



# BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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1944 cover to the Red Cross in Geneva

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# POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-For-Profit 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 authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

**Membership:** Members receive quarterly Polonus Bulletin, have complete access to the Society website ([www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org)), and participate in the services and activities offered by the Society. The two membership categories are: **Regular Member - \$25.00** and **Junior Member (under the age of 16) - \$10.00**.

Dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. New members will receive all the Bulletins for the year in which they join. Memberships are based upon a calendar year.

**Dues and Changes of Address** to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.

**Articles for publication** to be sent to the Editor.

**Membership queries** to be sent to the Membership Chairman.

**General Society matters and complaints** to be sent to the President. (see addresses above)

### Bulletin Advertising:

- **Member to Member Ads** – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space or punctuation mark. Member's name and address are not included in this limitation.
- **Dealer Ads** – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:
  - Business Card Ad:** \$50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.
  - Half page copy ready ads:** \$50.00 per insertion
  - Full Page copy ready ads:** \$80.00 per insertion.

Send ad copy to Editor and make check payable to Polonus Philatelic Society.

### Message from the President

Bob Ogrodnik

What are your philatelic plans for the spring and summer? Do you have any goals and objectives? I realize this is the time of the year when gardening, golf, travel, and other outdoor activities take a precedent over the fall and winter activities. However, this would be a good time to either begin working on an exhibit or to improve an existing exhibit, preparing for our next Annual Meeting and Exhibition in San Francisco at WESTPEX 2010 (April 23-25, 2010). Looking ahead, I would be interested in hearing from you regarding interest in a) attending WESTPEX 2010 and b) exhibiting at WESTPEX 2010. Keep in mind, if you need help with exhibiting, Polonus has some experienced mentors available to help. Drop me an e-mail at [krpsl@earthlink.net](mailto:krpsl@earthlink.net).

Some of our members actively attend and exhibit at shows throughout the year. Which leads me to bring up the APS STAMPSHOW 2009 on August 6-9, 2009 at the Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I am aware of several Polonus members planning to attend, with some exhibiting. Our Society has entered the POLONUS Bulletin into the Literature Competition. If we have enough members planning to attend, we will organize a Society table and schedule a social meeting. Let me know if you are planning to attend ( [krpsl@earthlink.net](mailto:krpsl@earthlink.net) ). On Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, following the show, the APS has arranged for a bus trip to Bellefonte for a tour of the APS Headquarters and Research Library. The cost of this one-day tour is \$45 and the registration deadline is July 15, 2009. Contact APS directly if you are interested in this tour. ([www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org))

I am encouraged from my telephone and e-mail communications with some members. This is a great opportunity to share information that is not readily presented in a membership application or survey. It also provides needed feedback on how the value of our membership programs is perceived. I look forward to hearing from and reaching out to more of our members in the months ahead. Keep in mind; we need to expand our base of volunteers.

Our Membership Directory is not quite ready for mailing but we expect to do so prior to our next bulletin. I know some members have been asking about the directory as this would allow one to find members in their locale, as well as, find members with similar collecting interests.

Finally, a reminder.....if you have not as yet paid your membership dues for 2009, we urge you to do so promptly.

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#### **Correction to "Polonus Members Meet in Sarasota" from the previous Bulletin**

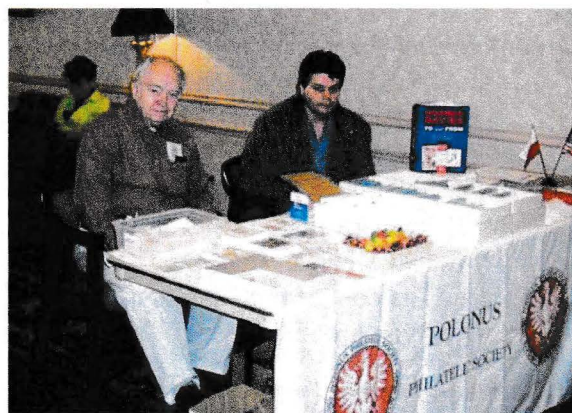
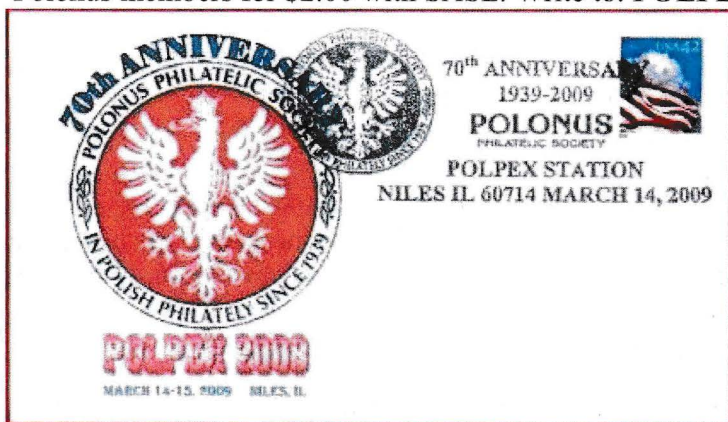
We made an omission in the article covering the recent exhibition in Sarasota, at which Polonus members presented 65 frames of Polish material. The article inadvertently omitted Polonus member, George Zelwinder, who was awarded a Show Vermeil and a Polonus Gold for his exhibit "Groszy" Provisional Issues of 1950 – 1952 and Their Uses.

Since Sarasota, George has reported that he entered the same exhibit at the recent show in Plymouth, Michigan, where he received a Show Vermeil from the West Suburban Stamp Club, a Medallion of Excellence from the American Philatelic Society, and an Award from the AAPE. Congratulations on these accomplishments.

## POLPEX 2009

The Chicago Chapter of the Polonus celebrated the Society's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with their annual POLPEX on March 14-15, 2009 at the White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Illinois. In addition to the bourse, a 16-frame philatelic exhibition was featured together with an exhibition of coins and medals by the Polish American Numismatic Association. The philatelic exhibition was for demonstration purposes only and included the "History of Polpex" told through a four-frame exhibit of thematic souvenir sheets and covers with special show cancellations. In addition to Polonus members from the Chicago Chapter, there were approximately 10 Polonus members from out-of-state locations and many walk-ins from Chicago Polonia in attendance.

Pictured is a special US postal cancellation on a cacheted 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cover. These are available to Polonus members for \$2.00 with SASE. Write to: **POLPEX, P.O. Box 410452, Chicago, IL 60641.**



Manning the Polpex table are Arkadiusz Walinski and Adam Gigiel of the Chicago Chapter

## New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

**Regis M. Hoffman - #1666**  
71 Brookside Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241

**Alexander G. Wersocki - #1667**  
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Scarsdale, New York 10583

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La Jolla, California 92038-2911

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Mississauga, Ontario  
L5L 5P7 Canada

**Peter Sobiegraj - #1670**  
29 Carnoustie Crescent  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4E 0A2 Canada

**Adam Gigiel - #1671**  
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Norridge, Illinois 60706-1145

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Champaign, Illinois 61822

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Snow Camp, North Carolina 27349

## Warsaw Mail to the Red Cross – Routing and Censorship – Late 1944

Chris Kulpinski

This article is about a little known area of Polish philately which deals with the various markings and censorships found on Polish mail in late 1944 to the Red Cross in Switzerland. This story cannot be told without focusing on the covers that came from the Praga section of Warsaw at this time.

By mid summer of 1944, the war effort for Germany was not going well. On the Eastern Front, the Russians were rapidly advancing, only to stop at the banks of the Vistula River.

The Vistula River divides Warsaw, with the Eastern section known as Praga. That part of Warsaw was liberated by Polish units fighting with the Russian Army in the summer of 1944

While the Western portion of Warsaw was leveled by the Nazi during the Warsaw Uprising, the Eastern portion was occupied by the Russians and escaped destruction. It began to establish a more normal existence, including postal communications.

On July 22, 1944, the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN) was formed under Soviet auspices in Lublin. Part of their function was to re-establish postal services.

On September 7, 1944 the PKWN in Lublin, produced its 1<sup>st</sup> issue, "Hero's". (Sc.341/3; Fischer 339/341). The issue was short lived because of its crude design and printing. A week later, on September 13<sup>th</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup> set of 2 stamps was issued depicting the Polish Eagle and the

Grunwald Monument in Kraków. (Sc.344/5; Fischer 342/343). The 25 Gr. Eagle stamp was withdrawn 10 weeks later on December 31<sup>st</sup> because the 25 Gr. rate was no longer a valid postal rate. The use of these Eagles was short lived. It was a time of chaos and therefore those covers are scarce.



Although these stamps were used throughout Russian occupied Poland in late 1944, there is scant evidence or records of postal activity during this era. Records of post offices and other postal activities are virtually non-



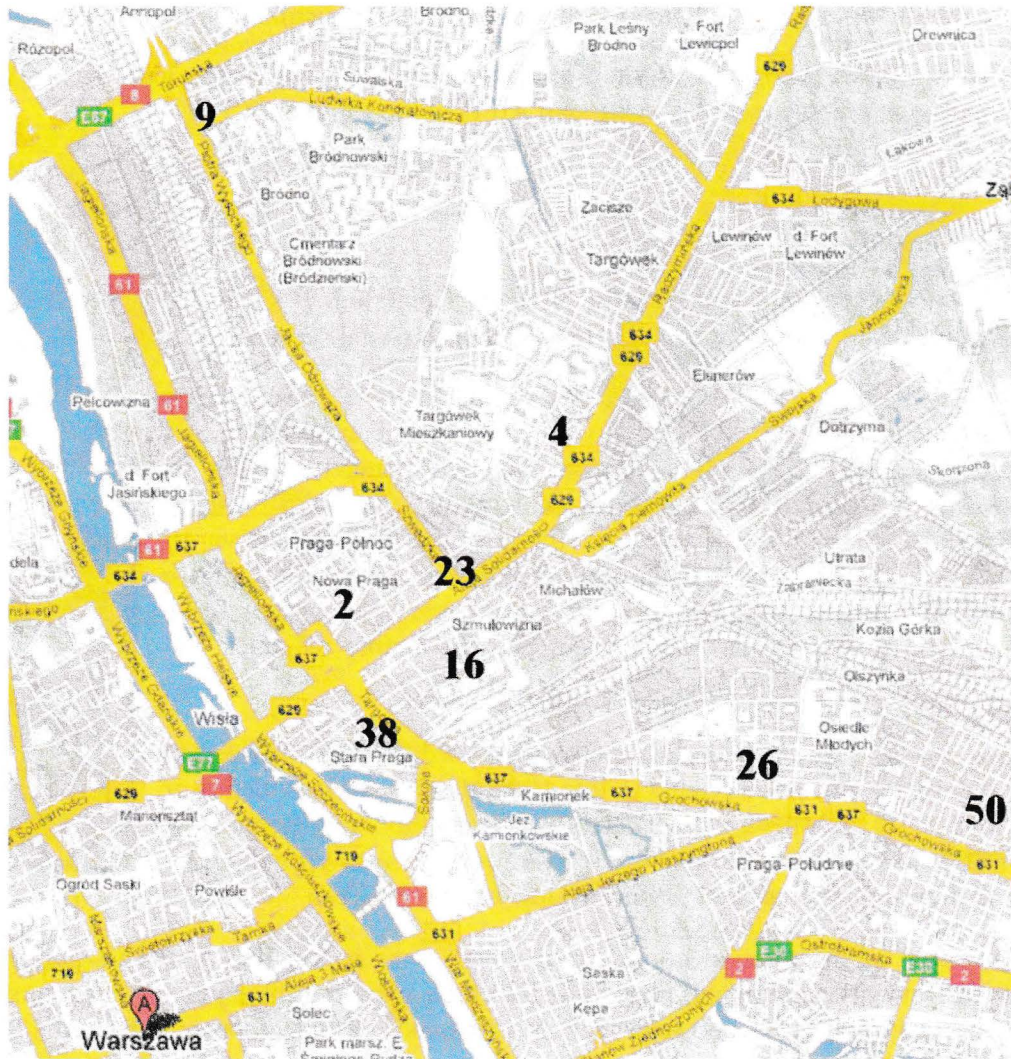
existent in Polish postal archives and covers are few and far between.

The greatest source of information comes from covers sent to the Red Cross in Geneva that were somehow saved from destruction and happen to find their way into the hands of collectors. In fact the vast majority of the covers that found their way into the hands of collectors come from the Praga section of Warsaw.

In the January 1974 issue of the *Bulletin of the Warsaw Philatelic Society*, there appeared a short article listing 8 post offices that were opened during this period – that is, starting sometime in mid to late September, 1944, or possibly later. Exact dates of the opening of these post offices is not known, so a study of covers would determine the earliest known activity, however, the earliest cover from the Praga area that I am aware of is October 28, 1944 from P.O. 26; however, the earliest cover I've seen is from Węgrów, about 75 km E.N.E. of Warsaw and dated October 6, 1944. Today, we know that Warszawa 2 was a transit point after January 17, 1945 and Warszawa 50 mostly was not functional, as there are no known covers from that post office.

The covers from this area, sent to the Red Cross in Geneva are the basis of information that we have in reference to the routing and censorship of mail leaving Poland. Although there is mail leaving Poland from other areas occupied by Russia, the majority is from Praga area of Warsaw.

The routing of mail to Switzerland was accomplished by sending the mail in bulk to Moscow, from there to Ankara, Turkey, where it was stamped, then logically through Beyrouth, on to Cairo, Egypt where it was censored; on to Gibraltar, Liverpool, England and then finally to Geneva. Although evidence is not conclusive, it appears that mail from outside the Praga district was censored in Beyrouth by the Free French even though Ankara was never by-passed as a transit city. The trip, could take as little as 4 months and as long as a year. Average trip appears to have been 6 to 8 months.



Google map of Praga section of Warssaw

The numbers and locations of post offices operating in Praga in the late Fall of 1944 are as follows:

- Warszawa 4 at 102 Radzyminska Street
- Warszawa 9 at 26 Wysocki Street (not shown on map)
- Warszawa 16 at 59 Zabkowska Street
- Warszawa 23 at 25 Stalowa Street
- Warszawa 26 – Address unknown
- Warszawa 38 at Zamojski Street

I have checked the existence of these addresses through Google and the addresses are valid to this day. Although Warszawa 2 at 11 Ratuszowa Street was mentioned in the January 1974 issue of the *Bulletin of the Warsaw Philatelic Society* as a functioning post office in 1944, there is no evidence of its existence until after mid January, 1945.

Also, there is no evidence of Warszawa 50 at 108 Grochowska Street ever functioning during this time period.

Let me state from the outset that I have been able to examine and extensively study only about 150 covers. There were no covers from Post Office 2 or Post Office 50, with only 2 from Post Office 9. It appears that Post Office 4 was the busiest P.O. In addition, Post Office 16 was a sub-station of 4, which registered the covers, but the stamps were canceled at Post Office 4.

In general, it appears that during this period – late 1944 - each post office went through its own transition period in reference to cancellers and other devices. Everything from pencil markings to stylish markings are known to exist. To the extent possible, these are shown below.

## PRAGA, WARSZAWA POST OFFICES

### P.O. Warszawa 02.

No covers emanating from this location are known, however Warszawa 2 transit markings began showing up on mail from both sides of the River after the Russians drove out the Germans on January 17, 1945. In addition, it is possible that previous writers have mistaken an altered 04 as a 02.



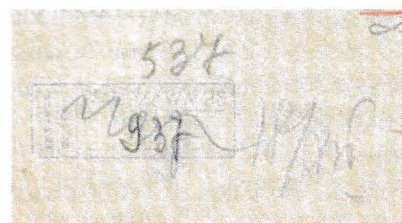
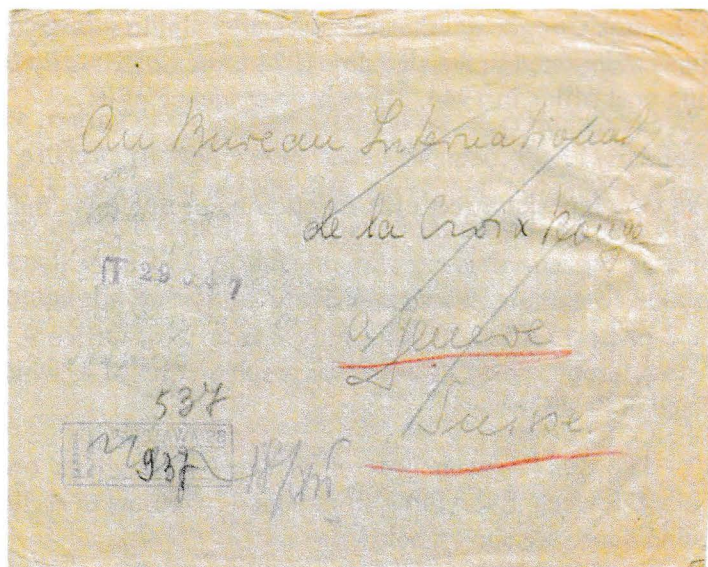
Normal "04" canceller



Damaged or soiled "04"



One of several cover that I have seen with a Warszawa 02 date stamp that was mailed from Praga section of Warsaw was actually mailed from Warszawa 38 on December 18, 1944 where it was registered. The cover lingered somewhere because it was then censored by the Polish military and stamped Warszawa 02 on June 25, 1945.



Registered **December 18, 1944** at P.O. 38 Cancelled at P.O. 2, **June 25, 1945**

**P.O. Warszawa 04** appears to have been the busiest, as it was also fed mail from a substation – P.O. **Warszawa 16**. Covers from Warszawa 16 were registered, but the stamps not cancelled. In addition, one cover is known to exist that originated at Warszawa 9, but was cancelled at Warszawa 04.

On the other hand, there are not many covers with both Warszawa 04 registration *AND* cancellation marks.

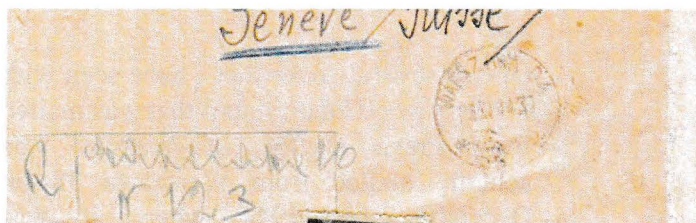


◀◀◀ **WARSZAWA 04** cancellation and registration mark



Only registration label I have seen on covers from this time period. Registration was typically by pencil, or later with a handstamp

▶▶▶



**WARSZAWA 04** cancellation and **WARSZAWA 16** hand registration

◀◀◀

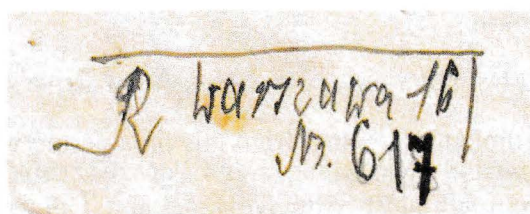
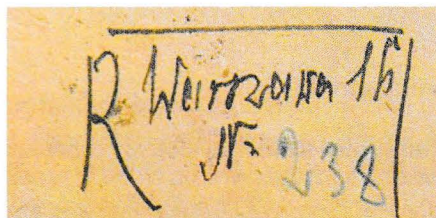
## P.O. Warszawa 09

Cover from P.O. **Warszawa 9**, registered and cancelled with a **21 Grudzien** straight line date stamp. Covers with date cancellations exist from of the other post offices as well, but are very rare.



## P.O. Warszawa 16

The only markings from this post office consist of handwritten registration marks of various sizes. Standard rectangular registration marks appear in mid December, 1945 and are rare.



## P.O. Warszawa 23

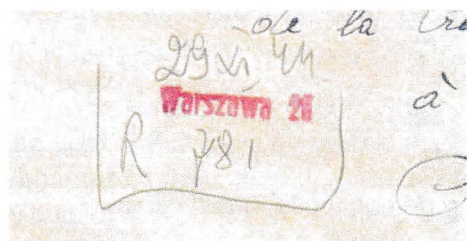
Early cover from post office #23 with date (-9.XI.1944) used as a cancellation, along with a red penciled cancellation. ▶▶▶▶



Moveable date device was incorporated into the double ring canceller, which came into use sometimes in November. ◀◀◀◀



## P.O. Warszawa 26

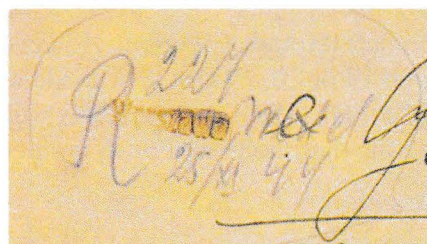


All mail from this post office was cancelled with the **WARSZAWA 26** marking, which was also used to signify registration.

Eventually a rectangular registration stamp was obtained.



## P.O. Warszawa 38



**P.O. Warszawa 38** was the only station with 2 different cancellations. A straight line **WARSZAWA**, used for registration and stamp cancellation, along with "U.P.T. WARSZAWA".

Occasionally, though rarely, the word "**WEDEL**" or #"**38**" is found next to the early registration marks. It was an indication that the P.O. was inside the **WEDEL Candy Plant**.



## P.O. Warszawa 50 – Unknown

## ROUTING

From the covers studied, there does not seem to be consistency in the handling of the mail. Covers from different stations, cancelled on different days, transiting through Ankara on the different days, being censored in Cairo, going through Gibraltar, Liverpool and arrive in Geneva on the same day after a 5 to 7 month trip.

Others mailed from the same post offices might arrive several months later.

Covers exits, though not many, from this time period without any transit or censor markings, other than a receiving stamp in Geneva.

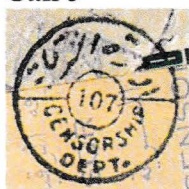
The vast majority of mail is roughly from a 6 week time period – from mid November through December. It traveled from Poland, through Moscow, Ankara, Turkey, where a transit mark was usually applied, through Beyrouth, to Cairo, where it was censored, Gibraltar, Liverpool and finally Geneva.

### Ankara

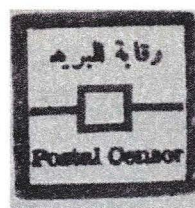
The first evidence of the routing was Ankara, where the covers were stamped always with the same Ankara handstamp



### Cairo



Usually, the next stop where the mail was handled was Cairo. With very few exceptions, the covers were opened and censored, than resealed with a tape. The tape was tied to the cover by 2 different Deputy Censor cancels, of which one was always #107. The following censor ID numbers are known – 6, 9, 10, 13, 18, 40, 41, 43, 45, 48, 72, 76, 81, 107 and 120.



In addition, various other Egyptian censor marks are found, but they do not appear on all covers.

### Gibraltar



It seems obvious that the mail would have to transit through Gibraltar. However Gibraltar cancellations are only dated either March 19 or 20, 1945. Other evidence of transit is British censor labels founds on some covers. These censor labels were applied in Liverpool, England, which was base for thousands of Polish soldiers and therefore numerous Polish speaking censors.

### Beyrouth

It appears that only covers mailed from outside the Praga district were censored in Beyrouth although there are covers with Beyrouth transit markings and the words "Non Controle" (Not inspected) stamped on the front. (Shown below). Covers that were censored have a "Controle" tape which is sometimes tied to the cover with a pencil notation, and a circular censor mark. Not all censored covers have a Beyrouth cancellation.



As shown to the right, various circular and semi-circular handstamps containing a Croix de Lorraine (Cross of Lorraine) and the initials C.P. (Censure Publique – Public Censor) were used to mark censored civil mail.

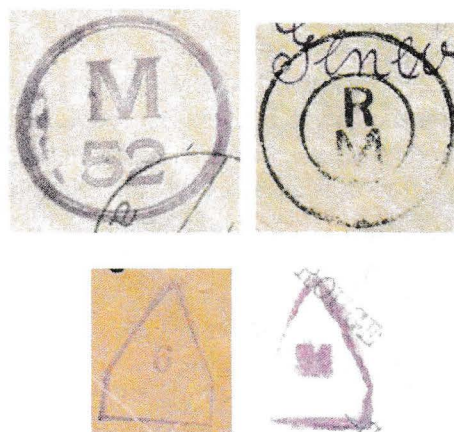
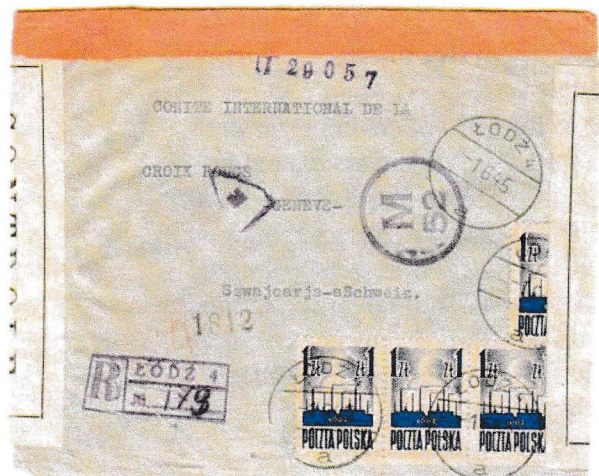


An interesting feature is that this mail, which was stamped Beyrouth and censored, came from towns other than Warsaw and they are all after Germany was expelled from Poland. I have come across 2 covers mailed from 3 different Warszawa P.O.'s in late November, 1944 that transited through Ankara. The Free French applied "Non-Controle" (Not Censored) handstamps in Beyrouth.



This cover, as well as the other pieces of mail that I have seen having a French "Non-Controle" stamp and Beyrouth transit marking are unique in that they have these markings at all. Did they fall out of the mail bag?

The covers that have Beyrouth markings do not, *as a rule*, have Ankara transit markings. However, without exception, they do have various Egyptian (read British) markings and were discreetly censored by the British in Cairo. These Egyptian markings are different than those used earlier and give no indication that they were applied in Cairo.



In addition, the letters were resealed with various non-descript tapes, usually in orange, though I have seen one which appears to be brown masking tape, as well as pink and only one cover with a normal Egyptian censor tape.

In early 1945, the mail began to be censored by the Polish military and only an occasional Ankara machine cancel is found. The Free French continued to censor well into the Fall of 1945 of mail originating in various parts of Poland as late as mid July, 1945. Egyptian censorship ceased sometime in March of 1945 and that was for mail sent from Praga by mid December.

What is common amongst all these covers is as follows:

- Except for a *very few*, all covers are registered
- The transit mark from Gibraltar is ONLY either March 19<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Only a few covers have this transit mark.
- British Censor tapes are found only on covers **not** censored in Cairo, but in Liverpool
- Every cover censored in Cairo has 2 oval Deputy Censor marks, but #107 is always one of them, tying the censor label to the cover.
- Censoring by the Free French in Beyrouth appears to be found only on covers from areas other than the Praga district of Warsaw.

### Earliest Known Covers

Biłgoraj - November 2, 1944  
 Węgrów - November 6, 1944  
 Warszawa 2 – no postmarks, other than transit markings after January 17, 1945  
**Warszawa** 4 - November 21, 1944  
 Warszawa 9 – December 4, 1944  
 Warszawa 16 – November 21, 1944  
 Warszawa 23 – November 9, 1944  
 Warszawa 26 – October 28, 1944  
 Warszawa 38 – November 21, 1944  
 Warszawa 50 – No known covers

Predicated on registration numbers seen on earliest covers, it is very likely that there maybe earlier dated covers; however, they have as yet not surfaced.

### RARITY

Although some covers are rarer than others, all covers from this time period are scarce. Most of these covers are registered, and if registration is any indication of the number of covers mailed, it is likely that there were less than 3,500 covers in all, from the beginning of the postal service (dates unknown) until January 17, 1945, when the Soviet forces crossed the Visła River. Who knows how many covers have survived?

#### Scarcity Factor

|                                                  |                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Warszawa 2 – No known covers                     |                             |
| Warszawa 4 - .....                               | 8 – 3% of covers examined   |
| Warszawa 9- .....                                | 10 – only 2 covers examined |
| Warszawa 16 with Warszawa 04 cancellation –..... | 2 – 28% of covers examined  |
| Warszawa 23 – .....                              | 2 – 21% of covers examined  |
| Warszawa 26 – .....                              | 2 – 22% of covers examined  |
| Warszawa 38 – .....                              | 5 – 12% of covers examined  |
| Warszawa 38 with <b>WEDEL</b> marking – .....    | 10 – only 2 covers examined |
| Warszawa 38 with #38 marking .....               | 3– 12% covers examined      |
| Warszawa 50 – No known covers                    |                             |
| NON CONTROLLE MARKING .....                      | 10 – only 3 examined        |

For a more complete and comprehensive treatment of this topic,  
 go to [www.PolishPhilatleicLiterature.com](http://www.PolishPhilatleicLiterature.com) and get  
**1944 Warsaw Mail to the Red Cross – Routing and Censorship**

## VALUE LETTERS IN POLAND -1919

Dr. James Mazepa

In the first years of the Second Republic money sent through the mails was usually sent as a value letter, not a registered letter. Value letters and registered letters were handled in a similar fashion.

Registered letters were carried by the postman who maintained a list of these letters and was obligated to complete a form noting the letters he was to deliver. The recipient had to sign for the letter. Value letters were also carried by the postman who carried a list of the letters he had in his possession, but this list was separate from the list of registered letters. The postman was financially responsible for the money contained in the letter.

The postal fee for registered letters was 50 fen plus the postage which was dependent on weight and destination. The postal fee for value letters was also 50 fen, and an additional 25 fen for the declared value up to 100 mks. However, the minimum rate for a value letter was 1 mk even if the money enclosed was less than 100 mks.



Value letter often used the same marks as registered letters; however, in 1919 many of these marks were provisional in nature. One outstanding example is the letter from Radziejow to Warsaw (Fig. 1). The letter was sent March 25<sup>th</sup> and arrived March 27<sup>th</sup>. The sender copied the registry style box, but with a "W" (Wartosc) instead of the usual "R" (Registered). The sender noted the letter contained 12 gr. This is the only value letter I have seen with this mark.

**Fig 1-** Value letter from Radziejow with red boxed "W" for "Value"

Figures 2 and 3 show a valued letter send from Gombin to Warsaw. The Gombin provisional postmark is used to indicate this is a value letter, along with the notation at the top of 13gr. The same provisional postmark is used to cancel the 10 fen and 40 fen PP/GGW stamps. The letter was received in Warsaw January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

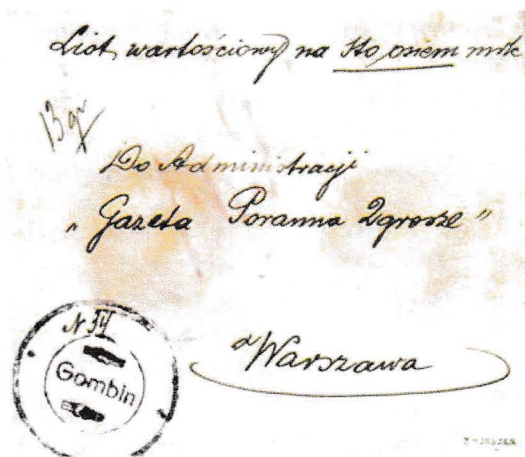


**Fig 2 -** Value letter from Gombin with provisional postmark

**Fig 3 -** Gombin letter with PP/GGW stamps tied by provisional postmark.



Figures 4 and 5 show a value letter from Zawiercie in the amount of 9 gr. to Warsaw sent February 24<sup>th</sup>. The 40 fen and 60 fen PP/GGW stamps are tied by the provisional straight line ZAWIERCIE postmark.

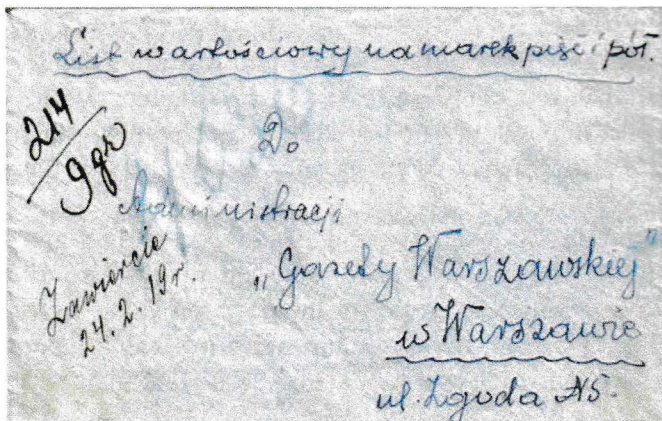
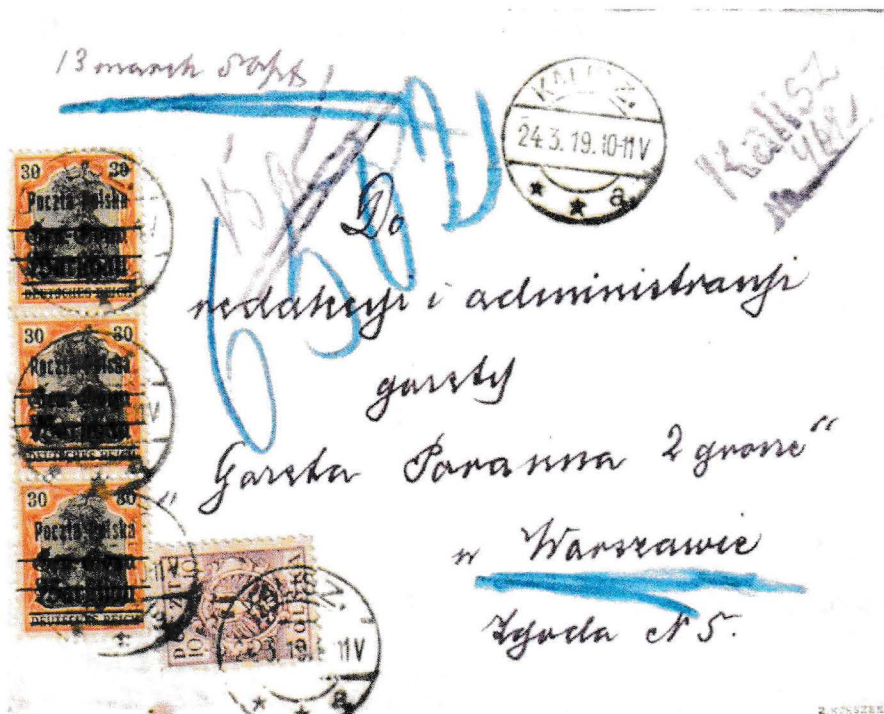


Fig 4 – Value letter with manuscript Zawiercie



Fig.5 – Letter with PP/GGW stamps tied with Zawiercie provisional postmark

Figure 6 is a value letter from Kalisz to Warsaw with the provisional Kalisz registry mark here used to indicate a value letter. The amount of 15 gr. is noted on the front.



Note that all these letters cost 1 mark to send, regardless for value enclosed. Also, it seems many of value letters were used to send small amounts of money. In the case of all the above letters, they were sent to pay newspaper subscriptions.

Fig 6 – Kalisz value letter with provisional registry cachet used as value letter cachet

## Experiences of a Long-Time Exhibitor

Regis Hoffman

I thoroughly enjoyed Bob Ogradnik's article in the Spring 2009 Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society ("Experiences of a First-Time Exhibitor"). I would like to re-iterate some of his observations and add a few new ones, based on my many years of exhibiting.

I have exhibited for over 20 years, from the local, to national and international levels. My primary exhibiting area is East Africa, and recently I have started showing a one-frame exhibit of "Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II".

The first point I would like to emphasize is that exhibiting is FUN! I have learned so much about stamps, postal history, artistic layout and succinctly expressing philatelic research while developing my exhibits. More important are the many friends I have made in the philatelic exhibiting community. Early in my exhibiting career I was with a fellow exhibitor. A few months after our meeting, I encountered her at a large stamp show. We chatted a bit, and I told her of my plight. I had spent all of my money at three dealers, and now a fourth had some great material, but only accepted cash and travelers checks (of which I now had none). Based upon our previous meeting as exhibitors, she offered to lend me the money for the additional items! This is just one of the many people I have met through philatelic exhibiting.

A second aspect of exhibiting is that you support stamp shows and societies that actively seek new and interesting exhibits. You also spread your knowledge and hopefully record it for posterity. I recall a friend who exhibited an area similar to mine. Before he passed away, he gave me a photocopy of his exhibit. Now I am able to use the research from his exhibit in mine to preserve what he had learned.

Finally, exhibiting forces you to think about what material you have. Why does that cover have a certain cancel? Is there something unusual about the rate? Perhaps it is addressed to an interesting person? I once had a cover sitting in a box for several years and decided to write it up in an exhibit. I sent a photocopy off to a correspondent in England who got back to me and pointed out a rare handstamp on the cover. What made me feel bad was that the correspondent was nearly blind, but she was able to see something about the cover that I had missed. Her discovery turned a \$50 cover into a \$500 cover.

In his article Bob mentions that the material need not be expensive. I strongly agree with this statement. Of course, expensive material can more easily catch the eye of the viewers and judges; the challenge is to find what is believed to be common material, and show why it is not.

An example from my exhibits illustrates this. I have a six frame national-level exhibit of Hollywood fan mail (mail addressed to Hollywood movie stars) that has won as high as a vermeil award. The total value of the covers in the exhibit? Less than \$500 (please don't tell anyone...). In fact many of the covers came from a lot of 5000+ covers that I purchased for 5 cents a piece. What makes the exhibit effective is that from the lot of 5000, I culled the best and most interesting and was able to weave a story of Hollywood fan mail. So, do not let the apparent lack of expensive material deter you from exhibiting.

Here are a few exhibiting tips:

1. Bob (and many other exhibitors) use Microsoft Word for page layout. I prefer Microsoft Publisher, which I believe gives me more layout flexibility. I also find it easier to use. It is part of the Microsoft Office Suite, but is usually an extra that must be purchased.
2. Never number your pages on the front. If you decide to re-order the pages, you have to re-print and re-mount them.
3. I agree with Bob – use a 65 or 67 pound cover stock for your paper. A more subtle issue is paper color/brightness. If you buy a particular brand of paper today, and then buy the same paper six months from now, the two papers may have a slight difference in appearance. If you have to re-

do an exhibit page, this page may look different than the others. The solution is to buy more paper than you need for your exhibit, then store this away for future use for this exhibit.

4. A scanner is extremely useful for creating images of the backs of covers. It is well worth the investment.

Finally some words on educating the judges and the viewing public. No one person can understand all there is to know about stamps and postal history. So the problem is how can a judge appreciate your material? The bottom line is they often cannot, unless YOU educate them.

There are two ways to educate the judges. First is by writing articles for philatelic journals. Once a judge has something concrete to read, it makes their job much easier. Plus, in an article you get to expound in great detail, while in an exhibit, you must be brief and to the point. I did this for my Hollywood fan mail exhibit. After publishing two articles on this topic, and using these as references in my exhibit synopsis, I was able to increase the level medal of the exhibit by at least one.

The second method to educate the judges is via a synopsis page that is normally sent to the judges in advance of the show. The synopsis is a one to two page summary of the exhibit, and gives a chance for the exhibitor to say "this is what my exhibit is about, and here are the reasons it is important".

At the end of this article is an example synopsis page from my one-frame exhibit of "Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II". I have annotated it with comments in italics. Just remember – have fun with exhibiting!

### **Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II - Synopsis**

*[I give some historical background, as this a little-known facet of the war]*

A little-known period of the Second World War is the re-settlement of approximately 20,000 Polish refugees throughout various camps in the African nations of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern & Southern Rhodesia, and the Union of South Africa from 1943 to 1948.

*[Give some reasons why material in this exhibit is scarce]*

The camps consisted mostly of women, children, invalids, and men too old to fight. Mail to and from these camps is scarce as few in the camps were able to write. These letters are generally identified by the addresses on the covers and correlation to the location of the camps.

*[A short roadmap of the exhibit, highlighting key items]*

This single-frame exhibit surveys the history of these camps, and the settlement of these Polish refugees throughout Africa. Some highlights:

- Inward covers from the Polish Government in Exile (UK) and Polish Middle East forces to the headquarters of the Polish refugee relief organization in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Covers from the primary social welfare organization, the National Catholic Welfare Conference (Nairobi, Kenya) to Polish refugee camps in Northern and Southern Rhodesia.
- A cover with the rare "Polish Refugee Camp, Masindi Uganda" provisional registration label.
- A post card from a Pole in South Africa to a fellow Pole in the Rongai, Kenya camp.

*[Finally some references for the judges to read]*

#### **References (Philatelic)**

*Polish Refugee Camps in Africa.* Chris Kulpinski. Newsletter of the Polish DP Camps Study Group. Volume 7, Number 35. Available on CD at [www.PolishPhilatelicLiterature.com](http://www.PolishPhilatelicLiterature.com)

#### **References (Historic)**

*The History of the Establishment of Internment Camps and Refugee Settlements in Southern Rhodesia, 1938-1952.* Martin Rupiah. (on-line. URL:

<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/African%20Journals/pdfs/Journal%20of%20the%20University%20of%20Zimbabwe/vol22n2/juz022002003.pdf>)

*The General Langfitt Story.* Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. (on-line URL): <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/refugee/langfitt/>)

## Envelopes from the Oflags: Previously Un-Cataloged Stamped Envelope from Murnau

Piotr Pelczar

*Originally published in Polish, Przegląd Filatelistyczny; 6 (69) / 2008, pp, 256-258.*

Items issued by the posts in the Oflags continue to be popular among collectors. Many new items continue to surface and the number of new collectors interested in this area has increased.

The internal posts operating within the Oflags, not only issued stamps. They also issued imprinted postal stationery, primarily postcards – (Fischer Catalog designation Cp). A small number postal stationery items were issued in the form of a double card, and even more rarely, in the form of a Karnet. To this date, there is only one cataloged piece of postal stationery in envelope format (catalog designation Ck), from Neubrandenburg (**Fig 1**).



**Fig. 1**

This article presents a previously un-cataloged envelope from Oflag VIIA in Murnau (**Fig 2 front**). It was issued at the very beginning of operation of the intra-camp post and bears the imprint of the first postage stamp of Murnau, a view of the camp buildings against the mountain background. The design is the work of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thadeusz Kluzniak, who was also responsible for engraving the die. The prominently placed building, with its characteristically shaped clock tower copula was named the “Onion” by the prisoners, a designation that was also the name given to the postage stamp.



It is not possible, after all these years, to state with a degree of certainty when Ck1 was officially issued in Murnau. The first stamp was placed into circulation on November 6, 1942, while the first post card (Cp.) bearing the same stamp imprint was issued November 11, 1942. We may presume that an envelope, Ck. 1, imprinted with the “Onion (Cebulka)” stamp was imprinted the same day as the post card.

**Fig. 2 front**

The envelope is made of yellowish-white paper, having a thickness of 0.07mm, and dimensions of 138 x 106 mm. The end of the lower flap is rounded, while that of the upper terminates in a point. The upper flap edges are covered with a semi-transparent adhesive which was applied by hand. It is not known whether the envelope was produced from paper supplies found within the camp, as was the case with the postal card that were produced. Its appearance would indicate a rather high degree of skill in its manufacture and it most likely found its way inside the camp from the outside. It could also have been the personal property of some prisoner who submitted it to the camp post and upon payment had the stamp's imprint applied.

Issue quantities for postal stationery from Murnau are unknown. We do not know how many envelopes of the "Onion" issue were printed. It is most likely unique or limited to several examples. There is a lack of verifiable information, such as postally cancelled covers used within the camp.

I propose the following summary for cataloging:

*1942, 11.XI. Envelope with postage stamp of camp building "Cebulka"  
Project and woodcut, T. Kluzniak. Format 138 x 106 mm, yellowish-  
white paper, 0.07 mm thickness, upper flap pointed, lower rounded,  
gummed. Issue qty: several pieces (?)*

|             |               |              |             |                                                                                   |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             |               |              | *           |  |
| <i>Ck 1</i> | <i>10 fen</i> | <i>Black</i> | <i>1500</i> | <i>?</i>                                                                          |

**Notes:** The author requests cooperation from readers having in their collections post stationery having pre-printed stamps from Murnau. Mr. Pelczar is an expert of the Polish Philatelic Union (PZF) and requests your assistance in his continued study of the covers produced at Murnau. He would appreciate scans of items where the stamp is printed on the card or envelope. Even single items will add to the knowledge we have on the topic, and perhaps you will uncover a true rarity in your collection! Please send scans directly to [piotr.pelczar@wp.pl](mailto:piotr.pelczar@wp.pl)

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**Terry Kurzinski**

**I buy old stamps and Mail**

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H 815-332-3264  
C 815-262-9117 TKURZINSKI2002@YAHOO.COM

## GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT Fischer #116

Gerard Menge

In 1944, a new series of stamps depicting castles was issued. The center design was the same as the 1941 series (Fischer #63/65). Minor changes to the design included the words "Deutsches Reich" being added near the bottom, and the eagle emblem behind the words "General Gouvernement" was removed. Other changes placed the word ZLOTY to the left of the numeral, as is found on the rest of the stamps and the value 6 zloty was added. Colors of the values were changed as well.



1941 Definitive – Fischer #65

1944 proof with truncated land mass  
to the left



**Design Development:** First a reduced copy of the 1941 '10 Zloty' value was printed in dark brown.

Next, the center portion of this stamp was cut out, and part of the land mass on the left side was trimmed away. The cut out section was then glued to a specially printed brown-red frame. The Essay was then affixed to a Staatsdruckerei (Government Printing Office) Card for viewing.



A decision was made that the center image was to be returned to its original design. New Essays were printed, see below, and subsequently the design was accept.

Therefore the only change to the design of the stamp was the placement of the word "zloty". This coincided with the placement of the word in the rest of the series.



200.00

Rare printing error – the design is shifted upward

The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 with an emblem of the German Eagle in the top margins. Close observation reveals that the lowest wing tip of the Eagles left wing is missing.



Only part of one imperforated sheet of 10 zloty is reported to have survived the war. The words "Staatsdruckerei Wien" appears only once on each sheet.



Rare "V"  
Registration label

Wertsendung  
Insured Mail –  
44 Zloty –



Skarzysko-Kamienin to Vienna, Austria – 30.6.44

Dr. James Mazepa

The first issue of the new Republic of Poland is known as the Monuments Issue or the First Provisional Warsaw issue. The issue was prepared on November 17, 1918, and overprinted the German Warsaw City Post stamps into Polish stamps. Four values were made: 5 fen, 10 fen, 25 fen and 50 fen. The letter here is the highest franking of the 5 fen stamp recorded on a commercial, registered letter, 50 fen registry fee and 25 fen postage, found on the reverse, to Vienna on January 23, 1919.



*If you have a favorite cover, please share it with us. Contact the editor at [chris@kulpinski.net](mailto:chris@kulpinski.net)*

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We are in need of articles in **YOUR** area of specialty and interest. Please contact the editor

*You have paid your dues, haven't you?*

Bob Ogrodnik

## **To and From (Od i Do)**

By Norman Davies

ISBN: 978-83-88848-64-3

Rosikon Press 2008

aleja Dębów 4

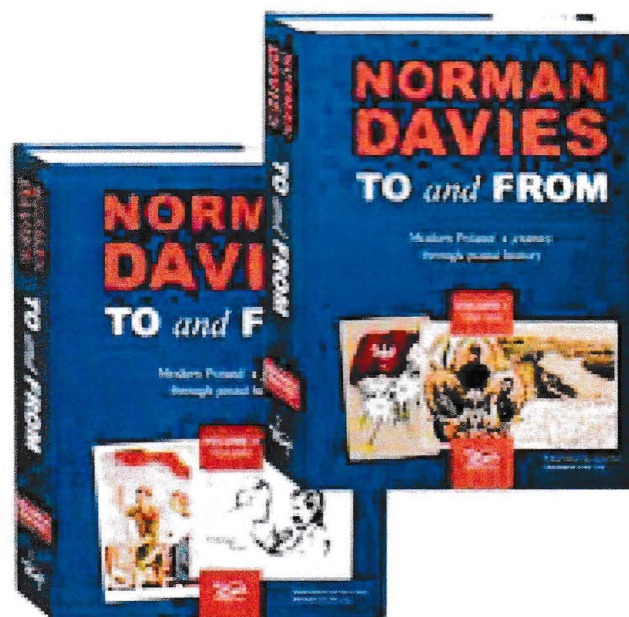
05-080 Izabelin-Warszawa

Two volumes, 712 pages

Hard bound, approx 8 ½ x 11 ¼ in.

2000+ illustrations

Available in English or Polish



This two volume work by Professor Norman Davies from the University of London, one of the greatest contemporary historians of Polish history, is simply an enormous contribution towards Polish philately. This work is chronologically organized with volume one spanning the years 1850 -1939 and volume two spanning the years 1939 – 2005. It is modern Poland since 1850 as seen through postal history. The English version is “To and From” and the Polish version is “Od i Do”.

The introduction underscores the value of postal history for providing a wonderful source of very precise information about the past. Every item committed to the post can be pinpointed very exactly to a particular time and place, becoming an authentic relic of an historical moment. In order to guide the reader in understanding the illustrations, the author explains the twelve pieces of information normally found on each postal item. These are: identity of sender, sender’s address, place and country of origin, date of posting, place of posting, identity of recipient, recipient’s address, place of delivery, country of delivery, date of arrival, date of delivery, and nature of correspondence. The illustrations include picture postcards, first day covers, commercial covers, registered letters, view cards, and prepaid stationery.

This two volume set will be an invaluable reference to all levels of Polish philatelic collecting and exhibiting, as well as to anyone wanting a unique perspective on the history of Poland. The book set has been seen on e-Bay priced at \$75 with \$20 for shipment from Germany. It has also been found at several Polish bookstores at 140 zł (without shipment charges). More information is available on Rosikon’s website: [www.rosikonpress.com](http://www.rosikonpress.com) . This publication is officially sponsored by Poczta Polska. The Polonus Philatelic Library will soon have a set of these books for use by members.

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I am looking for material from the *Soviet Occupation of Poland – 1939/1941* era, primarily covers franked with Polish stamps, and covers with Polish cancellations. If you can help, please contact me.

Chris Kulpinski – [chris@kulpinski.net](mailto:chris@kulpinski.net) – 480-585-7114

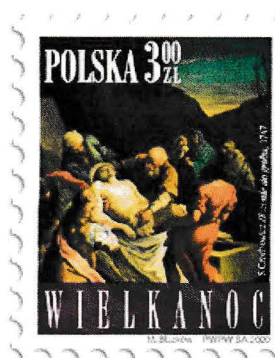
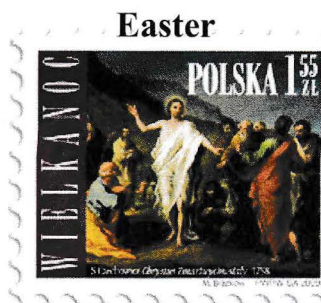


### Polish Contemporary Sculpture – Władysław Hasior

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | March 6, 2009  |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | 4 Stamps       |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Offset         |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Małgorzata Osa |

The Polish Post commemorates the contemporary sculptor, Władysław Hasior, with four stamps featuring photographs of the artist's works – his assemblages: The Herald (Zwiastowanie) and The Fly (Mucha), and the Banner of the Green Poet (Sztandar Zielonej Poetki) and The Night Undressing Banner (Sztandar – Rozbieranie do snu).

Two of these stamps are denominated 1.45 ZŁ; one at 2.10 ZŁ; and one at 2.40 ZŁ. The stamps are printed in sheetlets (blocks) of the four stamps (as pictured) or individually in sheets of 20. Władysław Hasior (1928 – 1999) was born in Nowy Sącz, graduated from the Liceum Technik Plastycznych art school in Zakopane, and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. He embarked on numerous journeys and took part in many exhibitions, and his creations can be found in national galleries worldwide. Hasior was a uniquely original artist, never copying trends. He is best known for using various materials in his finished creations, such as, dolls, pitchforks, mirrors, etc. This is referred to as “assemblages” – a structure made with the use of finished objects or their fragments, a spatial equivalent of a collage.



|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | April 1, 2009     |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | 100 Stamps        |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Rotogravure       |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Magdalena Błażków |

of Easter which is why the consists of two stamps; one is denominated at 1.55 ZŁ and the other at 3.00 ZŁ.

Every year, Poczta Polska joins in the celebration of Easter, or the Feast of the Resurrection, with an issue of stamps. This year the emphasis is on the spiritual meaning stamps feature religious elements. The issue

Both stamps picture the works of a lesser known Polish painter, Szymon Czechowicz, the originals of which belong to the collections of the National Museum in Kraków. The 1.55 ZŁ stamp features the work entitled “Christ Resurrected” (Chrystus Zmartwychstały, 1758) and the 3.00 ZŁ stamp features the work entitled “Entombment” (Złożenie do grobu, 1747). Szymon Czechowicz (1689 – 1775) was born in Kraków and died in Warsaw. He spent 19 years in Rome where he studied at the famous Saint Lucas Academy under Benedetto Lutti. Following his return to Poland he settled in Warsaw and took up painting religious works and portraits, in which he excelled.



|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Date of Issue</b>   | April 22, 2009     |
| <b>Sheet Format</b>    | Block of 1         |
| <b>Printing Method</b> | Offset             |
| <b>Designer</b>        | Marzanna Dąbrowska |

### Polish Year in Israel

The Polish Post, in cooperation with the Israel Post, issued a stamp block in order to commemorate the Polish Year in Israel and to stress the amiable nature of the relations between both states. The stamp, denominated at 3.00 ZŁ, features a portrait of Berek Joselewicz sitting on a horse, wearing a captain's uniform, and heading a regiment formed during the battle of Kock. The image on the postage stamp is a copy of a painting made in 1893 by an outstanding Polish painter, Juliusz Kossak. The Polish Year has been celebrated in Israel, beginning on 9 April 2008, in order to demonstrate the legacy of Poland, a country which is dear to many Jewish people. The rich agenda, focused upon culture and science, included film presentations, performances of well known Polish and Israeli artists, seminars, workshops and scientific conferences. The crowning of the celebrations is a joint postage stamp issue, commemorating Berek Joselewicz – a hero of the Polish bids for independence. It is worth noting that this is the second joint issue by the Polish and Israeli Posts. In 1993 a postage stamp with an adjoining field and commemorative postcard were issued on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Born in 1764, in Kretynga, Lithuania, Berek Joselewicz earned a great deal of fame in committing his life to fighting for freedom of a country where his family had lived for generations. During the uprising in 1794, when he wrote an appeal in the Yiddish language calling the Polish Jews to arms and built a cavalry regiment with 500 volunteers. After the fall of the uprising, he emigrated to Italy where he joined the Polish Legions of General Jan Henryk Dąbrowski as "Colonel, Captain of the Polish Cavalry". In 1808 he was awarded the Virtuti Militari Knight's Cross and the National Order of the Legion of Honor. He died during the battles of Kock in 1809. The example set by Berek Joselewicz was the strongest encouragement for many Polish patriots of Jewish origin who fought in armed bids for independence. The descendants of Berek Joselewicz fought on every front of World Wars I and II, including in the armed forces of General Władysław Anders, the 1st Polish Army and the Polish underground forces.

### Polish Philatelic Literature for the English Speaking Collector

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