

**BULLETIN of the**

# **POLONUS** **PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



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## **Polpex 90 honors Solidarity Tenth Anniversary**



Romuald Odrowski, Chairman of POLPEX 90, announced that the theme of our coming exhibition is the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Solidarity Polish Workers Movement under the leadership of Lech Walesa.

Dates: **Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 23rd, 24th & 25th, 1990.**

Place: **Przybylo's House of the White Eagle, Niles, Illinois.**

Participating in our show will be the Polish American Numismatic Association. Their newly elected President, Louis Koncza, assured us of some numismatic exhibits.

Bourse Chairman, George Weiss, plans on some 25 dealers. A U.S. and U.N. Post Office will operate on the premises with special Polpex cancellations. Cacheted covers, seals and souvenir cards will be issued for the occasion. A souvenir program catalog will also be printed.

Ads in the program catalog cost \$60 for a full page, \$40 for a half, \$25 for a quarter, \$5 or more for a Patron listing, and \$2 for a Well Wisher listing. Enclosed with this Bulletin is a self-addressed remittance envelope for your convenience.

This year's show will be limited to 100 frames. Entry forms may be obtained by writing to Romuald Odrowski, 5327 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641.

# Marginal Markings - Form II - All-Poland Issue 1920-21

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

With reference to the all-Poland Issue of 1920-1921, **Polskie Znaki Pocztowe**, vol. 1, page 182, states, "In the margins of sheets printed

(in Form II) there frequently appear the name of the printer and the date of printing."

I have examined some sheets of this printing, and have noted the following with entire or partial names and dates in the margins of these sheets. Those I have in my possession include the 2, 4, 5, and 8 Mk denominations of this series. Copies of these values are shown in Figs. 1 through 4.

Fig. 1, reproduced from a sheet of 100 of the 2 Mk value, shows the full name and date "Karpowicz dn. 22. III.", which faces to the left and reads downward, and is located in



FIG. 1: 2 Mk value showing name & date



FIG. 2: 4 Mk value showing partial name and date

the left selvedge opposite positions 21 and 31. Figure 2 shows a block of 6 of the 4 Mk value with traces of a name and date along the top selvedge above the accounting numbers. In this instance, the partially seen name and date appear to be: "\_\_\_\_och VII 14" and is located above



FIG. 3: 5 Mk value showing more than one-half of a name and date.

positions 3, 4, and 5 and reads from left to right. Figure 3, which shows a block of 10 of the 5 Mk value, again shows the name "Karpowicz" and the date "dn 29 III." This time the name and date are in the right selvedge, face right, and are located opposite positions 30, 40 and 50. Figure 4 shows a block of 8 with traces of a name and date along the

left selvedge reading from top to bottom, facing left opposite positions 11, 21 and 31.

Incidentally, the sketches shown of Forms I and II of the 8 Mk value are reversed in this volume as they are on page 106, *Katalog Specjalizowany Znaczków Pocztoz. Ziem Polskich 1985*, volume 1. They are correctly shown on page 54 of the *IKAROS* catalog.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has examples of this printing, or further information concerning it, with similar or different names and dates.



FIG. 4: 8 Mk value showing trace of name & date

# LOT BOEING 767 FIRST FLIGHT

By FRED SZEBEL

On May 17, 1972, Polish LOT Airlines flew the Soviet built IL-62 plane on its first flight over the Atlantic to Chicago (Fig. 1). I was privileged to attend the arrival celebration at O'Hare airfield. During the reception, the crew members expressed the opinion that if they had a choice, they would prefer to fly a U.S. made plane. They were told to fly the Soviet made planes or there would be no flights at all!

It took 17 years and many disasters with the IL-62 planes before LOT was permitted to use the U.S. Boeing 767. The first flight between Warsaw and New York took place April 27, 1989 (Fig. 2). The first chartered flight was made on May 25th, between Warsaw and Chicago (Fig. 3.) Upon its arrival at O'Hare on May 26th, a Christening was held. Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz officiated, christening the new plane KRA-KOW (Fig. 4).

I had the good fortune to be able to have a few pieces of mail carried on the first flight from Chicago to Warsaw, May 26th. Captain Krasowski and his crew, Jawosz, Wrobel and Hlubinski, signed these covers (Fig. 5), in addition to a few guests who were on this historic flight. Two covers were mailed on arrival in Warsaw (Fig. 6).

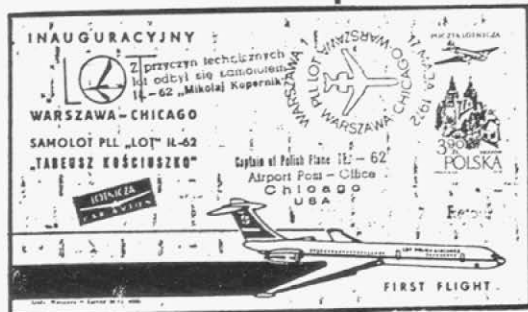


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

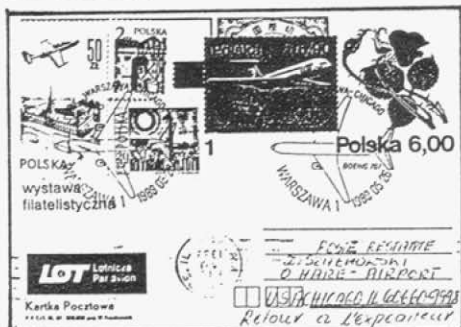


Fig. 3

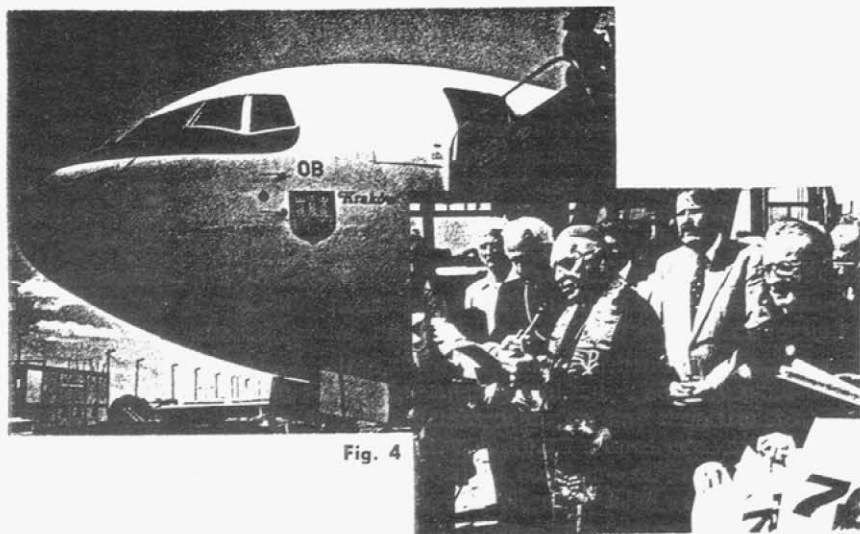


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

# Expanded Range of WWII POW Mail

By EDWARD D. WOLSKI

The war-covers philately includes POW mail, usually represented by "official-issue" form letters required by countries holding enemy war prisoners. The rules of the Geneva Convention were generally adhered to. As a former POW in Germany, I became a "user" of POW mails. The types used were:

- 1) Preprinted cards for notification of family
- 2) Postcards (with answer card)
- 3) Letters (with answer letter)
- 4) Parcel labels.

The above items are readily available on the philatelic market. But, in addition to such mail, the operation of the Red Cross and aid organizations generated a huge amount of POW, internee and refugee mail.

The Red Cross, International RC (ICRC) and National Red Cross organizations began their aid activities soon after the outbreak of hostilities in September of 1939. These activities are described in the ICRC Report to the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference held in Stockholm, August 1948.

Volume II covers. "The Central Agency for Prisoners of War." The following excerpts highlight information of interest to collectors specializing in POW postal history. The text is illustrated with material from the author's collection. These items represent mail of the Polish section marked S. Mil. Pol. or Mil. Pol. (Service Militair Polonais.) This section was active from September 1939 to June 1947. It had a great variety of problems due to the involvement of the Soviet Union, first as an ally of Nazi Germany and later as ally of the Western powers. Many POWs, internees, refugees, and deported persons taken by force to Siberia, all sought aid from the ICRC.

The Soviet Union did not honor the Geneva Convention. Many POWs (6-8 thousand) were murdered in the infamous Katyn massacre. But there is a limited number of mail from these POWs, written to families in Poland or to aid organizations in Switzerland (fig. 1) and the U.S.A. (see POW/DP Newsletter, vol. 7, no. 42, Dec. 1987, p. 5). EXCERPTS:

## Transmission of Information to Official Information Bureaus of the Central Agency for POWs

"The terms of the 1929 Convention charge the Central Agency with the transmission of information regarding prisoners as speedily as possible to the men's home country. To do this, it was necessary to standardize the registration and transmission of documents. At the 1939 Agency, the receipt, registration and transmission of information were carried out by the **Lists Section** or by the National Sections, as the case might be. As a rule, all documents providing the Agency with information were registered, given a reference number, and a photostat was made of them. The Agency kept the original and sent the photostat to the official Information Bureau of the Power concerned.

A short description follows of the classification and filing system in use. This was based on the source and the nature of the document and the

chronological order of its receipt. Each page was given an assigning mark, comprising a reference and a number. The reference was an abridged indication of the kind of document (for example, EB meant Enquiry about a British prisoner). These assigning marks allowed the filing of documents in the Registry. They were also inscribed on the corresponding cards, which allowed easy and rapid reference to the original documents. This was done in case of doubt as to the proper reading of a card, as also for all cases of deaths.

Information received by the Agency was divided in two categories: official and unofficial.



*Szanowny Panie Kolego!*

*Od pądzniernika roku ub. znajduję się na terytorjum Rosji Sowieckiej. Byłem zmobilizowany w me sierpmie i odbywam służbę w oddziale czynnej obrony przeciwlotniczej miasta Warszawy. Niestety, nie było dostatecznych środków do skutecznej obrony, to też wynik wojny był już w pierwszym tygodniu na naszą niekorzyść przesądzony.*

*Jak dotychczas, władze sowieckie odnoszą się do nas Polaków, bardzo dobrze. Dotychczas tylko silne mrozy (ponad 40 stopni) no i - tęsknota za krajem. Przykro mi że miałem tak mało wiadomości z Warszawy, to też nie mogę sobie wyobrazić że nasza stolica została mocno zniszczona.*

*Od swojej rodziny listu jeszcze nie miałem. Serdecznie pozdrawiam ją i wszystkich z miłym ukłonem dla P. Pr. i Rodziny.*

FIG. 1. A postcard to the Paderewski Fund in Switzerland from a Polish POW at the Kozelsk Camp, P.O. Box 12.

## **1). TRANSMISSION OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION**

"Official" information\*) included the data applied for by the official Information Bureau (as provided for by Art. 77 of the Convention) and by certain other government authorities. This information might be in any of the following forms: telegrams, ordinary or microfilm lists, identity cards, death certificates were received by the Lists Section, whereas telegrams and ordinary letters were dealt with by the National Sections.

### **a). Transmission by the Lists Section.**

In order to carry out the mandate conferred by the 1929 Convention, the Agency instructed a special Lists Section to forward the official lists which included the identity cards and death certificates.

Official lists, owing to their authenticity, were the chief basic documents on which the Agency worked. They consisted of rolls giving information of capture, deaths, transfers and repatriations. They were received in every kind of form, sometimes manuscript, sometimes typescript, as no specific form is laid down in the Convention. This diversity had many technical disadvantages. As a rule, they gave the following data: Surname and first name of members of the forces, date of birth, nationality, army number, PW number, address of next of kin and state of health. These lists bore the heading of the official camp address. It should be mentioned here that most belligerents declined to give the geographical location of camp sites.

As mentioned above, the Lists Section dealt with all official papers, such as microfilm lists, identity cards and death certificates, in the same way as with ordinary lists.

Replies to enquiries addressed by certain National Societies to official Bureaus also constituted official information; they were, however, dealt with by the National Sections.

### **b). Telegraphic Transmission by National Sections.**

The general use of telegrams and radiograms for transmitting information on PW's was one of the new features of the Agency of 1939.

Whereas the Lists Section forwarded photostats of official documents by post, some National Sections, in order to speed up the arrival in countries overseas of especially important information (announcements of capture or of deaths) telegraphed these data to the Official Bureaus.

Official Bureaus of countries at a great distance, or cut off from Geneva by the breakdown of communications, also sent the Agency certain official data by wire. Photostats of these cables were sent to the official bureau of the opposing side, or the contents were cabled to distant countries. In the first case, transmission was carried out by the Lists Section, and in the second by National Sections.

In most instances, arrangements had been made with the organizations of the countries of origin of PW, as to methods of forwarding information.

## **2). TRANSMISSION OF UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION**

All information from sources other than official Bureaus was considered as "unofficial." These sources were public bodies, National Red

\*) This type of material is not available on the philatelic market. It ended up in archives of the agencies (auth. note).

Cross Societies, delegates of the ICRC abroad, camp commandants, camp leaders, individual prisoners and private persons.

This information usually came by post, but also by wire and in very varied forms: capture cards, lists, notifications of death (fig. 2), unsolicited letters, replies to enquiries, statements by prisoners.



Deutsches Rotes Kreuz

Präsidium

Führungsstab

Rhty.: VII S - PO  
(Bei Benennung unbedingt anzugeben)

v.B/Kt

An  
Frau Lübke-Babozynska  
Lausanne  
3 Ch. de la Juliette  
Schweiz

Betrifft: Kapitän z. See Stefan Frankowski  
früher Oflag VIII B

Berlin SW 61, den 22.4.1941

Blutgruppen 2  
Tel. Sammelnummer 66 34 61  
Nachruf: 66 06 56, 66 07 11  
Telefonnummern: Berlin 60 70  
Telegrammanfrage: Deutschkreuz

Das Deutsche Rote Kreuz, Präsidium, bedauert, Ihnen mitteilen zu müssen, dass der Obengenannte am 25.9.40 im Reservelazarett in Langenbielau verstorben ist.

Die Angehörigen Herr und Frau Dobrowolski, Warschau, Zoliborz, Czarnieckiego 7, sind benachrichtigt worden.

Das von Ihnen dem Kapitän Frankowski übermittelte Paket ist - hoffentlich mit Ihrem Einverständnis - unter Offiziere des Lagers verteilt worden, die selten oder nie Pakete und Nachrichten erhalten.

Der Chef des Amtes Auslandsdienst

FIG. 2. An example of "unofficial" information from the German Red Cross to the Paderewski Aid Fund in Switzerland, with notification of death of a Polish POW.

Amongst unofficial documents the notices of capture, called "capture cards", deserve particular mention. This was a document filled in by the PW himself during the first days after his arrival in a permanent camp and addressed to the Agency. This card should not be confused with the card giving notice of capture, which the prisoner, in conformity with Art. 36, Sec. 2 of the 1929 Convention, sent to his next of kin not later than a week after his arrival in camp. The ICRC was responsible for the idea of the "capture card" and for its being brought into general use by the belligerent countries. Although the Convention obliges the signatory Powers to transmit information on PW without delay, experience has shown that conditions due to the war, such as the destruction or limitation of means of transport, the congestion in official bureaus, the priority given to work of national importance, all considerably delayed the forwarding of lists. These circumstances led to the introduction of the "capture card."

(CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)

## 1919 LEVANT ISSUES

### Positive Identification of Original Printing

By HENRY J. BIENIECKI

For some time now it has been apparent that a large percentage of the sets of Scott 2K1-12 (RUCH Z1-12) Levant "Originals" being offered for sale are in fact the Official Reprints (RUCH Z1P-Z12P). As the Originals are a scarce classical issue commanding a substantial price, while the Reprints are relatively common and inexpensive it is important to have a positive method of quickly determining which set you are purchasing. The primary problem in the past has been due to the fact that both the Original and the Reprints were printed on the same basic issues utilizing what is apparently the same printing plate. The only difference was in the ink used for the overprint.

The Original issue was overprinted with a deep Cherry-red, and nearly opaque ink. The Reprints were done with a lighter more transparent ink. Unfortunately color is not an easy idea to communicate unless the differences are really striking. Because of this lack of a great difference many collectors have and are paying excessive prices for the Reprints as they believe them to be the Originals. Now this can be easily avoided by use of the following simple method of checking these issues. All that is necessary is to examine the stamps with a Multi-band Ultraviolet Philatelic Lamp.

When the Original Overprints are exposed to UV Light they appear a deep red orange color which is opaque. In addition the edges of the letters fluoresce a brilliant orange as the ink is less dense there. Examined under UV light the ink of the Reprints appears a uniform light transparent orange. The differences in the two printings under UV light is so striking that identification is immediate and positive.

## GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

During the World War I German occupation of Poland, there existed in Wilno, a city mail delivery service which was organized by citizens. Letters and cards forwarded via this city mail have imprinted the delivery

fee stamp: "\*GEBUHR\* 10 pf." in a circle. They are rare because the Wilno citizens' mail remained unnoticed by the philatelists throughout its existence. Delivery stamps were usually imprinted in violet ink but the card shown here is the only one known so far with this imprint in blue. It was mailed to Wilno on Oct. 26, 1918.



## NEW ISSUES

By ROMUALD ODROWSKI

SBiMO 45th Anniversary



On the 45th anniversary of the Security Service and Civic Militia (Służba Bezpieczeństwa i Milicja Obywatelska) a 35 zł. commemorative was issued July 21, 1989. Multicolor roto-gravure printed on white pigment coated paper, size: 43 x 31.5 mm. in sheets of 50. Designed by Zbigniew Sasik. The monument design sculptor was Bohdan Chmielewski. One first day cover design was issued.

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### World Fire-Fighting Congress



An 80 zł. stamp was issued July 25, 1989 in connection with the International Fire-Fighters Congress held in Warsaw July 25-30. Multicolor roto-gravure printed on chalky overlay paper, size: 31.25 x 39.5 in sheets of 50. Designed by Witold Surowiecki. Logo designed by Jarosław Jasiński.

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### Galaxy of Kings

Continuing along with the Galaxy

of Kings and Princes series, painted by Jan Matejko, the Polish Post issued four more stamps:

20 zł—Bolesław II



30 zł—Władysław I

40 zł—Bolesław III

50 zł—Władysław II

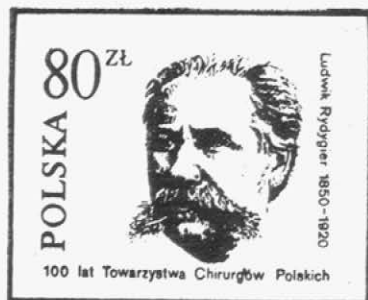
Rotogravure steel engraved on post-stamp paper, size: 40.5 x 54 mm. in sheets of 35. Designed by Stefan Małeckie. Two FDC issued.

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### Polish Surgeons

A Congress of the Polish Surgeons Society was held in Cracow September 17-20, 1989 honoring two centuries of the Surgery University and 100 years of the Polish Surgeons Society. Two commemoratives were issued on September 18, 1989:

25 zł—showing Rafał Józef Czerwiakowski (1743 - 1813) the "Father of Polish Surgery." First professor of surgery and organizer of the first surgical dept. and clinic at the Jagiellonian University by the National Education Commission.



80 zł—showing Ludwik Rydygier (1850 - 1920), head of the Surgery Dept. in Chełm on the Vistula & Professor of Surgery at Jagiellonian Univ. and Jan Kazimierz Univ. in Lwów. Founder and lifelong president of Polish Surgeons Society.

Multicolor photogravure printed in sheets of 100 on chalky paper. Size: 31.25 x 25.5 mm. One First Day Cover printed. Artist-designer: Jacek Konarzewski.

#### World Post Day

A 35 zł. value was issued October 9th, 1989 honoring World Post Day. Shown is the emblem used at the time of the second Republic and Emil Kaminski (1890 - 1973), Minister of Posts and Telegraphs 1933-39.



Multicolor rotogravure printed in sheets of 50 on art paper. Size: 25.5 x 31.25 mm. each design. Designed by Stefan Małecki.

#### MEMBERS MART

Bilingual postal stationery cancelled in Galicia 1870-1889 period (\$4 each) and "Grossy" non-philatelic covers of 1950 (2 each) for sale or exchange for Polish Perfin. W. Gruszczyk, 460 Chieftan Circle, Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 3A6.

#### 1990 DUES NOW PAYABLE

Membership dues for this year run out on January 31st. It's time to renew.

With today's rising costs, the \$12.50 paid by members does not cover the expense of printing and mailing of the Bulletin. Ours is the oldest such publication, issued con-

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Annual Dues which include a subscription to the 'Bulletin' are \$12.50 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to: Al Rybarski, Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New tins' for the year in which they join. members will receive all the 'Bulletin'. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

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tinually during the war years when Poland's publications were interrupted. We plan to continue these issues keeping it at 12-pages per issue. Any donations towards the upkeep of the Bulletin would be appreciated.