



BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY

531

Summer 2008



Rudnik ad San overprint and cancellation dated 15.8.44
Poczta Polska w Rudniku

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Local Overprinted Stamps 1944-1945

Józef Falkowski

Translated by Ron Wolosewicz, Ph.D., PE and paraphrased by Chris Kulpinski

The overprinting of General Government stamps by local authorities after the end of World War II is an intriguing and seldom written-about subject. An article written by Józef Falkowski in *Przegląd Filatelistyczny* (2005, #5) entitled "Local Overprinted Stamps, 1944-1945" is quite interesting and revealing.

People argue about whether or not these overprints are legitimate, and Mr. Falkowski presents both sides of the discussion. Due to the technical nature of the manuscript, we only summarize the main points in the article.

According to the author, the 1966 issue of Polish Postage Stamps (PZP), vol. IV, pages 227-228, contains an article about these overprinted German occupation stamps. The authors of the article state that they did not have legitimate copies of the local issues they were writing about. Their general conclusion was that aside from any legal issues (e.g., were the stamps authorized), certain overprinted stamps were used for a short period of time as legitimate postage.

First, were these overprints authorized? The answer is clearly "no," based on three government directives:

1. Article 22 of the law passed on June 3, 1924, which defined the jurisdiction of the telegraph and telephone service and specified that only the Ministry of the Post Office and Telecommunications had the right to print postage stamps. Michal Panko in his 1946 article "Postage stamps in reborn Poland" *Przeglądzie Pocztowym*, Volume 3, pages 53-58, referred to this law, and stated. "For this reason, the administration of the Polish Post Office could not accept as official stamps any stamps that were not produced under the direct order of the Postal and Telecommunication Ministry. In addition, official stamps used for postal service must be documented in the government publication, Daily tariffs for

Postal and Telecommunication Services."

2. A communication issued by the Postal and Telegraph Ministry and dated August 1, 1944, stated:
 - All former staff members of the Postal and Telegraph Ministry are to register at the nearest local government office and then report to work.
 - Upon returning to work, without delay, an inventory of all existing German occupation stamps is to be taken and the stock secured pending a decision as to their disposition.
 - Until there is an availability of new Polish postage stamps, cash is to be accepted and placed in the cash drawer [*and some sort of "paid" notation placed on the item being mailed, ed.*]

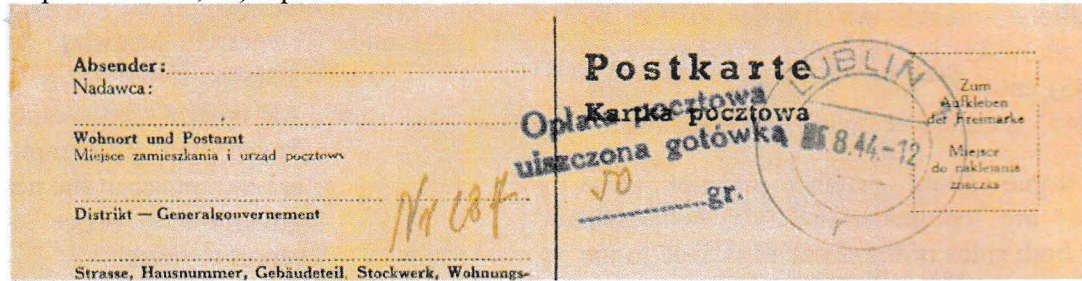
The communication also stated that the Postal and Telegraph Ministry, in order to expedite the rebuilding of services, transferred all necessary authority to the Rebuilding Office as of August 1, 1944.

3. This new authority then issued the following directive, also on August 1, 1944:
 - The entire inventory of German occupation stamps is to be sent to the regional postal warehouse.
 - New stamps, and especially overprints, are to be issued only by the Postal and Telegraph Ministry.
 - When a new local post office is opened, the appointed postmaster is to pick up stamps at the regional postal warehouse. Should postage stamps not be available, the required funds for postage are to be collected and

“Cash Payment Received” is to be noted on the cover.

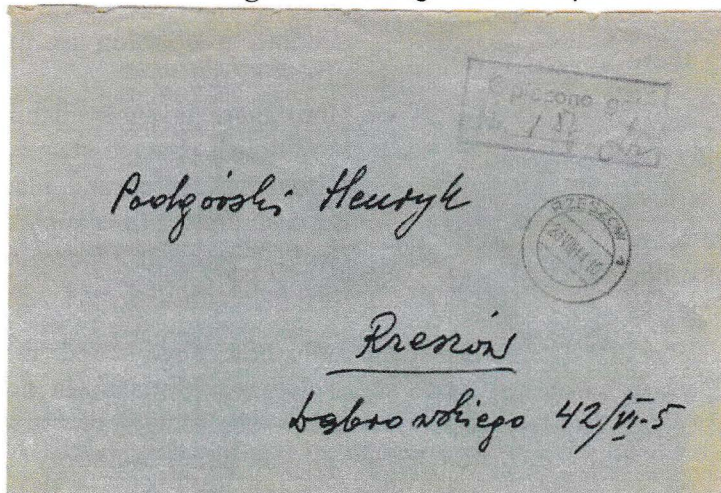
These directives are unambiguous, and one would conclude that overprinted stamps were neither necessary nor authorized, because these directives a) allowed the clerks to accept cash to cover the postal costs, b) specified that all

German stamps were to be forwarded to the regional postal warehouse and c) said that only the Ministry has the authority to print stamps or apply overprints. There is ample evidence of covers that were sent without stamps, and with the notation *Cash Payment Received*. See figures 1-3.



Oplata pocztowa uiszczona gotówką...50...gr.

Figure 1: Postage Paid overprint on Lublin Postcard, 5.8.44



Oplacono got. Nr. ...1.5 zł...

Figure 2: Postage Paid overprint on Rzeszow cover, 23.VIII. 44

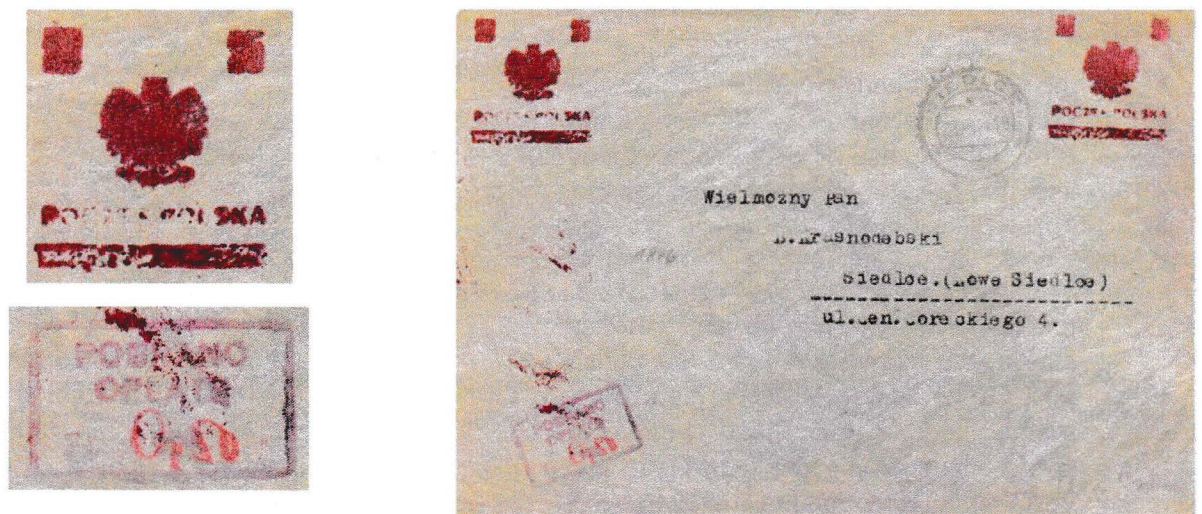


Figure 3: Genuine cover from Siedlice, dated 23.VIII.44.

Proof of payment is verified with a **Pobrano Oplata /Zł 0.50 – Payment Collected** handstamp Rate for a domestic letter, which was established August 1, 1944, was 50 gr.

The overprint in the upper corners appears to be a dirty rubber cancellation. The number 25 is somewhat legible; however, the wording under *Poczta Polska* is not. This cancellation is not listed in Fischer.

On the other hand, postal authorities acknowledged that unauthorized overprinting occurred. Consider the announcement made by Director Glowacki of the Post Office Department within the Post Office and Telecommunications Ministry in Warsaw on June 27, 1945. He stated:

“Numerous difficulties have arisen because of the lack of date stamps and postal forms as well as postage stamps. Depending on the local post office, various methods were used to resolve these difficulties. In some situations, these innovations went too far because only the Post Office and Telecommunications Ministry has the authority to overprint German Occupation postage stamps.

“... For a given local post office, it is necessary to establish the postage stamp inventories and these inventories are to be under the control of the local inspector general. In addition there was a communication regarding the private sale of postage stamps. The management of the Postal and Telegraph department will allow such private sales only in those situations where a local post office does not exist. This action is taken so that in all cities there will be a sufficient number of local postal outlets for the sale of postage stamps.”

The reference to “private sales” is probably an acknowledgement that such sales happened, and perhaps it was a post-facto authorization. In any event, overprinted German stamps **do** exist and are found on philatelic mail from this time period. See figures 4 and 5.



Figure 4: Undated philatelic postcard from Garbów. The overprint reads *Poczta Polska /1 Zł.. 25Gr./ Garbów*. The correct post card rate was 25 gr. This overprint is not listed in Fischer.

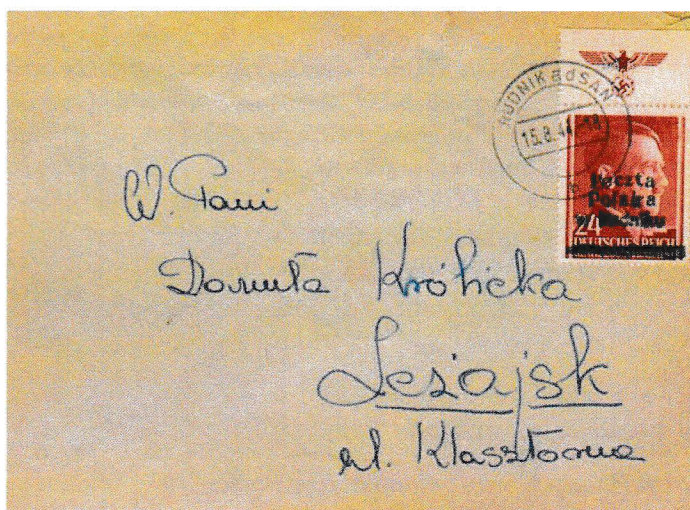


Figure 5: Philatelic cover from Rudnik ad San and dated 15.8.44.

The correct rate for a letter was 50 gr.; this item is underfranked.

It would appear that these postwar overprints were not necessary, were created for personal profit and therefore were illegal.

On the other hand, Falkowski presents the following argument for the possible legality (or at least acknowledgment) of the overprints.

1. The P&T Ministry was aware of the overprinting of German stamps. On June 27th, 1945, it acknowledged the *"...numerous difficulties caused by the lack of stamps and depending upon the innovations of the local post office, various methods were used to resolve the difficulties, including the unauthorized overprinting of German stamps."*
2. The publication issued by the Polish Publication Agency (KAW) entitled "Catalog of Special Stamps Issued on Polish Territory," contains the following statement (1985, page 261, and 1990, page 309): *"The issuing of local stamps without intervention by governmental authorities was caused by a lack of information. In many cases, these stamps were issued by the local postal authorities and local philatelists. A memo from the Post and Telegraph Department, dated September 28, 1944, states that the addition of overprints on stamps left by the German occupation forces is not in accordance with the law that was passed on June 3, 1924. From a philatelic view point it is important to note that these overprinted stamps were sold and used even though these overprinted stamps issues were illegal."*
3. The same catalog also states that in the Konskie region, overprinted stamps were authorized by the local government, though not with the permission of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph. *"From a timeline point of view, as many genuine stamps existed, the*

nationalized stamps from the Konskie region were printed relatively late. The main reason that these stamps were issued was due to a lack of stamps in the Konskie region. In this situation, and in agreement with a delegate of the local government authorities in Konskie, all remaining German occupation stamps were overprinted. These overprinted stamps stimulated such a large interest among local philatelists that in addition to those stamps already overprinted, stamps in private hands were also overprinted. The costs of overprinting the stamps under the control of the postal authorities were covered when additional stamps arrived from the Postal and Telecommunication ministry in Lodz. In general, the overprinting on the stamps was carefully done. Examples where the overprints were rotated by either 90 or 180 degrees occurred only in those cases where the stamps were printed as a courtesy to private individuals who had German occupation stamps. The management of the Postal and Telecommunication ministry in Lodz confirmed the fact that overprinted stamps were produced."

4. An exhibit entitled "Issued Nationalized Stamps from the General Government," shown in Torun at the 1983 Polish National Philatelic show, received a Gold medal, indicating that the overprints have garnered recognition as being legitimate.
5. Panko (op. cit.) also noted that *"In some areas of Poland, a supply of German occupation stamps existed. To provide some postal service, local postal authorities on their own initiative overprinted German occupation stamps. For example: Krakow, Lezajsk, Rudnik nad Sanem, Zamosc, Brwinow."*

In summary, overprinting German occupation stamps was not properly authorized, but there are some instances of philatelic postal use.

References:

Polskie Znaki Pocztowe; 1966, vol. IV
Dziennik Urzędowy Ministrerstwa Pocht I Telegrafow, nr. 1, 1945 (Przegląd Pocztowy nr. 3, 1946)
Opracowanie COBRP, Warszawa 1984, "Odbudowa Poczty I Telekomunikacji w Polsce"

Fantasy Overprints on G.G. and Other Polish Stamps

Chris Kulpinski

Many readers are aware that forgeries, fantasy, and cinderella issues are very common in Polish philately. The previous article dealt with local overprints on General Gouvernment stamps as the Nazis were pushed out of Poland at the end of WWII.

This article deals with four categories of fantasy overprints:

1. those listed under "**VARIA**" in Fischer,
2. forgeries of the "**VARIA**" in Fischer
3. those listed as "**FANTASY**" in Fischer,
4. those not listed in Fischer at all.

In my opinion, none of these were issued for postal purposes nor were they issued by any official government agency. They are all private printings, which I believe were meant to defraud stamp collectors. As such they would be appropriately listed as **FANTASIES**.

The Polish meaning for **VARIA** is "miscellaneous" and I presume that Fischer uses the word to indicate that those listing are a variety of some particular issue. Included are local overprints of various General Gouvernment stamps. These overprints are not listed as **LOCAL ISSUES** because very likely, there is no indication that any of these **VARIAS** were in any way authorized even by the lowest postal authority. Even though not officially authorized, the stamps listed under **LOCAL ISSUES** had the blessing, if not from the Postal Ministry, at least the local postmaster.

VARIA LISITNGS

Fig. 1 Russian Overprint of 1938 Independence Issue



Included in **VARIA** are the overprints of the 1938 Independence Issue. (Fig. 1) These were supposedly used by the Soviets in the early stages of the occupation of Eastern Poland in late September of 1939, prior to the introduction of Russian stamps. This was never the case and these stamps, in my opinion, should be listed in the "**FANTASY**" section of the catalogue.

FORGERIES OF VARIA

Fig. 2 Forgeries of KOŁOBRZEG Private Printing



Also listed in Fischer under **VARIA**, are so-called private printings, such as those discussed in the prior article. KOŁOBRZEG is one of the cities which supposedly issued such overprints. The one shown in Figure 2, however, is a forgery of that overprint on a **German** stamp. Notice that it is overprinted KOLBERG, the German name for KOŁOBRZEG.

The stamp on the right is a forgery using the twin mast sailing ship as part of a Warsaw cancellation.



FANTASY LISTINGS

There are only four fantasy issues listed in Fisher and these are stamps which were privately issued or overprinted to the detriment of the collector according to Fischer. No General Gouvernement issues are listed.

It is my contention that all of these issues should be considered to be Fantasy issues.

UNLISTED FANTASY OVERPRINTS

An important Nazi fundraiser was selling stamps to collectors. There is, therefore, no shortage of General Gouvernement stamps, and creative individuals are now taking these stamps and producing these fantasies for purchase by the unknowledgeable collector. **POCZTA POLSKA** overprints and variations of Polish-related themes are not only found on General Gouvernement stamps, but have even found their way unto German stamps, along with “errors”, such as the inverted overprinted stamps shown in Figures 4 and 5.

Fantasy Overprints on German Stamps



Fig. 4

POCZTA POLSKA // ZIĘBIC

Overprinted on 1943 German issues
(Mi. 859 & 862)

These overprints were applied with a
square rubber hand stamp.

Notice the outline of the device.

Inverted “error” ►►►



Fig. 5



In addition to the fantasy overprints on German stamps, shown on the following page are examples of numerous General Gouvernement overprints found for sale on Ebay.

There are also overprints on pre-war Polish issues. It is interesting to note that some of these overprints are similar to those used as local overprints after World War I.

I can not provide you with measurements, as I took the pictures off the internet and have no way of accurately measuring them. However, they are easy to spot.

Fantasy of Polish Pre-War Stamps



1938 Postage due with a forged cancellation German Swastika on 1938 Independence Issue

Fantasy Overprints on General Gouvernment stamps



WWI type overprints on GG stamps



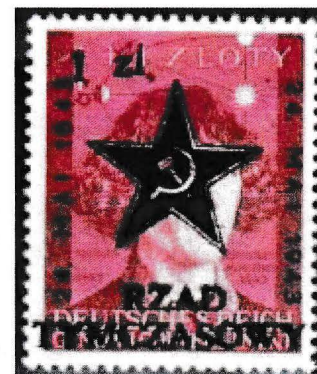


Fantasy Russian Overprints

Also found for the first time are fantasy Soviet overprints on General Government stamps.



These overprints were to represent stamps overprinted for those areas of Poland that were occupied by Russia in 1944. Although Polish stamps could not be purchased from the post office after Soviet occupation, they were valid for a short period of time if the user had them in their possession. Soviet stamps



were very quickly introduced and are very prominent on covers from this time period, whereas covers with only Polish stamps are very rare. The overprint on the right, which is in Polish, reads - "**Rzad Tymczasowy**" – Temporary Administration and was never issued, nor was the stamp with Soviet star.

There are numerous other overprints found for sale, though I have not listed them because of lack of space. The important thing is to realize that these fantasies are for sale and to be aware what they really are. They are not some rare find and the seller is not aware of their value.

Like other fantasy issues, we may never know where or when these overprints were produced or where they first appeared, however, they are just beginning to show up on the market place this past year, so they are very recent. There are certainly enough mint, never hinged General government stamps on the market to create these "collectibles."

Whether you should collect them or not is completely up to you. A purist would say no, but someone fascinated by such private issues will find a new treasure trove to search for and explore.

Other Fantasies found on Ebay



Member Want Ad – I am looking for:

Correspondence from General Haller's Army – 1917/1920. This would include correspondence from training camps, mail from the US, Canada and France Polish F.P.O., 1919/1920 Brygada Karpacka – 1940/42 (Carpathian Brigade), General Anders (2nd Korps) material from the Soviet Union – 1942 Will provide good exchange material or will purchase any material I need.

Jan Niebrzydowski, 186 Smith St., New Britain, CT 06053



*After listening to the presentation on the increased value of stamps, **Bob Ogrodnik** and **Richard Mallow** discuss cornering the market on damaged Polish philatelic material.*

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Helena Lübke and her Undercover Address

Paul J. Phillips

The problem of sending mail to loved ones during wartime has always been a problem, especially when the mail is to travel between two adversaries. During the Boer War a scheme was set up to facilitate this type of mail exchange. The mail simply sent to a special "undercover" address in a neutral country, from which it would be forwarded. Of course, in this case the operators of the "undercover" address were themselves the forwarding agency, using Delagoa Bay in Portuguese East Africa as the intermediate address.

Thomas Cook and others, set up undercover addresses during World War I in Switzerland. The most recent use of such a system is for Palestinians in Israeli occupied territory who needed under cover addresses, as the Arab and other Muslim countries had a complete boycott of postal communications with Israel. They would send mail to the GPO in London, or less frequently to the GPO in Nicosia, Cyprus. Mail went into the occupied territories using this service also.

In this case the method was well-described. The sender had to place the mail in an addressed, sealed envelope, without postage, inside an envelope addressed to the GPO in King Edward Street, London EC1, together with two International Reply Coupons. In all of these cases the outer wrapper has survived with, of course, no obvious indication of the final destination.

The fascinating subject of undercover addresses in World War II has been the subject of a short publication by Charles Entwhistle, Chaveril Press, 1992. A large fraction of these addresses used in World War II involved Poles at home and abroad with many in the British armed forces. The most frequently encountered items involve undercover addresses in Portugal. The mail is invariably coming from the General Government. Sometimes mail from annexed areas of Poland is also found. The mail is usually going to Polish troops and sometimes to

the exiled government. Because of German restrictions, postal cards were often used, and they invariably contain a message about receiving or needing canned goods, resulting in the somewhat insulting description of the mail being called "sardine cards". The total undercover system operation will be the subject of one or two later in-depth articles. Some addresses are of the utmost scarcity.

One of these scarcer addresses is the subject of the current article. It was prompted by an illustration on page 3 of *Polonus*, No. 527, Summer 2007. The illustration was in an article by Chris Kulpinski on Polish Internees in France. The item was a letter from the Red Cross to "Helena Liibke" at Case 1711, St. Francois, Lausanne, Switzerland. The Red Cross had taken the handwritten name, Lübke, and assumed it was Liibke. Why was this so important?

Helena Lübke was the long time secretary and personal assistant to Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist and Prime Minister of Poland from 1919 to 1926. He had moved to Switzerland after Pilsudski's coup. After the Polish Defensive War of 1939 Paderewski returned to public life. In 1940 he became the head of the Polish National Council, a Polish parliament in exile in London. Helena Lübke stayed in Switzerland at Lausanne and set up one of the first undercover addresses. She financed the operation using her own savings.

Entwhistle lists four undercover addresses for her:

- (a) Joliette 3,
- (b) 15 Rue du Midi, Pension Drybourg,
- (c) PO Box 25 and
- (d) Case 1711, St Francois.

I have only items addressed to Joilette 3 in my extensive collection of undercover mail and the letter in Chris's possession is the only actual communication involving Helena Lübke that I have ever seen.

I am illustrating this article with two items from my collection, both addressed to Joliette 3, Lausanne.

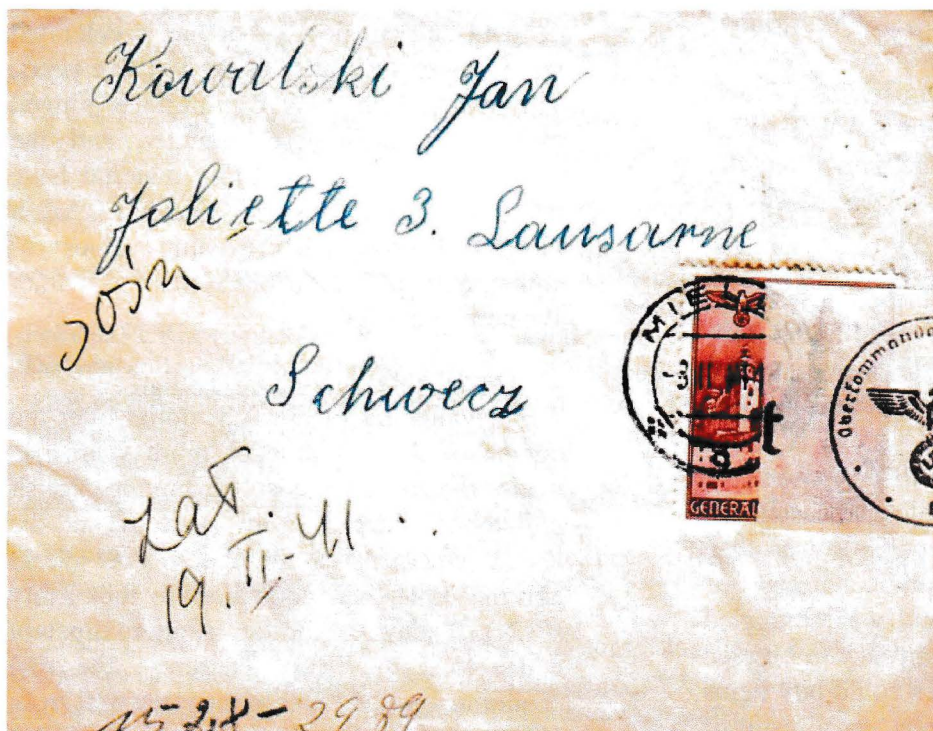


First is a letter from Krasocin, near Wloszczowa. The envelope has an unusual combination of attractive features.

It is a registered item at the 1.10 zł rate, the stamps being cancelled by a Wloszczowa (distr. Radom) bridge type cancel.

The registration label has Krasocin entered in manuscript and there is a Germanic village box mark Krasocin / uber Wloszczowa. It also has the red V (for Victoria [Victory]) applied by the Nazis and known only during the summer of 1941 (mailed 23 July). As is

normally the case for letters sent to Lübke for forwarding, the name of the recipient is on the cover, in addition to her name.



The second item is the only one I have seen where her name is not applied to the envelope, only her address together with the name of the addressee. It was mailed 8 February 1941 from Mielec.

Docketing on the front indicates that it was received 19 February 1941. Of course, both items were censored by the Wehrmacht; in this case, the censor tape was wrapped around and over the 80 gr stamp.

Fortunately for me, the dealer who sold me the item had no idea that the address had any significance.

Historical and Economic Impacts on Value of Polish Philatelic Material

Hank Bieniecki

Introduction:

Collectors of Polish Philatelic material outside of Poland have been surprised by dramatic increases in the prices of Polish philatelic material over the course of the last ten years. This article explains the factors that have given rise to these increased values, and advises that relative bargains may be found outside of Poland, because the majority of U.S. dealers rely on Scott valuations, which have essentially no relationship to real market values.

Historical Impact on Valuation of Polish Philatelic Material:

After World War I, Poland was once again an independent state with the right to issue its own stamps and create an independent postal service.

The post-war period from 1921 through 1 September 1939 became what many would classify as the golden age of Polish philately. During this period the greatest collections of Polish philately were assembled, both inside and outside Poland, and a wealth of Polish philatelic research was published by Mikstein, Rachmanov, etc.

On 1 September 1939, German troops invaded Poland from three sides, initiating WW II. Per a secret agreement with Germany, on 17 September 1939 Soviet Russia invaded Poland from the east with a million troops.

After 5 years of fighting and turmoil, a war-torn and economically devastated Poland found itself behind the "Iron Curtain," effectively a serf of Soviet Russia from the end of WW II until the rise of Solidarity in 1980 and the "Fall of the Wall" in 1989. During this period of approximately 50 years Poles focused on obtaining basic economic goods rather than philatelic material. Polish philatelic material that had survived WW II in Poland was smuggled out of Poland to obtain hard currency to be used in "Dollar Stores," where Poles could buy items not available for Polish currency. As a result of no "Home Market," the value of Polish philatelic material declined relative to the value of similar material issued in the free countries of

the West. Without demand from Poland, even the rarest of Polish philatelic material sold for a fraction of equivalent material from free countries.

Economic Factors Impacting the Values of Polish Philatelic Material:

Two economic factors have combined to increase the value of Polish philatelic material over the course of the last five years.

1. Economic Expansion of Poland:

In 1989, after the overthrow of communist rule, Poland established what is today known as the "Third Polish Republic." After 50 years, Poland once again existed as an independent nation and could rely on its own resources and well-educated population to slowly produce economic conditions that emulated those in the West. Since 1989 economic growth has created both a significant upper class of wealthy Poles and a strong middle class, resulting in a strong "Home Market" for all "cultural items," including philatelic material. As expected, demand started slowly but has accelerated rapidly over the course of the last five years. The prices of pre-WW II mint never hinged material have at least doubled and the increases for scarce and rare material have been higher. As a result the value of Polish material is finally approaching values for equivalent philatelic material in other Western countries.

2. Devaluation of the U.S. Dollar:

The devaluation of the U.S. dollar over the course of the last five or more years has made the relative cost of buying Polish philatelic material from sources in the U.S.A. inexpensive for Poles. Four years ago the dollar was equivalent to four Zloty (PLN). Today the dollar is approximately equal to 2.25 Zloty. Therefore the real economic cost of Poles buying material from US sources has been cut almost in half. But if a collector in the USA attempts to buy material from Poland, the dollar prices have doubled! Increased demand in Poland has

compounded this problem as at the same time Fischer catalog prices have increased materially for all better Polish philatelic material.

Suggestions for Collectors of Polish Philatelic Material:

The intent of this article is to inform rather than to discourage collectors of Polish philatelic material. Yes, prices have increased, but then so has the value of the better material you already own. Further, it is highly likely that the prices of Polish philatelic material will continue to increase; those increases are already impacting post-WW II material including issues from the 1950's and 1960's. There is very little stock of philatelic material from the 1970's through the 1990's available in Poland. As the middle class demand for this material increases so will the Fischer catalog values. Following are some suggestions as to what collectors of Poland may do to benefit from the strong philatelic markets in Poland:

- Look for material from uninformed dealers in the USA who still sell based on Scott.
- Find and acquire the items you need sooner rather than later as prices are unlikely to decline.
- Complete your collections of post-WW II material now before prices increase

again both in Fischer and ultimately even in Scott.

- Look for areas of Polish philately that have not already dramatically increased in price. These include, but are not limited to: (a) 1914 to 1918 city locals, (b) WW I postal history of Poland, (c) WW II Exile Mail in Great Britain, the Middle East and Italy, (d) General Government, (e) Postal Stationery which is documented in Fischer Vol 2, (f) any area not cataloged in Scott.

Conclusion:

Prices for Polish philatelic material are now approaching those from other countries which did not suffer under communism for 50 years after WW II. This should be a source of pride to Poles and Polonia. The unfortunate tumultuous history of Poland has created a fascinating and nearly endless number of ways to collect and exhibit Polish philatelic material. Do not wait until Fischer Vol II is issued again in 2010 or 2011 as prices will most certainly be increased significantly. Make sure you have a copy of the current 2006 Fischer Vol II and use this window of opportunity to find your niche and build your collection.

NOTE: This is a summary of a presentation I gave at the Polonus annual meeting at ROMPEX in Denver on May 17, 2008

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Polonus PURLs (Philatelic URLs) - www.polonica.info

Do you collect Polish Pianist Philately or have some other Polish topical interest? Leo van den Heuvel's www.polonica.info is just the site for you: it lists stamps with Polish themes, but not those issued by Poland. Like your insurance policies, certain exclusions apply: no Freie Stadt Danzig (1920-1939), Generalgouvernement (1939-1944), Deutsches Reich (before May 1945), Pope John Paul II or Słania. (For Słania-philites it has a link to www.slaniastamps-heindorffhus.com.)

You can search the site by country or by topic, but the topic listing is still in process. There's no listing for Paderewski, for example, so you can't find US Scott # 1159-60 that way

The site is particularly interesting in that it is in four languages – Dutch, Polish, German and English each have their own sub-site www.polonica.info/Paginas/frames_gb.html. I only reviewed the English site. The English site has quite a few misspellings, but these will gradually get sorted out. Each topic includes a short description with a nice photo, so the site can be quite educational.

I think this site is very interesting, has fine potential, and is a great complement to Ben Nieborg's Stamp Encyclopedia Poland (also a Dutch site), www.stampspoland.nl, which deals only with the stamps of Poland.

Message from the President

Bob Ogrodnik

As we recover from our visit to the “Mile-High City” and ROMPEX 2008, I am energized by the potential for our Society apparent from the discussions and meetings at this event. An article in this Bulletin provides more information about ROMPEX, but I want to acknowledge and congratulate the five exhibitors of Polish material who were awarded the four POLONUS Gold medals and one POLONUS Silver. My only disappointment was not being ready to make my debut at this show, as I had indicated in the previous Bulletin. However, I am more determined than ever and look forward to participating with my first exhibit in the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition scheduled for February of 2009.

In addition to the success by exhibitors of Polish material, the reports by our Officers and Committees reflect significant progress in areas to improve member benefits and to fulfill our mission as “the world’s leading English language organization dedicated to the promotion and study of Polish Philately”. Notwithstanding, priorities still exist for continuous improvement of existing programs and for launching new projects to enhance member benefits.

One of these priorities is expanding our committee structure and volunteer base. We have been fortunate in completing a smooth transition with the Office of Treasurer. Thanks to **Jerry Zedlitz**, our former Treasurer, and **Dan Lubelski**, our current Treasurer, who worked the handoff diligently, the function continues without any issues. However, **Dan Lubelski** needs relief with the “New Issues” for our Bulletin and we are looking for a volunteer to take on this activity. In addition to the existing committees, we are still looking for the following volunteers: contributors of articles for our Bulletin; translators of articles from Polish to English; exhibitors at POLONUS participating stamp shows (mentoring available); attendants for Society table at stamp shows; and participants in Study Groups. We are in the process of updating our membership database and you will have an opportunity to indicate the areas in which you are interested in volunteering. In the interim, please do not hesitate to e-mail me (krpsl@earthlink.net) or call me (314-821-6130) if you are ready to volunteer.

POLONUS Members Meet at ROMPEX, 2008

Bob. Ogrodnik

The 59th Annual Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (aka ROMPEX) and the 6th Annual POLONUS Meeting/Exhibition was held in Denver, Colorado on May 16-17-18, 2008. POLONUS members from Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Texas and Colorado were in attendance to exhibit, to attend the Polonus meetings and to reduce their “want lists”. Overall, a good time was had by all.

The significance of exhibiting at this show is that gold medal winners may compete in the World Series of Philately. There were five (5) exhibitors of Polish material at this show, who won three (3) gold, one (1) vermeil, and one (1) silver. Congratulations to all the exhibitors winning medals, especially the following winning the prestigious POLONUS medals:

POLONUS Gold Medal (for all Show Gold and Vermeil):

- **Regis Hoffman** – Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II
- **Dr. Richard Mallow** – First Issue of the People’s Republic of Poland
- **Dr. James Mazepa** – United States Overrun Countries Series – The Poland Stamp
- **Gerard Menge** – Generalgouvernement Protectorate 1940-1944

POLONUS Silver Medal (for all Show Silver and Bronze):

- **Alfred F. Kugel** – The Polish Post Office in the Free City of Danzig, 1925-1939

In addition to the above mentioned medals, **Dr. Richard Mallow** was the winner of the POLONUS One-Frame Grand Award (President's Award) for the best one-frame Polish exhibit.

On May 16th, the Board of Directors met with **Chairman Mazepa** presiding and on May 17th, the Annual Membership Meeting was held with **President Ogrodnik** presiding. Following the Annual Membership Meeting, **Hank Bieniecki** and **Jim Mazepa** collaborated on the subject "Increased Valuations of Polish Philatelic Materials", which is covered separately in this bulletin. The following is the President's Report, which summarizes the accomplishments and reports given by Officers and Committee Chairs.

President's Report

Bob Ogrodnik

It is hard to believe that six months have already passed since being elected President during CHICAGOOEX 2007 and here I am giving my first President's Report. I guess that old adage is true, i.e., "time flies when you are having fun". It gives me great pleasure to report that the state of POLONUS is very good (B+) and well positioned for growth through continuous improvement. Here is a list of accomplishments that we should all be proud of:

1. Our financial position is sound and improving. As of April 28th our asset balance is over \$8,000, up \$2,000 since the first of our fiscal year (Jan 1st).
2. Our primary source of income is membership, which continues at a count of 212, of which approximately 30 are located in 10 countries outside the U.S.A. Increasing membership annually is a significant challenge, one that will continue to be a priority.
3. The IRS notified us in March that our application for a tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code was approved. This is good news for POLONUS as it opens up another major source of income, i.e., charitable contributions.
4. Our Spring Bulletin #530 represents a major improvement with the new and enlarged format, now in full color. As one of the valuable benefits for membership, the POLONUS Bulletin is a "work in progress". You can expect to see ongoing improvements in content, format and print quality in future issues.
5. Our website also represents a major improvement, such as the addition of the first exhibit – Roman Sobus' "Polish Prisoner of Camp Post" and the expansion of the "Members' Forum".
6. Work on expertizing is nearing completion and this service will soon be available to our membership. Our website will contain a description of the program, which will include application forms for submittal. Bulletin #530 featured an article on this subject by Hank Bieniecki, Chair of the Expertizing Committee.
7. Another major accomplishment is the opening of the POLONUS Library in Florida and the launch of a program to provide members with access to philatelic reference materials.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and Committees who have performed admirably in achieving these noteworthy results. As I look back over my first six months and what has been accomplished, the outlook for our Society over the next couple years has to be excellent.

*Sarasota will be an important meeting for Polonus.
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and exhibit.*

February 6 – 8, 2009

ON TO SARASOTA 2009!!!

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition

All who attended our meeting in Denver will agree how our annual meetings foster fellowship and communications among our members. The Society table was a gathering place for members and non members alike. The freebies of great chocolate, Polish stamps, and Polish coins contributed to making this a focal point of the entire exhibition.

Plans are already underway for our next annual meeting in Sarasota, Florida, February 6-8, 2009, at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition (SNSE). This exhibition is one of the most popular of all the national exhibitions, and is always well attended. Polonus has reserved 60 of the 200 available frames for our exhibits. At least two dealers specializing in Polish material will attend. An invitation has been made to Mr. **Al Kugel** to show a one frame Court of Honor exhibits of his ultra rare Warwiski covers, as well as his Polish Offices in Odessa and Levant covers. This will be a unique opportunity to see material that is usually only seen in international exhibitions.

Needless to say, everyone wants to come to Florida in February. The frames are usually filled by the end of November. Entry forms and the prospectus are now available from Dr. **James Mazepa** at jmazepa@comcast.net or from the SNSE website.

This is high season in Sarasota, so make your plans early, flights and hotels fill up quickly at this time of year. Delta, USAir, AirTran, Continental, JetBlue, and Northwest all fly directly into the Sarasota International Air Port. The Tampa airport is an easy hour's drive north of Sarasota. A new hotel, the Intercontinental Hotel Indigo, has just opened across the street from the exhibition center.

We will have a poolside reception Friday evening at the home of **Dr. Mazepa**. Plan to make this a family event. There is no lack of things to do in and around the Sarasota Sun Coast: Great beaches, shopping at St. Armand's Circle and our quaint down town Sarasota, Selby Gardens, the Mote Aquarium, and outlet malls are only a short distance way. Sarasota is noted for its many fine dining restaurants.

POLONUS Gets IRS Approval as 501(c)(3) Organization

By Bob Ogrodnik

IRS Notification dated March 28, 2008 states: *"We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax-exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code."*

This indeed is good news for POLONUS, now designated as a Public Charity, as cash and in-kind contributions can be acknowledged as tax-deductible gifts, a benefit for POLONUS and for the generous benefactor. Furthermore, contributions have the potential of significantly increasing income to the Society. Currently, membership dues represent approximately 90% of annual income, the balance from merchandise sales and contributions. Our primary expense is the Bulletin, which is now running approximately 74% of income, which leaves little for other Society expenses, not to mention worthwhile projects to enhance member benefits.

Therefore, tax-exempt contributions become a viable strategy to fund projects and activities beyond our Bulletin. At this time, we are identifying and prioritizing our needs requiring additional funding and will discuss these in subsequent Bulletins. In the interim, we respectfully ask all members to seriously consider making tax-deductible contributions to: POLONUS Philatelic Society. All cash and in-kind gifts will be acknowledged with an appropriate tax letter. After all, you will be the ultimate beneficiary with enhanced member benefits.

POLONUS Financial Status (as of April 28, 2008)

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets

Cash in checking/savings \$8,016.95

Accounts Receivable

Membership dues not received 565.00

Total Assets

\$8,581.95

Liabilities & Equity

Equity

Opening balance as of Jan 1 \$6,085.12

Net income 2,496.83

Total Liabilities & Equity

\$8,581.95

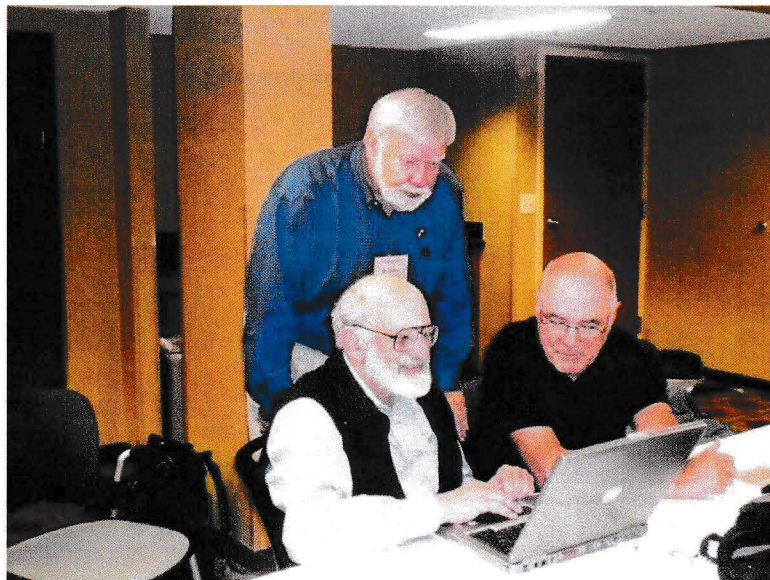
Note: Based upon report submitted by **Dan Lubelski**, Treasurer



A busy Society Table

*James Mazepa, Andrew Wacinsk, sitting
across from Jim, Hank Bieniecki,
Mary Ann Frost and Sam Ginsburg*

*Sam Ginsburg showing his Przedbórz
web-site to Jim Mazepa and
Chris Kulpinski*



POLPEX 2008 – A Chicago Tradition

Chester Schafer

The Chicago chapter of Polonus held their annual Polpex on February 22-24 at White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Illinois. Due to unusually mild winter days, attendance was up from the past few years. The fifteen dealer bourse racked up good sales. Member dealers attending were **Andrew Wacinski** from Denver Colorado and **Terry Kurzynski** from Rockford Illinois.

At this non-competitive show of twenty frames, was a Polish Scout collection of **Arkadiusz Walinski**, a Solidarity display of **Fred Szebel** and Polish Constitution Issues of 1921 of **Chester Schafer**. Also shown were four frames of award winning drawings of Poles at Jamestown, courtesy of the Polish Museum of America, from their recent contest held for elementary and high school students. This fit nicely with the theme of the show, which was the Arrival of Poles at the Jamestown Colony.

The United States Post Office honored Polpex with a special cancellation used on opening day covers. Affixed to the covers was the recent 41 cent Jamestown commemorative, which were sold at the show. A small quantity of covers remain and are available to Polonus members for \$2.00 plus postage. Write to Polpex, PO Box 410452, Chicago IL, 60641.



Cachet covers issued for Polpex 2008 and available for sale.



Member and dealer Terry Kurczynski



Members Andrzej Wacinski and Fred Szebel

Troyak Club V Annual Exhibit

Roman Sobus

On March 1, 2008, the Toronto Area Troyak Club held its 5th Annual Exhibit at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Center in Mississauga, Ontario.

On display were both philatelic and numismatic items, including several exhibits in both categories chronicling the travels of the late Pope John Paul II. Also exhibited were several displays of POW as well as concentration camp items, and one very nice multi-frame exhibit of aerographs.

The Polish Mint and *Wydawnictwo Nefryt*, both showcased their latest items and represented commercial interests from Poland.

Polonus / Troyak members and stamp dealers **John Rudnicki** and **Ziggy Borowski** with young grandson assisting, did brisk business with many of the hundreds of people that visited the exhibit during its seven-hour duration.

This was my second consecutive year attending this event, primarily for the purpose of mutual cooperation, and visiting old friends. Polonus and Troyak mission statements overlap on a number of levels, and both clubs share members.

At our Annual meeting in Chicago last November, a number of Toronto area members took the time to travel and attend our gathering and we trust those visiting were not disappointed. I certainly enjoyed attending the Troyak Show, although Canada in early March can be interesting.

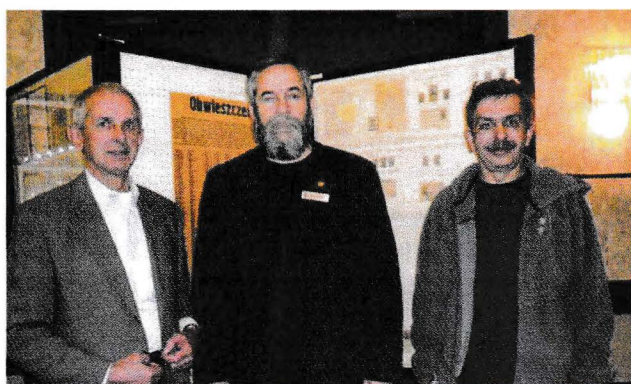
Troyak President, **Ignacy Kania** viewed the V Annual Show a resounding success, stating that keeping Polish culture alive, especially among the young, is most important. Events such as these expose them to their history and culture, as few others can.

I am already looking forward to next year!

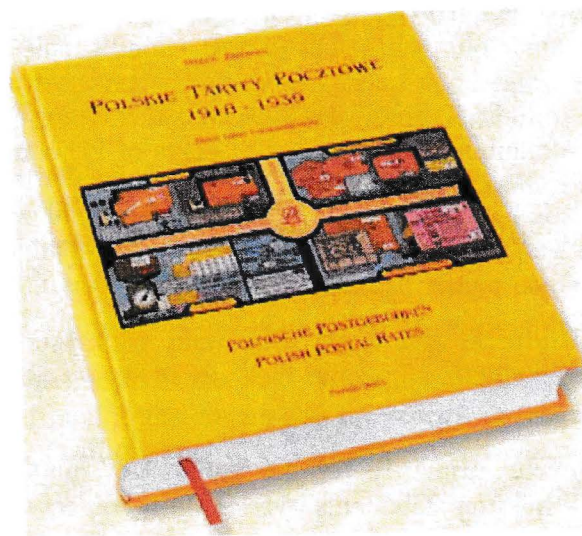


*Toronto Polonus / Troyak members;
left to right: unknown guest, **John Rudnicki**,
Ziggy Borowski, Troyak President **Ignacy Kania**, **Tom Malicki**, and **Roman Sobus***

*Left to right
Ignacy Szymanski, **Janusz Parchimowicz**
(*Wydawnictwo Nefryt*, Szczecin, Poland),
Roman Sobus*



Have registered on our web site - www.polonus.org - yet?



Polish Postal Rates – 1918–1939

By Marek Zbierski

ISBN 83-87005-20-7

570 pages, hard bound, 26x21 cm – approx. 9x10 inches

Order from author – zbierski@gmx.de or Intergra Plus, P.O. Box 88, 60-972 Poznan 1, Poland \$110.00 plus postage. The book is available from BII, hank@biistamp.com including s/h, for Polonus members in the US and Canada.

The author is a member of the Poland Study Group in Germany (BARGE Polen) (www.arge-polen.de), which highly recommends this work.

This highly detailed work provides extensive information and a complete history of the Polish postal rates between 1918 and 1939.

The material is derived from over 270 literature sources, all of the official Polish postal publications as well as the official decrees of the Polish post Ministry.

In an effort to make the information more widely available to collectors, most of the tables have been translated in to German and English. There is also a special Polish-English-German dictionary of postal rate terminology.

The tables are supplemented with nearly 200 transcriptions from original Polish decrees which give detailed explanations to many of the terms and handling procedures showing the development of postal rates.

In addition, the book contains all the postal rates and fees for additional services for letters, parcels, money transfers, value sendings, telegrams and special rates for Polish internal and foreign mail. Also included are postal rates for airmail and Zeppelin mail from Poland to the rest of the world.

Furthermore, collectors of other areas connected with Poland can, for instance, find the postal rates for the former Prussian Territory (Posen), the Polish part of Upper Silesia and Port Gdansk.

This book will be a great help to all Poland collectors, postal historians, philatelic experts and auctioneers.

Terry Kurzinski

I buy old stamps and Mail

P.O. Box 5845
Rockford, IL 61125
H 815-332-3264
C 815-262-9117 TKURZINSKI2002@YAHOO.COM

Note – The Polish Post Office no longer supplies Fischer numbers in their announcements, therefore these numbers are not provided.

Post Europe Plenary Assembly – Krakow



of the Member States.

On January 16 and 17, 2008 the Plenary Assembly of Post Europ was held in Kraków. The 3 PLN block's artwork combines symbols of the post (an envelope), the city of Kraków (a peacock's feather which is a typical element of the Cracovian folk costume), and the European community which is expressed by the letter "E" with color taken from the national flags

Date of Issue	January 15, 2008
Sheet Format	Block of 1
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Janusz Wysocki

Post Europe unites the 43 European national public postal operators and was established in 1993. With headquarters in Brussels, its main function is to develop and improve the quality and effectiveness of postal services. It is also known for holding competitions for designs to be used on the "Europa" stamps.



Valentine's Day

This 1.35 PLN stamp, commemorating Valentine's Day, depicts the entrance to the land of love through a garden gate shaped as a heart. St. Valentine was a Roman Bishop of the 2nd/3rd century AD and is recognized as the patron saint of those suffering from epilepsy and

similar illnesses. Other legends have him as the patron of lovers whom used to marry people against the Emperor's will. In modern society, it is often just a "card" holiday where nearly one billion cards are sent as a reminder of one's love for another special person.

Date of Issue	February 7, 2008
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dabrowska

History of Polish Photography

To celebrate the 190th anniversary of Karol Beyer's birth, the Polish Post issued 4 stamps with reproductions of his photographs from the National Museum in Warsaw. The stamps present the Author's self-portrait (1858), portraits of peasants from Wilanów (1866), the Holy Cross church in Warsaw (1858) and Russian army at the Castle Square in Warsaw (1861). Karol Beyer is considered the father of Polish photography. His photographs of the 1861 uprising was not well received by Russia and earned him the right to spend two years to a remote region of Russia.



Date of Issue	February 29, 2008
Sheet Format	12 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski



80th Anniversary of the Polish Border Guard

Date of Issue	March 22, 2008
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jerzy Skakun

On the 80th anniversary of establishing the Border Guard (Straż Graniczna), the Polish Post has issued a 2.10 PLN stamp with a border-pole motif, painted in white-and-red strips and with a state emblem. The Border Guard is a police-type unit dedicated to watch over the country's frontier and to control the cross-border traffic. In addition, it is active in the protecting the sea harbors and international airports. The border guard has been in existence (in various forms) since the rebirth of Poland but was made official by President Ignacy Mościcki on March 22, 1928.



Polish Aviation

Date of Issue	March 31, 2008
Sheet Format	8 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jerzy Skakun

The Polish Air Force has been in existence since the independence of Poland. Before WWII, the Air Force was attached to the Army and had around 750 planes. They fought valiantly during the September campaign but were quickly sent to other European countries when it was obvious the country was falling. The reformed squadrons were renowned for their efforts in the Battle of Britain in 1940. After the war, the National Air Defense was formed and was heavily influence by the USSR using Soviet-made planes. When Poland joined NATO, the Air Force changed its planes to standardize with NATO forces. Pictured in these two stamps are TS-11 (3 PLN) and the F16 (3.55 PLN). The TS-11 is a single engine jet trainer designed by Dr. Eng. Tadeusz Sołtyk and his team. The F16 is the most popular jet fighter in the world, which is used by 25 countries.

Information Needed

I am working on an article for the next Bulletin about the mail from Poland in late 1944 to the International Red Cross in Switzerland. Although there is mail from parts of Poland that were "liberated by the Soviets in August, 1944, most of the mail appears to have originated from the Praga district of Warsaw.

I am particularly interested in seeing scans of the following between October, 1944 and January 17, 1945

Mail from **Warszawa P.O. 2**

Mail from **Warszawa P.O. 9**

Mail from **Warszawa P.O. 38** with the word "**Wedel**", usually next to the registration mark

Mail from **Warszawa P.O. 50**

Mail with any **Russian transit markings**

Mail from **other parts of Poland**

Mail with any transit or censor markings **other than**

Ankara,

Cairo,

Beyrouth

Plus any material than you might consider unusual.

If you have any such material, please contact me at chris@kulpinski.net or call 480-585-7114.

I would like to see scans, or even purchase the material if you want to sell it.

Your help will be noted in the book.