

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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POLPEX TO HIGHLIGHT RELIGION

The Forty-first Annual Polpex Exhibition will be held March 29-30 at the Polish Veterans' Building, 6005 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago. The exhibition honors Pope John Paul II and will have a special section of Religion on Stamps. On exhibit will be a prize-winning collection of Papal States and an outstanding collection of Vatican City from the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in Massachusetts.

In addition to collections of Religion on Stamps, there will be out-

standing collections of Poland, other European countries, and the U.S. The Grand Award will be given for the best Polish collection and the Koza-kiewicz Research Award will go to the most outstanding research collection of Poland. There will be gold, silver and bronze medals. Judges for the show will be R. Estka, J. Kaposta, W. Gruenebaum, and an apprentice judge, M. Isaak.

Twenty dealers will be on hand to serve collectors, and the USPS will have a station at the exhibition and

IL; MARCH 29-30, 1980

HONORING HIS

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, CHICAGO, IL



HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II. AT POLPEX '80

One of the pair of four-color printed Polpex seals specially designed by W. Kaweck.

will use the special Polpex cancellation. The souvenirs being offered include: A pair of Papal Souvenir Sheets, 75¢; Souvenir Card with Pope John Paul II, \$1.25 (cancelled \$2.00); two different cacheted envelopes, each cancelled on a different day of the exhibition, \$1.50; Rocket flown cover and Pulaski post card, \$5.00; Exhibition Catalog, \$1.00. Souvenirs are available from Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Please include 75¢ for postage.

The Polish American Numismatic Association will join with Polonus and exhibit a special showing of religious and Papal medallions. A military collection will be shown on the 60th Anniversary of the war with the Russian Bolsheviks in 1920.

An opening ceremony will take place on Saturday, March 29 at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz and other dignitaries present.

A Beebe will be held Saturday evening at 7:00. Tickets at \$5.00 will be available at the Polpex and from W. Poniecki, phone (312) 715-8616.

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POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

James Mazepa, Secretary
P. O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304

Chester A. Schafer, Editor
864 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622

Roman H. Strzelecki, Treasurer
1620 N. Latrobe, Chicago, IL 60639

The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$7.50 —

Exhibition hours are Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

POLISH EXHIBIT RECEIVES GRAND AT MILCOPEX-80

James Mazepa received the Grand Award and APS Bronze medal for his exhibit of "Russian Administration of Poland - 1858-1870." MILCOPEX is one of twenty accredited National Stamp Exhibitions, and as such entries are received from throughout the U.S. The Grand Award winner of these national shows receives an invitation to participate in the "World Series of Philately-Champion of Champions Exhibition" of the American Philatelic Society. This is the first time that an Eastern European collection will be shown in the twelve years of the Champion of Champion competition and the Society can be proud that a Polish collection is the first to receive this honor!

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THE FIRST AIR MAIL FLIGHT: BERLIN TO WARSAW

By FABIAN BURA, Warsaw

(Translated by Frank Wolosewick)

Sixty years ago this June, a twin engine aircraft was flown by a Polish aviator from Lipsk to Berlin, and then to Warsaw. The aircraft was awarded to Poland by the Allied War Commission in partial payment for war damages caused by the German Empire. The main purpose for acquiring this aircraft was for training Polish flying personnel.

The flight was directly under the supervision of the newly formed chief of the Polish Army, and the aircraft was piloted by 2nd Lt. Maximilian Zusk.

In addition to the aircraft personnel there was a Polish delegation in Berlin to accept the aircraft from German authorities. Another duty of the delegation was to arrange for the first air mail delivery between Berlin and Warsaw. For this historical event the flight was named as the: **FIRST POLISH MAIL DELIVERY BY AIR.**

To commemorate the first flight two metal disks were made for stamping the accumulated parcels and mail, deposited in the Berlin W56 post office, under the name of Dr. Lewandowski. Dr. Lewandowski was the representative of the Polish government for accepting the aircraft from the German authorities. He also acted as an agent in the transfer of mail for the flight between Berlin and Warsaw.

To avoid delays with German military censoring the correspondence, plain postal cards were used on this first flight. Each postal card was registered, and had an Express (Special Delivery) sticker attached. The payment for registered and express services were 10 and 20 fenigs, respectively. An additional charge of 20 Marks was to cover the cost of air flight. The



Figure 1

stamps were cancelled in blue on June 15, 1919, but this was not the date of the flight.

The current German stamps prepaid registration and express charges. On some of the postal cards, stamps issued by the German Republic on May 1, 1919 were used.

An important characteristic of the First Air Mail of postal cards from Berlin to Warsaw was an additional cancellation in violet color by using the previously mentioned die. This cancellation specified the cost of the flight as 20 M.; the anticipated day of departure between June 20 and June 22; as well as the intended air route: **BERLIN-WARSCHAU.** The design was completed by a vertically descending German aircraft.

At the time of the intended air flight there were numerous border clashes between the German Army and the Polish partisan groups in Northern Poland. These conflicts were the main reasons for not specifying the exact departure of the First Air Mail flight.

After the aircraft landed at the Mokotow field, near Warsaw, all the postal cards were stamped in Black color on the reverse with a die similar to the one used in Berlin. This was official confirmation of the First Air Mail flight between Berlin and Warsaw.

The design of the die used to stamp the postal cards resembled the one used in Berlin. It consisted of a descending Polish aircraft; the charge for air mail was 20 M.; the anticipated departure date: "20-22. VI. 19"; the route: BERLIN-WARSZAWA. The formal date of landing of the aircraft at Mokotow Field was on June 21, 1919.

The air mail was delivered by Lt. Zuske to the Main Post Office in Warsaw. To commemorate this historic event, the current National Assembly stamps were attached to each postal card.

Because of organizational problems lasting for several days, the post office delayed confirming its participation in this historic event, and cancelled all stamps in black color on July 4, 1919.

The entire batch of the postal cards were then delivered to the Inspector of the Air Force for certification: that the delivered air mail was in agreement with the Polish Army Command. To confirm this, the seal of the Inspector of the Air Force was stamped in black on the reverse side of the postal cards.

From personal notes of Lt. Zuske, only 76 postal cards were carried on the First Air Mail Flight. To prevent duplication of these first air flight postal cards, attesting documents were prepared and appended to each postal card. The documents were prepared in three languages: Polish, French and English, and were signed by Capt. Stempniewicz, Inspector of the Air Force, and were officially stamped in black color with the seal of the Inspector. (Fig. 4).

To further prevent any duplication, a wax seal with suitable cord was attached to each of the postal cards carried on this First Flight. Hence the delivery of the postal cards on the First Air Mail Flight from Berlin to Warszawa in late June of 1919,

acquired a historic character.

These postal cards were eagerly sought by philatelists for their collections. The greater portion (number unknown) of the postal cards were acquired by the personnel of the Polish Air Force in directing the flight. Lt. Zuske states in his personal notes that few of these postal cards were distributed to officials in Poland who were interested in philately. Lt. Zuske mentions in his personal notes that these postal cards were sent to: George V, King of England; President Wilson of the USA; Premier I. Paderewski; and Cardinal Kakowski.

Because of the seal of the Inspector of the Air Force on these documents, and on postal cards, the Polish Army ordered Lt. Zuske and Dr. Lewandowski not to dispose of these cards to dealers. Because of this ruling, the postal cards of the First Flight were never included in the Polish Stamp catalogues, and the memory of the First Flight became dimmed with time.

The family of Lt. Zuske graciously allowed me to study the few documents saved from ravages of war, describing the First Air Mail flight from Berlin to Warsaw in 1919. From these scarce documents, some interesting pieces of information were found.

In the latter part of 1923, Lt. Zuske presented to the National Museum (Army Section) in Warsaw, the two bronze air mail dies used to cancel the postal cards of the First Air Mail flight. The Director of the Museum accepted the two air mail dies, and presented Lt. Zuske with a receipt #1172, dated September 24, 1923, with thanks for their deposition.

There was also preserved another document from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs (Dept. IV, nr. 533/Mz, dated August 27, 1923) thanking Lt. Zuske for presenting to the

Museum "one postal card of the First Air Mail flight".

It is difficult at this time to estimate just how many of these postal cards survived the ravages of WW II. Since the records are lost, it is not known just how many of the postal cards were retained by the organizers of the first flight, and whether these, together with other war documents were not destroyed during the war years. Only one thing is certain, that these First Air Mail flight postal cards are classics of the Polish air mail service.

Lt. Zuske died in 1939 in the defense of Gdynia. His apartment was thoroughly ransacked by Gestapo, who destroyed many valuable historical documents. The life of Lt. Zuske was written in the *Dziennik Baltycki*, September, 1959, just twenty years after his tragic death.

It is worth noting that in 1924, during the delivery of a Zeppelin to USA (for war damages to USA), a similar set of postal cards was prepared in Poland and was carried on its maiden voyage. These postal cards are memorable classics of Polish philately.

The following photographs present important information on the First Air Mail Flight from Berlin to Warsaw, and add additional clarity to the textual matter.

Figure 1 shows the two air mail dies used for cancelling the postal cards.

Figure 2 shows the front of the postal card, with a double strike in violet color of the air mail cancelling die. The German stamps were cancelled in blue on June 15, 1919. The registration number, and the express label were added; the registration label photographed black. The official seal of the Air Inspector was applied at a later date.

Figure 3 is the reverse side of the

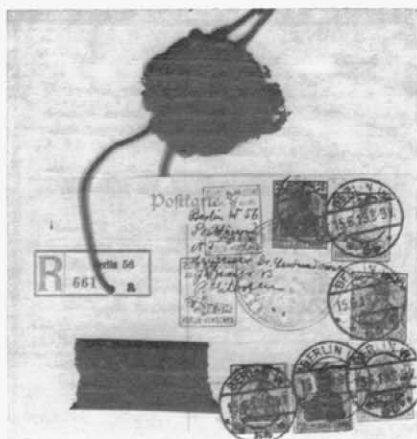


Figure 2



Figure 3

postal card. After landing at Mokotow field, the local official applied the air mail cancelling die in double in black color to each postal card. This attested to the completion of the scheduled air mail flight. The Polish stamps were applied later at the Main Post Office, and were cancelled there on July 4, 1919. The official seal of the Air Force Inspector was applied later. Note the symbolic use of wax seal with appropriate cords for attachment to each postal card.

Figure 4 shows a document prepared in three languages attesting to the completion and the delivery of

A POSTMARK OF THE RUSSIAN POST IN TARNOPOL - 1809-1815

By JAMES MAZEPA

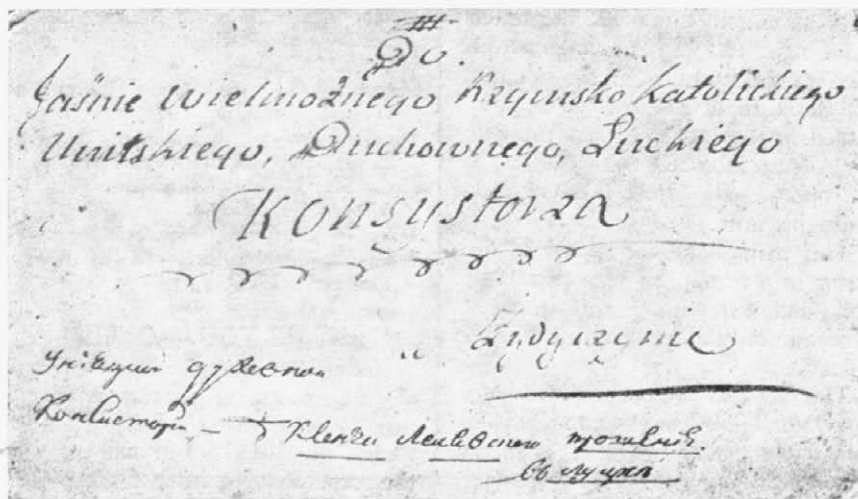
The city of Tarnopol has a long and interesting history. According to one source, Tarnopol was founded by Hetman Jan Tarnowski in 1540. The city's name is a derivative of the Hetman's name and the word "Pole" or field, a word which is almost the same in Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian. Soviet sources claim the name is derived from a combination of the word "teru" which is a kind of weed in the area, and "pole." Historically, we know the Polish king granted a charter to Tarnowski to found the city. It seems probable that he would use his name in its title, perhaps knowing it was also descriptive of the area. This city used no postmarks during the Kingdom of Poland period.

Tarnopol was annexed by Austria in the first Partition of Poland in 1772. According to Mueller, no postmarks were introduced at this time. The Napoleonic Wars brought about another change. Napoleon's armies had crossed Europe, and he sought an alliance with Russia against Austria. He created the Duchy of War-

saw, a maneuver which was primarily political and had little consequence for the Polish state except that it kept alive the spirit of Polish nationalism. In 1809, Napoleon added the districts of Krakow, Radom, Lublin, and Siedlce to the Duchy. To appease and entice the Russians, he gave them the District of Tarnopol.

The district was administered by a man named J. A. Theyis, who was responsible for the restoration of the palace castle. He also built a ballroom and a gambling casino in the city, which added much to its popularity and economy. In 1815, the district was returned to Austria as part of the agreements of the Council of Vienna. The first Austrian postmark was introduced in 1824. During the First World War, a large part of the city was burned and destroyed. Tarnopol was part of the short-lived Western Ukrainian State, after which it became part of the Polish State. In 1945, it was incorporated into the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The folded envelope described here originated in the village of Volo-



chysk, about 25 miles east of Tarnopol on the river Zbruch. The two red wax seals on the reverse read in Russian "Voloehysk Post Office Seal," and have the Russian coat-of-arms above the text and a posthorn below. Today the town is known as Podvolehyska.

The address is in the usual Polish style of the period, but has an additional notation in another hand in Russian which is a possible forwarding address. The Polish address reads:

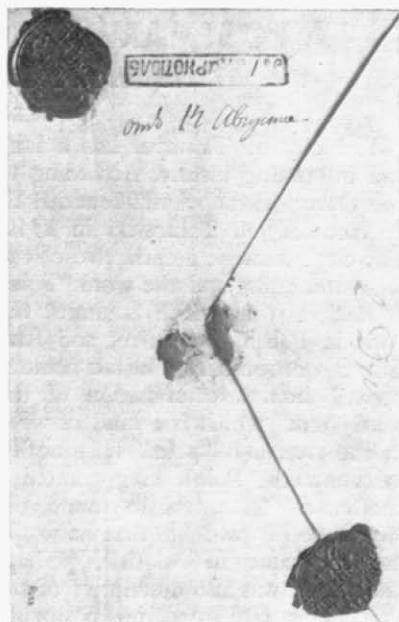
*Do Jaśnie Wielmożnego
Rzymsko Katolickiego Unickiego
Unickiego Duchownego Łuckiego
Konsystorza
w Żydyczynie*

or "To the Most Honorable Roman Catholic (priest) of the Luck Consistorium at Żydyczyn." In Russian the address reads "Uniate Church (spiritual) Consistorium to the priest Lelawski residing in Luck." A curious word for "priest" is used here, "kczenz" in the transliteration from Russian. This word does not exist in Russian and one would expect the word "Svyashchenuk" or "priest". It seems to be a Russian transliteration of the Polish word for priest, "ksiadz".

On the back is the boxed Cyrillic "No. 1 Tarnopol". The mark measures 42mm x 8mm with the letters 4mm high. The "1" is in manuscript. Next to the postmark is the notation "of the 12th of August". A note included in the envelope gives the date of "August 12, 1809". On the flap is the notation "2 Dyc". I can not explain this note.

This mark does not appear in the listing of prestamp marks of Russia by Fohs and Adler nor in the works of Mikstein on the prestamp marks of Poland.

The fact that the postmark includes the "No." suggests the possibility it is a registry mark. If so, might there also be an ordinary postage



mark? Since Tarnopol is the district capital, it seems appropriate that it have a postmark, but it raises the possibility of other marks from other towns during this Russian period have yet to be discovered.

I would like to thank Ryszard Podubiuk for his valuable information and assistance in preparing this article.

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- Mikstein, Stanislaw, *Pieczęcie Pocztowe na Ziemiach Polski w XVIII Wieku*, Białystok, 1939.

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If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60141. You will save us the expense of paying postage due.