BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Outstanding Gen. Gov. WWII Wins Polpex Grand

Never before seen essays and proofs of the German Occupation of Poland during WWII were exhibited by Dr. Jozef Kuderewicz of Manchester, NH and were unanimously selected by the judges for the Grand Award exhibit at POLPEX 90 held March 23-25 in Chicago. Although the exhibition totalled only 68 frames, powerful Poland material was shown. The President's Award and Gold Medal went for ten frames of the Kingdom of Poland pre-stamp period to Dr. James Mazepa of Oak Park, IL. Another Gold Medal winning exhibit was that of Dr. Conrad Straub of Columbia Heights, MN for his study of Germania stamp overprints of WWI.

The theme of this year's Polonus Philatelic Society show was the tenth anniversary of the Solidarity movement in Poland under chairman

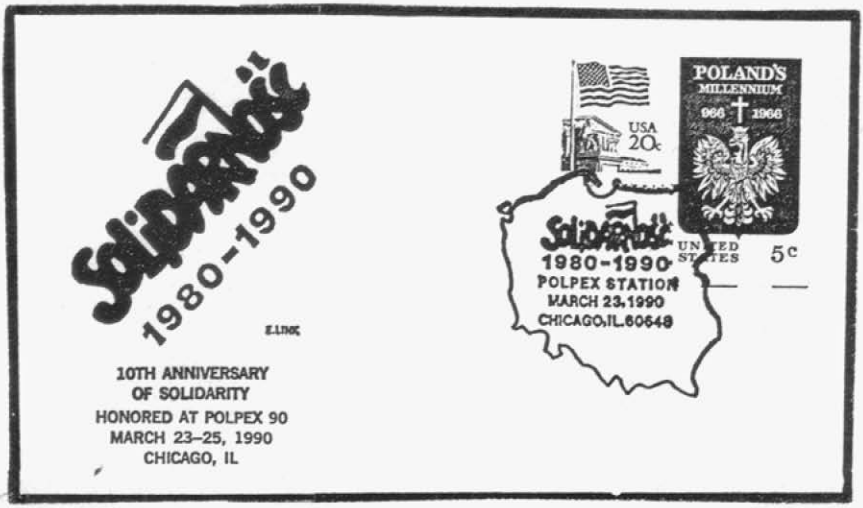


The opening ceremony took place Friday noon with the ribbon cutting honor given to Fran Rybarski, first secretary of Polonus back in 1939. Left to right: Chester Schafer, Stefania Poniecki, John Rudnicki, Fran Rybarski, Walenty Poinecki, Romuald Odrowski, Polonus president Roman Strzelecki, and Edward Link.



Members receiving awards pose for photo after award presentations at the Beeba-Banquet. (Left to right) First row: Walenty Poniecki, Teresa Lederer, Dr. Conrad Straub, James Luber and M.C. John Rudnicki. Top row: Fred Szebel, Roman Strzelecki and Romuald Odrowski. President Strzelecki holds a rare porcelain dish of Pope John Paul II which was given to Grand Award winner Dr. Jozef Kuderewicz, who was unable to attend.

Lech Walesa. Solidarity medals were awarded to winners. Lech Walesa's portrait was on the obverse and the Solidarity emblem and Polish eagle on the reverse. Three impressive exhibits of Solidarity material were presented by Fred Szebel of Arlington Heights, IL, Roman Odrowski of Chi-



Three different show covers designed by Edw. Link, were printed. Pictured is the cover used on the opening day March 23, 1990 with special cancel.

cago and Roman Strzelecki of Berwyn, IL. Szebel and Strzelecki's exhibits were not for competition. Odrowski's received a Silver Medal.



JAMES W. LUBER with Junior Award

The other Silver Medal exhibits were: Postal History of John Paul II by Arkadiusz Walinski; Gen. Casimir Pulaski Topicals by Edward Link; Postal History of Poland by Walenty Poniecki; and a study of the Polish Liquidation Commission Issue of 1919 by C. Schafer. All above Silver Medal winners are from Chicago. A Silver was also presented to Teresa M. Lederer of Lake Forest, IL for Postal History - Nazi Occupied Poland WWII.

A colorful topical showing of flower stamps by nine year old James W. Luber of Lake Forest, IL was given the Junior Award.

The highlight of the 3-day event was the "Beeba" banquet. Those attending were served "krupnik", "pierogi", and other tasty Polish dishes. Master of ceremonies John Rudnicki of Toronto, added some Canadian humor to the proceedings. Award presentations were made by Polpex chairman, Romuald Odrowski and Judges' chairman, Thomas Gobby. Gobby is a TV host and as the presentations were made, he added descriptive comments on the individual exhibits. Entertainment was provided by a pair of dancers in costumes of the Lublin region performing an "oberek" and "kujawiak."

There was some excitement at the U.S. postal station Saturday, when the Classic Movies 25¢ poster stamps went on sale. These were the most popular items sold. One clerk was busy all three days applying the special "Solidarnosc" cancellation to souvenir cards, covers and postal cards.

Three different cacheted covers were issued for each day of the show. Individual covers are priced at $1.25 each; a set of all three is $3.00. Souvenir cards are priced at $1.50; same with show cancellation, $2.00. A pair of souvenir sheets with descriptive folder are $1.50. The souvenir Polpex program catalog is $2.00. Include $1.00 for postage and handling. Send checks to Polonus, c/o Al Rybarski, Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171.

Polonus will honor the 200th anniversary of the Polish Constitution of May 3rd at their Polpex in 1991.

New Members

1391 Heinrich Petersen
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1392 Richard F. Ropiak
60 First Avenue
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SET NOTES SOVIET ROLE IN POLISH INVASION

By ROMAN SEMENIUK

In the summer of 1939, the people of Europe lived in the shadow of war, as great powers and smaller states alike jockeyed for position.

Having successfully gobbled up the Saar region, Austria and the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland, Adolf Hitler's Germany set its sights on its next major target – Poland.

Germany wanted control of the so-called Polish Corridor, a strip of land, including the city of Danzig (Gdansk), which gave Poland an outlet to the Baltic Sea and separated East Prussia from Germany. What Hitler offered Poland was a future promise of Ukrainian territory with an outlet on the Black Sea. Poland rejected the proposal.

Hitler doubted that Britain and France could again be persuaded to accede to another Munich-type agreement on Poland as they had for Czechoslovakia. War was at hand.

As one historian put it, the Soviet Union now became the arbiter of the fate of Europe. Britain and France on one hand and Germany on the other began to earnestly court the support of this powerful but still-uncommitted state.

Germany made the better offer – a secret protocol dividing Europe's central region into Nazi and Soviet spheres of influence. On August 23, 1939, a non-aggression pact was signed between Germany and the Soviet Union.

On Sept. 1, Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, as they had sworn to, France and Britain declared war on Germany. World War II had begun.

In Moscow, the Kremlin leaders watched the unfolding drama with a combination of shock and interest. The rapid military collapse of courageous Poland under the weight of the modern German blitzkreig was unanticipated, but the Soviets were ready to profit from it.



Figure 1. The low value of a 1940 Soviet set issued to commemorate "The liberation of the fraternal peoples of Western Ukrainia and Western Belorussia."

On Sept. 17th, the Kremlin declared the Polish state non-existent. The Red Army was ordered to advance from the East, ostensibly to protect Poland's Belorussian and Ukrainian peoples.

Figure 1 shows the low value in a five-stamp set commemorating the Soviet version of the event. The stamp depicts a smiling Red Army soldier holding a happy boy. The background shows happy villagers and a marching column of Red Army troops.

On September 28th, Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to partition Poland along the ethnographic Curzon Line set by Berlin in 1919.

Germany acquired the western Polish lands and some small Ukrain-

ian-inhabited enclaves. The Soviet Union acquired Poland's eastern Belorussian, Lithuanian and most of the ethnic Ukrainian lands.

The Kremlin awarded the small ethnic Lithuanian territory including the city of Vilnius to Lithuania – a country that the Soviets were even then preparing to annex.

The Belorussian- and Ukrainian-inhabited lands were separated administratively. Mock elections were held. These lands were then formally annexed to the Soviet Union via unification with adjacent Soviet Belorussian and Ukrainian republics.

In April, 1940, the Soviet Union issued a five-value Victory set with the date "17 IX 1939," the low value of which is shown in Figure 1.

The common Russian inscription on these stamps translates as "The liberation of the fraternal peoples of Western Ukrainia and Western Belorussia." The other three designs in the set feature similar scenes of cheerful folk greeting armed Soviets. The stamps are textbook examples of philately as propaganda.



Figure 2. A cheerful villager greets a comradely - and well-reinforced - Soviet soldier on the 30-kopeck value from the set.

Figure 2 shows the design of the 30k. stamp. A soldier and civilian shake hands before an antiquated Soviet tank, while a squadron of bombers fills the skies overhead.

Both the 50k & 60k stamp show an eager crowd surrounding a smiling Red Army infantryman as he hands out newspapers, presumably reporting the story of how he came to be there.

Women and young mothers with babes in arms line the roadway on the 1-ruble high value. The hammer-and-sickle ensign flies in the foreground as a column of Soviet light tanks files past the multitude.

The stamps celebrate a cheap victory – the last that the Soviet Union would know in a conflict that was to consume more than 20 million Soviet lives. The issue commemorates in its own way the partition of the Polish state, the first clash of arms in Europe to mark the beginning of the fateful conflict that lay ahead.

———

Roman Semeniuk of Brooklyn, NY, has written articles for LINN'S and other philatelic publications for more than 16 years.

Semeniuk avidly collects the United States, the Philippines, the Soviet Union and Ukrainia. His topical interests include space, cheetahs and dolphins.

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CROWN RESTORED

The National Assembly restored Poland's historic name which was changed by the Communists 45 yrs. ago. The Senate vote confirmed the restoration of the Republic of Poland as the official name, changing it from the People's Republic of Poland. The Senate also favored the Sejm decision to restore the crown on the head of the eagle which symbolizes the country. The crown was removed by the communists.

Pope John Paul II in Philately

By: ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI



POPE JOHN PAUL II IN THE FAR EAST AND MAURITIUS

The Holy Father's forty-fourth apostolic journey coincided with the close of the 42nd International Eucharistic Congress at Seoul in Korea, the first leg of the Pope's journey. Pope John Paul II participated in the closing of the Eucharistic Congress during his short visit on October 7th thru 9th, 1989. From October 9th thru the 14th, 1989, the Holy Father visited Indonesia, a nation composed of many islands with a population of approx. 1.7 million, eighty-five percent of whom are Muslim, and three percent Catholic. During his five days in Indonesia the Holy Father visited Jakarta and Medan (Island of Sumatra), Dili (East Timor), Yogjakarta (Island of Java) and Maumere (Island of Flores). Last stop of the Pope's journey was the Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean located 500 miles east of Madagascar.The population of Mauritius is just over one million, fifty percent of whom are Hindu and twenty-five percent Catholic. From October 14th thru the 16th, 1989, the Holy Father visited Port Louis and other places including Rodrigues Island.

VATICAN



Postmark in Latin commemorating the beginning of the 44th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II to the Far East and Mauritius: "IO. PAULUS II SEULUM INDONESIAM MAURICIUM VISIT /POSTE VATICANE/ 6-16.X.1989", Pope John Paul II with pastoral cross.

KOREA

Single stamp issued with the logo of the 42nd International Eucharistic Congress and commemorative postmark are without papal theme. The Ministry of Communications issued a first day of issue cover with a cachet showing Pope John Paul II.









INDONESIA



Hand cancellation used in five cities visited by the Pope. Same design used showing Pope John Paul II in blessing act, except change in city name. Cancellation used on letters with regular city postmark or as main postmark cancellation.

+KUNJUNGAN SRI PAUS YOHANES PAULUS II

+8-14 Okt. 89 + JAKARTA + YOGYAKARTA + MAUMERE + DILI + MEDAN.

MAURITIUS

Set of five stamps issued to commemorate the visit of Pope John Paul II to Mauritius, October 14-16, 1989.





30 cs—Cardinal Jean Margeot, Bishop of Port Louis (capital of Mauritius)
40 cs—Pope John Paul II and the Prime Minister of Mauritius
3 Rs—Sister Marie Magdaleine de la Croix and chapel of Mary's Children in Port Louis
6 Rs—St. Francis Assisi Church in Pamplemousses
10 Rs—Pope John Paul II
First Day of Issue: October 14, 1989.
Gutter pairs are available.

POLAND

Postage meter used in the city of Łódź. It commemorates the meeting of Pope John Paul II with members of the Polish St. Gabriel Federation, during their visit to Vatican, May 12-19, 1989.



Postage meter depicts Pope John Paul II and St. Peter's Basilica on the left, and the emblem of St. Gabriel's Federation and the Łódź Cathedral on the right. + SPOTKANIE PAPIEŻA + JANA PAWŁA II + Z GRUPĄ ŁÓDZKĄ + KLUBU ŚW. GABRIELA + WATYKAN 12-19 V. 1989 + ŁÓDŹ 47 17.5.89.

PERU

Commemorative postmark: "CUARTO ANIVERSARIO 1ra VISITA DE S.S. JUAN PABLO II / CORREOS LIMA / 30 JUN - 8 JUL 1989 / PAX / ET / AMOR". Face of Pope John Paul II and Holy Cross. "4th anniversary of the 1st visit of Pope John Paul II to Peru." No reproduction of this postmark is available at this time.



Commemorative postmark: "SEGUNDO ANIVERSARIO 2da VISITA DE S.S. JUAN PABLO II / CORREOS LIMA / 30 JUN - 8 JUL, 1989 / OPUS / JUSTITIAE / PAX." Face of Pope John Paul II and rose. (2nd anniversary of the 2nd visit of Pope John Paul to Peru).



SPAIN

Commemorative postmark used August 11-12, 1989 in Santander: "ANO SANTO LEBANIEGO / 3º VISITA A ESPANA DE SS. / JUAN PABLO II / XVI EXPO FILCA / 11-12 AGOSTO 1989 / SANTANDER". Face of Pope John Pauul II and Holy Cross. (3rd visit of Pope John Paul II to Spain) — postmark used at Philatelic Exhibition.

BOLIVIA

Souvenir sheet measuring 4½" x 5¾" issued for Christmas of 1989 and for New Year 1990. It shows the Madonna and Child by Rubens. In the upper right hand corner 80c stamps from the series issued in 1988 to commemorate the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1988.

First Day of Issue: July 19, 1989.

PARAGUAY

2 stamps (50 Gs & 120 Gs) from the set issued in 1988 overprinted in black "PARAFIL 89". The overprinted stamps were issued for the Paraguay-Argentina Philatelic Exhibition held in Asuncion, Paraguay — Oct. 9-13, 1989. First Day of Issue: Oct. 9, 89.





VATICAN

On November 9, 1989, the Vatican issued a series of five stamps featuring the journeys of Pope John Paul II in 1988. The stamps are horizontal in format, measuring 40 x 30 mm., and have perforation of 14 x 13¼. They were printed on white chalky paper by the Italian State Polygraphic Institute and Mint. They were issued in sheets of 20. All five stamps share a common design by Patrizia Gabriele and Anna Maria Maresca. The illustration of the stamps depicts: on the right, the Pope in episcopal vestments, in the act of blessing; in the center, against a background of a world map in stylized form, the map of the continent or country visited; on the left, the coat of arms of His Holiness John Paul II.



50 lire—Journey to Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay.
550 lire—Journey to Austria
800 lire—Journey to Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland & Mozambique
1,000 lire—Journey to France
4,000 lire—Pastoral Visit to Italy.





First Day of Issue postmark—9.XI.1989 + Poste Vaticane — Die Emissionis + Pope John Paul II in episcopal vestments in act of blessing.



SWAZILAND

Set of four stamps issued to commemorate the 21st birthday of King Mswati III. The 60c stamp depicts Pope John Paul II with King Mswati.



Stamps:
15c—The King with the Prince of Wales, 1987
60c—The King with the Pope during his visit to Swaziland in 1988.
1E—Crown Prince's introduction to the nation
2E—The King with the Queen Mother
First Day of Issue: November 16, 1989.
Gutter pairs are available.





JAPAN

Commemorative postmark used at the "POLSKA 89" Philatelic Exhibition held in Tokyo, November 25-26, 1989. The Exhibition was organized by the Polish Club of the Japanese Philatelic Society. The postmark depicts a Polish stamp with the portrait of John Paul II issued to commemorate the Pope's 2nd visit to Poland in 1983. It also shows Czestochowa's Black Madonna.

ITALY

Commemorative postmarks used in various Italian cities visited by Pope John Paul II in 1989: GROSSETO CENTRO - May 21, 1989; GAETA (LT) - June 26, 1989; OPORA (VC) - July 16, 1989; ORTE (VT) - September 17, 1989 (blessing of Holy Virgin statue by Pope John Paul II); LUCCA C.P. - September 23, 1989; VOLTERRA (PI) - September 23, 1989; PISA C.P. - September 24, 1989; TARANTO C.P. - October 28, 1989.



This completes all stamps and postmarks issued in the year 1989. If any readers have any other postmarks, please send me a description and if possible xerox copy of the postmark. I will be glad to answer any questions connected with Pope John Paul II philately. Write to Arkadiusz Walinski, 7353 West Estes, Chicago, IL 60631.

Halved and Overprinted Stamps, Drohobycz, 1920

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

In the 1920's shortages of postage stamps occasionally occurred in Polish post offices. As a countermeasure postmasters occasionally halved stamps to obtain stamps of one half of their original denomination In January 1920, in the Drohobycz post office, 20 halerzy, brown stamps, Scott No. 125, were halved and each half stamp was then overprinted in violet ink with its new denomination: "10 h." A new kind of postage stamps was thus created.



The one shown here was used on a newspaper wrapper for local delivery. It is postmarked "Drohobycz 1, *2a*, 9 January 1920".

Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, vol. III lists on page 757 halved 10 halerzy stamps used in Drohobycz on 9 January 1920, but does not mention halved 20 halerzy stamps or any overprintings.

RARE NICARAGUA POPE VISIT IMPERFS



The set of four stamps issued by Nicaragua in 1983 in conjunction with the visit of Pope John Paul II to that country is known imperforate. Printed in Cuba in sheets of 20 stamps each, two sheets of each stamp were left imperforate for the postal museum. One set of sheets went to the postal museum, the other was given to the Nicaraguan postal minister. He sold them to a dealer in Florida. The dealer cut up the sheets into ten pairs and sold them immediately.

—Romuald Odrowski

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MEETING CHANGES

At the Polonus board meeting of April 23, 1990, it was decided to make some changes in regards to meetings. The Officers and Directors are to group for regular board meetings every third Monday of the month at which the business of the Society will be transacted. At the general monthly meeting for all members, held on the fourth Friday of the month, the time will be devoted to a bourse and philatelic discussion. With changes in the Polish government and the restoration of the Republic, the stamp issues will reflect these changes and should be of greater interest.

Every three months there will be a guest speaker with members notified by mail. Refreshments to be served at guest speaker meetings.

KOBYLKA PUBLISHES POLAND 1989 ALBUM PAGES

The 1989 Poland Supplement of George Kobylka's album pages has just been released. This is the 34th year of continuous Poland pages. On the page of the Battles of Defense in 1919, Kobylka has a short description of each of the four battles: Westerplatte, Hel Peninsula, Kock and Lwow. On the Kings and Queens series, there is a description of the monarchs. This page is numbered 362-A. All future issues of this series will be numbered with letters: 362-B, C, D, etc. When the series are completed they will follow in rotation like a history book.

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IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Mr. President:

It was good seeing you at POLPEX 90, as well as the rest of the members. This is one time of the year when I get to see my Polish friends and have the opportunity to speak a little Polish and to hear it spoken. The show was great!

Conrad P. Straub
Columbia Hts., MN

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