



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Warsaw to Tokyo - Only known mint sheet of six imperforated 5 zł LOPP stamps with one stamp inverted - See page 10.

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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. The Polonus Philatelic Society is Affiliate #119 of the American 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 60438, Rossford, OH 43460-0438.

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

With CHICAGOPEX 2014 a couple months away, it is “crunch time” for a few of us who are striving to make our participation at this event noteworthy, memorable and for enjoyable. If you are still asking, “Why should I attend?”, here are a few good reasons:

- (1) See the largest collection of Polish material outside Poland..... 26 exhibits and 117 frames.
- (2) Celebrate our Diamond Jubilee at a special reception.
- (3) Attend the Annual Membership Meeting and meet the newly elected Board of Directors and Officers.
- (4) Enjoy the Polonus hospitality suite, a great way to meet and greet members, share collecting interests, toast with Żubrówka, etc.
- (5) Attend special presentations by Dr. James Mazepa and Robin Elliott.

If you decide to attend CHICAGOPEX 2014, please let me know so we can plan accordingly.

The Polonus election of the Board of Directors is underway. A mailing of an election ballot will be made in September with a request to complete and return it prior to 15 October. Election results will be announced in Chicago. For a list of the candidates, refer to my article on page 5.

NOTE POLONUS CHANGE OF ADDRESS. The administrative center is now in Rossford, Ohio and Dan Lubelski has volunteered for the position of Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for the Membership Data Base (MDB) and related administrative duties. He is also accepted the appointment to Chair the Membership Committee. Be sure to read the article on page 6, “Organization and Address Changes”.

In keeping with the tradition of past Polonus milestones, we are launching a Commemorative Catalogue for our Diamond Jubilee. This will also become the centerpiece for our fund-raising effort to attract sponsors, patrons and well-wishers. See article on page 7 and look for my letter asking for your help with this project.

Dr. Mazepa found another “gem” to talk about, this one being a good example why Poland is such a unique country for collecting. Read about the postal transition in Suwałki after WWI and how this scarce use of a Form II stamp on cover became a “gem”.

Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder but in the eyes of the judges at the 44th Asiago Philatelic Fine Art Awards, Poland’s stamp commemorating the 455th anniversary of the Polish Post was selected as the “Most Beautiful in the World”. Read more about this and the frequency at which Poland is receiving such recognition. Another reason to collect Poland.

We have four excellent feature articles in this issue.

(1) The Kupiec-Węgliński/Kosmala team has a very interesting account of experimental flights by Polish pilots and some of the airmail stamps that resulted in rarities and some philatelically inspired pseudo rarities. (2) Pelczar presents another well researched article on the postal stationery cards of Oflag IIE in Neubrandenburg. This time he covers the unofficial multi-stamp cards which were improvised photographs. (3) The 2nd Polish Army Corps, more popularly known among Poles as “The Army of General Władysław Anders”, was a major fighting unit of the Polish Armed Forces in the West during WWII. Niebrzydowski sheds light on the movements of this unit through the correspondence of Stefania Bardziłowska. (4) With permission from the editor of The Poster, journal of The Local Post Collectors Society, we are able to reprint an article remembering the Uprisings in Warsaw during WWII.

In addition to remembering the exploits of the Armia Krajowa (AK) during WWII on the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, we have a Book Review covering the beginning of the Polish Legions under the leadership of Józef Piłsudski on the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI. The work of compiling formation handstamps in the context of historical accounts has been finally accomplished in a book that is reviewed by Andrzej Klamut. Do not miss this review and if you would like to thumb through the book, see me at the show in Chicago where I will have my copy to show with ordering instructions if you want your own copy.

Finally, look at the list that we are offering for sale in the section titled “Book Sale”, page 25. Prices are marked and you have the first look at this list. Items not sold will be offered at the Society Table at CHICAGOPEX on a first come-first serve basis. Hopefully there will be something of interest to you in this issue and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

Countdown to CHICAGOPEX 2014 Continued

By: Bob Ogrodnik

I will not repeat what was communicated in the previous issue (#555) other than to say, at the end of this month there will be 51 days to go for the “big show” in Chicago, and here is the more detailed agenda that I promised. Please note, a “Welcome Packet” will be prepared for members who let me know that they plan to attend. This packet will have the final details for Polonus activities, including the room number and “password” for the Hospitality Suite.

Friday, 21 November

- 10:00 am – show opening and ribbon cutting ceremony
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm – presentation of **The Polish Connection to the “Monuments Men”** by Robin Elliott, name of room to follow, open to the public
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm – Publication Committee meeting in the hospitality suite, attendance limited to committee members and invited guests
- 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Polonus Members “**Diamond Jubilee**” reception at the Westin, name of room to follow, only ticket holders will be admitted, plans for this event are still in process, details will be included in the “Welcome Packet”

Saturday, 22 November

- 8:00 – 10:00 am – Polonus Board of Directors meeting in Edwardian Room, attendance limited to Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs
- 10:30 – 12:30 pm – Polonus Membership meeting in Barrington Room, attendance open to members and guests
- 6:30 – 7:00 pm – Gala Awards Banquet cocktails, attendance limited to ticket holders
- 7:30 - ? pm – Gala Awards Banquet dinner, attendance limited to ticket holders

Sunday, 23 November

- 11:00 – 12:00 noon – presentation of **Collecting Poland** by Jim Mazepa in the Barrington Room, attendance open to the public
- 4:00 pm – show closing

Action Notes

1. Send me your plan to attend CHICAGOPEX 2014. A reminder will be included in the election ballots that will be mailed in September. I need to know how many members will be coming to the reception on Friday night.
2. If you are going to attend the exhibition, make your hotel reservation now. See Bulletin #555 page 4 or the CHICAGOPEX website for instructions on getting the best rate.
Errata – The correct telephone number directly to the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel is (630) 773-4000. We apologize for incorrectly reporting this number on page 4 of Bulletin #555.
3. If you plan to attend the Gala Awards Banquet, reservations must be received by 12 November. This may be a sell-out, so I recommend making a reservation now.
4. Volunteers for the show are still needed. Please contact me if you are willing to help with a) **staffing at the Society Table**; b) **hosting at the Hospitality Suite**; c) **helping at the Youth Room**.

Once again, please let me know if you are planning to attend. Reach me by phone @ (314) 821-6130 or (314) 822-6266; by e-mail @ krpsl@earthlink.net; or by snail mail @ P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428. Look forward to seeing you all in the “Windy City”.

New Members

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

Ronald J. Klimley - #1762
5145 N. Pinnacle Point
Tucson, AZ 85749

Charles W. Thompson - #1763
18220 S.W. Terry Avenue
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Marvin Scheer - #1764
2111 Acacia Park Drive, Suite 607
Cleveland, OH 44124

Board Election Update

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The Nominating Committee has presented a slate of eight (8) candidates for the Polonus Board of Directors that will be included on the election ballot (a copy of which is illustrated below) that will be mailed to all members prior to 15 September. **You are requested to complete the ballot and return it prior to 15 October.** The results of this election to the BOD will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting at CHICAGOPEX in November.

Listed below are biographical sketches of the candidates for your consideration. We are fortunate to have such a well-qualified group of candidates volunteering for service to the Society.

James Mazepa, Ph.D.: He has been active in philately for over 60 years and a member of Polonus since 1971. Dr. Mazepa has served on the Polonus BOD for the last 8 years

as Chairman. He is the immediate past-president of the Federacion Interamericana de Filatelia, the group that coordinates the philatelic activities of the 21 Philatelic Federations of the Americas. He is a member of the Council of the American Philatelic Congress where he has served for over 19 years. He has collected all areas of Polish philately and currently specializes in the 1918-1920 provisional period of Polish inflation. He has received 11 International Large Gold and Gold Medals and is an accredited National judge, Chief Judge, and an accredited International Judge. He resides in Sarasota, FL.

Hank Bieniecki: Member of Polonus for 39+ years. In 2007, elected Vice President of Polonus and re-elected to the BOD and the Executive Committee. In addition to his current role as a member of the BOD, Hank is the Chair of the Polonus Website and the Expertizing Committee. Formerly served as Editor of the Bulletin, Chief Administrative Officer (Master Data Base) and Treasurer. Owner of Bieniecki Int'l. Inc., a firm specializing in Polish philately. He has an MBA in Finance and resides in Edwardsville, IL, near St. Louis.

Dan Lubelski: Member of Polonus, APS and Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo. Currently holds the position of Chief Administration Officer and Membership Committee Chair for Polonus. Formerly, Dan served as Treasurer of Polonus for over 5 years. His collecting interests include all areas of Polish philately with a special interest in the Germania overprints. He is employed as the Resource Manager of R&D in automotive glass development and has a MS in Chemical Engineering. Dan enjoys applying the state-of-the-art computer and imaging technology in the study of stamps, their color, ink and printing variations. He resides in Rossford, OH.

Roman Sobus: Active in the Society for over 14 years, he is a member of the Polonus BOD and is the Secretary of the Society. In addition, Roman is a member of the Polonus Website and Publication Committees, the Leader of the POW Camp Study Group and a frequent contributor of original and translated articles to the Polonus Bulletin. A life-long collector, he enjoys exhibiting and social interaction with other collectors and Polonus members. He resides in Chicago, IL.

Paul J. Phillips, Ph.D.: He is a long time member of Polonus and an active exhibitor of Polish philately. Primarily a postal historian, he has won numerous Gold Medals and special awards for over 18 years with his exhibits of WWII Poland entitled "Fragile Reminders: Poland during WWII and its Immediate Aftermath" and "Gruss aus Paradies: Life in WWII Poland". Paul is currently a member of the Polonus BOD and the Publication Committee. Formerly, he served on the Board of the American Philatelic Congress and he was the Editor of the GBCC Chronicle and the Tennessee *(Continued on page 24)*



2014 Board of Directors – Election Ballot

Elected candidates will serve a 3-year term per Society by-laws.

Vote by placing an X by the name of each candidate you wish to elect.

Please vote for eight (8) candidates.

- ☐ Jim Mazepa
- ☐ Hank Bieniecki
- ☐ Dan Lubelski
- ☐ Roman Sobus
- ☐ Paul Phillips
- ☐ Bob Nowicki
- ☐ Bill Williges
- ☐ Ed Andrews
- ☐ _____ (write-in)
- ☐ _____ (write-in)

Use the enclosed self-addressed envelope to mail your ballot to:

Polonus Election, P.O. Box 60438, Rossford, OH 43460-0438

Notes: (1) Information, including a position description, the election process, and candidate bios, is enclosed.

(2) Ballots must be postmarked by 15 October 2014 to be valid.

Organization and Address Changes

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Keeping track of our membership data is a critical function in our organization. Thanks to the vision and tireless effort of Hank Bieniecki, a Membership Data Base (MDB) was created to maintain a “real-time” record of key membership data, such as, contact information, dues payments, contributions, collecting interests, etc. In addition to record keeping, the MDB is capable of generating a Membership Directory, mailing labels and several reports. In effect, managing the MDB is the administrative center of the organization.

Over the past few months, the MDB has been successfully transitioned from Hank Bieniecki to Dan Lubelski, thereby moving the administrative center of Polonus from Illinois to Ohio. We are now ready to change the mailing address of Polonus from “P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062” to “P.O. Box 60438, Rossford, OH 43460-0438”. We are in the process of updating mailing labels, letterheads, applications, pamphlets, et al. We will maintain both P.O. Boxes until the change is fully implemented.

In order to get the most out of our MDB we need to input accurate and timely information regarding our members. This is where you can help. Be sure to submit any changes to your contact data (mailing address, e-mail address, telephone numbers, etc.) legibly and promptly. Take a moment to review the listings found on our website, www.polonus.org, under “My Account” and “Membership Directory”. If you find any discrepancies, please send corrected information to Dan Lubelski.

In addition to volunteering for the job of “*Chief Administrative Officer*”, Dan has accepted the appointment to Chair the Membership Committee, effective immediately. In that Dan will be managing the Membership Data Base, he will be in an excellent position to lead the Committee whose task will be to grow our membership. If you are interested in working with Dan on Membership, please contact him and volunteer.

I would like to thank Dan Lubelski for his continued contributions to Polonus through volunteering for key roles in the organization. I would also like to thank Hank Bieniecki for his contribution to automate the administrative functions of Polonus, which greatly enhance our ability to sustain the organization in the future.

Polonus Members to Participate in WARSZAWA 2014

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In the previous Bulletin (#555) I reported that the Polish Philatelic Union (PZF) had invited members of Polonus to participate in the XXI All-Poland Philatelic Exhibition, WARSZAWA 2014. I can now say that five members have formally completed application for entry and have been accepted. These members and their exhibits are:

- **Wiesław Kostka** – “*Kingdon of Poland – Study of Rates For Stampless Mail 1815-1871*” (5 frames)
- **Dr. Jerzy Kupiec** - Węgliński – “*Aerophilately and the Siege of Przemyśl 1914-1915*” (5 frames)
- **Frank Wiatr** – “*Cracow Postal History: From the Middle Ages to the Postage Stamp*” (8 frames)
- **Jan Niebrzydowski** – “*One Polish Family WWII Ordeal*” (1 frame)
- **Andrew Urushima** – “*The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics*” (1 frame)

I am also pleased to report that Dr. James Mazepa has been appointed Commissioner from the USA for this exhibition.

The event will be held on 12-19 October 2014 at the Olympic Centre of the Polish Olympic Committee in Warsaw, Poland and will honor the 95th anniversary of the Polish Olympic Committee.

A Commemorative Catalogue for CHICAGOPEX 2014

By: Bob Ogrodnik

In keeping with the traditions of Polonus and POLPEX, we will feature a Commemorative Catalogue on the special occasion of our 75th anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014. This Catalogue will contain a brief history of Polonus, timely philatelic articles, congratulatory proclamations and letters, list of Polish exhibits, Polonus' schedule and agenda, and recognition of sponsors and patrons of Polonus at CHICAGOPEX 2014. One of the objectives of this Catalogue is to raise funds to offset the expenses related with our participation at this exhibition. You will receive a letter from me with an opportunity to participate in this project and obtain your personal copy of this Commemorative Catalog (a draft of the cover is illustrated below).



Polonus Members Excel in Hartford

By: Dr. James Mazepa

The 128th Annual Convention and Exhibition of the American Philatelic Society (APS STAMPSHOW 2014) was held in Hartford, Connecticut on August 21-24, 2014, at which the prestigious "World Series Champion of Champions" competition was held. Polonus member Dr. Richard D. Mallow participated in this competition with a multi-frame exhibit titled "The First Issue of the Polish People's Republic, 1944-1945" and was awarded a **World Series of Philately Prix d'Honneur** in recognition for his participation in this event. (see Figure 1)



Figure 1 – Dr. Richard D. Mallow (right) congratulated by Stephen Reinhard (left), President of APS

Polonus member Frank Wiatr participated in the Open Competition and was awarded a **Gold Medal** for his "Cracow Postal History From the Middle Ages to the Postage Stamp" and a **Gold Medal and Military Postal History Society Award** for "Fortress Krakau 1914-1918".

Polonus member Alfred F. Kugel participated in the Open Competition and was awarded a **Vermeil Medal** for his "The Expansion of Serbia 1876 to 1921". He also participated in the Non-Competitive category with his entry titled "Military & Administrative Mail of the Western Allies in Germany".

Congratulation to all for a job well done.

Polish-Ukrainian War: Suwałki to Kiev, Service Suspended

By: Dr. James Mazepa

In early 1919 the territory in northeast Poland, which included Suwałki, was still occupied by the German Tenth Army. The Polish post office did not open in Suwałki until February 8, 1919 at the Suwalki railroad station, where a supply of Polish stamps was made available. A provisional canceller was made that read **"POCZTA POLSKA SUWAŁKI / EAGLE"**. Shown below (**Figure 1**) is a Russian postal card that was overprinted by hand into a Polish postal card (Pocztówka) and sent on the first day the Suwałki post office opened.



Figure 1 – Suwałki to Kiev postal card with Form II stamps (Fi 10a)

The card is franked with three 10 fenig Form II stamps, which is the correct rate for a postal card to a foreign country. First, it was sent in the opposite direction to Warsaw where it received the Warsaw Military censor mark **"Wr. 1"** in a circle, as well as the rectangular Civil Censor control for foreign mail. Because of the war, postal communications with Kiev were broken. A circuitous route was established which sent the mail via London and the Baltic countries into the Ukraine. However, even this routing was closed at the time and the card received the English **"Service Suspended"** cachet in London.

Endnote:

Warsaw Form II letters are difficult to find because of the short time that they were in use. This is one of the most important of all pieces with Form II stamps.

Polish Post Awarded "Philatelic Oscar"

By: Bob Ogradnik

A stamp issued by the Polish Post was recognized as the "Most Beautiful in the World" at the 44th Asiago (Italy) Philatelic Fine Art Awards. The jury voted unanimously in favor for the Polish entry (see below).



The winning stamp was issued in commemoration of the 455th anniversary of the Polish Post. Agnieszka Sancewicz, the artist who created this stamp, explained

that the rings cut from the oak trunk symbolize the traditions and longevity of the Polish Post.

The awards ceremony took place on 6 July in Asiago, northern Italy. Agnieszka Kłoda-Dębska, deputy director of the Office of Marketing and Philatelics, accepted the Grand Prix from the President of the Italian Republic, patron of the competition. Many centuries have passed since 18 October 1558, when King Zygmunt August established the first regular Kraków-Vienna-Venice connection, but the Polish Post continues to build trust by commemorating important events in history, culture and tradition for more than 150 years.

The "Most Beautiful Stamp in the World" title is another distinction for the Polish Post in this competition. Poland's 2011 Europa stamp¹, depicting a European bison standing among tree trunks with an added scent of juniper (Fi 4371 / Sc 4010), won the 2012 award for "best in class". Poland previously won Asiago awards for the 2009 "I love you" (Kocham Cię) stamp² (Fi 4262 / Sc 3930), the 2008 "PostEurop Kraków" souvenir sheet (Fi 4194 / Sc 3885), an "Earth Day" stamp issued in 2007 (Fi 4152 / Sc 3857), and the 1982 "Vistula River" stamp (Fi 2685 / Sc 2461).

Footnotes:

¹ Reported in Bulletin #549, page 20

² Reported in Bulletin #541, page 19

The Pioneer Period of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928) Part 6: Experimental Flights by Polish Pilots

By: Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala

WARSAW – TOKYO FLIGHT BY LT. ORLIŃSKI

On May 24, 1926, pilot Lieutenant Bolesław Orliński, aero-acrobatic instructor of the Polish Air Force Flying School in Grudziądz accompanied by mechanic Sergeant Leonard Kubiak, attempted an experimental flight from Paris to Tokyo with Warszawa as a midway stop. However, Renault engine trouble in their Potez XXV A2 aircraft forced them to crash land near Prague, Czechoslovakia. Their second attempt was rescheduled for August 27, 1926, but this time from Warszawa. The military Breguet XIX two seater, open-cockpit biplane was powered by a Lorraine-Dietrich three bank, 12 cylinder "W" 450 HP engine, and had extra fuel tanks installed even in the armrests and under the pilot's seat. After a very effective flight with a cruising speed of 145 km per hour and stopovers in Moscow, Kazan, Omsk, Krasnojarsk, Chita, Harbin, Mukden and Seoul, the crew reached Tokyo on September 5, after traversing 11,300 km during 56 hrs and 57 min of flying time. Orliński was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, the second highest decoration of that country and, the French Legion of Honor, and promoted to captain. Upon return from Tokyo on September 11, the plane was damaged in Siberia, its left lower wing broken and propeller cracked, but the aviators shortened the opposite wing and repaired the propeller with a glue and wire. Luckily, they landed safely at Warszawa airfield in the late evening hours of September 25, after 72 hrs in the air. The Warszawa – Tokyo – Warszawa flight in 28 days (22,600 km) soon became recognized as one of the major achievements in the history of aviation. An interesting philatelic documentation of the Orliński flight to Tokyo exists. As the original departure was planned from Paris, all letters to be flown received the oval commemorative cachet "Raid Polonais. Raid Polski / Paris – Warszawa – Tokyo / May 1926"

in purple and were franked with postage of 6 gr (the foreign printed matter rate). Meanwhile, the National Air Defense League (Liga Obrony Powietrznej Państwa or LOPP), the Polish paramilitary organization, prepared its own mailings on the official LOPP stationery. These items were properly franked with 32 gr postage (6 gr – international printed matter rate [per 50 grams]+ 6 gr airmail surcharge [1x basic postage fee] + 20 gr special postal administration fee) and a newly issued commemorative stamp of a relatively high 5 zł denomination was affixed to each cover. The stamps (900 perforated and 100 imperforate) were printed in dark-green on white paper in sheets of 20 (5x4), with each sheet containing one tete-beche (inverted) pair. Although the prepaid mail in the Warszawa post office did not have these stamps affixed, the intervention of a LOPP official resulted in the special 5 zł fee becoming mandatory on all Tokyo-bound mailings. Consequently, covers originally without these special stamps had one affixed over the purple cachet and cancelled with the same oval cachet, but now in black. Due to weight limitations, Orliński refused to carry the heavy mail bag (pilot and mechanic could carry with them only one change of underwear) and instead took only 30 or so covers in his map case. The rest were shipped, in secrecy to avoid disappointing philatelists, to Tokyo via the Trans-Siberian railroad. After arrival in Tokyo, the covers flown with Orliński were somehow forgotten, and when rediscovered on September 27, they were back-stamped with the European date style postmark "27.9.26" in black. Hence, the genuine flown covers: (1) should be addressed to Orliński in his own handwriting, carry 32 gr postage, and Tokyo "27.9.26" arrival cancellation in black; and (2) must not have the purple oval cachet underneath or near the 5 zł LOPP stamp. All covers transported by rail have 6 gr. postage and "5.9.26" cancellation in violet. Some surface mail with both "5.9.26" and "27.9.26" receiving postmarks exist. All covers from surface mail and those flown in by Orliński himself were then shipped together in a parcel back to Warszawa. Before leaving Japan, Capt. Orliński bought several picture postcards, affixed 6 sen Japanese stamps and had them cancelled with a Japanese-style date "15.9.10", which actually was September 10, 1926, the year of the rule of the Emperor Taisho. A local typist addressed these cards to: "Poland, Warsaw, Liga Obrony Powietrznej

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)

Państwa” misspelling some Polish words, which Orliński then corrected himself by pen. All items upon arrival received a September 25, 1926 violet postmark of the Warszawa Airport.

Shown below are some outstanding examples of airmail items related to the Tokyo flight, which are scarce, as most of them were lost during World War II. **Figure 1** shows the only known mint sheet of six



Figure 1 - A unique mint sheet of six imperforated 5 zł stamps, which includes a tête-bêche pair, issued by Polish Air and Defense League (LOPP) to commemorate the Orliński flight to Tokyo in 1926.

imperforated 5 zł LOPP stamps with one stamp inverted - a true gem of Polish philately. Of note, only five imperforated sheets (total 100 stamps), containing five tête-bêche pairs, were originally printed.



Figure 2 - One of two recorded covers with a 5 zł perforated tête-bêche pair of LOPP special stamps. It was flown with Orliński to Japan.

Figure 2 illustrates one of only two recorded covers with an affixed 5 zł tête-bêche perforated pair (originally 45 inverted perforated LOPP stamps were issued). The fact that the cover was addressed by Orliński himself on stationery of “Lot Polski”, a weekly aviation magazine, cancelled at the Warszawa 2 post office on May 16, 1926 with black commemorative oval cachets, franked correctly with 32 gr airmail postage, and postmarked “27.9.26” at arrival, all attest that this item was carried by the pilot on his flight to Tokyo.



Figure 3 - A cover most likely prepared for Orliński's original flight from Paris to Tokyo in May 1926.

Figure 3 depicts an unusual cover, apparently destined for the original flight from Paris in May, 1926. Sent by the Polish military official (Lt. Skorobohaty), the cover was addressed to Lt. Orliński in Paris. It lacks the oval cachet, but carries an imperforated 5 zł LOPP stamp. The postage of 32 gr (correct international airmail printed matter rate) and LOPP stamp were cancelled May 12 on the Warszawa – Zbąszyń train (TPO). For unknown reasons, an additional 80 gr of franking (correct international airmail letter rate) was affixed on June 1 at the Warszawa 19 Airport P.O.

Figure 4 is a postcard flown from Tokyo to Poland with Orliński's signature. Although catalogues put their number at 150, it is believed that far fewer of these cards were flown, perhaps about 50; some even suggest they were transported by rail. In any case, they were all backdated with a Warszawa Airport receiving cancellation.

In 1928, Orliński became a test pilot for Polish-made fighter, sport and passenger planes. He also

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



participated in numerous aviation contests, including the 1931 National Air Race (also known as the Pulitzer Trophy Race) in Cleveland, Ohio (August 29 – September 7), which he won. **Figure 5** shows a seldom-seen unused postcard from that race of 1931. On June 28, 1934, he set a world speed record of 257.2 mph (414 km/h) for a radial-engine fighter. After the outbreak of World War II, Orliński escaped to Great Britain, where he became the de facto commander of Polish Bomber Squadron No. 305. He completed 49 operational sorties in the de Havilland Mosquito fighter-bomber, mostly at night. During his long aviation career, Orliński flew 92 types of aircraft and spent more than 7,000 hrs in air. In 1991, he served as an honorary chairman for the annual “POLPEX” philatelic exhibition in Chicago. In 1992, Bolesław Orliński died in Toronto, Canada at the age of 93 and was buried in Poland.



Figure 4A/B - Front (A) and back (B) of a card from Orliński's return flight from Tokyo to Warszawa.

THE BALTIC STATES RALLY BY COLONEL RAYSKI

Colonel Ludomił Rayski, one of the most colorful military personalities of inter-war Poland, started his career in 1915 as a fighter pilot in the Turkish Air Force. As an active aviator in the newly reborn Poland, he gained much fame after several spectacular flights. For instance, in 1925, he flew the Paris – Madrid – Casablanca – Tunis – Istanbul – Warszawa route in just four days, a remarkable achievement at that time.

One year later, an air squadron under his leadership paid a friendship visit to the Baltic States. Col. Rayski took 220 covers and cards stamped with the Warszawa Airport cancel and a commemorative cachet “Raid Bałtycki Płk. Rayskiego / Raid Baltique du Col. Rayski, 14 X 1926, Warszawa – Lida – Wilno – Riga – Tallinn – Helsinki – Warszawa”, and addressed to Tallinn (**Figure 6A**). After stopping at several cities en route, the airplanes arrived in Tallinn on October 16. On the last leg of the rally, Col. Rayski flew from Tallinn via Helsingfors, Finland to Warszawa. All 95 cards from the return flight show “Tallinn *18 X 26* Eesti” departure, and “21 X 26.10 Warszawa 19 Port Lotniczy” arrival cancellations (**Figure 6B**).



Figure 5 - A postcard commemorating Orliński's participation in the National Air Race in Cleveland, OH (1931).

Annals of Polish Aerophilately (cont.)



Figure 6A/B - Col. Rayski's Baltic States Rally in 1926.
(A): Warszawa – Tallinn leg (October 14); and (B): Tallinn – Warszawa return (October 18).

Of note, it was Rayski rather than Orliński who was originally scheduled for the Tokyo flight. However, in March 1926, shortly before Piłsudski's *coup d'état*, Rayski was appointed Chief of Aviation in the Ministry of Military Affairs. He was responsible for the modernization of Polish military aviation, and *de facto* became the commander of Polish Air Force, a post he held until early 1939. During WWII, while in Royal Air Force, Rayski had flown a total of 1519 hrs, including supply missions for the Home Army (Armia Krajowa) in occupied Poland, and combat sorties during the Warszawa Uprising. Ludomił Rayski, one of a few airmen who had flown in combat during both world wars, died in the UK in 1977 at the age of 84. Before death, he was pardoned and cleared of all charges related to the poor technical state of the Polish Air Force before the war, in the aftermath of the disastrous September 1939 campaign. In 1993, Rayski's remains were disinterred, brought to Warszawa and buried with military honors in the Polish Army Cathedral.

PARIS – NEW YORK TRANSATLANTIC ATTEMPT BY MAJOR IDZIKOWSKI

One year after Charles Lindberg flew his "*Spirit of St. Louis*" monoplane non-stop from Roosevelt Field, New York to Paris–Le Bourget Airport (May 20–21, 1927; 3,600 miles or 6,700 km in 33½ hrs), Majors Ludwik Idzikowski (pilot) and Kazimierz Kubala (navigator) of the Polish Air Force attempted North Atlantic crossing, but in a more difficult westbound direction (Paris to New York). They commenced the flight on August 3, 1928 at 4.45 AM by taking off in their Amiot 123 bomber, nicknamed "*Marszałek Piłsudski*" from Le Bourget airfield. After flying some 3,400 km during 31 hrs, a cracked oil tank forced them to land on water off Cape Finisterre, about 70 km away from the Spanish coast. The German steamer Samos rescued the unharmed officers and the damaged aircraft.



Figure 7 - One of seven existing covers carried by Majors Idzikowski and Kubala on their failed flight from Paris to New York (August 3, 1928).

The Le Bourget Post Office, in recognition of the historic value of Maj. Idzikowski's transatlantic flight attempt, allowed 10 covers addressed to the Polish Consulate in New York to be postmarked. They were carried by the aviators, but never delivered to the addressee, and were ultimately returned to Poland. **Figure 7** shows one of the seven existing covers. It displays: (1) a French 75c adhesive with regular cancel "Le Bourget-Aviation, Seine" of August 3, '28 at 5 AM; (2) a French air mail label; (3) a black 4-line special cachet "Raid aerienne Paris – New York / Aviateurs: Idzikowski et Kubala". The cover was autographed by both aviators and received

hand-written inscription in French “*This cover was carried by a Polish airplane during the transatlantic flight.*” This is one of the most sought after items in the Polish aerophilately. Having access to five out of 7 existing covers from that flight, we conclude that: (1) handwriting analysis confirms they were all prepared by Tadeusz Gryżewski (1898-1979), an early aerophilately collector and dealer; (2) manuscript in the left-hand corner was applied ahead of time and without knowledge of the commemorative cachet of the same meaning that would be applied later on; (3) handwritten manuscript shows misspellings “Cet...enveloppe...” instead of “Cette... enveloppe...”; (4) postage of 30c, 50c or 75c suggests all stamps applied (15c, 25c, 30c or 75c nomination) were used accidentally or taken from the collection. For instance, “EX” perfin of 25c value on one of the covers was postally invalid and out of circulation. In 1928, there was still no airmail surcharge imposed in France, with foreign letter and printed-matter rate

of 1.50 Fr and 0.90 Fr, respectively; (5) Idzikowski’s and Kubala’s signatures are in black and blue, respectively. The question arises, what happened to those covers after their return to Poland?

As shown in **Figure 8**, less than a year after the flight there appeared an advertisement in the American *AIRMAIL COLLECTOR* (January 1929, vol. I, p. 24) that reads: “*Paris – New York Flight / I have some covers carried by Messrs. Idzikowski and Kubala during the Polish Trans-Atlantic Flight Attempt... PRICE \$18 / Cash with Order*”. Not surprisingly, it was posted by Gryżewski, the driving force behind this philatelic venture from the very beginning. Looking back from an 85-year perspective, the purchase of this offer from Gryżewski would be one of the best financial decisions anyone could have made.

On July 13, 1929, Idzikowski and Kubala took off from Le Bourget on another attempt to cross the Atlantic. However, after flying some 2,100 km, an engine trouble forced them to make an emergency landing on rocky Graciosa Island of the Azores archipelago. While landing on a crop field, the plane hit a stone wall, overturned and was engulfed in flames. Thirty-seven-year old Maj. Idzikowski was killed and his companion, Maj. Kubala, injured. Idzikowski’s body was returned to Poland by the schooner ORP “Iskra” and buried on August 17, 1929 at the Warszawa Powązki Cemetery. Kazimierz Kubala continued serving with the Polish Air Force, but eventually emigrated to Brazil where he died in 1976. The east-to-west North Atlantic crossing was successfully completed on September 1, 1930 (in 37 hrs and 18 min) by French aviators Dieudonné Costes and Maurice Bellonte.

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Figure 8 - Advertisement of the “Idzikowski/Kubala” flown cover in the *Airmail Collector* (1929).

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (1943) and the Warsaw Uprising (1944)

Compiled by: Patrick C. Labbe

Editors Note: We are grateful to Patrick C. Labbe, Editor of "The Poster", the official journal of The Local Post Collectors Society, for granting permission to reprint this article in the Polonus Bulletin.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, a major initiative by the Polish Resistance Home Army, known in Polish as AK (Armia Krajowa) to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany, 1 August – 2 October 1944. This action followed the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 19 April – 16 May 1943. Both Uprisings are discussed in this article.

On 19 April 1943, the eve of Passover, police and SS auxiliary forces entered the Ghetto. They were planning to complete the deportation action within three days, but were ambushed by Jewish insurgents firing and tossing Molotov cocktails and hand grenades from alleyways, sewers, and windows. The Germans suffered casualties and their advance bogged down. Two of their combat vehicles (an armed conversion of a French-made Lorraine 37L light armored vehicle and an armored car) were set on fire by insurgent petrol bombs. Following von Sammern-Frankenegg's failure to contain the revolt, he lost his post as the SS and police commander of Warsaw. He was replaced by SS Brigadeführer Jürgen Stroop, who rejected von Sammern-Frankenegg's proposal to call in bomber aircraft from Kraków and proceeded to lead a better-organized and reinforced ground attack.

The longest-lasting defense of a position took place around the ŻZW (Żydowski Związek Wojskowy), Polish for "Jewish Military Union", stronghold at Muranowski Square, where the ŻZW chief leader, David Moryc Apfelbaum, was killed in combat. On the afternoon of 19 April, a symbolic event took place when two boys climbed up on the roof of a building on the square and raised two flags, the red-and-white Polish flag and the blue-and-white banner of the ŻZW. These flags remained there, highly visible from the Warsaw streets, for four days. After the war, Stroop recalled:

"The matter of the flags was of great political and moral importance. It reminded hundreds of thousands of the Polish cause. It excited them and unified the population of the General Gouvernement, but especially Jews and Poles. Flags and national colors are a means of combat exactly like a rapid fire weapon, like thousands of such weapons. We all knew Heinrich

Himmler, [Friedrich-Wilhelm] Krüger and [Ludwig] Hahn. The Reichsführer (Himmler) bellowed into the phone: 'Stroop, you must at all costs bring down those two flags.'"



Figure 1 – 70th Anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising souvenir sheet issued by Israel with "Flags Over the Ghetto"

When Stroop's ultimatum to surrender was rejected by the defenders, his forces resorted to systematically burning houses block by block using flame-throwers and fire bottles, and blowing up basements and sewers. "We were beaten by the flames, not the Germans", Edelman said in 2007. In 2003, he recalled: "The sea of flames flooded houses and courtyards..... There was no air, only black, choking smoke and heavy burning heat radiating from the red hot walls, from the glowing stone stairs."

While the battle continued inside the Ghetto, Polish resistance groups AK and GL (Gwardia Ludowa), Polish for "People's Guard", engaged the Germans between 19 and 23 April at six different locations outside the Ghetto walls, firing at German sentries and positions. In one attack, three units of the AK under the command of Captain Józef Pszeny ("Chwacki") joined up in a failed attempt to breach the Ghetto walls with explosives. Eventually, the ŻZW lost all of its commanders and, on 20 April, the remaining fighters from the organization escaped through the Muranowski tunnel and relocated to the Michalin forest. This event marked the end of significant fighting.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Warsaw Uprising (cont.)

At this point, organized defense collapsed. Surviving fighters and thousands of remaining Jewish civilians took cover in the sewer system and in the many dugout hiding places hidden among the ruins of the Ghetto, referred to as “bunkers” by the Germans and Jews alike. The Germans used dogs to look for such hideouts and use smoke bombs to force people out. Sometimes they flooded these so-called bunkers or destroyed them with explosives. On occasions, shootouts occurred. A number of captured fighters – especially the women – lobbed hidden grenades or fired concealed handguns after surrendering. There were also clashes between small groups of insurgents and German patrols at night.

On 8 May, the Germans discovered a large dugout located at Mila 18 street, which served as ŻOB’s (*Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa*), Polish for “Jewish Fighting Organization”, main command post. Most of the organization’s remaining leadership and dozens of others committed a mass suicide by ingesting cyanide. They included the chief commander of ŻOB, Mordechai Anielewicz. His deputy Marek Edelman escaped the Ghetto through the sewers with a handful of comrades two days later.

On 10 May, a member of the Polish government-in-exile, Szmul Zygeilbojn, committed suicide in London to protest the lack of reaction from the Allied governments. In his farewell note, he wrote:

“I cannot continue to live and to be silent while the Remnants of Polish Jewry, whose representative I am, are being murdered. My comrades in the Warsaw Ghetto fell with arms in their hands in the last heroic battle. I was not permitted to fall like them, to their mass grave. By my death, I wish to give expression to my most profound protest against the inaction in which the world watches and permits the destruction of the Jewish people.”

The suppression of the uprising officially ended on 16 May 1943 when Stroop personally pushed a detonator button to demolish the Great Synagogue of Warsaw. Sporadic resistance continued and the last skirmish took place on 5 June 1943 between Germans and a holdout group of armed Jews without connections to the resistance organizations. In 1944 during the Polish Uprising against the Nazis, the Scout Postal Service started operating in

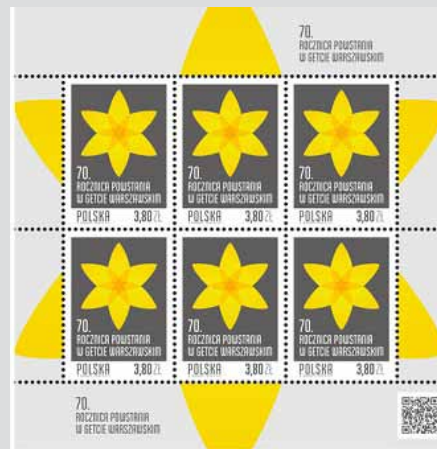


Figure 2 – 70th Anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising sheetlet of six stamps issued by Poland

the City Centre and spread to other districts. Forty mail boxes marked with the Polish eagle and Scout emblem were installed around the town. (see **Figure 3**) Mail boxes were emptied twice a day (at 9:00 am and 4:00 pm) with same day delivery for “local” mail and 2-3 days for “long distance” (i.e. between districts) mail. All correspondence was censored and limited to 25 words. Daily letter volume ranged from 3,000 to 6,000 pieces, with a peak of 10,000 on 13 August. Mail was delivered by 10- to 15-year old scouts of the “Grey Ranks” (*Szare Szeregi*) – the wartime name of Polish Scouting.

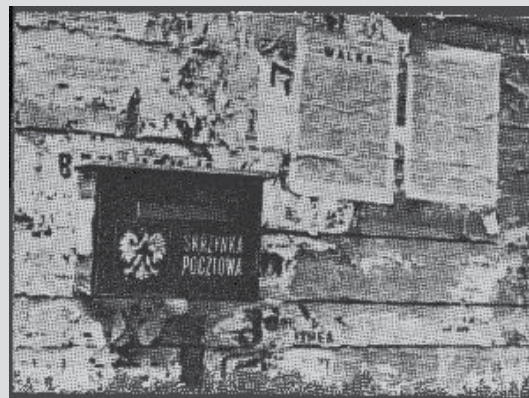


Figure 3 – Mail box in Warsaw during the Uprising marked with Polish Eagle and Scout Emblem.

All mail was postmarked and, after the beginning of September, stamped. The service was eventually incorporated into the Home Army and renamed the Army Postal Service. It operated until 3 October 1944. During the Uprising, 116,317 pieces of mail were delivered.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Warsaw Uprising (cont.)

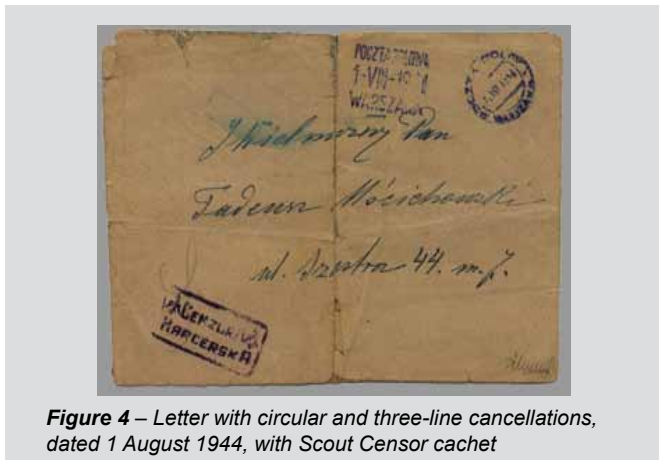


Figure 4 – Letter with circular and three-line cancellations, dated 1 August 1944, with Scout Censor cachet

The very first postal service was organized by Scoutmaster Kazimierz Grenda in the Śródmieście-Południe (Central-Southern) district on 2 August. This service was limited only to that district, but on 4 August the scouts' general headquarters decided to set up a postal service for all the liberated parts of the city. The Main Post Office was at No.28 Świętokrzyska Street. Apart from that, there were eight other post offices in the various districts: No.2 was on Szpitalna Street, No.3 was on Napoleon Square, No.4 was on Okulnik Street, No.5 on Czeriakowska Street, No.6 on Krasicki Street (Mokotów District – in the south of Warsaw), No.7 on Wilcza Street, and No.8 on Żelazna Street.



Figure 5 – Stamps with AK and Poczta Polowa (Home Army and Army Postal Service)

For the first few days there were no postmarks. They appeared on 6 August in the form of a circle, featuring in small letters "Scout Post" and the Scouting Movement's lily. (see **Figure 6**) Various materials were used to print them. One of the first was a potato cut in half, with the writing and logo carved out with a penknife. Such stamps were hardly durable and are today items of great rarity. Other materials used included linoleum, rubber and various soft metals. In the second month of the Uprising, the Scout Postal Service (including personnel) was incorporated into the AK and henceforth was called

the "Army Postal Service". That same month official Army Postal Service stamps appeared in five colors, representing the five districts of liberated Warsaw. The postal service continued to operate until the insurgents' capitulation on 3 October 1944.



Figure 6 – Letter with circular cancellation having Polish Scout Emblem and with Scout Censor cachets

The strategic plan of the Uprising was to capture the bridges over the Vistula in order to prevent German units from retreating to the east bank and to thus aid the Red Army, which had already reached the outskirts of Praga (Warsaw's eastern district). Politically, the plan was to take over the capital and install the legal Polish authorities before the arrival of the Red Army. These plans were only partially successful. Although the Home Army failed to capture any of the bridges, it did liberate large parts of the city from the Germans and establish a Polish military and civilian administration. Unfortunately, the insurgents were unable to eliminate strong pockets of German resistance, which in effect divided the city into several isolated Polish controlled districts surrounded by enemy forces. Communication between these districts was maintained by messengers or couriers: 10- to 15-year old boy scouts and girl guides of the "Grey Ranks". The Polish Scouting Movement was very active during the occupation, carrying out both major and minor sabotage operations, and by the time of the Uprising had developed an excellent organizational network. From the outset, Polish scouts were conscious of the problems facing civilians and their need to communicate with separated family members. That was how the idea of creating a Scout Postal Service came about. This service played a key role in maintaining contact between inhabitants of Warsaw during the 1944 Uprising.

Camp Post of Oflag IIE

Unofficial Multi-Stamp Postal Stationery Cards

By: Piotr Pelczar

Translated By: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in Przegląd Filatelistyczny, no. 8 (131) / 2013.

As noted previously [1], due to shortages of paper, the camp post at Oflag IIE in Neubrandenburg produced unofficial postal stationery cards (designated CpN) by imprinting the postage stamps on the reverse side of photographs. Of nine dies available, only seven were utilized for printing the unofficial postal stationery cards. **Table 1** lists the seven dies utilized from 30 January to 29 February and on 15 April. Note, four dies were available for several days and three were available for only one day each. Seven varieties of unofficial postal stationery cards were created, which are herein designated as CpN1 – CpN 7. Accurate quantities that actually survived are substantially smaller than listed in Katalog der Lagerpost [2] and these are very scarce. The scarcest among these are those on which several stamp impressions were made, one adjacent to another. These are true rarities, many “only one known to exist” examples. However, such rarities are not mentioned in Włodarski’s Katalog [3], nor in subsequent catalogues.

In evaluating the available printing dates for each die (**Table 1**), it is easy to envision the possible multi-stamp variations that could have been produced on any given day. It was possible to create 12 different stamp combinations: using dies 1+ 2, 1+4, 1+4+5, 1+5, 1+4+5+6, 1+4+6, 1+5+6, 1+6, 4+5, 4+5+6, 4+6, and 5+6.

As of this date we have determined that the following combinations exist: dies 4+5, designated as CpN3 (+5), illustrated in **Figure 1** and dies 4+6, designated as CpN3 (+6), illustrated in **Figure 2**. The cancellation on the second postal stationery card indicates



Figures 1 – Unofficial two-stamp postal stationery card CpN3 (+5) with 10 Feb 44 cancel on front and photo on the back showing a theater scene “on the train”

Die Name and Number	30.I.	31.I.	1.II.	2.II.	3.II.	4.II.	5.II.	6.II.	7.II.	8.II.	9.II.	10.II.	11.II.	12.II.	13.II.	14.II.	15.II.	16.II.	17.II.	18.II.	19.II.	20.II.	21.II.	22.II.	23.II.	24.II.	25.II.	26.II.	27.II.	28.II.	29.II.	15.IV.
1 – Gryf Cp	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x																				
2 – Kaplica					x																											
4 – Syrena							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5 – Caritas									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6 – Okręt											x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7 – Kapliczka																															x	
9 – Gryf																																x

Table 1 - Dates of Die Usage for Unofficial Stationary

Camp Post of Oflag IIE (cont.)

that it was created by impressions made on different days as the two dies were not available on the same date (5 February). These unique items illustrated in **Figures 1 and 2** are from the collection of Mr. Adrian Wortman, a Polonus member from New Zealand, to whom we extend gratitude for providing these scans.



Figures 2 – Unofficial two-stamp postal stationery card CpN3 (+6) with 5 Feb 44 cancel on front and photo on the back showing a Griffin with anchor constructed from paving stones by the prisoners of Camp IIE in Neubrandenburg

The case for possible combinations on the unofficial postal stationery cards becomes more complicated by the fact they were not necessarily produced on a single day, but rather, during multiple visits on several different days. The possible number of these creations is very large and there is no need to list them all. Rather, the author has identified only two such variations that, with certainty, were not created during a single visit.

Unofficial multi-stamp postal stationery card CpN2 (+4), illustrated in **Figure 3** was created using dies 2 and 4, yet these dies were never available for use on the same day (see **Table 1**). The stamp designated “Kaplica” (Chapel) was printed on 3 February, while

the stamp “Syrena” (Nike) was only available two days later. Some internee at the Oflag took it upon himself to create a rare philatelic item! The unique item illustrated in **Figure 3** is from the collection of Lesław Schmutz, who we’d like to thank for providing us with photocopies.



Figures 3 – Unofficial two-stamp postal stationery card CpN2 (+4) with 5 Feb 44 cancel on front and photo on the back showing the interior of the Chapel in Camp IIE

A tri-stamp unofficial postal stationery card is another “only one known to exist” example. The fortunate owner of this item first paid the camp post for imprinting two stamps between the days of 7 and 22 of February, made from dies 4 (Syrena) and 5 (Caritas), thereby creating CpN3 (+5). Then, on the last day of February he purchased another impression below the two stamps he had purchased earlier using die number 7, which was used only on that day, thus creating postal stationery card CpN3 (+5+7) illustrated in **Figure 4**. This card was created on a photograph depicting the altar and the interior of the

Camp Post of Oflag IIE (cont.)

camp chapel in Neubrandenburg. This photograph was also used in the creation of different unofficial postal stationery cards, as shown in **Figure 3** and referenced in my article in *Przegląd Filatelistyczny* [1].



Figures 4 – Unofficial three-stamp postal stationery card CpN3 (+5+7) with photo on the back showing the interior of the Chapel in Camp IIE

This beautiful item was offered for sale several times during the years 2003 and 2009, designated as a proof card with pattern impressions of stamps 4, 5, and 9. Today we know that it was neither approved nor a pattern, but an unofficially issued postal stationery card. The production of multi-stamp postal stationery cards was not part of the mission plan of the camp post at Oflag IIE, but was carried out through the initiative of the internees themselves. Oflag IIE never produced such proofs as they were not necessary. Even though such items exist for the most part as “only ones known to exist” examples, there is no basis for describing them as “proofs”. After four unsuccessful attempts to sell this item

between 2003 and 2007, it was finally purchased in 2009 and is currently a part of the collection of Mr. Adrian Wortman.

A unique block - mini-sheet with two stamp impressions, Caritas and Siren, added to a sheet on which a “Chapel” stamp had been applied (see **Figure 5**) - is not a postal stationery item. It is described in more detail in my article in *Przegląd Filatelistyczny*[1]. This item was offered for sale on the website <http://stamps-pl.com>. That auction has since concluded and the results indicate that it was not sold.



Figure 5 – Unofficial and unique three-stamp mini sheet

The numbers assigned to the dies used to print the stamps at Oflag IIE, symbols, and designated catalog numbers of unofficial single and multi-stamp postal stationery card varieties are described in my article in *Przegląd Filatelistyczny* [5], a worthwhile reference for even general information. We are certain that such interesting items properly described will find their way into the Fischer catalog.

We are looking from our readers for information and scans of other combinations of multi-stamp postal stationery cards from the camp post at Oflag IIE. We hope to possibly identify several more, as each is worthy of cataloging. These items are uniquely scarce!

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2nd Polish Army Corps 1943 - 1946

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Known as "The Army of General Władysław Anders", the Polish Army Corps was formed by Poles who had been deported to the Soviet Union and later released under the Polish-Soviet "amnesty" agreement and allowed to join Polish units under the command of General Władysław Anders. They were subsequently evacuated to Persia (today's Iran) and Iraq where they joined forces with the Carpathian Brigade, which had fought gallantly in Libya, to form the 2nd Polish Army Corps.

At the beginning of 1944, the Corps relocated to Italy via Egypt, along with auxiliary services including field hospitals, signals and transport. In total there were 50,000 men and women. At this time the allies were launching a bitter offensive against the Nazi-held Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, a key strategic position. The Germans had deployed their elite forces including the parachute regiment to defend this position. The allies' objective was to open the road to Rome in order to inflict a severe blow on the German army in southern Europe.

The three assaults prior to May resulted in defeats for the allies, who lost a combined total of 50,000 soldiers: British, Americans, Gurkhas, New Zealanders and other nationalities. On 11 May the Poles commenced the fourth offensive, regarded as one of the bloodiest of the WWII. This inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, so severe that between 17 and 18 May, the surviving German forces surrendered.

On the 18th of May, the Polish forces raised the Polish flag over Monte Cassino. That same day the poet Feliks Konarski penned the famous words of "*The Red Poppies of Monte Cassino*" which to this day is sung by Poles all over the world. Polish losses were 1,000 dead and 2,000 wounded. After this victory the Polish campaign continued in Northern Italy with victories in Piemonte, Loreto, Ancona and Bologna. In the winter of 1944-45 the Poles fought alongside the allies in the Apennines. There they suffered further casualties of 700 dead and 3,000 wounded. The 2nd Polish Army Corps was disbanded on 26 September 1946.

Following the Teheran and Yalta agreements, Poland was left within the Soviet sphere of influence and only a small number of the 2nd Corps returned to a Poland ruled by Communists. Some of them were persecuted, others were imprisoned. General Anders was stripped of his citizenship and his military rank by the Soviet-installed communist government in Poland, and consequently remained in exile in Britain. Those who chose not to return or who came from areas of Poland that had been incorporated into the USSR, were allowed to settle in Great Britain, from where some emigrated to Australia, USA, Canada or Argentina. My father was also reluctant to return to Poland for fear of being exiled to Siberia for a second time. He remained in a foreign land and I remained orphaned in Poland.

The 2nd Corps was served by FPO no. 101-141, although there were no FPOs 105 and 107. I have been unable to find any original correspondence to or from FPO no. 134. The least common is FPO no. 136. The letters were censored, sealed and stamped with censors' cachets in Polish and English. Letters sent to Mrs. Bardziłowska in the USA from Italy were either franked with British stamps (standard air mail was 3d) or with US stamps (standard air mail was 6¢). Letters were also written and posted from Egypt and Iraq bearing their respective postmarks and carried by their respective mail services. A detailed description of wartime Polish FPO mail can be found in Ryszard Wagner's book, "*History of the Polish Army Postal Service: Middle East and Italy 1940-1948*", London 1992.

In 1945 the 2nd Polish Army Corps together with the Polish Settlements in Barletta and Bari (which were administered by the Polish Military Command) issued two sets of stamps and blocks. (see **Figures 6-8**) They are of a commemorative character with the proceeds from sales going to war-related charitable causes.

Below I show eight (8) various covers, cards and blocks.

Figure 1 shows a registered air mail cover dated 24 July 1942, sent via Polish FPO 111 from Palestine to USA, franked with British stamps to the value of 27d.

2nd Polish Army Corps 1943 - 1946 (cont.)



Figure 1

It bears the British Censor's cachet nr. 308 and was received in Boston on 20 August 1942.

Figure 2 shows a card issued by the 2nd Polish Army Corps in Iraq in 1943, illustrated with a cartoon of General Anders by W. Kowanko depicting him as a train engineer taking his countrymen from the USSR.

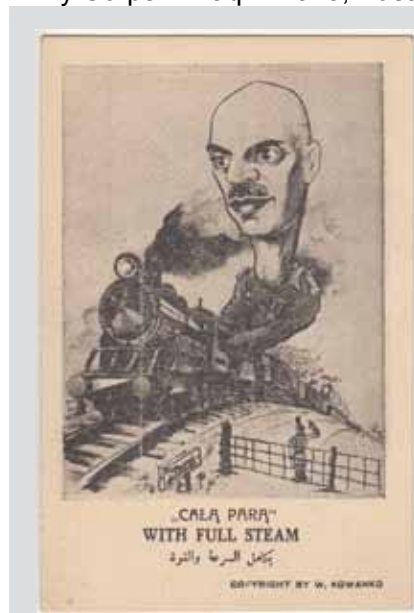


Figure 2

him as a train engineer taking his countrymen from the USSR. This card was priced at 30 fulūs.

Figure 3 is an air mail letter sent from Italy to Mrs. Bardziszowska in the USA. It is franked with a 3d British stamp and sent via

Polish FPO 117, dated 12 May 1944 (the beginning of the Polish offensive on Monte Cassino). The letter was censored by the Polish Censorship Bureau (BCW) nr. 106.

Figure 4 is an air mail letter sent from Italy to the USA and using a US 6¢ stamped envelope, cancelled with a Polish FPO 138 dated 19 September 1944. The letter was censored by the Polish Censorship Bureau (BCW) nr. 111.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

2nd Polish Army Corps 1943 - 1946 (cont.)

Figure 5 shows a registered letter from Italy to the USA franked with three stamps valued at 13d, cancelled by Polish FPO 118 on 7 February 1946, and carried by a plane that crashed in Canada. The letter itself survived although damaged around the edges. It was forwarded to the Branch Dead Letter Office in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where on 1 March, it was certified as “damaged” with an oval cachet on the back. The letter was subsequently sent to the USA and received in Boston on 23 March 1946. Another four-line cachet signed by two people confirms that the letter was received in bad condition. It was put into a replacement envelope and dispatched to Mrs. Bardziłowska.

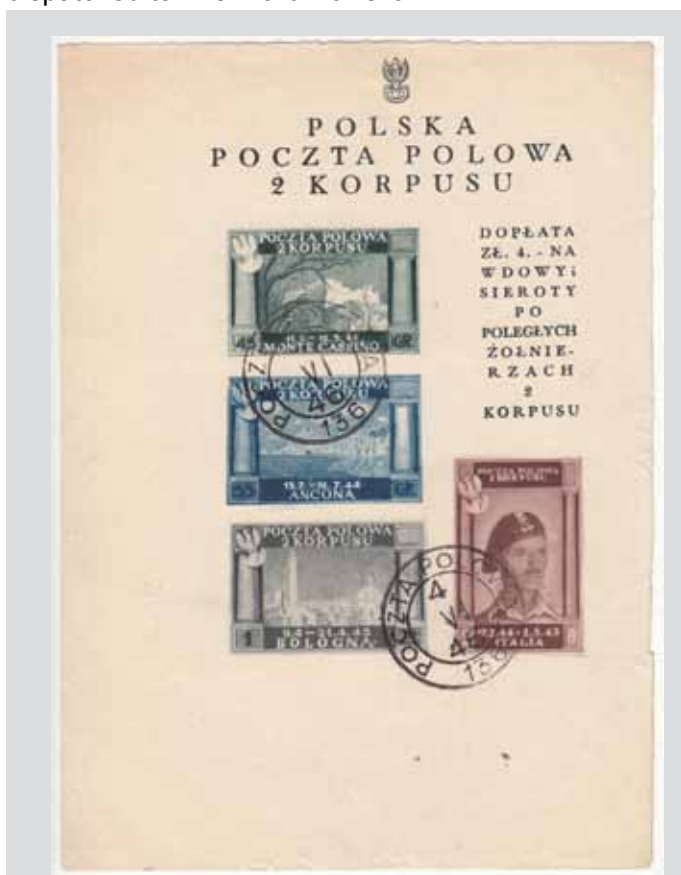


Figure 6

Figure 6 is a commemorative block (souvenir sheet) issued in Italy by the 2nd Polish Army Corps in 1946 (Fi WOJ Blok 1). It illustrates General W. Anders, the Monte Cassino monastery, and the two towns of Bologna and Ancona liberated by the Poles. The cancellation shown is a courtesy provided by the Polish FPO 136.



Figure 7

Figure 7 is a commemorative block (souvenir sheet) issued by the Polish Settlements in Italy in 1945 (Fi OB NI bl2). It depicts a Polish soldier from the Napoleonic era standing next to a soldier from General Anders' 2nd Corps. The text at the top is a line taken from the Polish National Anthem and states “from Italy to Poland”.

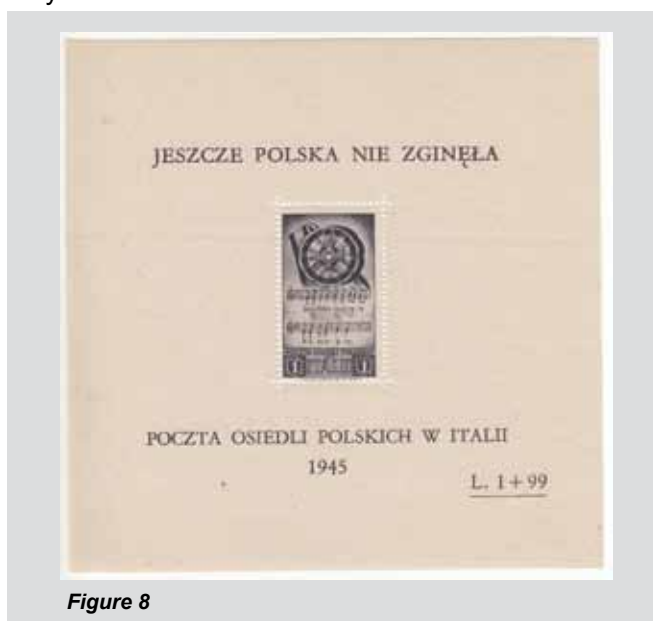


Figure 8

Figure 8 is another commemorative block (souvenir sheet) issued by the Polish Settlements in Italy in 1945 (Fi OB NI bl1). It depicts the opening lines from the Polish National Anthem, “Poland has not yet perished, so long as we still live”.

Formation Handstamps of the Polish Legions, Polish Auxiliary Corps and the Polish Armed Forces on Field Post Mail: 1914-1918

Reviewed By: Andrzej Klamut

Translated and edited by: Bob Ogrodnik

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I and the march by the First

Cadre Company from Oleandrów Park in Kraków, a memorable event in the history of Poland. Thus began the great epic of Polish Legions, established by order of the Supreme Command of the Army (Austrian) Legionnaires, and the next generation of Poles went to fight for a free Poland. The three partitioning powers were defeated in November 1918 and, after 123 years of occupation, Poland returned to the map of Europe. Coincidental with the celebration of the centenary of the independence movement, it is hard to imagine a better time to release a book titled *Formation Handstamps of the Polish Legions, Polish Auxiliary Corps and*

the Polish Armed Forces on Field Post Mail Taking Into Account the Historical Background of 1914-1918", authored by Janusz Adamczyk, Jacek Szopa and Janusz Tadeusz Nowak. The authors acknowledge and thank several persons and institutions for their support and contribution, especially Jan Niebrzydowski, a Polonus member residing in New Britain, CT, who has made available his unique philatelic exhibits and historical documents, many of which are illustrated in this book. The ceremonial presentation of the book took place on the 4th of August at the Kraków Historical Museum, an event that attracted a large audience.

The idea of a publication to document military handstamps of the Legions was formed in the '90s among philatelists in the USA, principally Polonus members. The only publication available at the time was *"Pocztą Polowa Legionów 1914-1918"* ("Polish Legion Field Post 1914-1918") by Jan Zygmunt Emil Berek, published in London in 1968. However, this publication included a brief introduction to the historical background and described only about 400 handstamps. The quality of the reproductions was poor due to limitations in the prevailing technology. Interest in the Polish Legions, however, remained high among philatelists with anticipation of improved



cataloging and description of the handstamps. Motivated by support from the USA and recognizing the limitation in existing publications, Janusz Adamczyk, who holds the largest collection of documents and correspondence of Polish Legions, took the initiative to propose to his colleagues a program in 2006 to work on this book not only as a catalogue of seal information, but as a publication of widely expanded history of the Polish Legions. The result is a publication consisting of 720 pages with rich illustrative material.

The content of the book is presented in 18 parts, from A to R, with the text in Polish and the "Introduction" and "Table of Contents" in three alternative languages (English, German and French). Parts A to D contain historical outlines of the Polish Legions Field Post and the Austrian Field Post. Part E contains a "List of Abbreviations and Explanations" in English, which should be at the beginning of the book. Parts F and G present the handstamps of the Polish Legions Cavalry and Artillery; parts H to J cover handstamps of the support elements of the Polish Legions (engineers, communications, quartermasters, medical services, women's participation, etc.); parts K to L present handstamps of the organizational structure of the Polish Legions "out of the front lines", recruitment, training and bookkeeping; part M represents handstamps of the Polish Auxiliary Corps; part N covers the formative Polish Armed Forces; part O represents the first attempt at cataloging and classification of censorship handstamps; part P contains selected prints of official forms; and part R contains information and official announcements pertaining to field post postcards.

The book was published with precision. Handstamps were scanned and then carefully mapped using computer technology on a scale of 1:1. Of the 1500 handstamps included in the book, approximately 400 are color reproductions that greatly enrich the layout. Numerous reproductions of postcards along with the content of the correspondence reflect the conditions of the time. The book is an important historical document, showing vividly the struggle for the independence of the Polish Legions. This publication is not only recommended for philatelists and historians, but also for anyone interested in the history of the Polish Legions.

Biographies of Polonus BOD Candidates

(Continued from page 5)

Posts. Paul is a retired professor and former department head of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He resides in Palm Desert, CA.

Robert Nowicki, Esq.: He is a member of Polonus, currently serving on the BOD, the APS, and the ATA. He has previously served as Chairman of Polonus' Ad Hoc Committee on By-Laws review and revision. Bob is interested in all aspects of Polish philately and has been collecting since 1995. Bob is a practicing attorney specializing in technology transactions. He is also Chairman of the Board of the Bluegrass and Old Time Music Association of New Jersey, Inc. and a member of two bluegrass bands. He resides in Tinton Falls, NJ.

William A. Williges: He is a life-long collector of stamps and a recent new member of Polonus. With action by the Polonus BOD on 13 December 2013, Bill was elected Treasurer of Polonus, effective 1 January 2014. His interest in Polish stamps was sparked after meeting Czesław Ślania at PACIFIC 97 World Philatelic Exhibition in San Francisco. He is an aspiring exhibitor working on a one-frame on Przedbórz Locals. In addition to Polonus, Bill is a member of several philatelic societies including APS and AAPE. He is a retired Accounting Analyst from Chevron where he worked for 23 years and has a BS in Food Biochemistry from the University of California, Davis and an MBA with Accounting Emphasis from California State University. He resides in Benicia, CA.

Edwin J. Andrews, VMD, Ph.D.: Dr. Andrews has been a lifelong stamp collector and began exhibiting revenues in 1985. Today, as a seasoned exhibitor, he focuses on Traditional (US Classics, Revenues, and Poland), Display, Thematic, Single Frame, some Aerophilately, Post Cards and whatever else strikes his fancy. His current Polish interest is the Gold currency issue of 1924. He is an APS accredited Chief Philatelic Judge and currently holds membership in the APS, AAPE, ARA, ATA, USPCS, MPHS, PHS, The Collectors Club (NY), GPS and the Polonus Philatelic Society. Currently, he is serving as a member of APS's Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges and is a candidate for the AAPE Treasurer beginning in 2015. Dr. Andrews is a retired veterinary pathologist and corporate executive with Johnson & Johnson and Mallinckrodt Inc. He is currently the Principal of Andrews Consulting Enterprises LLC (ACE) of Chapel Hill, NC, a global consulting firm specializing in project management, academic and non-profit association management and academic affairs. A subdivision of ACE (Andrews Fine Arts Consultants) provides global consultation and appraisal services for fine art.

Book Sale

In the process of transitioning the Polonus Library from Florida to the APRL in Bellefonte, PA we have accumulated a number of books and catalogs that are in excess of the number of copies required to keep on hand. Therefore, the Polonus Board of Directors have approved a sale to members only via this Bulletin. Items not sold prior to 21 November, will be made available at CHICAGOPEX 2014 on a "first come—first served" basis.

If you decide to purchase any item listed below, contact Bob Ogródnik via e-mail (krpsl@earthlink.net) or via phone (314-821-6130). All payments shall be made to the Polonus Philatelic Society, via personal check or PayPal. Personal checks are to be mailed to:

Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 60438, Rossford, OH 43460-0438. **If you are planning to attend CHICAGOPEX 2014 and wish to avoid the shipping and handling charge, you may pay for and pick-up the item at that time.**

1. *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*, edited by Antoni Łaszkiewicz & Zbigniew Mikulski, Tom I – Tom V, Biuro Wydawnicze "Ruch", Warsaw: 1960. Language: Polish only, very good condition, a valuable resource for the serious Poland collector. Price for the set: [\\$75 \(S/H \\$15\)](#)
2. Same as above but Tom I – Tom IV, good condition. Price for the four books: [\\$45 \(S/H \\$12\)](#)
3. Same as above but Tom I – Tom II, fair condition. Price for the two books: [\\$12 \(S/H \\$6\)](#)
4. *Pocztą Królestwa Polskiego w Latach 1815-1851*, by Mieczysław Czernik, Muzeum Poczty Telekomunikacji, Wrocław: 1987. Language: Polish, pristine condition. Price: [\\$20 \(S/H \\$6\)](#)
5. Same as above, very good condition. Price: [\\$15 \(S/H \\$6\)](#)
6. *Polskie Taryfy Pocztowe 1918-1939 (Polish Postal Rates 1918-1939)*, by Marek Zbierski, Poznań: 2003. Language: Polish with English guide, pristine condition. Price: [\\$60 \(S/H \\$15\)](#)
7. *Korespondencja Obozowa w Okresie II Wojny Światowej (Camp Correspondence During WWII)*, by Stanisław Barański & Józef Falkowski, Warsaw: 1993. Language: Polish only but well illustrated, very good condition. Price: [\\$15 \(S/H \\$5\)](#)
8. *Filatelistyka w Łódzkiem*, edited by Ryszard Rosin, Łódź: PZF, 1975. Language: Polish only, Very good condition. This is a 400-page book issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of PZF and philately in Łódź. [Price: \\$15 \(S/H \\$7\)](#)
9. *Ilustrowany Katalog Znaczków Polskich 1860-1956*, Biuro Wydawnicze "Ruch", Warsaw: 1957. Language: Polish only, fair condition. [Price: \\$10 \(S/H \\$5\)](#)
10. Same as above, fair condition. [Price \\$10 \(S/H \\$5\)](#)
11. *Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*, edited by Antoni Łaszkiewicz, IKROS, Białystok: 1935. Language: Polish only, worn condition. [Price: \\$5 \(S/H \\$5\)](#)
12. *Katalog Specjalizowany Znaków Pocztowych Ziem Polskich*, Tom 2, Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza, 1981. Language: Polish, good condition. [Price: \\$5 \(S/H \\$3\)](#)
13. *Ilustrowany Katalog Znaczków Polskich*, 1860-1961, 1963, 1964, 1969, 1971 and 1974. Language: Polish, good condition. Price for set of six: [\\$25 \(S/H \\$10\) or \\$5 each \(S/H \\$3\)](#)
14. *Filatelista*, hardback book, 1956-57 (Jan 1956 – Dec 1957). Language: Polish only, very good condition. [Price: \\$10 \(S/H \\$5\)](#)
15. *Filatelista*, three hardback books, 1958, 1959 and 1960. Language: Polish only, very good condition. Price for set of three: [\\$15 \(S/H \\$10\) or \\$5 each \(S/H \\$5\)](#)
16. *Linn's World Stamps Almanac*, 1978 Edition. Language: English, very good condition. [Price: \\$5 \(S/H \\$3\)](#)
17. *The Stamp Atlas*, by W. Raife Wellsted, Stuart Rossiter & John Flower, with introduction by the American Philatelic Society, Facts On File Publications, New York/Oxford: 1986. Language: English, pristine condition. [Price: \\$20 \(S/H \\$7\)](#)
18. *Ameripex 86*, hardback book including bulletins 1, 2 and 3; catalog; and final report. Language: English, pristine condition. [Price: \\$10 \(S/H \\$4\)](#)
19. *Ameripex 86*, show catalog only. Language: English, very good condition. [Price: \\$5 \(S/H \\$3\)](#)
20. *Michel Briefmarken Katalog*, Europa 1955, Munchen: Verlag Des Schwaneberger Album. Language: German, fair condition. [Price: \\$3 \(S/H \\$3\)](#)
21. *Michel Briefmarken Katalog*, Deutschland Spezial 1967/68, Munchen: Verlag Des Schwaneberger Album. Language: German, very good condition. [Price: \\$8 \(S/H \\$3\)](#)



Date of Issue	April 11, 2014
Sheet Format	3 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Polish Gold Medalists at 22nd Winter Olympic Games in Sochi

These popular three 4.20 zł stamps honor the 3 Polish gold medalists in the recent winter Olympics (*"Polscy Medaliści Złote, XXIII Zimowe Igrzyska Olimpijskich w Soczi"*). Two of the stamps utilize photo images of the athletes: Zbigniew Bródka, winner of the individual 1500 meter speed skating event (*"Łyżwiarstwo szybkie 1500 m"*) and Justyna Kowalczyk, winner of the classic style individual 10 km cross-country ski run (*"Bieg indywidualny na 10 km stylem klasycznym"*). The image of Kamil Stoch shows him ski jumping for his 2 gold medals in the normal and large hill competitions (*"Skoki narciarskie konkurs indywidualny skocznia normalna, skocznia duża"*). The 3 champions are shown in their colorful red and white national uniforms.



Date of Issue	April 24, 2014
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

100th Anniversary of the Birth of Jan Karski

This 4.20 zł stamp celebrates the 100th birth anniversary (*100 rocznica urodzin*) of Jan Karski, the heroic Polish WWII resistance fighter, diplomat, activist, professor and author. He dutifully reported to the world outside German-occupied Poland the tragic events transpiring there during WWII, especially the tragic destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Holocaust of Polish Jews. In June of 1982, Yad Vashem recognized Jan Karski as *Righteous Among Nations*. He died at age 86 in the year 2000 in Washington, DC, and is interred there at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery.



Date of Issue	May 1, 2014
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Magdalena Błażków

10th Anniversary of Poland's Accession to the European Union

This 5.20 zł stamp celebrates Poland's entry into the European Union (EU) 10 years ago. On May 1, 2004, 10 nations including Poland joined the EU; most were from the former East European Bloc. The stamp with a blue background appears to show a red and white folded paper airplane

(symbolic of Poland) entering a circle of 12 stars (9 visible), these stars symbolizing the EU 12-nation membership prior to May 1, 2004. Today there are 28 countries in the EU and 6 additional states are on the road to membership. Furthermore, the monetary union (known as the Eurozone) now consists of 18 EU member states that use the Euro as their sole legal tender. The other EU states, including Poland, are obliged to join the Eurozone when they meet the certain criteria.



EUROPA

This year's 2014 EUROPA stamp theme is national musical instruments. This 5.20 zł stamp appears to depict a traditional Polish musical instrument called the kozioł biały (or kozioł weselny), a variation of a bagpipe. It features a drone with a projecting horn, and is inflated with a bellows rather than the mouth. The name (literally "white goat") comes from the use of a hair-out goat's hide for the pipebag, and this is often complemented by a carved wooden goat's head ornamenting the stock of the chanter. The instrument is known for producing a continuous, low pitch.

Date of Issue	May 5, 2014
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Małgorzata Myszka



International Year of the Family

This 2.35 zł stamp recognizes the 20th annual International Year of the Family ("Miedzynarodowy Rok Rodziny"), a United Nations-sponsored activity that aims to refocus the role of families in promoting worldwide economic and cultural development. The stamp depicts a young family of four standing

inside a large picture frame that they are holding. The official first day cover shows two additional older folks in the family who may be considered the grandparents.

Date of Issue	May 15, 2014
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka



70th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino

In early 1944 Allied forces unsuccessfully attempted to capture Monte Cassino, an historic hill-top abbey of the Benedictine Order, in a series of assaults against the Germans, who occupied the lower slopes. The site, located 81 miles SE of Rome, served as an important lookout post. After massive Allied bombings that destroyed the original monastery, an Allied assault involving

the Polish II Corps commenced in early May 1944, but resulted in very heavy losses. A second assault by the Polish II Corps days later was carried out, under constant mortar fire from strongly fortified German positions and with little natural cover for protection. After fierce fighting, at times hand to hand, the Germans were forced to withdraw. On May 18 the 78th Allied Division and the Polish II Corps linked up. On the Cassino high ground the Polish II Corps survivors were so battered that it took some time to find men with enough strength to climb the few hundred yards to the summit. A patrol of the Polish 12th Podolian Cavalry finally made it to the heights and raised a Polish flag over the ruins. The only remnants of the defenders were a group of 30 wounded Germans who had been unable to move. The Poles had taken Monte Cassino on their second attempt and the road to Rome was opened. At the end of the war the Poles erected a Polish cemetery at Monte Cassino on the slope of the mountain. The abbey was subsequently reconstructed. The 1.75 zł stamp commemorating these events shows a transparent red poppy in which you can see Polish troops ascending the hilltop. This symbolizes the red poppies that were prevalent on the mountain at the time of the battle and that

Date of Issue	May 18, 2014
Sheet Format	12 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

New Issues

inspired the song “*Red Poppies on Monte Cassino*”. This song, written almost immediately following the battle in May 1944, commemorates the heroism of the Polish soldiers and links them to the poppies which, according to the song, were nourished by Polish blood - thus the red color.



Date of Issue	May 28, 2014
Sheet Format	6 Stamps
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Freedom Day

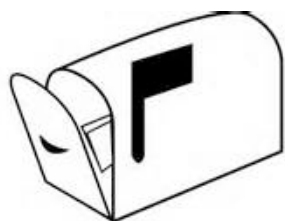
This 2.35 zł stamp celebrates Poland's 25 anniversary of freedom (“*Święto Wolności*”). After the historic elections of 1989, a Solidarity-led coalition government assumed leadership from the Communists, and in December Tadeusz Mazowiecki was elected Prime Minister of Poland. This became the start of the Third Republic of Poland.



Date of Issue	June 1, 2014
Sheet Format	Single in Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

The Magical World of Disney

This 5.20 zł stamp and souvenir sheet recognizes the popularity of animated Disney characters that are shown in the Polish entertainment media. The Mystery Pirates (“*Tajemnica Piratów*”) that are portrayed appear to represent the Disney “Jake and the Never Land Pirates” series of animated children’s stories.



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