

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at the Polish Youth Association Building,
(Dom Harcerski) 6434 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL

Issue No. 495

Price \$2.00

March-April, 1999

MARCH MADNESS!

POLPEX 99, the Polonus Philatelic Society's 60th Anniversary Celebration, was most memorable. Members and visitors from Poland, Sweden, Canada, as well as many out-of-towners participated.

At the opening ceremonies, on Friday, March 19th, a representative from the Governor's office cut the ribbon. A congratulatory letter from Governor Ryan was printed in our program catalog.

At the Beeba Awards Banquet, Dr. James Mazepa acted as master of ceremonies. He commented that all philatelic clubs are going down in membership because of the lack of young blood. He urged that we form a Federation of Clubs of Eastern Europe and unite with the Lithuanian and Ukrainian philatelic societies here in Chicago.

The highlight of the banquet was the awarding of Gold Medals to



Regina Trela, representing the Governor of Illinois, cuts the ribbon at the opening ceremony of POLPEX 99. Left to right: Sec'y. Chester Schafer; V.-Pres. Arkadiusz Walinski; Pres. Roman Strzelecki; Polpex Chairman Fred Szebel; Poland Philatelic Union representative Zbigniew Korszeń; Jerzy Krysiak and E. Wołosiewicz, Pres. Pres. Słania Study Group.

eight of the twelve exhibits in the show.

Gold Awards:

- Aero Sports in Poland 1919-1939
Zbigniew Korszen, Warsaw Pol.
- Occupation of Russia
Fred Szebel, Arlington Hts., IL
- 20th Anniversary of the Pope
John Paul II Pontificate
Arkadiusz Walinski, Chicago, IL
- Ghetto Post in German Occupied Europe
Morris Rosen, Baltimore, MD
- Czesław Słania - Master of Engraving
Jerzy Krysiak, Tygelsjo, Sweden
- First Issue of Independent Poland 1918
Chester Schafer, Chicago, IL
- Vatican Coins and Medals (Numismatic)
Ted Maczynski, DesPlaines, IL
- King Jan Sobieski Commemorative Medals (Numismatic)
Chester Schafer, Chicago, IL

Silver Award:

- 150th Anniversary of Frederic Chopin
Stan. Dobrzycki, Harw'd Hts. IL
- Polish Postal History 1800-1946
Casey Sadowski, Aurora, IL

Bronze Award:

- November Insurrection Issue of 1930
Chester Schafer, Chicago, IL

Grand Award:

- History of Kraków Mail - 16th Century to 1918
Frank M. Wiatr, Wethersf'ld, CT

This was an outstanding exhibit of mail routes & rates of the time in the postal services development, usage and progress of the postmarks designs under various administrations or occupations.

Frank M. Wiatr was not present. His grand award was a crystal eagle mounted on a wooden base with an engraved plate. The eagle was donated to Polonus by Mr. Edward Dykla, former President of



At the banquet table (left to right): Mr. & Mrs. Winston Gruszczyk from Canada; Dr. James Mazepa, Judge and Master of Ceremonies; John Variakojis, Pres. of Lithuania Phil. Soc.; Louis Koncza, Pres. Polish American Numismatic Ass'n; Al and Fran Rybarski.

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.

Publicity in the Polish press and on radio was exceptional this year. As a result many new immigrants, although they were not philatelists, came out of curiosity. One had a Russia collection to sell; another a Polish medal.

The bourse was well attended all three days of the exhibition.

The Polish American Numismatic Ass'n held a meeting at the show on Saturday afternoon.

Polpex 99 Chairman, Fred Szebel should be commended for a job well done!



Morris Rosen from Baltimore, MD; Zbigniew Korszeń of Warsaw, Poland; and Jerzy Krysiak from Tyngsboro, Sweden pose by the White Eagle sign outside the Polpex Exhibition hall.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS ASSIGNED TO NEW MEMBERS

- 1478 Gregory Mahr, M.D.
22621 Bertram
Novi, MI 48374
- 1479 Benek Teper
7 Carmel Ct., North York,
Ontario, Canada M2M-4B2
- 1480 Robert L. Sobisz
8 Munday Ct., Bowmanville,
Ontario, Canada L1C-4R7

- 1481 Anthony Dobosz
1707 Chesterfield
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
- 1482 Larry Tibbetts, Jr.
25785 Evergreen Str.
Hayward, CA 94544-2657
- 1483 Benjamin Jendrysik
101 E. Schubert Ave.
Glendale Hgts., IL 60139
- 1484 H. Iida — P.O. Box #3
Karuizawa - Nagano - Ken
389.01, Japan
- 1485 Zygmunt Kawczynski
1353 Esterbrook Ave.
Rahway, NJ 07065
- 1486 Walter Wyzujak
1508 Christiana Str.
Rockford, IL 61104-4789
- 1487 Jaime Einstein
4815 Alhambra Cir.
Coral Gables, FL 33146
- 1488 Dr. Ronald Labuz
40 Arlington Rd.
Utica, NY 13501
- 1489 Ignatius Czerpak
4619 So. Francisco
Chicago, IL 60632
- 1490 Mike Bernard
1079 Bird Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
- 1491 Richard Skolucki
P.O. Box 39477
Chicago, IL 60639
- 1492 Elzbieta Skolucka
4831 S. Belle Plaine
Chicago, IL 60641

REINSTATED

Zbigniew Korszen
P.O. Box 82
00-950 Warszawa 1
Poland



DECEASED

William O. Dobrzecowski
East Detroit, MI

John Bobo
Des Plaines, IL

Polpex 99



60th Anniversary
Exhibition and Bourse
of the
POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



19, 20 and 21, 1999
of the White Eagle
Niles, Illinois



Set of Souvenir Sheets with Folder — \$1.00 plus 33¢ postage
Three Polpex Covers — \$1.00 each plus postage

Write:

POLONUS, P. O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402



POLPEX STATION
NILES, IL 60714
MARCH 19, 1999



50th ANNIV.
OF NATO
1949-1999
UNITED FOR FREEDOM



POLPEX STATION
NILES, IL 60714 - MARCH 20, 1999



FRYDERYK CHOPIN
150th ANNIVERSARY
OF DEATH
POLPEX STATION
MARCH 21, 1999
NILES, IL 60714



FOX LABELS OF P.O.W. CAMP GROSS BORN

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Officers in the prisoners of war camp OLFAG II D in Gross Born received very simple food and meat was a rarity reserved for special occasions. The supply of this occasional meat could be correlated with a high degree of probability with the activities on a silver-fox-farm which was located near the camp. Officers knew about this through rumors and the camp's postal administration decided to make a joke.

In the postal archives of the camp's internal post office was a wood block made by an unnamed artist with a design of a 10 (pf.) stamp showing the head of a fox carrying a fork in its mouth. Such a stamp was never issued. The postmaster had the "10" removed from the design and had a supply of such labels printed. One can still make out traces of the "10" on the left side of the label above the letters "OFL".

After it became known that on November 21, 1944 meat would be served, the post office affixed on all letters which went through the mail on that day such fox labels printed in orange. They were postmarked along with the stamps with the appropriate date cancellation. This service was free (figure 1).



Figure 1: A folded card with the orange fox label mailed within OFLAG II D on November 21, 1944. It is an invitation to participate in the dress rehearsal of the play "Arabian Adventures" on November 22, 1944 at 1:00 pm in the "Variety Theater" of the camp. (Continued on Page 495-11)

20th Anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II - 1978-1998

By ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI

UNITED STATES:

Niles, IL - March 20, 1998

Commemorative postmark.

Philatelic Exhibition

POLPEX 98, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II. Portrait of Pope John Paul II.

20th ANNIVERSARY / OF
THE PONTIFICATE / OF
POPE JOHN PAUL II /
1978-1998 / NILES, IL 60714



POLPEX STATION

MARCH 20, 1998

NILES, IL 60714

Milwaukee, WI - June 19, 20, 21, 1998

Commemorative postmark.

Polish eagle and portrait of Pope John Paul II in mitre with pastoral cross.

POLISH FEST STATION / MILWAU-
KEE, WI 53203 / JUNE 19, 1998 /
POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE / 80
YEARS 1918-1998 / POPE JOHN
PAUL II / 20 YEARS 1978-1998.

**POLISH FEST STATION
MILWAUKEE, WI 53203
JUNE 19, 1998**



**POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE
80 YEARS 1918-1998**

**POPE JOHN PAUL II
20 YEARS 1978-1998**

HUNGARY:

Tatabánya - October 15, 1998

Commemorative postmark.

Hungarian St. Gabriel Guild meeting and exhibition commemorating the 20th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II. SZENT GABOR BELYEGGYUJTO EGYESULET BELYEGBEMUTATO / ILJANOS PAL PAPA MEGVALASZTASANK / 20 EVFORDULOJA / TATABANYA 1. 1998.10.15 / "TOTUS TUUS"
(The Pope's motto: "completely yours.")



VATICAN CITY:

Vatican - October 16, 1998

Commemorative postmark.

Pope John Paul II in mitre and with pastoral cross. IOANNES / PAULUS II VICESIMA / OCCURRENTE / ANNUA / MEMORIA / ELECTIONIS / SUPREMUM / PONTIFICATUM / POSTE VATICANE 16.X.1998. 20th anniversary of the election of John Paul II as supreme pastor.

Vatican - October 16, 1998

Commemorative postmark.

Same as above except on eighth line from top reads as follows: "AD SUPREMUM" instead of "SUPREMUM"



GREAT BRITAIN:

London - October 16, 1998

Coat of arms of John Paul II
Commemorative postmark.

Used by the Polish Philatelist Federation of Great Britain.

XX-LECIE PONTYFIKATU
/ J.SW. JANA PAWŁA II /
1978-1998 / 16. OCT. 1998 /
LONDON SW 7 /

THE POLISH INSTITUTE AND SIKORSKI MUSEUM / The part
in Polish: 20th anniversary of the pontificate of H.H. John Paul II.



CROATIA: Zagreb - October 16, 1998

Commemorative postmark. Portrait of John Paul II.

HABEMUS PAPAM - IMAMO PAPO / KAROL WOJTYLA - IO-
ANNIS PAULI II / 1978-1998 / 10101 ZAGREB 16.10.1998.

"We have a Pope" in Latin and Croatian.

ITALY: Cisterna di Latina - December 28, 1998

Commemorative postmark. John Paul II in pontifical vestments in greeting gesture. *04012 CISTERNA DI LATINA (LT) / 28.12.1998 NATALE '98. / DISPACCIO STR. PER CITTA' DEL VATICANO / 20 ANNIV. PONTIFICATO PAPA GIOVANNI PAULO II / Christmas 8. Dispatched to Vatican City. 20th Anniv. of the Pontificate of John Paul II.

ITALY: Roma - October 16, 1998.

Commemorative postmark. John Paul II in pontifical vestments in greeting gesture. ROMA PRATI / XX ANNIV DI PONTIFICATO / PAPA GIOVANNI PAOLO II / VERSO L'ANNO SANTO del 2000 / CELEBRAZIONI / 16.10.1998. Celebrations - 20 anniv. of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II. Toward the Holy Year of 2000.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

20th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

First Day of Issue: October 22, 1998. Set of 2 stamps.

\$5 stamp — John Paul II kissing the icon of the Virgin of Altagracia during a visit to the Marian Shrine of Altagracia in Higüey in 1992.

\$10 stamp — Pope John Paul II with outstretched hands in greeting gesture. The date shown on the stamps is October 22, 1978, which was the day of the inauguration of Pope John Paul II.

Santo Domingo - October 22, 1998

First Day of Issue postmark. XX ANIVERSARIO PONTIFICADO / S.S. JUAN PABLO II / CORREOS / Día de Emisión / 22 Oct. '98 / Santo Domingo, R.D.



POLAND: Chełm - March 15, 1998

Commemorative postmark. Coat of arms of Pope John Paul II and the city of Chełm. WYSTAWA - XX lat Pontyfikatu JANA PAWŁA II / 15.03.1998 CHEŁM 1 / Exhibition- 20 years of the pontificate of J.P.II

Ciechocinek - September 12, 1998

Commemorative postmark. Covers from Polish, U.S. and French magazines announcing the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła to the papacy in 1978. XX-LECIE WYBORU PAPIEŻA JANA PAWŁA II / CIECHOCINEK 1 - 12.09.1998 / 20th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II.

20th anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II

First Day of Issue: October 16, 1998. 65gr. stamp - Pope John Paul II & people of many races & religions.



Kraków - October 16, 1998

Commemorative first day of issue postmark. Coat of arms of the Pope. (20 rocznica pontyfikatu papieża Jana Pawła II) / Kraków 1. 16.10.1998. / 20th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

Kraków - October 16, 1998

Commemorative postmark. Pope John Paul II, his coat of arms, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and the Wawel Cathedral in Kraków. KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA "20 LAT PONTYFIKATU PAPIEŻA JANA PAWŁA II" / KRAKÓW 1 / 16.10.1998. National Philatelic Exhibition. 20 years of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

Warszawa - October 16, 1998

Commemorative postmark. Portrait of Pope John Paul II. KRAJOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA /20 LAT PONTYFIKATU PAPIEŻA JANA PAWŁA II / 16.10.1998 WARSZAWA 1 / 20 years of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

Siedliszcze n.Wieprzem - October 16, 1998

Commemorative postmark. Coats of arms of John Paul II and the town of Siedliszcze n.Wieprzem (Siedliszcze on the river Wieprz). +WYSTAWA - XX lat pontyfikatu Jana Pawła II+ / 24.09.98 SIEDLISZCZE n.Wieprzem / Exhibition - 20 years of the pontificate of John Paul II.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

This was repeated on November 28, 1944, this time using grey blue labels (figure 2).



Figure 2: A registered letter with the greyish blue fox label mailed within OFLAG II D on November 28, 1944.

Approximately 250 letters received the orange labels and 700 letters the grey blue labels.

No mint copies were released and the wood block was destroyed. Thus no mint labels should exist. However, they do exist but are very rare indeed. I remember having seen in an auction catalog a block of two by five mint grey blue fox labels. This block could be from the archives of the OFLAG II D post office. Marek Kalawski (U.S.A.) had in his collection an uncanceled grey blue label which the post office affixed on a letter but the cancellation missed. Colonel Jan Z. E. Berek (U.K.) had in his collection two mint grey blue labels one of which is shown in fig. 3. I don't know of the existence of a mint orange fox label.

Some time ago I examined a greeting card with a fox label on which an anonymous officer-poet in OFLAG II D wrote a poem and sent it as a message to his friend in the camp. It reads:

"Jest to nie do wiary,
Ile smacznej treści,
Mieszkaniec lisiej nory
W sobie mieści."

Translation:

"It is unbelievable,
How much tasty matter
The inhabitant of a fox burrow
Contains in himself."

Figure 3: One of the two mint fox labels in grey blue from Col. Berek's collection.



EXTRA LINES — SECOND PRINTING SECOND PROVISIONAL ISSUE — 1918-1919

By CONRAD P. STRAUB, Ph.D.

In the Second Printing of the Second Provisional Issue of Poland extra lines, generally located between lines two and three of the Poczta Polska overprint, are seen. These lines assist the specialist in identifying the specific printings (error groupings) of this issue.

The first reference in print concerning these extra lines was that by Stachowicz,¹ although Włodarski² had prepared such a list earlier, which he shared with me. According to Stachowicz,¹ the extra lines are present in positions 33, 50, 51, 57, 71, and 81 of the 25/7½ pf value (error grouping IIE m or n), in positions 33, 51, and 57 of the 15 and 60 pf denominations, and probably other positions as well. He further states that these varieties should occur on stamps of other denominations.

Following an examination of material on hand, I have prepared a listing of these extra lines by error groupings in the table below.

I found all of the extra lines listed by Stachowicz¹ for the 25/7½ pf denomination, but have not seen any extra line in position 57 on this or any other denomination. I show extra lines in positions 63, 64, 66, and 67 in error grouping IIAk and a very short line in position 65 on the 25/7½ pf denomination of error grouping IIE n. There is also a vertical wedge-shaped marking in position 60 to the right of the 5 in error grouping IIDm. On the overprinted stamps, these lines vary in length & width, and with the exception of the 5/3 pf denomination in position 60 (error grouping IIDm), are horizontal & located between the second & third lines of the overprint.

Below, by position in the sheet, I list the approximate lengths of these extra lines relating them to the overprint "Poczta Polska" which is located above the lines in question.

Position 33. Between "cz" of

Form	IIA					IIB	IIC	IID	IIE	
Pos,	d	e	f	g	h	k	k	l	m	n
33								+	+	+
50										+
51	?	+	+	+	+					+
57										+
60									+	
63						+				
64						+				
65										+
66						+				
67						+				
71										+
81										+

* Reported by Stachowicz¹

"Poczta" and "s" of "Polska." Error grouping IIC1, denominations 15, 20 Prussian blue, 20 violet blue, 30, 40 & 60 pf. Between "P" and "s" of "Polska." Error grouping IIDm, denomination 5/3 pf. of "Polska." Error grouping IIEm or n, denomination 25/7½ pf.

Pos. 50. Between "P" & "a" of "Polska." Error grouping IIEm or n, denomination 25/7½ pf.

Position 51. Between "Po" of "Poczta" and "a" of "Polska." Error grouping IIAe, f, g and h, denominations 3, 5, 10, 15, 20 light blue, 30 and 40 pf.

Position 60. Vertical wedge to right of "5." Error grouping IIDm, denomination 5/3 pf.

Position 63/64. Between "k" of "Polska" and "P" of "Poczta." Error grouping IIAk, denominations 15 and 60 pf.

Position 65. Under "a" in "Polska." Error grouping IIEm or n, denomination 25/7½ pf.

Position 66/67. Across all of position 66 to "P" of "Poczta" in position 67. Error grouping IIAk, denominations 15 and 60 pf.

Position 81. From "P" to "a" in "Poczta." Seen in some and not in others. Error grouping IIEm or n, denomination 25/7½ pf.

If members can identify additional positions showing these extra lines, I would appreciate hearing from them through Polonus.

REFERENCES

1. Stachowicz, J. *Drugie Polskie Wydanie Prowizoryczne z lat 1918-19. Historyczno-Badawczy Biuletyn Filatelistyczny*, 23(2):55-63 (kwiecień/czerwiec 1982).
2. Włodarski, Zb. Personal communication.

Danzig = Gdańsk

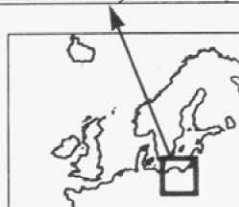
Founded by Slavic people in the 10th century, the Baltic seaport of Danzig has been an important Eastern European city for a thousand years — as an independent city-state, an important member of the Hanseatic League and as a city of Prussia, Germany and Poland.



One of many German stamps overprinted for the free city of Danzig in 1920.

Prussian stamps were the first used in Danzig, followed by stamps of Germany beginning in 1872, but the city was stripped from Germany after World War I. The first stamps of Danzig, issued as a free state under the protection of the League of Nations in 1920, were German definitives overprinted and surcharged for use there.

For the next two decades, a wide variety of Danzig stamps were produced, including semipostals, airmail stamps, postage due stamps and official stamps, and even several souvenir sheets.





This 1921 10-mark stamp (above) shows one of the Hanseatic merchant ships that made Danzig an important Baltic port. A 1935 semipostal (right) shows George Hall, a city landmark.

— Germany to the west, Poland to the south, Russia to the east.

The Polish postal service maintained a post office in the free city from 1925 until 1939, overprinting a number of stamps "PORT GDANSK" for use in Danzig during those years.

Danzig suffered the same roller coaster ride of hyperinflation that devastated finances in Germany during 1922-23 (as amply reflected on its stamps from that period), although it attempted to set its own currency thereafter based on 100 pfennigs to the gulden. Also as in Germany, the Nazis gained power in Danzig, paving the way for their takeover of the port Sept. 18, 1939, during the invasion of Poland by Germany. Remaining stocks of Danzig stamps were overprinted and surcharged in German currency and began to be used in October. They remained valid until the end of 1940.



A 15-grozy stamp overprinted for use at the Polish post office in Danzig during 1937.

Many of these issues depict the city's coat



of arms — a crown over two crosses — while others show early trading ships that plied the port, carrying cargoes of German, Russian and Polish goods. Still other stamps show architectural highlights of the city, which has many landmarks and structures dating back to medieval times.

Although nominally independent, Danzig's economic and political fate through the 1920s and '30s depended as it always had on its massive and powerful neighbors



A 1925 2-gulden Danzig stamp picturing Oliva Castle and Cathedral (left) and the same stamp overprinted and surcharged in 1939 (right) after the Germans took control of Danzig during the invasion of Poland.

Following World War II, Danzig was made the Polish province of Gdansk. In the postwar era, it grew to still greater prominence as a port and as one of the centers of Poland's Solidarity trade union movement that did so much to promote Polish independence.

Kenneth A. Wood's *The Modern World — Today's Atlas for Stamp Collectors, companion volume to the currently out-of-print Where in the World? — An Atlas For Stamp Collectors*, is available from Krause Publications, Book Dept., 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001, or call toll free 1-800-258-0929. ✉

Reprinted from STAMP COLLECTOR



Three Nations Honor Adam Mickiewicz



200.
rocznica urodzin
ADAMA MICKIEWICZA



The Belarus Issue

The Polish Post commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Poland's foremost poet, Adam Mickiewicz, by issuing four stamps and a souvenir sheet on December 24, 1998. One million stamp sets were offset printed and 600,000 of the souvenir sheet were offset print-

ed and numbered on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. The project was by Janusz Wysocki.



Lithuania
tete-beche
pair



Pomnik poety odsłonięty 7 maja 1859r.
przy kościele Św. Marcina w Poznaniu



**Post card with First Day Cancel of Poznań 9, the location
of the first statue of A. Mickiewicz unveiled May 7 1859**

Belarus also honored Mickiewicz with an 8600 ruble value issued on May 20, 1998.

Lithuania issued a 70 lt. commemorative on December 24, 1998 in a quantity of 50,000. Offset printed on art paper at Spindulys' Shop in Kaunas.

—Centralny Zarząd Poczty Polskiej
Filatelistyka
Lieluvos Pastas

**I buy Polish Stamp Collections,
Interesting Stamps; Fieldpost;
Provisional & Censor markings;
Post cards and covers of normal
circulation.
Expertizing of all Polish Stamps.**

ZBIGNIEW KORSZEN
Polish Phil. Union Stamp Expert
P.O. Box 82,
00-950 Warszawa 1
Tel./Fax: - 022-629-4947

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of Polonus Philatelic Society.

Annual dues, which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. currency only) and should be sent to the Polonus Treasurer, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. Membership dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints or other matters should be directed to the President.