

BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 4th Friday at Polish American Congress, 5844 Milwaukee Av., Chgo.

Issue No. 400

Price \$2.00

Sept.-Oct., 1983

POLONUS PUBLISHES BULLETIN No. 400

The mention of Polonus Bulletin No. 400 brings memories of the beginning of *Polonus Philatelic Society*. It goes back to the year 1938. At that time there were just a few stamp clubs in the Chicagoland area. To the best of my knowledge, there were the North Shore Philatelic Society, Chicago Philatelic Society, Roosevelt Philatelic Society, Ogden Hills Stamp Club, the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society & the Hawthorne Stamp Club at Western Electric.

It was at the Cicero-Berwyn show where I met Roman Reinowski. We talked about a need of a stamp club for the collector of Poland. At that time I worked for *Dziennik Zwiqzkowy*. I knew two of the editors who were stamp collectors. In fact, I bought Witkowski's Stamp Album from one of them. Also knew the sports editor. So I had the advantage of having a notice put in the paper, on the sport page, in both languages about forming a stamp club for the collectors of the stamps of Poland. With the encouragement from Roman and the editors it paid off, as our first meeting, held on February 26, 1939, at the Veterans Hall, 1239 N. Wood St. in Chicago was a success. There were 54 people in attendance.



First
Polpex
Souvenir
Seal

At this meeting an administration was elected, committees were picked and work started on a membership drive. This was to be the third Philatelic organization of Polish collectors in the U.S. The other two were the Pulaski Stamp Club of Detroit & the White Eagle Stamp Club of Buffalo. In the *IKAROS* monthly issue #89, April, 1939, it was mentioned of a Polish Stamp Club being organized in Chicago, meaning our *Polonus*.

At that time, being a collector for twelve years, I remember well the prices of stamps then and what they are now. Then, having a 1939 price list, Witkowski's from Poznan, here are some items listed. Just to

give an example: the rate of exchange was 5 zloty for a dollar. The "NA SKARB" set sold for \$4—the souvenir sheet #251 for \$10 mint, and \$13 for used, and a cover was \$16—the Poland #1 cost \$8 used. One can see the prices of today to compare how times have changed.

The first publication issued by *Polonus* was October 5, 1939, called the "*Polonus Progress*". This told of all the progress made by the very young philatelic society, plus a membership list. It also mentioned dues, which were \$1 annually, which really was not enough to cover all expenses but thanks to Dr. Kozakiewicz's (Doc Kozy's) auction, it helped defray the additional costs of the Society. Years later, there were other members donating.

Polonus participated in many philatelic shows in the Chicago area. The first big show of Polish stamps was at the Chicago Philatelic Society's annual show, October, 1939. There were 38 frames of Polish stamps exhibited by *Polonus* members.

We received recognition from Scott's Catalog on the stamps of Poland. In fact, *Polonus* received their 1940 catalog with an inscription on the cover: "POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY."

Later there was a "News Bulletin" issued in 1940, listing new members and *Polonus* winners in the different stamp shows across the country. Our first POLPEX Exhibit was held on January 24, 25 and 26, 1940. It was like a dream come true, to see 157 frames of Polish material. We also had Junior exhibits. There was a lot of material for sale. It was something to be able to look at 2¢ and 5¢ books that had Polish material, but that is a thing of the past. The show was a success with the help from all members,

(some working all night putting the frames up the day before the show), also with the help from the philatelic press, Polish newspapers and philatelic clubs in Chicagoland.

In the early part of 1940, we had 100 members. The column in the *National Stamp News* helped us out a lot in getting more members for our Society.

In November, 1940, the *Polonus Magazine* was launched by Henry Choynacki, as a personal venture. There were 13 issues of this magazine. (Coming to my mind an ad in the #2 issue of *Polonus Magazine*, that a dealer was offering a cover with Poland #1 for \$9.50. He also was a *Polonus* member. A collector knows what it's worth today. POLPEX 1941 was a big success. The souvenir seal that was issued for the show was really different. It became the most sought after souvenir sheet.



The cartoon by Parrish that appeared in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE was the subject of our 1941 Polpex seal.

At this show there were many frames of Poland #1, Kraków and Gdańsk Issues, stampless covers with history attached to each cover.

The last issue of the *Polonus Magazine* was April, 1942, and *Polonus* was without a publication until the "*Polonus Bulletin*" was issued in Au-

gust, 1942. It has been published continuously to this issue of #400. The bulletin is a source of very good information, useful to all members and even non-members. Thanks to many members contributing, the old timers and to the active members of the '60's, '70's and the '80's. They are the ones that work hard to keep this bulletin going.

We did have many good times thru the years, in swapping, in discussion, the "Beeba's" after each show, and after meetings snacks donated by members, etc.—the only regret I have is that we did not have a tape recorder to tape the speeches of some of our meetings on certain specialized philatelic material, something for future reference, also some laughs with telling jokes (like J. J. Domar's - *Natzek* jokes) and also stories.

I am happy with the progress of *Polonus* and glad to be a member.

—Chester J. Mikucki, Founder

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

- 1 Dr. E. Rozanski 1964
- 2 Harry Linquist, Publisher of
Linn's Magazine 1964
- 3 Carl P. Rueth, Editor of
Linn's Magazine 1964
- 4 William W. Wylle, Editor
Western Stamp Collector. 1964
- 5 Prof. A. Laszkiewicz, Pol.. 1965
- 6 W. Rachmanoff 1965
- 7 M. Bojanowicz, England . 1968
- 8 Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz ... 1968
- 9 C. Mikucki 1971
- 10 R. Reinowski 1974
- 11 J. Rux 1974
- 12 T. Gryzewski, Poland ... 1974
- 13 J. Gapinski 1975
- 14 C. Makowski 1977
- 15 C. Schafer 1978
- 16 A. Szebel 1979
- 17 R. Estka 1980
- 18 F. E. Wolosewick 1982
- 19 L. S. Kaweckl 1983

PAST PRESIDENTS

- *Hon. Lester Jankowski
- *Henry J. Choynecki
- *J. J. Domar
- *Myron E. Steczynski
- *Dr. Mathew Uznanski
- *Adam Kloskowski
Chester Mikucki
- *Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz
- *Dr. S. T. Galaszkiewicz
Leon Haska
John S. Bobo
Anthony Banasiak
Stefan Kochanski
Roman J. Burkiewicz
Roman H. Strzelecki
- *Lt. Col. Josef F. Bendkowski, USA
Thomas Gobby
Chester A. Schafer
Alfred Szebel
- *)—Deceased

NEW MEMBERS

- Marianne Malinowski
Box 1127
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
- Norbert Scherer
402 Millstone Ct.
Rochester, MN 48063
- George B. Shaw
5742 Drake Ct.
Alexandria, VA 22311
- Frank Wierzbowski
55 Middlesex Road
Hamburg, NY 14075

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Dr. Josef Kuderevicz — Vermeil Medal for "Disinfected Mail of the Austro-Hungarian Empire" at BALPEX '83 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. James Mazepa — Gold Medal and the American Philatelic Society Medal for the best 20th Century exhibit for "Poland: Air Post to 1939" at CHICAGOPEX in Chicago, Illinois.

THE BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, a Silver Medal at CHICAGOPEX, in the Literature competition.

POLPEX GRAND AWARD WINNERS

- 1940 B. Powell - Port Gdansk, Local and General Issues
J. J. Domar - Varieties in Sower Stamps, 5, 10 and 20 Marks
- 1941 F. E. Wolosewick - Krakow Issues
- 1942 M. Steczynski - Air Mail, First Flights and Routes Covered
C. Pulaski - Postal Stationery of Poland
- 1943 S. G. Rich - Comprehensive Collection of Poland #1
- 1944 Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz - Poland #1 on Cover with Var. Cancellations
- 1945 Dr. M. E. Uznanski - Complete Issues of Marienweder w/Varieties
- 1946 B. Reeves - Postal Issues of Heligoland with Varieties
- 1947 F. E. Wolosewick - Comprehensive Analysis of Krakow Issues
- 1948 W. Rachmanoff - Stampless Covers of 18th Century
- 1949 Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz - German GCW Issues w/Poczta Polska over-
- 1950 S. G. Rich - Selected Pages Showing Poland #1 /prints
- 1951 Dr. M. E. Uznanski - Upper Silesia Complete with Varieties
- 1952 POLPEX EXHIBIT was not held
- 1953 Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz - Stampless Covers of Poland & Poland #1
- 1954 J. J. Crimlisk - German Occupation of Poland 1780 to 1918
- 1955 J. J. Crimlisk - Austrian and Poland Stampless Covers
- 1956 J. J. Crimlisk - Napoleonic Grand Army Covers & Russian Stamps in
Col. Larking's Trophy retired after J.J. Crimlisk won it 3 times /Poland
- 1957 M. Steczynski - Krakow Overprints with Emphasis on Plating Them
- 1958 C. Makowski - Polish Postal History in 18th and 19th Centuries
- 1959 C. Schafer - Polish Liquidation Commission Issue, all varieties
- 1960 A. Szebel - Polish Underground Stamp Serv. During Warsaw Uprising
- 1961 M. Steczynski - Poland #1 Varieties & Various Postal Cancels
- 1962 J. J. Domar - Sower Issues Showing All Varieties in Paper & Plate
- 1963 M. Bojanowicz - Poland #1 Plate Varieties, Singles & Multiples
- 1964 M. Steczynski - Krakow Issues Complete; Reconstructed Full Plate
- 1965 R. Strzelecki - Poland Postal Cards Showing Development from 1918
- 1966 Dr. L. Biberstein - Krakow Issues /to 1964
- 1967 POLPEX EXHIBIT was not held
- 1968 Col. J. Berek - Josef Pilsudski Postage Stamps
- 1969 C. Makowski - Postal History of Warsaw Uprising
- 1970 C. Schafer - Central Lithuania 1920-1922
- 1971 Dr. J. S. Bialy - The Enigmatic F.D.R. Stamps in Polish Philately
- 1972 S. Dolinski - Poland #1 Detailed Study
- 1973 C. Makowski - Poland Postal History from Stampless Covers to Nazi
- 1974 J. J. Bartczak - Postal Hist. of Galicia during Partition /Occupation
- 1975 Dr. M. Kamienski - Occupation of Poland
- 1976 Dr. J. Mazepa - Russian Postal Administration in Poland to 1870
- 1977 Dr. J. Mazepa - Postal History of Warsaw 1733 to 1918
- 1978 Dr. J. Kuderewicz - Postal Service during Siege of Przemyśl WWI
- 1979 Dr. J. Mazepa - Russian Administration 1858 to 1880
- 1980 W. Poniecki - Polish Army in Russia
- 1981 J. J. Bartczak - Pilsudski in Philately
- 1982 A. Szebel - Pilsudski, Freedom Fighter
- 1983 Dr. J. Kuderewicz - Polish Militaria from 1784 to 1848

POSTAL HISTORY OF POLISH FORCES SERVING WITH
UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCES
by Jerzy Kucharski

Introduction

Polish Forces did not participate in any United Nations peace keeping operations until 1973. They did however take part in various theaters of war as observers. These included the following -

KOREA - 1953 to 1957 - 301 Polish Forces participants
VIETNAM/LAOS/CAMBODIA - 1954 to 1975 - 298 participants
NIGERIA - 1968 to 1971 - 2 participants

No special postal facilities were established for these observers. Personnel assigned to these contingents would use local postage and postal facilities for their correspondence. Also available were the UN Headquarter facilities in New York. UN facilities took considerably more time, especially with correspondence to Poland.

Polish Forces were not involved at all in either the first United Nations Emergency Forces (UNEF) organized after the Suez Canal War in 1956 or the United Nations Truce Supervisory Operations (UNTSO) after the Middle East "Six Day War" in June 1967. The first actual engagement in UN peace keeping operations by Polish Forces was in UNEF II, organized after the "Yom Kippur War" during which the Israelis advanced to within 101 kilometers of Cairo.

UNEF II was created as a result of a special UN session. Following long debates in New York, Syria agreed to demilitarize its part of the Golan Heights. The entire territory, including portions of Israel, would come under the control of UN Forces. The original mandate was for 6 months and could be extended by the Security Council for 6 month periods. The force was comprised of soldiers from 13 non-combatant member nations. The UNEF II unit consisted of 7000 soldiers, 1000 of them from Poland. They were on duty til the end of 1979.

In this engagement, an advance party of 13 Polish soldiers arrived at Cairo airport on November 13, 1973. Their ranks swelled to 826 by mid December. Their duties were primarily logistic functions such as transport of troops and supplies, military police duties and clearing of land mines. They also provided medical services and opened a military hospital in Imailia on July 20, 1974. A staff of female nurses was assigned beginning with the second duty rotation (Rotation II).

The official name of this Polish contingent was "Polska Wojskowa Jednostka Specjalna Doraznych Sil Zbrojnych O.N.Z.", later identified as PWJS. The length of duty for Polish soldiers in this operation was six months. As each tour expired, a completely new contingent replaced them. Since these replacement

contingents were drawn from three Polish military districts on an alternating basis, we will refer to them by "Rotation". A Roman numeral will indicate the rotation.

Once Syria agreed to de-militarization, over 1200 troops from Austria, Canada, Finland and Poland were assigned to the area. The Polish contingent consisted of 120 soldiers. The Force performed logistic functions and its official name was "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)". The Polish contingent however did not use this name until Polish troops were withdrawn from Egypt in 1979 as a result of the Camp David Accord.

Table 1

Rotation Number	Time of Duty From-To	Number of Personnel	Military District	Base	Additional Bases
I	12/73 to 5/74	826/(0)*	W.O.W	Heliopolis til '74	----
II	6/15/74 to 12/15/74	1028/(90)	Coast Defense	El Ghala	Suez; Camp Facuar, Syria
III	12/15/74 to 6/75	966/(86)	S.O.W.	"	--
IV	6/15/75 to 12/1/75	869/(81)	W.O.W.	"	--
V	12/1/75 to 6/15/76	936/(86)	P.O.W.	"	El Tasa Abu Zenima
VI	6/15/76 to 12/15/76	955/(86)	S.O.W.	"	Abu Rudeis
VII	12/15/76 to 6/77	955/(86)	W.O.W.	"	--
VIII	6/77 to 12/15/77	1055/(86)	P.O.W.	"	Wadi Rjeina Ras el Suar
IX	12/77 to 6/78	1016/(86)	S.O.W.	"	--
X	6/78 to 12/78	1016/(89)	W.O.W.	"	--
XI	12/78 to 5/79	1000/(90)	P.O.W.	"	--
XII	5/79 to 10/79	1000/(101)	S.O.W.	"	--

* The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of personnel in Syria.

The last Polish contingent to perform UN peace keeping

duties in Egypt was Rotation XII. The smaller Polish group serving in Syria was then officially identified as UNDOF on all Rotation handstamps, commencing with Rotation XIII.

Tables 1 and 2 show the following information pertaining to Polish troops - the number of the Rotation; the duration of service; the name of the military district from which the troops originated; the number of personnel in each unit and the assigned locations. Table 2 also shows the number of Rotation cachets (C and R) used.

The military districts were Warsaw (W.O.W); Pomerania (P.O.W.) and Silesia (S.O.W). Duration of duty was six months. Contingents from other countries served tours of duty varying from one to three months.

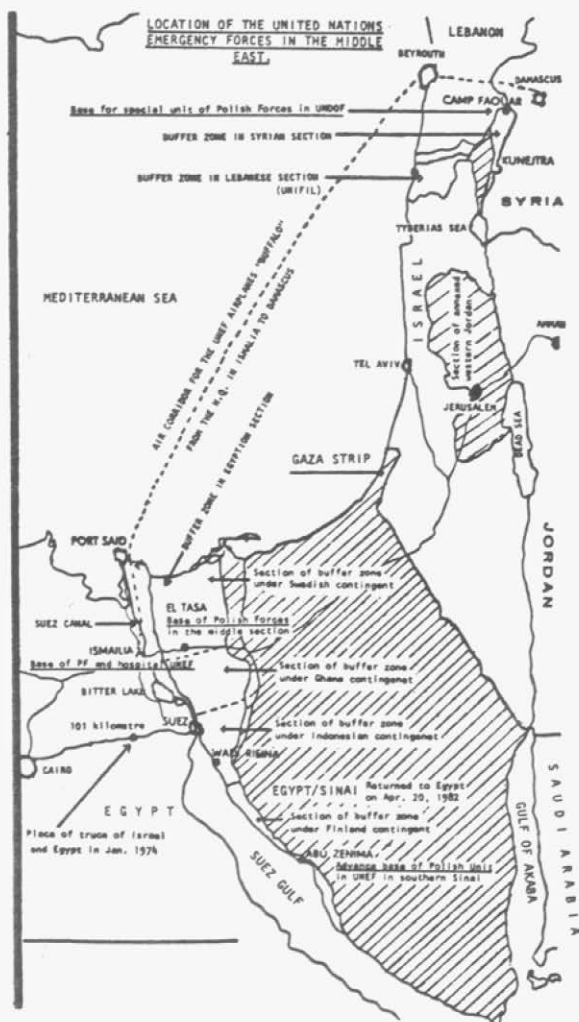
Table 2
Polish Forces at Camp Faouar, Syria (UNDOF)

Rotation Number	Time of Duty From-To	Number of Personnel	Military District	Rotation stamps used; C or R
XIII	12/79 to 6/80	121	W.O.W.	R - 42, 43
XIV	6/80 to 12/80	129	P.O.W.	R - 44, 45
XV	12/80 to 6/81	131	S.O.W.	R-46, 47, 48, 49, 50 C - 8
XVI	6/81 to 12/81	135	W.O.W.	R - 51, 52, 53
XVII	12/81 to 6/82	131	P.O.W.	R - 54, 55, 56
XVIII	6/82 to 12/82	131	S.O.W.	R - 57, 58, 59, 60 also 30&49 adjusted
XIX	12/82 50 6/83			

I. Organization of Postal Services

To assure an efficient exchange of mail between the PWJS units and their families in Poland, a special postal system was organized.

The Polish Air Line (LOT) carried mail twice a week between Warsaw and Cairo. To facilitate the flow of mail, a Military Postal Station was established at Polish troop headquarters in Ismailia, on the Egyptian side of the Suez. Mail from all units was directed to this postal station, where it was sorted, packed in postal bags and directed to LOT for transport to Okęcie Airport in Warsaw. No registered mail service was provided for soldiers of PWJS.



UNIFIL refers to the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon. This unit was organized by the UN Security Council, on 3/19/78, when Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon after PLO raids into Israel. By the end of 1978 UNIFIL consisted of 5917 troops from 12 countries.

Upon arrival in Warsaw, the mail was delivered to the Central Post Office for the Polish Army, Warsaw 60, located in the Airport. There the mail was handstamped with WARSAWA 60 date stamp on the front of the cover. The incoming mail was eventually

censored and then directed to WARSAWA 2 post office for normal delivery. Although covers were not backstamped at the destination post office, a few covers are known to exist with receiving handstamps.

Letters from Poland to PWJS forces were normally delivered to WARSAWA 60 PD, where they were packed into mail bags for air delivery to Cairo, than to Ismailia. There the mail was sorted, collected by military postmen and delivered.

For Polish units stationed in Syria, the procedure was the same, however, there was only one weekly flight available from Damascus to Warsaw.

Interconnecting mail delivery between the Polish Forces in Egypt and Syria was by means of a special UN plane flying daily between Ismailia and Damascus.

Polish soldiers could avail themselves of postal facilities in Egypt or Syria, but they had to pay normal postage. Mail could also have been sent through UN headquarters in NYC free of charge. Covers using such routing at rare.

II. Postal Regulations

Soldiers attached to the PWJS had free mail privilege only on letters to Poland weighing up to 20 grams. The cover had to be hand stamped with the words WOJSKOWA BEZPLATNA (Military Free Mail).

Considerable variations may be found in the markings describing free mail service. These various markings are summarized in Table 3, which describes their size in millimeters. The table also shows the areas in which these markings were used, as well as the dates used. These markings are substitutes for postage stamps and were obligatory on all correspondence.

Markings 11 to 14 are taken from the author's collection, while the remaining were obtained from philatelic articles in Poland. Postal markings 2 and 7 were used for official mail and are limited in number.

Wojskowa - bezpłatna

**OPLATA POCZTOWA
ZRYCZAŁTOWANA**

Figure 1

Table 3

No.	Type of marking	Location	Usage period	Dimension in mm.
1.	Wojskowa - bezpłatna	Syria Egypt	1974-75 1975-77	50 x 5
2.	Opłata pocztowa tryczkowane	Syria	1976 /I-VI/	34 x 10
3.	Wojskowa - bezpłatna	Syria	1976 /VI-XII/	40 x 3
4.	Wojskowa bezpłatna	Egypt	1976-77	36 x 3
5.	Wojskowe bezpłatne	Egypt	1975-77	36 x 4
6.	Wojskowa bezpłatna	Egypt	1977	36 x 4
7.	OPŁATA POCZTOWA ZRYCZAŁOWANA	Syria	1977-	34 x 9
8.	Wojskowa - bezpłatna	Egypt	1977-78	40 x 3
9.	Wojskowa - bezpłatna	Syria	1977-78	50 x 6
10.	Wojskowa - bezpłatna	Egypt	1978 /VII-/	42 x 4
11.	Wojskowe-bezpłatne	Egypt	1976 -VI	52 x 6
12.	Wojskowe-bezpłatne	Egypt	1978 -X	42 x 5
13.	Wojskowe bezpłatne	Egypt	1979-XI	34 x 3½
14.	Wojskowa - bezpłatna	Syria	1979 -II	39 x 3

Roman numerals after the year designate Rotation number

The second important postal regulation was for the sender to include the following information on the reverse -

- Rank and name of sender
- Warsawa 60; 00-909 (Warsaw PO and Zip Code)
- a code number 5577 followed by a code letter for units in Egypt - abbreviated JW - Jednostki Wojskowe
 - "A" - Polish Forces HQ in Ismailia, Egypt
 - "H" - Polish Hospital Staff
 - "S" - Engineers (Sappers)
 - "T" - Transportation
 - "U" - Logistics, identified as POLLOG
 - "Z" - Supply

In addition code letters E, F and R were used. Their meaning is not presently known.

Code letters D, W, or W.G. (Wzgórze Golan or Golan Heights) appear on letters from Syria.

As mentioned previously, letters to Poland were directed to the Central PD for the Polish Army (Warsawa 60), where the incoming letters were date stamped on the front of the cover.

One of the earliest known letters from PWJS is dated Warszawa 60 "A" - 28.12.1973. It also has free mail stamp #1 and proper military address on the reverse. These were the only postal markings for about three months. Later similar new date stamps were introduced but with different letters. Letters A, B, g and f are known. (Fig. 2)



Figure 2. Warszawa 60 date stamps

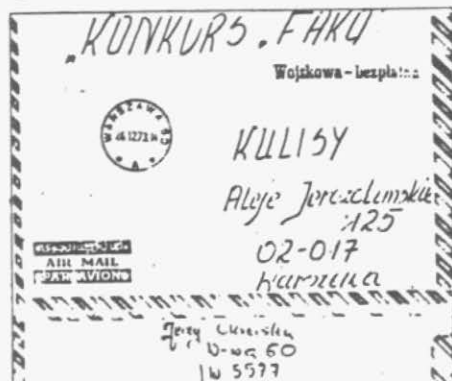


Figure 3 - Early cover from Polish forces in Egypt to Poland

Such early covers are rare. They carried no postage stamps, nor special cachets or cancels. They went unnoticed since they did not look like collectors items.

Beginning in the middle of March 1974, special rotation cachets were allotted to each contingent (Zmiana) to distinguish letters coming from the different rotations. These cachets were of official origin and were made in Poland. They are listed and described in part II of this article.

In time each rotation made numerous and attractive cachets. Some had as many as 6, while others used hand stamps from previous rotations. In such cases the rotation numbers were changed. All these stamps are decorative but have no postal significance or value. Cachets which were privately made, even with rotation numbers, add some value to the cover. Since they are strictly private, they will not be listed in Part II.

Covers without "Wojkowa Bezpłatna" markings, or without a

Warsawa 60 datestamp must be considered as philatelic, that is made to order. Hundreds of covers were stamped "for souvenir" reasons with a rotation cachet. They were never sent to Poland even if they were marked with the free marking stamp. Some have tried to pass such covers as if they were actually used. To be actually used, a cover had to have a Warszawa 60 handstamp on the front.

Covers addressed to philatelic clubs and bearing rotation cachets and Warszawa 60 datestamps, but without the sender's military address should also be considered as philatelic since there were never any messages inside. Most of the covers available on the market today are of this type.

Correspondence from Poland to UNEF required inland postage, which was 1zl., 50gr. until 1979, at which time it was raised to 2zl., 50gr. Each letter had to be addressed to Warszawa 60, 00-909 with JW code 5577. Such covers are difficult to find, since there were no exceptional markings to identify the cover. The mail was not backstamp upon receipt, although at some time some of the mail was marked with a rotation cachet, especially mail connected with Polish HQ in Ismailia.

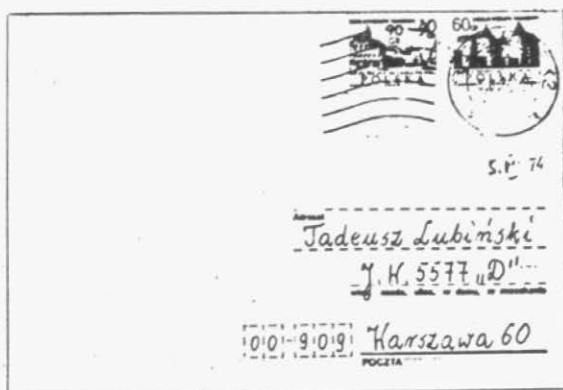


Fig. 4 - Letter from Poland to PWJS, mailed 5/8/74 with handwritten dates 10/8/74 and 13/8/74 on reverse.

III. Official Mail

Official mail to Poland was marked with 3 different stamps - a) Oplata Pocztowa/Zryczaltowa (paid in bulk) in two lines; see table 3, #7.

b) Unit stamp in 5 lines (fig. 5a) -

- 1) Polish eagle, about 8mm in diameter
- 2) Jednostka Wojskowa - 55 mm long
- 3) JW code #5577
- 4) Nr.....
- 5) 197..r (date line)

c) Double ring (34/23 mm in diameter), inscribed between the two

circles JEDNOSTKA WOJSKOWA Nr. 5577, with an eagle in the center. This stamp was used to seal letter. (fig. 5c)

A single 30mm circle stamp, with the inscription JEDNOSTKA WOJSKOWA Nr. 5577 was used for packages. Within the circle was a two line inscription "Do pakietow" (for packages). This stamp is also shown in fig. 5 as a seal for a registered letter.

A stamp similar to the one described above, but with the marking (IV) added is shown in fig. 6. This cover has none of the necessary markings to show that it was actually flown to Poland. It is a philatelic cover and it is not known why and when the stamp was used.

In general, official, especially registered covers are scarce. Only a few are known to be in collectors hands. Those addressed to private individuals were usually not saved as they were plain and unattractive. Those addressed to the Army or to government officials did not get into collectors hands.

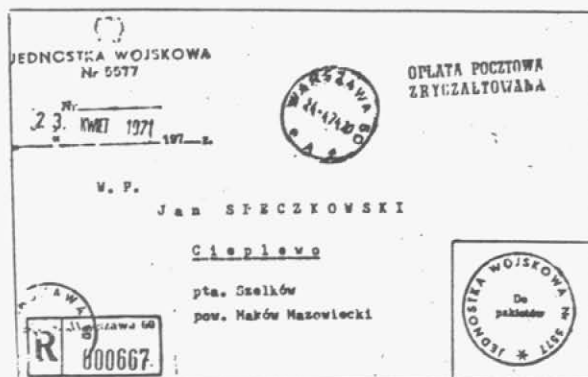


Figure 5



Figure 6



POLSKA
WOJSKOWA JEDNOSTKA SPECJALNA
DORAŻNYCH SIŁ ZBROJNYCH ONZ
NA BLISKIM WSCHODZIE



EGIPT. DNIA 1 77 R



ZASTĘPCA DOWÓDCY
POLSKIEJ WOJ. JEDNOSTKI SPECJALNEJ
DSZ ONZ d.s. POLITYCZNYCH

ppłk mgr Zenon WALADA

DOWÓDCA
POLSKIEJ WOJ. JEDNOSTKI SPECJALNEJ
DORAŻNYCH SIŁ ZBROJNYCH ONZ

plk dypl Zbigniew SZYMAŃSKI

Table 4

Sobieski's Victory at Vienna Anniversary Celebration and the Pope's Visit to Austria

By ALFRED SZEBEL

Europe, the continent of our forefathers has always a fascinating appeal, especially for those born there. Compared with the 200 year old history of the United States, most countries in Europe can recall at least a millennium of existence, and more, as well as anniversaries of famous battles and other historic events. One such event memorable in Polish history is the Battle of Vienna in 1683, when King John III Sobieski was proclaimed the Savior of Christianity in Europe. The news that Pope John Paul II chose this anniversary for his visit to Austria prompted me to make a trip and take part in this historic event.

I selected an excursion that gave me the opportunity to visit friends and Polonus members in London as well as other countries in Europe. Upon arrival in London I was met by Mr. M. Dąbrowski. After an excellent meal at the Polish Hearth Club, a famous Polish restaurant, we visited the 300th Anniversary of the Battle of Vienna Exhibition at the General Sikorski Museum. The philatelic section was small but well presented, and included our Polpex 83 souvenirs. Since this exhibit was not for competition, a Polonus medal was donated to the General Sikorski Museum. Later that evening we met for supper with other Polonus members: Mr. & Mrs. St. Januszewski and J. W. Z. Nowicki.

Next day I took off from London to Dover, and rode a Hovercraft across the Channel to Boulogne in France. The same day I continued the trip along the shores of Normandy, famous battlefields of WWII, through Belgium to Amsterdam in Holland. Next day I cruised along

the Rhine river visiting Cologne, Rarthensburg, Frankfurt, and Munich, passing by places of my stay in Germany after WWII — Augsburg, Ingolstadt, arriving in Salzburg in Austria. After extensive sightseeing, I continued to Vienna where I was to stay September 9—13.

Much has been written on the controversial approach of the Austrians to the questions of King Sobieski's role in saving Austria and Europe from the Turks, and I had no intention to get involved in the politics of this subject. Thanks to the help of Polonus member, Henry Archacki of NY, I had the pleasure of meeting Leszek Piasecki, a reknown painter and a citizen of Vienna, who brought us good news. As a result of pressure from Polish organizations an Austrian Committee was formed with the intention to gain recognition for the Polish contribution to the liberation of Vienna from the Turks. Under the auspices of Dr. Kanitzer's Committee and the cooperation of Austrian-Polish organizations, a concert was held on September 11th by the visiting Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra, and attended by the President of Austria, Dr. Kirschlager, and other dignitaries and Poles from all over the world. We met a group from Washington D.C., Buffalo and Chicago, friends and members of Polonus: Mr. Zachariasiewicz, Ed Link, Dr. Malejka, etc. After the concert we spent a memorable evening with the family of Leszek Piasecki, the painter of the magnificent 6'x30' diorama, "The Victory at Vienna in 1683", on exhibition in Vienna during the festivities.

Next morning, together with Dr.

Malejka, we had a very constructive meeting with Hofrat Waissenberger at the Historical Museum of Vienna. Souvenirs of King Sobieski 300 Anniversary Celebration in the U.S.A. as well as Polonus and Polish American Congress medals were donated to the Museum for permanent exhibit. We had a chance to view the State Museum's special exhibit, "Turks Before Vienna", consisting of many objects, paintings, armor, etc., pertaining to Sobieski and his military genius.

In the afternoon, we attended the unveiling of a Sobieski plaque at the church of St. Augustine. In the evening we attended a special audience with our Pope John Paul II, limited to Polonia of Austria and the world on the Karlsplatz. The Holy Father made it clear that he will never forget his homeland and will be the spiritual guide of Poles all over the world. Medals and souvenirs of our 300 Anniversary Celebrations in U.S.A., were presented to the Pope with the help of His Eminence Bishop Wesoly, delegate of the Primate of Poland to the Poles in Exile.

On September 13th, we closed our memorable experience in Vienna. At sunrise that morning we were at the Polish Church at Kahlenberg, waiting for the Pope who arrived at 8:00 A.M. He was greeted again by the President of Austria, the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Glemp, other dignitaries and an enthusiastic crowd of Poles from all corners of the world. After the unveiling of the marble plaque, a short blessing ceremony of the new church altar and bells, Pope John Paul II gave a homily. The Pope reminded the world of the Polish King's victory 300 yrs. ago and in so doing, morally lifted the spirits of the Poles abroad and back in the homeland.

After the Pope's departure to Mariazell, Bishop Wesoly celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass at the Polish church in Kahlenberg, which was filled to capacity. Then our 300th Anniversary mementos, medals and (\$) donations from the U.S.A. were presented to the Rector of the Polish church. This memorable day was closed with lunch at a Kohlenberg restaurant by invitation of the S.P.K., (WW II Polish Veterans Org. in Austria), which was attended mostly by the Poles from the Western countries, U.S.A., Canada and Australia.

The events in Austria were commemorated by the issuance of a Souvenir Sheet for the 300th Anniv. of the siege of Vienna, a commemorative stamp for the Papal visit and well over 20 different postmarks. Of interest to us, three cancellations were dedicated to King John III Sobieski and the Pope visit to Vienna Sept. 9, 1983 and Mariazell Sept. 13, 1983. That evening I left by sleeping car to Luzern to join my group in continuing our journey through Switzerland, Paris, France and back to London, while our friend, Dr. Malejka went to Poland for the King Sobieski 300th Anniv. celebration at Wilanów and Kraków where he also presented a Polonus Sobieski medal to the Museum at Wawel.

After arriving in London, a few days of rest and sightseeing, on a Sunday afternoon I met with thirty members of the Polish Philatelists Association in the United Kingdom. In a cordial atmosphere we spent many hours in friendly discussion followed by dinner. The following Polonus members were present: S. Januszewski, Z. Bokiewicz, W.Z. Nowicki and J. A. Diak. Our Honorary member, M. Bojanowicz, due to serious illness, sent only his greetings through the coordinator and presi-



A meeting with the Polish Philatelists Association of the United Kingdom.

dent of the club, M. Dąbrowski. Since they are working on a Federation of all Polish clubs in England, the question of a World Wide Federation of Polish Clubs was brought up and discussed. This active club presents three to four Philatelic Exhibitions a year. The King Sobieski 300th Anniv. Exhibit sponsored a special postmark. On October 15th, another show will honor the 5th Anniversary of John Paul II as Pope.

The trip to Europe was as memorable as our visit to POLSKA 73 ten years ago.

GEMS OF POLISH PHILATELY

On January 1, 1860, the first Polish stamp was issued with the permission of the Russian postal author-



ities under whom the post office department in the Kingdom of Poland was regulated. Pairs with any cancellation are scarce, and town postmarks are a rarity. The pair shown here was used in Kibarty, the border town on the St. Petersburg-Warsaw railroad line on the route to Riga and St. Petersburg. It is the only such recorded pair.

POPE JOHN PAUL II 1983 VISIT TO POLAND

Poland issued the following to commemorate the Pope's 83 visit:
 Set of 13 commemorative cancellations on postal cards.. \$6.50
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1982 POPE ISSUES

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WANT TO EXHIBIT AT AMERIPEX-86?

AMERIPEX-86 will be the major philatelic event of the century for those who live in Chicago, and the only FIP International Exhibition of the decade in the United States. With all the major collections of Polish philatelic material among our members, would it not be appropriate to have an outstanding selection of Polish philately to show the world visitors? BUT, in order to exhibit at the International level, the regulating organization, the FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie) requires that the exhibits MUST have received at least a VERMEIL medal at a NATIONAL EXHIBITION. POLPEX IS NOT A NATIONAL EXHIBITION AS DEFINED BY THEIR RULES. There are over 20 such exhibitions in the country held every year including our CHICAGOPEX, SEPAD in Philadelphia, MILCOPEX, and several shows on the West coast. Now is the time to plan to exhibit and prepare for the big International Exhibition, you must show and receive your Vermeil medal during 1984 or 1985 if you have not already done so. If you have any questions, write the Publications Chairman.

AMERIPEX FINANCES

The Post Offices Department announced that \$500,000 will be donated to AMERIPEX from sale of the Space Shuttle covers. But the budget of the International Exhibition stands at \$2,100,000.!!!

MEMBERS' MART

FOR SALE—Canadian postal history on 53 album pages. Write for details: Mr. Filip Bubicz, 4248 So. Mozart, Chicago, IL 60632.

WANTED—Material and information relating to Polish Postal Stationery. Tom Huchkoh, 541 Park Meadows Ct., Wadsworth, OH 44281.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

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SLANIA LIST AVAILABLE

The Graphics Philately Association has made available a list of the engraved stamps of Czesław Slania. It is available for \$1.00 and a SASE from Mrs. Dulcie Appgar, Box 1513, Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360.

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER A. FRANCK

Mentor, Ohio

NEXT MEETING

Friday, November 25, 1983, 8:00 p.m. at Polish Amer. Congress Bldg.

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