



BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



*1943 Christmas Card Produced and Sent from
Woldenberg POW Camp – See Pg 16*

Message from the President.....	3	Polonus PURLS – Polish Military History	13
Society News.....	4-7	Foresters as Prisoners of War	14-16
Gems of Polish Philately		Polish Navy in Great Britain 1939-1947	17-19
-- The Gniezno "5" Invert	8	Poland Wins Asiago and St. Gabriel Awards	20
Postal Card Cp 5 from Woldenberg	9-12	New Issues	21-24



POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Officers & Directors

President	Bob Ogrodnik P.O. Box 240428 Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 krpsl@earthlink.net
Vice President	Richard Jaraczewski 360 Ursuline Rd Santa Ana, CA 95403 rjara@sonic.net
Secretary	Roman Sobus 1110 N. Oakley Blvd. Chicago, IL 60622 Rsobus9013@cs.com
Treasurer	Dan Lubelski 111 Helen Drive Rossford, OH 43460 dlubelski@accesstoledo.com
Directors	Dr. James Mazepa, C.O.B. jmazepa@comcast.net Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com Dr. Paul Phillips PaulXLPE@gmail.com Bob Nowicki philatelist@comcast.net

Publication Committee

Chairman	Bob Ogrodnik P.O. Box 240428 Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 krpsl@earthlink.net
Senior Contributing Editors	Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com Dr. James Mazepa jmazepa@comcast.net
Senior Editors & Translators	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net Robert Puchala rob3@ce3.pl Przemek Konopka info@profilex.pl Roman Sobus Rsobus9013@cs.com
Associate Editors	Sam Ginsburg samgins1730@yahoo.com Dr. Paul Phillips PaulXLPE@gmail.com Bob Nowicki philatelist@comcast.net
New Issues	Andrew Urushima aurushima@yahoo.com Frank Karwoski sunvoyager43@gmail.com
Publisher	Theresa Hines hinestheresa@gmail.com
Printer	John LaPorta album@comcast.net

Website Committee

Chairman	Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com
Website Developer	Przemek Konopka info@profilex.pl
Function Moderator	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net

Committee Chairpersons

Expertizing	Hank Bieniecki info@biistamp.com
Librarian	Dr. Mary Ann Frost drmaryannfrost@gmail.com
Membership	Richard Jaraczewski rjara@sonic.net

Study Groups

POW Camps	Roman Sobus Rsobus9013@cs.com
DP / Intern Camps	(Open)
Aero-Philately	Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu
Cinderellas & Labels	(Open)

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) 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 participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40 or Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: \$10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul – Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following 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: Chairman of Publication Committee.

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

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, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is 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.

Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

As we rapidly approach the end of another year, I want to thank all the Polonus members who have volunteered, contributed, and/or actively participated in the continued success of the Society. I would also like to extend to all my Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and for a Happy New Year 2013.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors I would also like to express our heartfelt concerns to members who may have been in harms-way during the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. Our thoughts and prayers are with those of you who may have experienced some of the effects of this storm.

Looking ahead to 2013, one of our priorities is the election of a Board of Directors to serve the next 3-year term (2013-2016). As discussed in the previous issue (#548), our By-Laws require that ballots be mailed to the membership no fewer than two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting. Therefore, the mailing of ballots to the membership will be made in March 2013, and not in January as mentioned in the previous issue. Also, your ballot must be returned by 30 April 2013, and not by 31 March as mentioned in the previous issue.

Another priority for 2013 is our Annual Meeting and Exhibition at NAPEX 2013. My article in this issue sets the tone for this event and I urge you to consider joining us on 31 May – 2 June, 2013 in McLean, Virginia (just outside of Washington, D.C.). A mailing to Polonus exhibitors will be made this month and we ask for your prompt reply and indication to exhibit at this event. Our commitment with NAPEX is for a minimum of 60 frames of Polish and Polish related material. In the interim, keep in touch with our progress by visiting the Polonus website (www.polonus.org) and/or the NAPEX website (www.napex.org).

The Society News section of this issue has some exciting information on a new award that has been added to our Exhibitor Awards Program, to encourage first-time exhibitors. Additionally, we have news about two of our members who had their articles on Air Post in Poland featured in the prestigious Congress Book and winning the Walter R. McCoy Award

for the superb quality of their works.

We have three interesting feature articles in this issue. The first is by our member in Poland, Piotr Pelczar, who gave us permission to translate two of his articles from the May 2012 issue of Przegląd Filatelistyczny covering the Cp 5 Postal Card from Woldenberg. Translation of these articles was provided by Roman Sobus, who is the leader of the POW Camp Mail Study Group. Pelczar specializes in POW Camp Mail postal stationary and this is an excellent example of his work in researching this postal card.

Another fascinating article about POW Camp Mail is the “Foresters as Prisoners of War” article by Roman Sobus. This article explains how Polish prisoners survived their war-time imprisonment, as well as, demonstrating the talent of some of the prisoners who created artwork for exhibitions and for use as postal stationary. Our cover features a Christmas graphic, depicting a Nativity scene deep in the forest, on an illustrated post card used for intra-camp mail on 24 December 1943.

The third feature article is the ninth in a series by Jan Niebrzydowski providing us with an historical insight into the Polish Navy during WWII based upon a collection of letters addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska. I must admit that other than the more widely recognized “Kosciuszko 303 Squadron” and the role that Polish airmen played in the RAF, I did not know about the Polish seamen and their role on the seas, especially in the sinking of the Bismarck.

Poland continues to excel in the artistic presentation of its stamps. In the tradition forged by the likes of Czesław Ślania, Poland has been winning “best in class” awards among worldwide competition and this issue covers the stamp that won the 2012 Asiago International Award and the stamp that won the 2012 St. Gabriel Award. Do not miss this article and be sure that you have these stamps in your collection.

Let me know if you have any comments on this issue or on any other facet of our Society. Just send me an e-mail or snail-mail note or, if easier, call me. Feedback is vital to sustainability of an organization and I look forward to hearing from you.

Countdown to NAPEX

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Polonus will hold its 11th Annual Meeting and Exhibition at the National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington D.C. (NAPEX) 2013 to be held at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner Hotel, in McLean, Virginia, on 31 May – 2 June, 2013. This is an APS World Series of Philately qualifying show, one of the nation's largest and finest stamp shows.

Polonus is one of the "Convening Societies", which includes the Vatican Philatelic Society, the Society of Israel Philatelists, and the Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society. We expect another outstanding turnout of Polonus exhibitors, displaying some of the finest Polish philatelic material in North America. This show also includes a literature exhibit, in which the Polonus Bulletin will be entered.

As you read this article (hopefully in December), we have approximately 150 days left in our countdown. However, this is the time to plan your attendance and participation. Most important at this time is your commitment to exhibit. We are in the process of mailing a "Call for Exhibitors" in December that will include the following: (1) a SASE for a reply indicating your intention to exhibit and/or attend the show; and (2) instructions on officially entering your exhibit. This mailing normally is sent to those Polonus members who have exhibited in the past or have indicated an interest in exhibiting. This, however, may not include all members who would like to exhibit. Therefore, if you do not receive a "Call for Exhibitors" by the end of December, **please contact me (krpsl@earthlink.net) and inform me that you intend to exhibit.**

We have decided to add an award to encourage and recognize first-time exhibitors. Be sure to read the article in this issue on the new "**Polonus Novice Award**" (see pg. 5), which also includes an updating of our Awards Program (see pg. 12). Keep in mind, one of the membership benefits is "Exhibitor Mentoring" by experienced exhibitors. Take advantage of this opportunity by letting me know of your interest

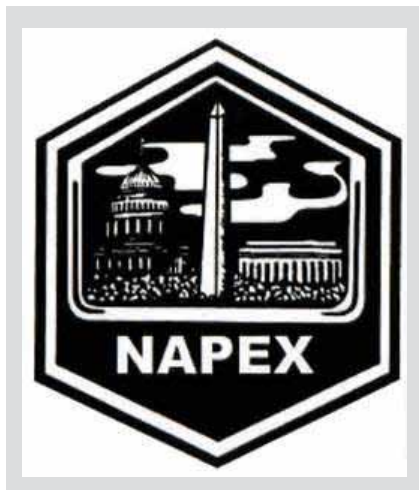
and arrangements will be made to provide mentoring support. A good website to get more information on exhibiting is www.aape.org, the website of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, a worldwide organization of stamp collectors who exhibit their collections competitively and work together for the betterment of philatelic exhibiting and judging standards and practices. As an accumulator/collector of stamps and covers for over

60 years, I found a new excitement and passion for stamps when I began exhibiting just a few years ago. I must admit, however, if not for the mentoring help from Polonus members I probably would not have ventured out on my own.

The following is a summary of planning to-date for NAPEX 2013. Some of the details have not yet been fixed, however, in order to keep up with the progress of our planning and that of NAPEX, refer

to the websites, i.e., Polonus www.polonus.org and NAPEX www.napex.org. Also, a final schedule of events will appear in the next issue, Polonus Bulletin #550 in March 2013.

1. **Location** – The show will be held in the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner Hotel, therefore, if you decide to reside at the hotel you will have the convenience of not having to drive after a full day at the show, something members have been requesting. You are not obliged, however, to reside at this hotel as others are available and will be posted on the websites, in addition to any special show rate at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. If you are driving to the show, the NAPEX website provides directions. If you are flying to the show, shuttles will be available from Reagan National, Dulles International, and Marshall/BW International airports.
2. **Welcome Packets** – Members who advise me of their attendance will receive a "Welcome Packet", containing a personalized nametag, a schedule of meetings, a listing of members attending and exhibiting, location of the "hospitality



suite", etc. **Be sure to let me know if you plan to attend....**by e-mail at krpsl@earthlink.net or by telephone at (314) 821-6130.

3. **Polonus Exhibits** – As a "Convening Society" we have an obligation to commit to an appropriate number of exhibitors and exhibiting frames. Our commitment is a minimum of 60 frames of Polish or Polish related material. In the past few shows, the response by Polonus exhibitors has been outstanding and well-recognized by show attendees and by show organizers. We expect the same for NAPEX and thank you in advance for your support.
4. **Annual Membership Meeting** – This is a special meeting as the results of the upcoming election to the Board of Directors and Officers will be announced. We have requested the meeting to be scheduled for **Saturday, June 1st at 10:30 am**, with the location to be determined by the show organizers. Info on this meeting will be updated on our websites and in the next Bulletin issue
5. **Featured Speaker** – We plan to schedule a presentation that will be open to all show attendees. Planning is in process and details will follow.
6. **Hospitality Suite** – This is a member highlight as it provides an opportunity for members to network, to renew old acquaintances and make new ones, and to enjoy a relaxed environment with refreshments. Instructions and "secret password" will be provided in the "Welcome Packet".
7. **Members' Dinner** – Plans are in process to locate a suitable restaurant for this get-together, most likely on Friday night. This will be a "dutch-treat" event, however, the selection of restaurant and the reservation for seating will be made based upon the responses received from members. **Be sure to let me know if you want to be included.**
8. **Society Table** – This should be your first stop at the show as it is where you will pick-up your "Welcome Packet" and coordinate your show

activities with other members. Details regarding location and staffing of the Society Table will follow.

9. **POLPEX and Polonus Collectibles** – We plan to have a complete sampling of materials available for sale at this show. This includes POLPEX souvenir sheets and pamphlets, covers, other publications, etc.
10. **Large Dealer Bourse** – The NAPEX bourse is reported to be one of the best in organized philately. More than 60 dealers from 20 states are expected to participate and we are working to encourage dealers to bring their best Polish material, in addition to having Poland Specialists present.

Novice Exhibitor Award Initiated

Beginning with NAPEX 2013, Polonus will recognize the first-time exhibitor with the Polonus Novice Award. This award will be given to a first-time exhibitor who exhibits Poland or Polish related material and is judged the best among the first-time exhibitors

of either a one-frame or multi-frame exhibit. Pictured below is the award consisting of a limited edition print of the "Szyk Album Page for Poland" (refer to Bulletin #548 pg 21) with custom framing and an engraved plaque.



Polonus Novice Award

In addition to this new award, Polonus offers two Grand Awards (multi-frame and one-frame exhibits), Medals (gold, silver and bronze) and Award Certificates (refer to article in Bulletin #548, pg 5).

Articles On Air Post In Poland Achieve Highest Awards

By: Dr. James Mazepa

The AMERICAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS is an organization founded in 1935 to promote and encourage philatelic scholarship. The CONGRESS has continued to this day to solicit and publish selected articles of philatelic research, especially of little known areas. Each year the CONGRESS publishes a superb hard-bound book with the current year's selection of articles, and the current volume is made available annually at the APS STAMPSHOW.

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski and Mr. Jacek Kosmala joined together to write what is the definitive article on the airmail services in Poland from 1918 to 1928 in the 2011 CONGRESS BOOK, and completed their study on airmail services from 1929 to 1939 in the 2012 CONGRESS BOOK. These two internationally renowned aerophilatelists have compiled the most in depth study of how the air post developed in Poland. The articles add significantly to our knowledge of this fascinating subject with much new information and unknown facts not only of the air post's development in Poland, but its influence on Eastern European and worldwide aerophilately.

In recognition of the superb quality of these articles, the authors received the **Walter R. McCoy Award** for the best article in both the 2011 and 2012 CONGRESS BOOKS. The article in the 2011 book is 50 pages in length and the 2012 article is 70 pages. Of special significance is the authors' listing, for the first time, of all the known air mail postal markings for the 1918 to 1939 period along with their known dates of use and origin, if applicable.

We congratulate Jerzy and Jacek for their outstanding work and for promoting Polish philately to the larger philatelic community.

These two volumes belong in the library of every serious collector of Poland. These articles will not be reprinted in any form in the future. The cost is \$43.00 for one volume or \$83.00 for both. Postage is \$3.00 total for one or both books. Checks should be made out to the APC. Requests should be sent to: Ross A. Towle, APC Sec/Treas, 400 Clayton St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

Polonus Members Medal in San Jose

Filatellic Fiesta 2012, sponsored by the San Jose (CA) Stamp Club, held its annual exhibition on 9 – 11 November and the following Polonus members participated and were awarded medals for their exhibits.

Single Frame Exhibits

Andrew Urushima received a Vermeil Medal and the Single Frame Grand Award for his "The 1944 Gross Born Olympics".

Multi-Frame Exhibits

Paul J. Phillips received a Gold Medal, the APS Medal of Excellence Pre 1940 - 1980, and the Schuman Award of Merit for his "Gruss aus Paradies: Life in German Occupied WW2 Poland". The Schuman Award is considered to be a 3rd Place Award after the Grand and Reserve Grand Awards.

Paul J. Phillips received a Gold Medal, the APS Medal of Excellence Pre 1900, and the Krieger Award of Merit for his "Reform of the British Overseas Mail System 1840 – 1856".

Ross Marshall received a Silver Bronze Medal for his "Australian One Penny Red 1914 – 1921".

Congratulations to all for their stellar performance in San Jose.

New Members

We welcome the following former and new members who have recently re-joined and joined our Society:

Richard C. Kaszycki - #952
5143 Charlemagne Way
Lilburn, GA 30047

Simon Kelly - #1746
25 Mountain Trail
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520

2013 Dues Notices

We will be mailing 2013 dues notices in the month of January and ask for your cooperation in responding promptly, i.e. prior to the 31st of March. This will save us time and follow-up expense.

Dues remain unchanged from the prior year. In addition to paying your dues, we ask you to consider making a tax-deductible contribution. We appreciate the response since we began this practice a couple years ago and look forward to your ongoing financial support. We are a non-profit, tax exempt 501 (c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Contributors receive a letter acknowledging their gift and receive recognition in the Bulletin (as demonstrated in this issue). We are grateful to all who send us more than just their dues as this support is vital for sustaining our financial viability, while continuing

to make improvements in our programs and membership benefits.

On another note related to dues, if you are a member opting for a digital version Bulletin and have not registered on our website, you will not have access to the "Members Only" sections and this includes the Digital Bulletin. Therefore, be sure to **register on the Polonus website, www.polonus.org**. If you experience difficulty in completing the registration, **call or e-mail Bob Ogrodnik** for assistance. (314-821-6130 or krpsl@earthlink.net) If you have registered in the past and forgot your ID and Password, do not register again. **Call or e-mail Bob Ogrodnik** for assistance in retrieving your User ID and Password. Remember, members opting for the printed version Bulletin also have the opportunity to access the digital version Bulletin. Try it and you may like it well enough to "go green" and opt for the digital version.

2012 Polonus Donors

Polonus Philatelic Society gratefully acknowledges the following members who have generously made a donation during the year. A letter acknowledging the tax-deductible gift will be sent to each donor.

Patrons

Bieniecki, Hank
Carpenter, Douglas
Charlam, Bogdan
DeLine, Dr. James
Mazepa, Dr. James
Nowicki, Robert
Ogrodnik, Robert
Sobus, Roman
Wortman, Adrian

Sponsors

Allen, Leonard R.
Atherstone, Pamela
Bain, Eugene
Bielak, Adam
Biranowski, Jerome
Bolla, Robert
Camolli, Garry
Chipaloski, Anthony
Cieckiewicz, E.A.
Dabrowski, Elizabeth
Dobrowolski, Dr. J.A.
Dziewulski, Michael
Elliott, Robin Gates
Ginsburg, Sam
Griesbach, Thomas
Harmel, R.J.
Hyman, Alvin
Jarzen, Robert
Johnson, Craig
Juskowicz, Alexander
Kajka Jr., Stephen

Kelly, H. Daniel
Klamka, Andrew
Klekotta, Joseph
Kostka, Wiesław
Kowalczyk, George
Krolikowski, Edward
Kwiatkowski, Ronald
Lanocha, Frank
Lapa, David
Lubelski, Daniel
Lugowski Jr., Edwin
Lukowski, Charles
Malenski, Melvin
Mroczkowski, Ricahrd
Nawrot, John
Obie, Charles
Ogar, Ricahrd
Paull, Bernard
Phillips, Dr. Paul
Pietruszka, Raymond
Reed M.D., Dr. David
Saari, Ann
Schafer, Chester

Scott, Mark
Skucha, Kazimierz
Sobisz, Robert
Sopko, Paul
Stempien Jr., Dr. Martin
Szafranski, Anthony
Teper, Benek
Urushima, Andrew
Warkaske, Steven
Wheeler, Dr. Alan
Wiatr, Frank
Wierzbowski, Frank
Wójcik, Daniel
Wolosewicz, Ronald
Wojnarowicz, Larry
Wzacny, Christopher
Yamamoto, Tsutomu
Zaremba, Chester
Zarko, Stephen
Zelwinder, George

Benefactors

Ambridge, Trevor
Auleytner, Julian
Brandys, Marek
Carroza, Nicholas
Karwoski, Frank
Reiter, Tadeusz
Small, Ronald
Wersocki, Alexander
Wolanin, Thomas

The Gniezno “5” Invert

By: Dr. James Mazepa

When the Second Republic was reconstituted on November 11, 1918, the need for postage stamps necessitated the production of provisional issues. A provisional is a stamp or stamps issued to fill a temporary need until official government issues become available. There are seven provisional issues during this period in Poland. In the Warsaw District they are the First and Second Warsaw issues; in the former Austrian administered area they are the First and Second Lublin issues and the Kraków issue; and in the Poznań District they are the First and Second Poznań issues, the latter known as the Gniezno issue. Of all these, the Gniezno issue is the most controversial.

The Gniezno issue is a set of two simple overprints, a bold red “5” and a bold green “10” on very common German stamps. Both were overprinted in sheets of 100 (10x10). There is some dispute about the necessity of this issue with some claiming it is purely a philatelically contrived issue. A total of 20,000 sets were printed. While it is true that the majority of the Gniezno issue exists on philatelic covers or pieces, some exist on rare commercial correspondence and because of this they deserve the catalog listing.

In the course of overprinting the “5”, the numeral in position 21 was inverted. This was soon discovered and corrected. Only two examples of the inverted “5” are recorded in a pair with a normal, and the example shown in **Figure 1** is the most outstanding because it clearly shows the position of the invert. The current Fischer Katalog values a hinged inverted “5” at 80,000

zł and an unhinged at 150,000 zł. The inverted “10” does not exist, except as a forgery.

We do not know how many inverted “5” exist, but a conservative estimate is five or six. However, one has to be mindful of the so called “Poznań-find.”

Sometime after World War II, a box was unearthed



Figure 1 – Rare Gniezno “5” invert in pair with normal issue

that contained sheets of the Gniezno issue. Because of the length of time these were in the ground, they were all in terrible condition due to dampness and humidity. Among these were several inverted “5”. When these appear on the market, they bring significantly lower prices because of their inferior condition.

It is unfortunate that the vast majority of Gniezno issues in the market are forgeries, and this includes the inverts. I would say that 99% of those offered on eBay are fakes. Recently a “10” in RED was offered and sold for \$49.00! Only purchase this set from a reputable dealer together with a certificate from a recognized expert.

The productions of fakes began at the very beginning of the issue. A very resourceful postal clerk, Mr. Wilhelm Heinze, worked at the Poznań 1 and Poznań 5 post offices. After the original issue was exhausted, he created his own stamps with forged overprints which included not only the inverted “5” but also an inverted “10”. These forged overprints are very close in color to the originals and therefore, very difficult to distinguish from the originals. But the story gets even better. Mr. Heinze’s daughter Margarete worked at the Berlin #112 post office. Mr. Heinze prepared letters with his forgeries,

normal and inverts, affixed to them along with other current postage stamps. He cancelled them with genuine but back-dated cancellers and sent them through the mail to his daughter in Berlin, whereupon, she back-stamped them with a genuine “Berlin 112” postmark. An example of one such letter with an inverted “5” and “10” from my collection is shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2 – Heinze cover with forged “5” and “10” inverts

Finally, just let me add that many of the fake Gniezno stamps have a guarantee mark of “W.H.” or the German expert “Richter” on the back. I have seen some with these marks with certificates of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. All these are fakes.

Postal Card Cp 5 from Woldenberg

By: Piotr Pelczar

Translated by: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: This article combines two articles on the Cp 5 Woldenberg postal card that originally appeared in the May 2012 issue of Przegląd Filatelistyczny. We are grateful to our member, Piotr Pelczar, for permission to translate and print these articles in this issue of the Polonus Bulletin.

Author's Preface: I often get asked the question: "What area of Polish postal stationery is worth collecting?" There is only one answer: "All of them!" It is prudent, however, for the beginning collector to concentrate on specific areas so as not to be overwhelmed. One of the most interesting of these is the postal stationery of the Officers' Prisoner of War Camps, or Oflags.

Woldenberg POW Camp postal card designated Cp 5 in literature and often designated "Lotnik" ("Airman") was issued on 12 December 1942, before the Christmas holiday. The imprinted stamp design, depicting a pilot with wings, utilized a design and woodcut by Lt. Marian Stepien. The card was withdrawn from circulation on 31 December 1943.

Variations in shade of the dark red postage stamp were dependent on the amount of ink applied to the die. Examples (see **Figure 1**) exist in red, brownish red and a dark brownish red shades, although these variations are not listed in catalogs. A carmine shade variation, noted by philatelists at the camp, does not appear to exist and may have been noted in error.



Figure 1 – Shade variations of Cp 5, (l-r) red, brownish red, and dark brownish red

Occasional imperfections are known to exist in the lettering of the designation "POCZTÓWA". As shown in **Figure 2**, these imperfections are partial impressions, most frequently, in the first or last letters of "POCZTÓWA". The causes of these partial impressions are, an uneven transfer of ink, variations in the thickness of paper, and wear to the die transferring the image. Such small and occasional imperfections are also not listed in catalogs.

This postal card issue was printed on packing paper, whose thickness was not always uniform. As dimensional uniformity was not a necessary characteristic

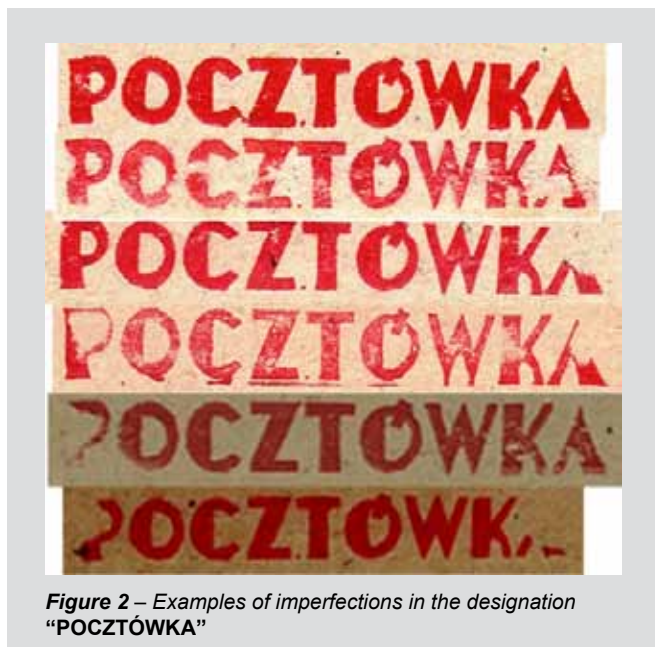


Figure 2 – Examples of imperfections in the designation "POCZTÓWA"

for packing paper, the resulting variations in dimension did, however, cause difficulty in printing the postal card. Manufacturers of such packing paper would mix a composition of shredded paper and wood pulp during the production process, but occasionally lumping created areas of greater thickness in the finished product. Identifying the thickness such paper is not possible, as hundreds of measurements would likely yield several dozen results. Manufacturers of paper do not use thickness as a unit of measure, but rather, they use weight per square meter as the standard.

A collector who has accumulated a sampling of several cards could possibly find some made from a paper with a variable thickness, i.e., the same card could have both thin and thick dimensions. The catalog description of paper variation is given as thin, medium and thick. (see **Table 1**) However, this description does not fit the actual conditions of paper used. The same sheet could have a variation that covers the entire range of dimensions, i.e., 0.11 mm - 0.20 mm. Therefore, measuring the thickness of the paper to determine where the postal card fits on the range of catalog description does not make sense. Instead, we propose that the paper be designated as "packing paper", stiff, bluish-gray (not grayish-blue), and having a thickness that can vary from 0.11 mm to 0.20 mm.

Postal Card Cp 5 from Woldenberg (cont.)

Thin Paper	0.11 mm – 0.15 mm*
Medium Paper	0.13 mm – 0.18 mm*
Thick Paper	0.17 mm – 0.20 mm*

*Note overlap of values

Table 1 - Catalog Range of Paper Thickness Variations Used for Cp 5

Philatelic literature also notes a standard size for this issue. Dimensions of 99.5 x 66 mm had been noted in the catalog produced within the camp, however, 95 x 66 mm is noted in modern catalogs. However, these dimensions are not consistent, as the actual measurement of the cards will frequently fall in the range between 93 - 94.5 x 66 mm. Postal cards are known to exist that had been prepared for printing the Cp 5 issue, cut to the correct size, including the word “**POCZTÓWKA**” for the printing of Cp.5, but without the imprint of the postage stamp.

Erroneously, these have been noted as proofs or essays for postal card Cp 6. Such partially finished items are not postal stationery but could fall into the category of the “correspondence card”. (**Figure 3**)



Figure 3 – Example of the “correspondence card”

Prints in black or dark gray, from an invalidated die of a stamp used for this issue, also exist. (**Figure 4**) The defacing of the invalidated die was in the form of an etched vertical line from the Z at the top to the F at the bottom. These prints are usually found on white tissue paper with a thickness of 0.05 mm or on yellowish thicker paper with a thickness of 0.1 - 0.12 mm. Forgeries, created by retouching the line from the invalidating process, also exist. (**Figure 5**)

Frequently occurring on this issue are various imprinted illustrations on the front or the back of the



Figure 4 – Prints of the Cp 5 stamp

Figure 5 – Forgery of the Cp 5 stamp

card. (**Figure 6**) Since such postal cards are not considered part of postal stationery, they are not required to be covered by the catalog.



Figure 6 – “Service” imprint on Cp 5 for use by camp library

*Editor's Note: This concludes the first of the two articles on the Cp 5 Woldenberg postal card. The second follows and expands upon the subject of “illustrations” added to this postal card. The title of the articles as it appeared in Przegląd Filatelistyczny is **Scarce “Scout Illustration” on Woldenberg Cp 5.***

Up to now, postal cards issued with illustrations have been cataloged as issues from the camps at Gross Born, Murnau and Neubrandenberg. The last camp on this list has the distinction of having the postal cards printed on the reverse of photographs.

Illustrations can consist of photographs and, more commonly, graphics or text. Some postal stationery items from the camps always have illustrations while others exist with or without such adornment. One such item, designated as Cp 5 from the POW camp

Postal Card Cp 5 from Woldenberg (cont.)

in Woldenberg, bears what is called the “Lotnik” (“Airman”) stamp. This postal card was issued within the camp on 12 December 1942, immediately preceding the Christmas holiday.

During the same period, a holiday postcard was created, both as an unstamped correspondence card and as a postal stationery card with a preprinted postage stamp, bearing the bicolor holiday illustration shown in **Figure 7**. The illustration consists of a



Christmas tree branch, the scout fleur-de-lis, the word CZUWAJ (a scout greeting symbolizing readiness) and the date 24.XII.42.

Figure 8 shows illustrations created using two separate impressions. The Christmas tree branch in dark green having dimensions of 24 x 42 mm is one of the impressions and the other is a

grayish-black fleur-de-lis with the text measuring 20 x 31.5 mm. The precise registration of both impressions is not consistent and there is a noticeable variation among cards.

These illustrations (**Figure 8**) appear on small paper sheets not designated to be postal cards or postcards but “correspondence” cards. Such cards do not have a preprinted postage stamp, nor do they have the word “**POCZTÓWKA**”. They can be used either for correspondence not involving the mails, or for sending a message through the mails, with stamp applied and canceled in the normal way.

The illustration shown in **Figure 8a** appears on a rather scarce folder (karnet) in which a graphic depicting St. George (the patron saint of Scouts), created by Lt. Zygmunt



Figure 8 - Regular postcards with holiday greetings and the Scout illustration.

Pazda, has been pasted on the second page

The most fascinating examples of the Scout illustration are those appearing on the “Lotnik” (“Airman”) postal card, Cp 5. Both used and unused examples are known to exist. (**Figures 9 & 10**)



Figure 8a – Folder cover and graphic of St George

Postal Card Cp 5 from Woldenberg (cont.)



Figures 9 & 10 - Examples of Cp5 postal card with the Scout illustration



This postal card should be included in the catalog as the first such item from the camp at Woldenberg to be issued with and without an illustration.

Alan Blunt (1940-2012)

Our friends in Great Britain informed us that Alan Blunt died on 15 August 2012 at the age of 72 from complications of Parkinson's disease. He had written widely about various aspects of Polish Philately, especially forgeries, and had been the editor of *Dylizans*, the bulletin of the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain (SPP). His 2004 *Dylizans* series on Przedbórz remains the most complete printed description of the various genuine and forged types of Przedbórz local delivery stamps. He had also written *Poland? Forgery?* and contributed to Barefoot's *Poland 1918 Locals*. While not a member of Polonus, Alan Blunt had made important contributions to the English-Language literature on Polish Philately, and will be sorely missed.

Polonus Philatelic Society Exhibitor Awards Program

1. The Polonus Grand Award is to be given to the best multi-frame exhibit of Poland or Polish related material. There must be at least three multi-frame exhibits of Poland or Polish related material in competition to qualify. This award may be given to an exhibit only once in any three-year period.
2. The Polonus One-Frame Grand Award (named The President's Award) is to be awarded to the best one-frame exhibit of Poland or Polish related material. There must be at least three one frame exhibits of Poland or Polish related material in competition to qualify. This award may be given to an exhibit only once in any three-year period.
3. The Polonus Novice Award is to be given to a first-time exhibitor who exhibits Poland or Polish related material and is judged the best among the first-time exhibitors of either a one-frame or multi-frame exhibit.
4. Unlimited Polonus Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals are to be awarded to all the multi-frame and one-frame exhibits of Poland or Polish related material as follows: Polonus Gold medals for Show Gold and Vermeil; Polonus Silver Medals for Show Silver and Silver-Bronze; and Polonus Bronze for Show Bronze.
5. Polonus Award Certificates are to be given to all exhibitors who are awarded Polonus medals.
6. All the above awards and medals are to be awarded by the show jury and presented at the show palmares.
7. One need not be a member of the Polonus Philatelic Society to be eligible for any Polonus award.

Polonus PURLS (Philatelic URLs)

Polish Military History

By: Sam Ginsburg

Many of us are interested in Military History, given that Poland and Poles have been in many wars and campaigns. It's been a hard area for me to survey, but here are some tidbits you might find useful.

Libraries:

Pritzker Military Library, <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/home/default.aspx>

- Probably the largest military library available to the general public without prior application.
- Located in Chicago, across from the Art Institute
- Catalog at <http://prml.sirsi.net> (or <http://prml.sirsi.net/uhtbin/cgisirsi/0/0/0/49>). <http://prml.ent.sirsi.net/client/default/> gives access to various themes, such as WWII Eastern Front. Each theme has links to related websites and selected library holdings.

Library of Congress, Military Bases, Universities, et al

- May be available by prior appointment only.

Portals and Websites:

Library of Congress Alcove 9, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/military/library.html>, lists about ten websites. One is the **Society for Military History**, <http://www.smh-hq.org/>, with extensive links. Click on "Links" and then click on "Links Pages and Search Engines" to find thirteen sites. Some of the listed sites are not working, however, two that are working are:

- Yahoo's Links to Military History, http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/History/By_Subject/Military_History/. (Who knew that Yahoo had directories like this? On my browser, it's under "More Y! Sites" below "Weather" on the left.)
- WWW Virtual Library History: Military History, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/mil/index.html>. This is an extensive listing of military history beginning with ancient times.

BYU Library's List of WWI Sites, http://www.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Links_to_Other_WWI_Sites this site does not list Poland but still may be useful and interesting.

Bill's Bunker, <http://www.bills-bunker.de/index2.html>, covers WWI, WWII and the inter-war period.

- Click on "Home (Site Index)" and scroll down to see philatelic material, indicated by the stamp images.

Military History Resources, <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/history.html>, has hundreds of listings.

COSI Military History & 'Open' Research Tools, <http://openmilhistorytech.blogspot.com/2011/01/military-history-historical-research.html>, a 2011 blog posting, also has many links.

- One is MilitaryHistoryOnline.com, <http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/>.

Chapman University Library has an internet research guide at <http://chapman.libguides.com/content.php?pid=25628&sid=207926>.

Best of History Websites has a military history section at <http://www.besthistorysites.net/index.php/military-history>.

Internet Public Library, <http://www.ipl.org/>, has a search engine, into which you can type "Military History" or whatever you want.

Polish Genealogical Society's **Polish Military History bibliography**, <http://www.pgsa.org/Educational-Center/military.php>

- Many sources are in Polish, might be hard to find.

www.prz.ginsburgs.org/links/ has a few other sites, mostly focusing on WWI Poland. Scroll down the left navigation bar and click on "Military History Sites".

My recommendation is to visit these sites in order to familiarize you with the content and to develop your own "Military History" list of favorites.

Foresters as Prisoners of War

By: Roman Sobus

By late September 1939, as the Soviet army crossed Poland's Eastern frontier, the war of aggression by the Germans turned into one of occupation. Poland was divided among its neighbors once again, and ceased to exist as a country. For Polish military personnel, the defensive war had come to an end. Most of the soldiers in German captivity were processed, photographed, issued civilian documents and released. Not included in this process were officers of various ranks which the German authorities considered the greatest threat.

The releasing of prisoners was anything but a humanitarian measure. Holding a large number of prisoners required the expenditure of valuable resources, primarily of manpower, foodstuffs and shelter. Germany, bound by the Geneva Convention, was also forbidden to use prisoners as forced labor. However, once these prisoners were processed and released, they became civilians and no longer were entitled to protection of the convention guidelines. Some were loaded onto trucks and taken to labor camps immediately following their processing, others were picked up once they had made their way back home. Prisoners taken by the Soviets were not as fortunate. The Soviet Union, who had not signed the Geneva Convention, treated Polish soldiers as enemies of the state and shipped the majority to labor camps deep in Russia's interior. Most officers were simply executed.

The soldiers that remained in German captivity were shipped to camps specifically designated for them within Germany and parts of Poland that had been incorporated into the greater Reich. By mid 1940 some 25,000 Polish soldiers, mostly officers, still remained in captivity. Approximately 7,000 were interned in Oflag IIC near the town of Woldenberg (Polish Dobiegniew) in what is now northwestern Poland.

The Polish army of 1939 was composed primarily of reservists. Only about ten percent were enlisted men and volunteers. The balance represented a cross-section of Polish society with professions ranging from doctors and lawyers to engineers and teachers.

Once confined as prisoners, these men tended to gravitate into groups with topics of conversation in which they could actively participate. These conversations very often centered on their professions or trades as civilians.

In 1939, approximately 25% of Poland's territories were covered by forests. The protection and management of this extensive national resource was the responsibility of foresters. Among the prisoners at Oflag IIC, there were 111 men who listed forestry as their profession in civilian life. This group, like many others in the camp, initially met intermittently on an informal basis. However, over time these meetings developed into more formal gatherings, with the groups organizing to manage their affairs and to achieve desired goals.

While not the largest group in the camp, the *Koło Leśników* (Foresters' Circle) was certainly one that was rather active. It was most likely in 1941 that the foresters in this camp became formally organized, initially having approximately 50 members. The group had its own library with almost 90 volumes in various languages on the topic of forestry including several which were written in the camp by the group's members. The group also published a bulletin, entitled *Biuletyn Leśny* (Forest Bulletin). As of July 1944, the group published 27 issues of the handwritten bulletin.

The *Koło Leśników* commissioned a themed Christmas card in 1942. (**Figure 1a and 1b**)

The folded design featured a graphic by camp artist *Michał Puchalski* and a handwritten text.

The card was mailed to club members and senior officers in the camp.



Figure 1a – Front side of folded design Christmas card with 10f stamp (Fi 16y) cancelled 24 XII 42

Foresters as Prisoners of War (cont.)



Figure 1b – Back side of folded design Christmas card opened to reveal graphic and text

In 1943, the group was responsible for organizing a forestry exhibition entitled *Tydzień Lasu* (Week of the Forest). Various camp artists created illustrated cards with forestry themes and sold them to visitors. The camp post office issued a special canceller for the occasion

which was applied to internal camp mail on 2-8 May, 1943. (Figure 2) Later that year, a second exhibition entitled



Figure 2 - Forest themed card mailed from the "Week of the Forest" Exhibition with 5f stamp (Fi 15a) and special cancellation.

Wystawa Leśna (Forest Exhibition) was organized by the *Koło Leśników*. This event was held on 12-18 September 1943 and featured twelve graphics produced by camp artists, including Jan Knothe, S. Michalski, Marian Stępień and Stanisław Zukowski. Several illustrated cards were independently produced by the artists and sold at the exhibition. The Camp Post Office also issued a special canceller for correspondence mailed during this event. (Figure 3) In addition to the artistic display, members sold various crafts and herbal teas and herbal remedies. Lectures on all aspects of forest management rounded out the exhibition. A total of 12,000 entry tickets were sold including approximately 150 to German



Figure 3 - Camp artist's forest themed cachet card mailed from the "Forest Exhibition" with 5f stamp (Fi 19) and special cancellation on 17 IX 43

officers and enlisted men, indicating that many attended on more than one day.

A second card was commissioned in 1943 for the Christmas Holiday. This one bears a large graphic by camp artist Puchalski, depicting a Nativity scene or "Szopka" deep in the forest, as forest animals look on. (Figure 4a) A special canceller, *Uczmy Się Latać* (Let's Learn to Fly) was used only on 23-25 December 1943. (Figure 4b)

A set of seven graphics selected from those shown at *Wystawa Leśna* were issued in



Figure 4a – Back side of Christmas card with graphic of a Nativity scene set deep in the forest



Figure 4b – Front side of Christmas card, registered with 10f (Fi 25bx) and 15f (Fi 27x) stamps and special cancellation on 24 XII 43

Foresters as Prisoners of War (cont.)

the form of a folio entitled *Teka Leśna* (Forest Folio) in 1944. The folio was produced in a limited quantity of 270¹ sets and sold for 20 lagermark² or about 25% of a prisoner's monthly allowance. This price can be put into perspective by comparing it to the price for a loaf of bread, which was about three lagermark per kilo. Buying one of these folios required tremendous sacrifice for a person living in a place where hunger was the norm. Nevertheless, a total of 255 were sold. Today, an intact version of the folio is an exceedingly rare item. The archive in the POW Museum in Dobiegniew catalogs twelve different graphics from the exhibit, however, only three exist in their collection today. One of the graphics is shown in **Figure 5**.



Figure 5 - One of the graphics from the "Forest Folio"

The *Koło Leśników* also sponsored a series of cultural and theatrical events for members of the general camp population. Besides the aforementioned exhibitions, a concert entitled "LAS I WIEŚ" (Forest and Village) was sponsored and organized by the group in conjunction with other camp organizations. (**Figure 6**)

Besides the obvious social value of the group, members were also involved with continuing education in their chosen field. University level classes were



Figure 6 – Invitation to a Musical Concert entitled "Forest and Village" sponsored and organized by the Foresters' Circle and distributed to the entire camp

organized and held in the camp on such topics as land management, recreational use of the forest and lumber production. These classes were taught by members of the group with the goal of providing a career opportunity for their fellow prisoners upon

their return to a free Poland.

Members of the *Koło Leśników* represent but one of the many organizations, clubs and societies which were formed in all prisoner of war camps. We can state with certainty that for many, life would not have been possible in conditions that prevailed had it not been for the diversion provided by these groups from the endless hours of monotonous internment.

Footnotes:

¹ Official sources cite 270 as the number issued. This does not take into account the following: 15 sent outside the camp; 29 gifts to members of the Circle; 23 as gifts to the Red Cross Delegation in Geneva and senior officers of the camp. Eight copies were donated to Forestry Library in the camp.

² The lagermark was the name of camp currency provided by the Germans.

Bibliography:

(1) Machowski, Józef; *Katalog Poczty Obozowej IIC Woldenberg*; Wydawnictwo Artystyczno Graficzne, Krakow, 1961

(2) Autolycus; *The Polish Prisoner of War Camp Posts*, Caldrea House Ltd. Sussex; 1994

(3) Skowronek, Tomasz; *Nie Zapomnieli...; Działność Leśników w Niemieckich Oficerskich Obozach Jenieckich w Czasie Drugiej Wojny Światowej*; Polskie Towarzystwo Leśne, Warszawa; 1994.

Polish Navy in Great Britain

1939-1947

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: Whereas the exploits of the Polish Air Force in Great Britain have been the subject of several books, very little has been written about the Polish Navy in Great Britain. This article, the ninth in a series by the author, provides an historical insight into the role played and the contributions made by the Polish Navy during WWII, based upon a collection of letters addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska.

The Polish Navy (Polska Marynarka Wojenna) in Great Britain was established in December 1939. It was made up of Polish vessels that managed to reach British shores after the fall of Poland in September 1939, a few French ships, and several ships leased from Britain. The fleet consisted of warships and merchant vessels, as well as an array of units such as torpedo boats, patrol boats, mine-layers, et al. There were 19 big warships, consisting of submarines, destroyers, anti-torpedo boats and training ships. Both, the warships and the merchant vessels, were manned by sailors who had served with the Polish Navy in September 1939, volunteers from the USA, Canada, Brazil and France, those who had fled from internment camps in Lithuania, as well as soldiers from the Army of General Władysław Anders, who had come to Britain from the Soviet Union via the Middle East. It is noteworthy that under the Anglo-Polish Naval Agreement signed on 18 November 1939, the Polish Naval Detachment would be commanded by Polish officers, its ships manned by Polish crews with Polish uniforms and rank distinctions and subject to Polish regulation, but subordinated to the operational control of the British Admiralty. The ships were sovereign Polish territory.



Figure 1 – Polish Navy's Eagle

By the end of the war the Polish Navy in Great Britain numbered 332 officers, 3392 NCO's and seamen, and 112 women in auxiliary service. In the course of the war the Polish fleet:

- covered a total of 1,213,000 nautical miles
- escorted 787 convoys from the USA and Britain to Murmansk in the USSR
- carried out 1,162 combat patrols
- sank 8 ships (plus 5 probable) and 2 U-boats
- damaged 11 ships (plus 18 probable)
- shot down 20 aircraft (plus 10 probably damaged)

In addition, the Polish merchant vessels sank 39 transport ships plus 2 probable. They also rescued airmen from allied planes that had been shot down.

One of the Polish Navy's finest achievements during the war involved the German battleship Bismarck. The Polish destroyer Piorun (Thunderbolt) identified and tracked the German warship on 26 May 1941 and then engaged it in battle for several hours until the British arrived. After heavy fighting, the allies managed to sink the German warship which had been thought impregnable.

The Polish Navy was active in the Atlantic, the North Sea, the Arctic Sea, and in the Mediterranean (Malta and Greece). The four Polish ships, Błyskawica, Krakowiak, Piorun and Słazak, took part in the invasion of Normandy. The losses suffered by the Polish Navy were 404 dead and 191 wounded.

The collective address for officers and seamen was: PO Box 293. Of the relatively small collection of letters from Polish naval crewmen, I have the following:

- letters cancelled with British FPO 572 round cancellation
- Egyptian FPO 35
- British round two-lined cancellation POST OFFICE – MARITIME MAIL.

At the end of the war and thereafter, civilian date stamps can be found. As shown below, wartime letters were censored. It is also worth noting that the Polish Government in London issued 21 different stamps (Fi A338-U338/Sc 3K1-3K20 and 3KB1) which could be sent from 46 postal agencies based on Polish naval and merchant ships. The stamps were cancelled with rectangular cachets bearing the ship number and date.

Polish Navy in Great Britain (cont.)

The two covers shown in **Figure 2** were sent by seamen from Windsor and Owen Sound in Canada where recruitment and training camps were set up for Polish Army volunteers from the USA and Canada to fight in Britain. Some 1,000 volunteers enlisted. The postal address for Windsor was PO Box 363 and for Owen Sound was PO Box 106. Both covers from these camps were addressed to Mrs. S. Bardziłowska in 1941 and 1942, and were uncensored.



Figure 2 – Letters sent from Windsor and Owen Sound, Canada

The cover shown in **Figure 3** was sent from an unknown ship paid with British stamps to the value of 2 1/2d. cancelled POST OFFICE MARITIME MAIL on 3 September 1943. It was opened, examined and



Figure 3 – Letter sent from unknown ship on 3 September 1943

resealed by Censor No. 796 at Polish Naval Headquarters.

Figure 4 shows a cover posted from the destroyer Błyskawica (Lightning) paid for with British

stamps to the value of 1s. 5d. cancelled in London with a 5 June 1944 date stamp. Censor's label: OPENED BY EXAMINER 3402. The Błyskawica took part in the allied landing (D-Day) in Normandy on 6 June 1944, a day after this cover was cancelled.

The AIR LETTER shown in **Figure 5** was sent from the destroyer Garland paid for with a 3d. British stamp cancelled with Egyptian FPO: POSTAGE PREPAID 35 on 24 August 1944.

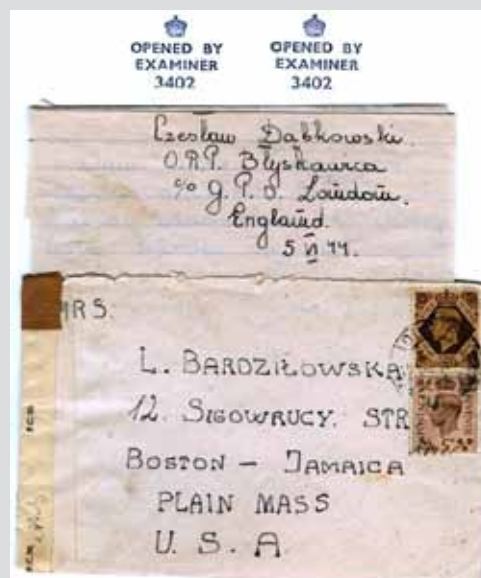


Figure 4 – Letter sent from Błyskawica on 5 June 1944, a day before D-Day landing

Censor's cachet: FROM H.M. SHIPS PASSED BY CENSOR. In August 1944, the Garland took part in the allied landing in Southern France and sank the German V-Boat (V-40-7) in the Mediterranean.



Figure 5 – Air letter sent from Garland on 24 August 1944

Polish Navy in Great Britain (cont.)

The AIR MAIL LETTER CARD shown in **Figure 6** was sent from the destroyer Garland paid for with a 3d. British stamp cancelled with British FPO 572 date stamp on 3 December 1944. Censored and stamped with identical cachet as shown in **Figure 5**. Around that time the Garland was on duty in the Mediterranean engaging German ships.



Figure 6 – Air letter card sent from Garland on 3 December 1944

Figure 7 shows an AIR MAIL cover sent from destroyer Piorun (Thunderbolt) paid for with stamps to the value of 1s. 3d. stamps cancelled with illegible British date stamp on 25 January 1946. The Piorun made the biggest contribution to the Polish naval effort in World War II. From 1941 until the end of the war, she saw action against the Germans. She played an important part in the sinking of the battleship Bismarck and participated in the Normandy landing in June 1944. She was also in a convoy of ships escorting Russian gold reserves to the USA. After the war she participated alongside the destroyers Błyskawica and Krakowiak in sinking captured German U-boats.

The registered cover shown in **Figure 8** was sent from submarine Wilk (Wolf) paid for with three stamps issued by the Polish Government in Exile to the value of 25gr., 75gr. and 80gr. cancelled with the postal agency cachet nr.27 on 12 December 1943. The cover was opened, examined and resealed with Censor's label: OPENED BY EXAMINER 5525.



Figure 7 – Air mail letter sent from Garland on 25 January 1946

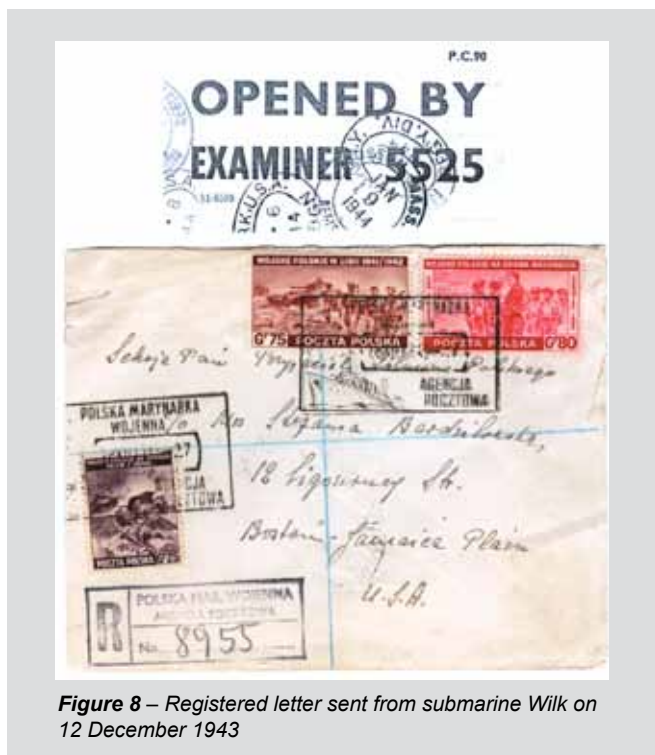


Figure 8 – Registered letter sent from submarine Wilk on 12 December 1943

Endnote: An article titled S.S. Błyskawica and authored by Dr. Paul Phillips appeared in Bulletin #541 (December 2010), the same issue that launched this series on "letters addressed to Mrs. Stefania Bardzylowska".

Bibliography:

- (1) Kay, George K. and Negus, Ron; Polish Exile Mail in Great Britain 1939-1949
- (2) Biały Orzeł, London; Weteran, New York; Kombatant, New York

Poland Wins Asiago and St. Gabriel Awards

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Two of Poland's stamps issued in 2011 have recently been recognized as "best in class" among worldwide competition. Such recognition is becoming a habit and reflects well upon the quality of Polish stamp designers.

The first, Poland's Europa stamp, won the 2012 Asiago International Award, or commonly referred to as the "2012 Philatelic Oscar", for philatelic art this past July in Asiago (Vicenza), Italy. The design (**Figure 1**) depicts a European bison standing among tree trunks, and, in keeping with the 2011 Europa theme of forests, the stamp has an added scent of juniper. This 3 zł stamp was designed by Anna Niemierko and issued in a 9-stamp sheet format on 5 May 2011. Poland previously won back-to-back Asiago international awards for its 2009 Love (Kocham Cię) stamp, reported in Bulletin #541, and its 2008 PostEurop Plenary Assembly souvenir sheet.

The European bison, żubr in Polish, is a protected species inhabiting the Polish Białowieża National



Figure 1 – Europa stamp (Fi 4371 & Sc 4010)

Park, part of the Białowieża Forest which straddles the Polish-Belarus border. These bison have a special liking for buffalo grass, which flourishes in this forest. The grass not only serves the bison

as its main source of nourishment but has brought fame and fortune to Polish distillers in the form of Żubrówka, a genuine Polish vodka specialty, the result of a tradition dating back to the 14th century.

The second, Poland's Souvenir Sheet commemorating the beatification of Pope John Paul II, won the 2012 St. Gabriel Award as the best stamp of artistic and religious significance issued worldwide in 2011. The design (**Figure 2**) shows the pontiff at the peak of his reign with an image of Jesus, as he appeared during his revelation to St. Faustina Kowalska in 1931, in the background. Also shown in the lower right corner of the sheet's selvage is an image of St.

Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

This 8.3 zł souvenir sheet was designed by Marzanna Dąbrowska, a prolific stamp designer who also received the St. Gabriel Award two years ago for a 1.9 zł stamp honoring the beatification of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a Roman Catholic priest who was kidnapped and murdered in 1984.

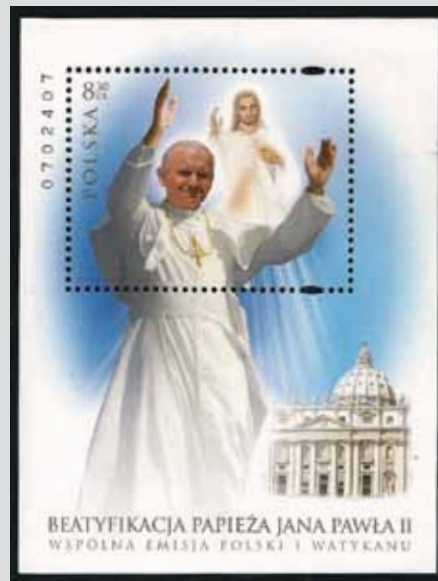


Figure 2 – Beatification of Pope John Paul II souvenir sheet (Fi 4370 & Sc 3983)

The souvenir sheet, part of a joint issue with the Vatican City, was released 28 April 2011. The Fironi Museum in Legnago, Italy hosted the award ceremony this past 7th of October. The St. Gabriel Award was established in 1969 in Verona, Italy by the World Union of St. Gabriel, a worldwide association of collectors of religion on stamps. Its name recall St. Gabriel, the "Lord's postman" or "messenger".

Have you visited our website lately?

Go to www.polonus.org and find out what is new and interesting.....

- Exhibits (expanded)
- Kronenberg Collection
- Membership Directory
- Current Polonus Activities

New Issues



UEFA Euro 2012

This 3 zł stamp represents an additional commemoration of Poland's role in the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship through its co-hosting the final tournament competition together with the Ukraine. The stamp depicts a football (soccer ball) in motion.

Date of Issue	June 15, 2012
Sheet Format	6 stamps in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew



Muskauer Park

This 3 zł stamp recognizes Muskauer Park (Polish: Park Mużakowski), a 3.5-sq. km. park located in both Poland and Germany in the Upper Lusatia region along the Neisse River, the border between the two countries. Created by Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau between 1815 and 1844, the park was designed as a "painting with plants." Local trees and bushes were incorporated into the design, which also includes a reconstructed castle, bridges, and an arboretum. The park's design integrates the surrounding farmlands and urban areas into an ideal man-made construct. It has influenced international urban landscape design and has enhanced landscape architecture as a discipline. In 2004 the park became a UNESCO World Heritage site, and was cited as a notable example of cross-border cultural collaboration between Poland and Germany. Visitors today may freely explore both parts of the park without border controls.

Date of Issue	July 12, 2012
Sheet Format	6 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska



30th Olympics in London 2012

These 4 stamps honor the 2012 Olympics: a 1.55 zł denomination in blue showing rowers, a 1.95 zł stamp in green portraying volleyball players, a 2.4 zł stamp in gold depicting a weight lifter, and a red 3 zł stamp showing a shot putter. Appropriately, the Polish Olympic Team won 2 gold medals -- one in the men's shot put (Tomasz Majewski) and one in men's 85-kg weight lifting (Adrian Zieliński). Overall, Poland finished 30th in worldwide medal production, with 2 gold, 2 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

Date of Issue	July 27, 2012
Sheet Format	4 stamps in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk



Date of Issue	July 28, 2012
Sheet Format	6 stamps + tabs
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Kazimierz Bulik

200th Birthday of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski

This 4.15 zł stamp with tab shows a photograph of the Polish writer, historian, and journalist, Józef Kraszewski. Kraszewski (1812-87) wrote over 200 novels and 150 novellas, short stories, and art reviews. He is best known for his epic series on the history of Poland, consisting of 29 novels in 79 parts. His most notable works were: *Stara Baśń* (An Ancient Tale, 1876) and *Chata Za Wsią* (The Hut Outside the Village, 1854). He was born in Warsaw, but reared by his grandmother in Romanów, Gmina Sosnówka. As a Polish historian, he is generally regarded as second only to Henryk Sienkiewicz.



Date of Issue	August 31, 2012
Sheet Format	4 different stamps & 4 different tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Kazimierz Bulik

Mushrooms in Polish Forests

These 4 stamps, in 1.55, 1.95, 3, and 4.15 zł values and each with adjacent tab, recognize eight edible and eight “similar-looking” poisonous wild mushrooms found in Polish forests (Polish: grzyby w polskich lasach). The 4.15 zł stamp pictures the Dark Honey mushroom (*Armillaria mellea*), which includes about 10 species and comprise some of the largest spatially defined organisms in the world. Although considered one of the best tasting wild mushrooms when cooked, they are mildly poisonous if eaten raw or consumed with alcohol. The adjacent tab pictures the Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) which is a species bitter in taste and often growing on dead wood. Shown on the 3 zł stamp is the Parasol mushroom (*Macrolepiota procera*) which is prized in European kitchens, raw or cooked, and is noted for its size, sometimes reaching a height and diameter of up to 40 cm. The adjacent tab pictures the False Blusher (*Amanita pantherina*) which is also an edible species, but easily confused with other deadly varieties and should definitely be avoided by novice mushroomers. The Morel mushroom (*Morchella esculenta*) shown on the 1.95 zł stamp is prized in the kitchen and appears honey-comb like, but may be confused with the poisonous False Morel (*Gyromitra esculenta*) shown on the adjacent tab. The edible Green-Cracking Russula (*Russula virescens*) is pictured on the 1.55 zł stamp. It has a distinctive pale green cap covered with darker green patches, and a cap diameter of up to 15 cm. Unfortunately, it is easily confused with the deadly poisonous Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*) shown on the adjacent tab. This mushroom is responsible for the majority of fatal mushroom poisonings worldwide. Two official first day covers were issued for these stamps and tabs, with distinctive cancellations and colorful cachets.



Polish-German Philatelic Exhibition (Kargowa 2012)

This 2.40 zł stamp commemorates the joint philatelic exhibition of Poland and Germany held September 6-9, 2012. The exhibition was held in the small Polish town of Kargowa (German: Unruhstadt) located in Zielona Góra County, Lubusz Voivodeship, in western Poland. The stamp and official first day cover appear to portray images of undefined perforated stamps.

Date of Issue	September 6, 2012
Sheet Format	6 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew



Piotr Skarga

This 1.55 zł stamp honors the 400th anniversary of the death of Piotr Skarga (real name Piotr Powęski; 1536-1612), who was a Polish Jesuit, preacher, writer, and political and socio-economic reformer. Educated at the Krakow Academy and in Italy, Skarga entered the Society of Jesus and as a Jesuit preached widely in Poland. From 1588-1611 he was court preacher to King Sigismund III Vasa, sometimes preaching to the Sejm (Parliament). The image on the stamp is taken from Jan Matejko's oil on canvas named "Skarga's Sermon" in which Skarga is preaching to King Sigismund III Vasa and his court. His name (meaning "accusation" in Polish) describes his role as a reformer and critic of the times, often criticizing the governing classes and advocating for strengthening the monarch's power at the expense of the Sejm and nobility (Polish: szlachta). He founded a number of Jesuit colleges and was the first rector at Vilnius University; his best known book was "Lives of the Saints."

Date of Issue	September 27, 2012
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Kazmierz Bulik



Piotr Kwit – Nature Painter

This 1.55 zł stamp honors the Polish folk artist Piotr Kwit (1929-2002), most famous as a painter of nature (Polish: malarz przyrody). He lived in the village of Zalesie, near Limanowa, in southern Poland. He painted landscapes of the Gorce and the Beskid Wyspowy Hills and his home village of Zalesie, as well as birds and religious themes. An official first day cover with colorful cachet and attractive commemorative cancellation was also issued.

Date of Issue	October 10, 2012
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Agata Tobalczyk

New Issues



Date of Issue	October 10, 2012
Sheet Format	50 stamps
Printing Method	Rotogavure
Designer	Agata Tobalczyk

Footsteps of Karol Wojtyła - Kraków

This 1.95 zł stamp with tab is the third in a series of stamps commemorating the most important events in the ministry of Karol Wojtyła, the late Polish pope. The stamp pictures Karol Wojtyła as Cardinal and the Wawel Cathedral. The tab pictures Pope Paul VI appointing Karol Wojtyła Archbishop of Kraków, which took place at the Wawel Cathedral. The official first day cover shows another image of Karol Wojtyła in a colorful cachet with his signature.



Date of Issue	October 31, 2012
Sheet Format	3 Different Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Stars of Polish Cinema and Theater

These 3 stamps (1.55, 1.95, and 3 zł values) show photo portraits of famous individuals in cinema and theater (Polish: ludzie kina i teatru): Jadwiga Smosarska (1898-1971), Aleksander Żabczyński (1908-1958), and Eugeniusz Bodo (1899-1943). Jadwiga Smosarska from Warsaw starred in 26 movies. Aleksander Żabczyński also from Warsaw was a stage and movie star, most famous for his role in the 1939 movie "The Three Hearts" (Polish: "Trzy Serca"), a romantic comedy. Eugeniusz Bodo (born Bohdan Eugène Junod) was a film director, producer, actor, and comedian, starring in many of the most popular Polish film productions of the 1930's. He was a skilled singer and icon of Polish musical comedy, starring in over 30 movies. Tragically, he was arrested by the Soviets after the invasion of Poland and later perished in the Gulag near Arkhangelsk. The official first day cover employs 5-pointed star cancellations and a photo cachet of theatrical people.

Plan ahead for NAPEX 2013.....31 May – 2 June, 2013

Polonus 11th Annual Meeting & Exhibition