



Reorganization of **Polonus**

By: **HANK BIENIECKI**

Since its formation in 1939, the administrative functions of Polonus have been the responsibility of those members living in the Chicago area. All meetings and events have been held in Chicago. At the 28th of April 2000 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following proposal:

The Polonus Society will take those actions necessary to change its organizational structure to that of a national organization.

PLANS FOR REORGANIZATION

Effective late in 2000 or early in 2001, the Chicago area members will form the Chicago Chapter of the Polonus Society.

The existing Chapter By-Laws will be modified to support the functioning of a national organization.

Election of National Officers and Board Members will be held late in 2000 or early in 2001.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REORGANIZATION

The adoption of a proposal and the setting of objectives is just the first step in a long and fairly complex reorganization process. Effective implementation of this proposal will require the commitment and cooperation of the membership. In order to accomplish these objectives our dispersed members will have to volunteer to serve on the following committees, as well as others that may be required.

Election Committee: It will be the responsibility of this committee to solicit and select members to serve in various capacities, and to handle the election process. In addition to the following members: Chester Schafer, Fred Szebel, and Hank Bieniecki; a minimum of three additional members from various regions of the United States are needed to serve on this committee.

Chapter Formation Committee: It will be the responsibility of this committee to determine which geographical areas (Milwaukee, Cleveland, California) have enough members to function as regional chapters of Polonus.

There are currently a number of active regional Polish philatelic organizations, which have members that are also members of Polonus. The objectives of both the regional organizations and Polonus could be better served, if these regions agreed to reorganize as chapters of Polonus. Significant economies could be achieved by combining bulletins, exhibitions, and other philatelic events. The ideal situation would be for the existing regions to appoint one member to serve on this committee along with members from other areas of the country.

Exhibition Committee: This committee would determine whether and where Polonus would host a national annual philatelic exhibition, starting in the year 2001. They would determine if such a show should remain independent or affiliate with another group such as Compex. Further, they would establish guidelines for both exhibits and exhibitor awards.

Polonus Web Site Committee: The Polonus web site already exists, but will not be listed on the search engines until it is completed later this summer. Any member wishing to check the progress of the site can visit it at <http://216.87.27.69>. Mike Melnichak and Hank Bieniecki currently serve on this committee, and request additional volunteers with some background in web site development and maintenance to join this committee. It is anticipated that this web site will be a key means of recruiting new Polonus members.

Publication Committee: See: Polonus Bulletin 500.

Requirements For Committee Participation: While it is not practical for members of a national organization to meet face to face, they can meet and share information electronically. To serve on one of these committees, members will need ready access to both email and a telephone. For members who do not use computers, it is possible to substitute a fax machine. Plain paper fax machines are now available for less than \$200.

Volunteering For Committees: Members who wish to volunteer should send their name, contact information, the committee(s) on which they wish to serve and comments to one of the following:

Email: biistamp@charter.net · Fax: (618) 659-1327

SUMMARY

If the Polonus membership is willing to devote their time and talents, we can reinvigorate our society and use the internet to reach out to a whole new generation of Polonia who have a renewed interest in Poland, given it is now a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and will eventually become a formal EC member. Please take this opportunity to participate in your organization by volunteering and sending your comments and thoughts electronically or by writing to:

Polonus Reorganization, P.O. Box 100, Granite City, IL 62040

87th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II

Poland (7th Visit)

June 5-17, 1999

(*The Corvus Chronicle*, 309, Pgs. 26-28)

by Arkadiusz Walinski

— Part I —

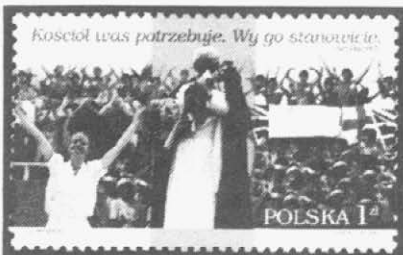
The seventh visit to Poland began on June 5 with arrival ceremonies at Gdansk. On hand were Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland and President Aleksander Kwasniewski. The visit whose theme was "God is Love" started with solemn Mass at the Sopot Racetrack near Gdansk to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Adalbert, Poland's principal patron. In the evening the Pope visited the International Ecumenical Center.

June 6, by helicopter to Pelplin. The holy father celebrated Mass near the scene of intense Nazi persecution during the Second World War.

At Lichen, June 7, the Pope blessed a new Church. Next to Bydgoszcz where a quarter of the population was exterminated by the Nazis. He celebrated Mass for martyrs and crowned an image of our Lady of Fair Love. Next stop was historic Torun where he beatified Father Stefan Wincenty Frelichowski who died in 1945 while ministering to typhus victims in the concentration camp at Dachau. Torun is home for the Mikolaj Kopernik University named after the famous Nicolaus Copernicus who was born here.

June 8, the Holy Father left the Shrine of Our Lady of Lichen and went to Elk, northeastern Poland; he celebrated Mass in honor of St. Hedwig for the Lithuanian community.

June 10, to Siedlce where he celebrated Mass in honor of the Blessed Martyrs of Pratulín, 13 Byzantine-rite peasants who were shot by Russian soldiers. Then to Drohiczyn for an Ecumenical Service with representatives of the Orthodox, Lutheran and other Ecclesial Communities in Poland.



June 11, Warsaw, the Pope blessed the National Army Monument dedicated to those killed in the Second World War before addressing the Polish Parliament. He prayed at the Holocaust Monument in Umschlag Platz and at the Monument dedicated to the "Siberians" (Poles deported to Siberia by the tsarist and communist regimes). June 12, to Sandomierz where he celebrated Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

June 13, back in Warsaw, the Pope celebrated Mass in Jozef Pilsudski Square where he beatified 108 Martyrs of the Second World War and the Servants of God Sister Regina Protmann and Edmund Bojanowski. June 14, to Lowicz. The Holy Father celebrated Mass in honor of Blessed Michael Kozal.

June 15, the Pope was scheduled to celebrate Mass at Krakow's Blonie esplanade for the 1000th anniversary of the archdiocese of Krakow but was unable to do so because of illness. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican's Secretary of State, presided at the liturgy.

June 16, the Pope returned to his native town in Wadowice; in the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary he presided at a Liturgy of the Word. June 17, he celebrated Mass in St. Stanislaus Chapel of



Krakow's Wawel Cathedral and made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa, where he prayed before the famous icon of the Black Madonna. Later to Krakow Airport for departure ceremonies before leaving for Rome.

VATICAN — JUNE 5-17, 1999

Commemorative travel postmark in Latin. John Paul II and logo of the Visit to Poland.

IO. PAULUS PP. II ITER SEPTIMUM/IN POLONIAM FACIT/ * POSTE VATICANE 5-17.VI.1999 *

John Paul II seventh journey to Poland.

Polish Post Office commemorated the official pilgrim visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland by issuing the following philatelic material:

Set of four stamps printed in sheets of 20. Also a sheetlet containing four complete

sets in horizontal strips (16 stamps together). The upper borders of the sheets and sheetlets contain inscription: VI Visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland and the Pope's coat of arms. Two booklets were issued - one contains ten 60gr. stamps and one with ten 70gr. stamps. One postal card was also issued. A special first day of issue postmark was used plus 72 commemorative postmarks, 7 postage meter stamps and 21 special registration labels.

According to the Polish authorities this was the 6th pilgrimage visit to Poland as noted on stamps and postmarks. The Vatican postmark indicates the visits as 7th visit. In 1995 during the 64th world journey to the Czech Republic, Pope John Paul II crossed the Czech border and spent few hours in Poland. Vatican considers this as a 5th visit to Poland. So let's say it was a 6th pilgrimage and the 7th visit to Poland.

First Day of Issue: June 5, 1999.

Stamp - 60gr. Pope John Paul II, St. Mary's Church in Krakow. People with Solidarity banners symbolizing the changes in Central Europe. Inscription: "I who am a Son of the land of Poland" from John Paul II homily.

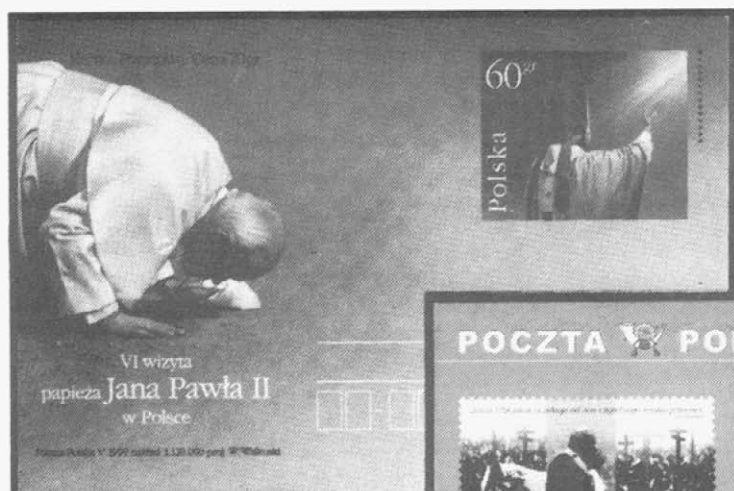
Stamp - 70gr. Pope surrounded by crowds with Latin and Orthodox crosses symbolizing ecumenism. Inscription: "Jesus Christ is expecting from us a readable sign of unity" (homily).

Stamp - 1 zl. Pope John Paul II meets the youth of the world. Inscription: "The Church needs you. You are the Church" (homily).

Stamp - 1.40zl. The Pilgrim Pope. Eiffel Tower in Paris, statue of Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Fatima Sanctuary. Inscription: "Do not be afraid" (homily).

Booklet - contains ten 60gr. stamps. There are two vertical strips from sheet of 20 stamps. Cover shows enlarged 60gr. stamp and price of booklet. Inside shows schedule of postal fees on back, information about stamps subscription.

Booklet - contains ten 70gr. stamps. There are two vertical strips from sheet of 20



stamps. Front page shows enlarged 70gr. stamp and price of booklet. Other inscriptions same as above.

POSTAL CARD

60gr imprinted stamp shows the Holy Father facing rays of light. On card he is kneeling and kissing the ground. Inscription: VI Visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland. Size - 5 13/13" x 4 1/8".

Commemorative postmark used in twenty cities visited. Each has the same inscription VI VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II IN POLAND. All show the pastoral cross. All postmarks are 1 9/16" dia. except the ones used in Siedlce and Warszawa which are 1 3/16" dia. The cities and dates used are as follows:

- June 5 - Gdansk; June 6 - Pelplin;
- June 6 - Elblag; June 7 - Lichen Stary;
- June 7 - Bydgoszcz; June 7 - Torun;
- June 8 - Elk; June 9 - Stary Folwark;
- June 10 - Siedlce; June 10 - Drohiczyn n. Buglem;

- June 11 - Warszawa; June 12 - Sandomierz;
- June 12 - Zamosc; June 14 - Lowicz;
- June 14 - Sosnowiec; June 15 - Gliwice;
- June 15 - Krakow; June 16 - Stary Sacz;
- June 16 - Wadowice; June 17 - Krakow.

Commemorative postmark used in ten cities. All same size, same inscription and, the name of the city. On the postmark is the official logo of the Pope's Visit. It shows John Paul II pastoral cross. The inscription reads: POCZTA POLSKA SPONSOREM WIZYTY (Polish Post sponsor of the Visit); BOG JEST MIŁOŚCIĄ (God is Love); JAN PAWEŁ II W POLSCE (Jan Pawel II in Poland). The cities and dates used are as follows:

- June 5 - Wrocław; June 5 - Szczecin;
- June 5 - Gdansk;
- June 7 - Poznan; June 8 - Olsztyn;
- June 11 - Warszawa;
- June 12 - Lublin; June 14 - Katowice;
- June 14 - Lodz;
- June 15 - Krakow.

COLLECTING POLISH LABELS

By: Stanley Kronenberg

Polish Labels represent a periphery of Polish philately. They do not serve to prepay postage but most of them look similar to postage stamps being pieces of colorfully printed paper, often gummed and perforated, with a nominal value shown. Labels were issued by Polish Government agencies, national and local societies and organizations, and by companies. Their purposes can be: charities, fund drives, advertising or propaganda, and commemoration of persons, places, or events.

Intended uses of labels differ. Some were intended to be affixed on letters together with postage stamps or as letter seals. Occasionally labels were used erroneously to prepay postage on letters. Others served as certification of the payment of membership dues to unions or societies and were pasted in membership booklets. Some government sponsored charity labels had a dual purpose and were used as revenue stamps on documents or as receipts for charity donations. Volunteers of charities and fund-raising organizations collected money

"Fund Drive for Wooden Shoes for School Children of the Town's Schools". Rose and brown, probably issued in the late 1800's.



"13th L.O.P.P. week" issued probably 1936. Green and brown.



Fire fighters in Lowicz, 1916. Red.



door-to-door or in public places and to certify a donation, affixed labels by means of pins to donors' lapels (if a label shows two pinholes it is not damaged, it is used). During World War II and during the Military Government times 1980-1990 underground organizations made labels often disguised as underground mail postage stamps and sold them in secrecy to collectors.

This custom of issuing labels started in Poland in the later part of the 19th century and persists into the 21st century. An unknown

CATEGORIES FOR POLISH LABELS

Adult Education	Political Organizations
Advertising	Radio
Animals	Religion
Anniversaries	Savings
Art	Schools
Building Funds	School Motherhood
Charity	Shelters
Child Welfare	Social Assistance
Culture, Enlightenment	Societies
Esperanto	Soldiers' Welfare
Fairs and Exhibitions	Sports
Fire Fighting	Students, Scholarships, and Dormitories
Flood Victims	Tourism
Foreign Help	Towns, Provinces
Health	Transportation
Jewish Labels	Treasury
L.O.P.P.	Tuberculosis
Maritime League	Unemployment
Military and Paramilitary	Unions
Monuments	Vacations and Recreation
Olympic Games	War Veterans and Invalids
Patriotism	War Victims
Peace	Warsaw Rebuilding
Personalities	Western Lands, Polish & German Propaganda
Philatelic Exhibitions	White Cross
Plants	Winter Help
Plebiscites	Women's League
Polish People in Foreign Countries	Youth
Polish Red Cross	

but enormous number of Polish labels was thus generated. The question arises how to arrange them in a collection. Arranging them chronologically according to the date of issuance, as is often

Religion. Donation (10 groszy) for the catholic mission "Christus Regnat". Issued between World Wars. Blue and red.

A set of such labels in different color combinations exists.



"District of Czesłachowa for the Plebiscite, 1920"
25 ten., brown.

From a long set of labels issued in Brasil to sponsor "The Society of the School for the People". Printed in different colors these labels show different Polish personalities.



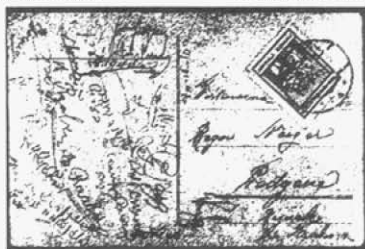
"The Jewish Charity Society". Issued around World War I. Brown.

done with postage stamps, is not possible because most often issue dates are unknown or can only be estimated or guessed. In my collection I divided them into 57 categories which are listed on page 7. (Solidarnosc and Legiony are additional categories which are mounted in other volumes of my collection). The choice of these categories is arbitrary; other collectors may divide Polish labels by a different set of criteria. There are problems with that arrangement. For example: there is a label issued to benefit children of unemployed. Should it be placed in the category "unemployed" or in the category "Child Welfare"? In this example, the categorization being ambiguous, I made an ambiguous decision and put this label in the "Unemployed" category.

Examples of labels sampled from different categories in my collection are illustrated throughout this article.

No consistent catalog of Polish labels exists but some were cataloged. The *World Airmail Catalogue*, Sanabria 1966, lists Polish LOPP labels (Liga Obrony Powietrznej Panstwa-National Air Defense League). *Specialized Poland Stamp Catalog* of 1990 lists numerous labels connected to airmail. There are many listings of "Solidarity" issues: five volumes of an anonymously written catalog which was issued

underground, 1987 issues in the catalog by Wacław Sokolowski (Warsaw 1990), Zbigniew Endzel catalogs "Solidarnosc" labels concerned with Pope John Paul II (Warsaw 1991). Other "Solidarnosc" catalogs exist. Jewish-Polish labels are listed in Mosbaugh's *U.S. All Funds Seals*



Picture postcard franked with a Jewish label. Mailed on 25 February 1919, from Chrzanów to Podgorze near Kraków. (See article on this subject in *The Israel Philatelist*, February issue, 1997).



"A Brick for the Building of the Church" in Piaski, a suburb of Lublin. 5 kopeck. Issued before World War I. Brown and orange.



A label issued in England soon after World War II. Black.



"6 gr. for the Vocational School". Issued probably around mid 1920 s. Pink and blue.



Two hal. donation label for the Society of the School for the People. Issued probably around 1890 in Southern Poland. Multicolor.



"For Institutions of Military Invalids, 1919". Black.



Label issued in Omsk in Siberia. Date of issuance: unknown. "10 Rubles for Invalids and for Children of Displaced Poles". Dark blue.



"For the Medical Assistance for (North) Korea". Red and blue, 1952.



"Polish School Motherhood 10 gr", red. The date on the postmark: 9 May 1931.

Catalog, section V, revised 1978, sponsored by the Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society, published by Henry Irvin, Chicago. Some Jewish Labels are listed in *Stamp Catalogue of the Jewish National Fund* by Jay L. Kaplove

(1973). Green's Catalog of the Tuberculosis Seals of the World (revised 1975) lists Poland in part III. Some of the "Legiony" labels are listed in Polskie Znaki Pocztowe, vol. IV and in the book by J.Z.E. Berek, Poczta Polowa Legionow, London 1968.



"10 gr. for the Action of Defending Forests". Issued by the Chief Committee for the day of the Forest. Issued between World Wars. Green.

FIRST PRINTING SECOND PROVISIONAL ISSUE POLAND 1918

Conrad P. Straub, Ph.D.

A few years ago, while examining specific positions of the first printing, second provisional issue, Poland 1918 (Scott 15-26; Ruch 7-16), I noted some differences in error grouping IBb of this issue, particularly in position 1. The differences reported may be helpful in



Fig. 1.
Normal overprint
(Type IBb1)



Fig. 2.
Line 4 extends beyond line 3
(right side) (Type IBb2)



Fig. 3. Line 4 extends beyond line 3 (right side) and extra markings seen between "s" and "k" of "Polska" (Type IBb3)

determining the order of printing of the various denominations. Fig. 1 shows the normal overprint with no major differences in "Poczta Polska" and the positioning of the third and fourth lines, Fig. 2 shows the fourth line extending beyond the third line at the right. In Fig. 3, the variety in Fig. 2 is shown along with the additional markings in "s" and "k" of

Differences position 1, error grouping IBb

Denomination, pf	Type			Totals
	IBb1	IBb2	IBb3	
5	-	-	15	15
10	4	-	10	14
15	4	14	7	25
20 PB*	1	-	4	5
20 S*	-	-	-	-
20 LB*	5	2	3	10
20 VB*	4	8	9	21
30	8	8	4	20
40	13	-	2	15
60	5	1	12	18
Total	44	33	66	143

* PB - Prussian blue; S - sapphire; LB - light blue; VB - violet blue

"Polska". In the table on page 11, I list the overprint varieties referred to in Figs. 1 to 3 as Type IBb1, IBb2, and IBb3, respectively. From this table it will be noted that all denominations except the 5pf (and the 20 S because of a lack of position 1s) show the normal overprint. From this can it be assumed that all sheets were overprinted at one time, regardless of denomination? In noting the first overprint difference (Type IBb2), the 5 pf denomination variety was not found. The absence of the 20 PS, 20S, and 40 pf (showing type IBb2) may be due to a lack of material (to be confirmed by other collectors). Again there appeared no denominational order to the overprintings. Based on the presence of Type IBb3 overprinting variety, all denominations, except the 20S (possibly, due to a lack of material) were found.

The fact that the 5 pf was noted only with the Type IBb3 variety in error grouping IBb, may be due to it being printed last, because of the large earlier overprintings of the 5/2½ and 5/3 pf values in error groupings IAa and IAb.

Comments concerning this observation and others made would be most welcome.

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