

Commemorative Catalogue, Lapel Pin, Shot Glass .. 4,537.76
 Membership Related Expense 376.78
 P.O. Box Maintenance Fee 344.00
 Postage & Mailing Services 390.43
 Miscellaneous..... 131.17

Total Expenses..... \$16,094.11

Net Loss..... (\$1,733.54)

Deferred Expense..... (36.03)

Cash Balance as of December 31, 2014..... \$10,749.72

Polonus Exhibitors Strike Gold in Singapore

The Sands Expo® & Convention Centre was the site of the World Stamp Exposition Singapore 2015 on August 14-19, 2015. Polonus was represented by three members.

Dr. James Mazepa was awarded a gold medal (93 points) for his exhibit, *Colonial Central America*. **Dr. Jerzy Kupec-Węgliński** received a gold medal (93 points) for his exhibit, *Air Mail in the Polish Territories (1914 – 1939)*. **Jacek Kosmala** took home a large vermeil (86 points) for his exhibit, *The Post in Warsaw till 1920*.

Congratulations to all for achieving such outstanding results at this international event.

Nominating Committee Launched

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews has accepted the appointment as Chairman of the Nominating Committee in preparation for the 2017 elections. Committee members working with Andrews are: Dan Lubelski, Jim Mazepa and Bob Ogrodnik. The purpose of this committee is to identify and present a slate of candidates to serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Polonus Philatelic Society for a three-year term. Ballots with this slate of candidates will be sent to the mem-

bership no later than February 28, 2017 and the results of the election will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting (April 29, 2017) at WESTPEX 2017.

In addition to serving as directors, the slate of candidates must include members capable and willing to serve as officers of the organization, including the Office of President. The election of a Board of Directors and Officers is covered by the Society by-laws, a copy of which will be posted on the Polonus website (www.polonus.org). Position descriptions will also be posted on our website.

Members interested in considering serving on the Board of Directors should feel free to contact Chairman Andrews (afacinc@yahoo.com) or any committee member. By the same token, do not be surprised if you are contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee in order to determine your interest and/or your recommendation for others as candidates. This is an important process in planning the organizational sustainability of Polonus and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

FOR SALE

"GROSZY" 1950-52 collection consisting of 80 exhibition sheets and 8 stock books. This is the only known complete, type 1 to 48, collection. A Gold Medal winner. You can view this collection at www.polonus.org or at www.groszy.pl. Asking price is \$20,000 or best offer. Contact: via tel: (630) 501-1958 or via email: nzelwin@aol.com



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CANADA

Mazepa Honored in England

On August 7, 2015, Dr. James Mazepa signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists during an impressive ceremony at the Temple Newsam House in Leeds, West Yorkshire, England.



Created in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was signed by George V, King of England and philatelist. Beginning in 1922, the selection of the signatories was annual except for the congresses of 1940 to 1946 because of World War II.

An invitation to sign the roll is regarded as the world's preeminent philatelic honor. Since its inception, only 368 have achieved this distinction to date. We congratulate Dr. Mazepa upon achieving this honor. (See Bulletin #559, page 24 for more information.)

What's the most interesting item
in your collection?
Write about it in the
Polonus Bulletin!

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the 15 newest members of our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

- 1798 - **Tom Vlaming**, 901 Floyd SW, Wyoming MI 49509
1799 - **Zdzisław Staniszewski**, 10 E. Elaine Circle, Prospect Heights IL 60070
1800 - **Richard Brent**, P.O. Box 308, Bryn Mawr PA 19010
1801 - **Randy A. Kursinsky**, 376 S. 7 Mile, Midland MI 48640
1802 - **Richard Tucholka**, 8791 Troy Street, Oak Park MI 48237
1803 - **Scott Henault**, 22 Denmark Street, Dedham MA 02026-2407
1804 - **Edwin Pieklo**, P.O. Box 502, Mundelein IL 60060
1805 - **Matthew Szukalawski III**, 3263 Primrose Drive, Hudsonville MI 49426
1806 - **Maciej Kalinowski**, Michigan
1807 - **Stanisław Pekala**, Michigan
1808 - **Diane Gregory**, P.O. Box 1551, Portage MI 49081
1809 - **George Boris**, 19 Freeman Street, Arlington MA 02474
1810 - **Leszek Czarnota**, 29 Eagle Road, Toronto, M8Z 4H4 Ontario, Canada
1811 - **David Conrad**, 630 Cedar Point Drive, Williams Bay WI 53191
1812 - **Bogdan, Pelc**, Sächsische Str. 22, 10707 Berlin, Germany

Correction: New member 1774 is **Richard Nowakowski**. His first name was incorrect in Bulletin #558.

2016 Dues Notices

Notices of 2016 membership dues are being distributed.

Members have the opportunity to consider making a tax-deductible contribution for 2015 with remittance prior to the end of December 2015. Remittances on or after January 1 will be treated as a tax-deductible contribution for 2016.

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

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



Welcome

to the
Polonus Store

(We're Always Open for Business)

The Polonus Store is open and sales have exceeded expectations. We still have an 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 for which you are searching, let us know as we have a wide variety of POLPEX souvenir sheets, covers, show cards, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

Your choice of the three cachets available.

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

Limited printing in two styles featuring the Polonus anniversary logo. Available as single stamps only.

Item 5 – Polonus Lapel Pin \$5.00

Attractive red, white and black cloisonne lapel pin (¾" 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 1943 Souvenir Sheets (2)..... \$3.00

One perf and one imperf sheet with descriptive folder honoring Wit Stwos, sculptor of the largest Gothic altar piece in the world, located in Kraków's St. Mary's Basilica. See article on Page 9.

Item 8 – The Occupation of Russia by the Polish I Corps \$10.00

This is the first POLONUS HANDBOOK, authored by Tadeusz Gryżewski and edited by James Mazepa in 1977. Limited supply remaining at this reduced price.

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

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

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

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



World's Fair EXPO 2015

This 5.2 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet shows a drawing of an apple with pieces of raspberries and blueberries. The background of the souvenir sheet shows other fruits (currants, blackberries, strawberries, et al). The theme of EXPO 2015 in Milan, Italy, is “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life.” The exposition opened on May 1, 2015 and ends October 31, 2015. The exposition provides a global showcase for more than 140 participating countries (including Poland) to demonstrate their latest and best technology on food production for the world. The venue in Milan encompasses an area of 1.1 million square meters.

Date of Issue	May 28, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz
Size: stamp	62.5 x 42 mm (stamp only)

Magical Disney World

These two stamps, each denominated 2.35 zł, show Princess Anna and Elsa from the Disney movie, “Frozen” (*Kraina Lodu*). The animated 2013 Disney film, directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, grossed nearly \$1.275 billion, making it the most profitable animation in film history and the top grossing film of 2013.

The film received two Oscars for best feature-length animated film and best song (“Let It Go”). The Polish version of the film was done by SDI Polish Media, with direction by Wojciech Paszkowski, dialogue by Jan Wecsile, lyrics



by Michael Wojnarowski and musical direction by Agnieszka Tomicka.

Date of Issue	June 1, 2015
Sheet Format	Pair in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz
Size: stamp	31.25 x 43 mm (stamp only)



Lighthouses

These five 2.35 zł stamps show Polish lighthouses (*Latarnie Morskie*) and other maritime facilities located on the Baltic Sea coast, a recurring theme among the issuances of the Polish Post. The Rozewie II Lighthouse (UL stamp in pane) is an 85-meter high facility located between Stilo Lighthouse and the Jastarnia Lighthouse. It is administered by the Maritime Office in Gdynia. The Kikut (German: *Kieck-*

turn) Lighthouse (UR stamp in pane) is located near the village of Wiśetka on the island of Wolin and is 91.5 meters high. The Świnoujście Lighthouse (LL in pane) is a brick facility located on the Świna River near its mouth. Also known in German as the *Swinemünde* Lighthouse, it is 65 meters high. The Jastarnia Lighthouse (lower middle stamp in pane) is located in the town of Jastarnia on the Hel Peninsula; it is 13 meters high. The lower right stamp in the pane shows the Gdańsk Northern Port (*Gdańsk Port Północny*) freight station and terminal.

Date of Issue	June 19, 2015
Sheet Format	5 stamps & a tab in panel
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski
Size: stamp	31.25 x 43 mm (stamp only)



Jan Potocki

This 5.0 zł stamp shows a caricature of Count Jan Potocki (1761-1815), wealthy Polish nobleman, soldier, ethnologist, publicist, traveler and linguist during the Enlightenment. He wrote *The Manuscript Found in Saragosa* and was the first Pole to fly in a hot-air balloon in 1790. Tragically, he died in 1815 at his estate at Uładówka in Podolia of a self-inflicted gunshot wound with a silver bullet, believing himself to be a werewolf.

Date of Issue	June 25, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of six
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk
Size: stamp	62.5 x 39.5 mm (stamp only)

Flowers and Fruits

This 1.0 zł stamp, one more in a series showing flowers and fruits, portrays a sunflower (*Słonecznik*) or *Helianthus*. This flower is an annual plant growing to a height of 20-154 inches, within a genus of plants comprising about 70 species in the family Asteraceae. The plants bear one or more wide terminal capitula (flower heads) with



bright yellow-ray florets. During growth, sunflowers tilt toward the sun during the day (heliotropism), but by maturity generally face east.

Date of Issue	June 26, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska
Size: stamp	31.25 x 25.5 mm (stamp only)

Polish Presidency of the Council of Baltic Sea States, 2015-2016

This 5.0 zł stamp appears to portray in different colors various rock outcroppings found along the Baltic Sea coast. The Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) is a political forum for regional intergovernmental cooperation, focused on three priority issues: Regional Identity; Safety and Security; and Sustainability and Prosperity. The CBSS addresses several themes, including environment, economic development, entrepreneurship, education, culture, civil security, children's rights, and human trafficking.



Date of Issue	July 1, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski
Size: stamp	31.25 x 39.5 mm

Polish Regional Products

A round of cheese is shown, with cows grazing in the background, on this 5.0 zł stamp that recognizes another (in a series) of Poland's regional products (*Polskie Produkty Regionalne Ser Korycynski*). Korycynski is a hard yellow cheese named after the town of Korycin in eastern Poland (*Podlaskie województwo*). Also known as *swojski* (home-made), it is considered to be historically one of the oldest yellow cheeses.



Date of Issue	July 17, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset and Dry Press
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz
Size: stamp	31.25 x 39.5 mm

