



4th National Polonus Meeting/Exhibition March 24-26, 2006

By: Chris Kulpinski

Yes, I know that it's still 2005 and Christmas hasn't come as yet, but I would like you to think about Cleveland in March.

As you know, POLONUS is participating in the Garfield-Perry March Party, March 24th through the 26th, 2006. It will be our 4th meeting in association with a national stamp show. I know that all of our members who were able to attend in St. Louis had a terrific time.

The "March Party", as it is officially referred to, is an American Philatelic Society and World Series of Philately qualified show, with the Grand Winner eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions competition. Jim Mazepa has competed in a couple of Champion of Champions competitions. It is time for our Society to produce more exhibits of that caliber. There is no reason why we can't. There is certainly no lack of material in Polish philately and I have seen some fine collections over the years that could qualify, if they were properly put together. Help for such a project is available. Ask me about it if you are interested.

Anyhow, the March Party exhibition and bourse will be held at the Masonic Auditorium, East 36th Street and Euclid Ave. Both the U.S. and the U.N. Postal folks will be present and there will be at least 55 dealers. You may never get to see what they have unless you come to the show. Since they know that Polish collectors will present, they will bring their Polish material.

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FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

by: Chris Kulpinski
chris@kulpinski.net

A little while ago I mentioned to Hank that I wanted this page, hopefully to be used by future Presidents, to make the Bulletin more personal, to provide some continuity and to communicate to members what was happening within the society.

As you know, over the past year I've been trying to encourage members who have not yet exhibited, to get their feet wet. Today, I want to share with you a serendipitous situation which has led me to put together an exhibit beyond my previous area of interest.

As you may be aware, we will be holding our 5th Annual meeting at Chicagopex in 2006, which will have a Pan Slavic theme. In the back of my mind I was wondering what type of exhibit I could put together that would reflect the theme of that show. Here comes the serendipitous part – in St. Louis last year, a dealer showed me a collection of covers which covered the Soviet occupation of Poland and the Baltic States – 1939/41. After a bit of haggling, which is every collector's duty, I purchased the collection with the idea of making an exhibit. I would first exhibit it in Cleveland, see what the judges thought and then have a year to really put the final touches to it.

Since then I have gotten relevant covers from auctions, European dealers, and Jan Niebrzydowski, a fellow Polonus member. I have asked a prominent philatelic judge to preview the exhibit for his insight into how to make what I have most appealing. Make no mistake about it, I've had a few Gold's along the way, but not in major shows – so I need help as well.

My point is this. Look at all exhibits at shows – the Gold and the Bronze. There is no bad exhibit, just one that is poorly put together. Get some ideas. Put together an exhibit, no matter the length and have it critiqued. Need help or direction? Contact me. Also, you can contact The Philatelic Exhibitor at www.aape.org. The group will help you, whether novice or experienced, to improve your exhibit.

Meanwhile, if you have any covers from the Soviet occupation, I'd like to see them to find out what I don't have and what I should be looking for. Of course, I am in the market as well.

See you all in Cleveland!

4TH NATIONAL MEETING

Most of the social events will take place at the Holiday Inn Select City Center Lakeshore at 1111 Lakeside Ave. This Holiday Inn is also the show's headquarters hotel. For reservations, please call 216-241-5100 and ask for the special Garfield Perry rate which is \$89.00. Ask for those discounts at the time of registration. Each room has free (free is good) hi-speed internet service and the hotel has a pool, SPA and a fitness center.

If you are reading closely, you'll notice that the show and the hotel are at 2 different locations. The Garfield – Perry folks have that covered. There are free (again, free is good) shuttle rides between the hotel and the auditorium all day long. Sleep as long as you want, stay at the show as late as you please.

As a Society, we have a number of events planned. We will, of course have a society table, which will be manned during the show. I have observed that this is the place where people hang out the most. Last year, there were members and non-members constantly coming and going from our table, hanging around, showing and comparing stamps, gossiping about what dealer had what, sharing information, making new friendships and in general having a wonderful time.

As we will have a table and we need members to volunteer a few hours to be "behind the table". We already have one person who has volunteered to be responsible for making sure the booth is manned at all times. He and I will be coordinating the times for volunteers to work at the society table. While you may wait and volunteer at the show, we would appreciate hearing from you via email at ctk85255@yahoo.com so that I can prepare a Society table schedule before the show.

Polonus will have its 4th Annual Meeting plus 2 philatelic presentations. I have one presenter at this time and am looking for another. Could it be you? Your choice of topic. Please, share your passion! E-mail me – ctk85255@yahoo.com.

4TH NATIONAL MEETING

The Garfield-Perry committee is having a "wine and cheese" party on Friday evening. Polonus will participate in the GP "wine and cheese" party Friday night. It is free and open to all. This event will give members an opportunity to talk with each other as well as others.

The official Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening and is open to all who wish to buy a ticket. A Judges/Exhibitor Luncheon is also planned, which will be free of charge to exhibitors.

There are several restaurants at the Holiday Inn, and there will be a number of sponsored affairs at the hotel, but some of you might want to get out and explore Cleveland. We will be within walking distance to the world famous Rock and Roll Museum and the Science Center. There are restaurants in the area should you tire of hotel food and if you want to work on your tan, the hotel is close to the beaches on Lake Erie. There is also a free (I like that word) area shuttle to take you to "the Flats" and other interesting areas. Info will be available at the hotel.

And finally and this is very important – if you plan to exhibit, the deadline for entries is January 15th. Don't wait. Call or e-mail me for a prospectus, or go on line to download the application.

So, in a nutshell, here is the important information -

Last day for entries – January 15th

Show - March 24 - 26, 2006

**Application – www.garfieldperry.org or
ctk85255@yahoo.com or
480-585-7114**

Hotel reservation – 216-241-5100

In any case, check out the GP website for more detailed information.

Any other questions about the show, get in touch with me.

I look forward to renewing friendships made in St. Louis, as well as making new friendships in Cleveland.

REBUILDING WARSAW – THE ODBUDOWA WARSZAWY LABELS

By: Terence Hines

At the end of World War II Warsaw lay in ruins. A decision had to be made as to what to do with the remains of the city. One option was to leave it in ruins as a memorial. The other option, the one that was finally chosen, was to rebuild the city. But rebuilding would take money. One method the government of Poland used to raise funds for the rebuilding of Warsaw was unique. From April 15, 1950 to July 10, 1959, a surcharge on all domestic letters, cards and printed matter was imposed. I have discussed the details of the postal history of the surcharge elsewhere (Hines, 1995). This article concerns itself with a specific portion of the philatelic campaign to rebuild Warsaw – the various labels inscribed Odbudowa Warszawy – rebuilding Warsaw, that appeared from as early as 1945 through the 1950s.

I first ran across these labels when I lived in Warsaw in 1992 and 1993. None of the local stamp dealers could tell me anything about them. Nor could I find anything published in the Polish philatelic literature, although I must admit that I didn't have access to complete runs of all the post-war Polish philatelic journals. From my own collection of both loose singles and these labels used on cover, it appears that there were at least three different types. The first two designs are rather crude and are non-denominated. The third type is much better printed, is denominated, and seems to have been tolerated to pay the rebuilding surcharge on covers. These factors suggest that the third type was at least a semi-official production. In addition, copies of this type are known with "groszy" overprints used to revalue Polish postage stamps.

I have only seen one Type I label (**Figure 1**), an imperf single printed in apple green. According to my friend and colleague, Dr. Anna Grabowska of the Neurophysiology Department, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw, the initials NFSO stand for Społeczny Fundusz Odbudowa Stolicy – Public Fund for Rebuilding the Capital. At the base of the stamp is the word KRAJU, or country.

Thus the inscription reads, in full, "Odbudowa kraju I Warszawy" or "rebuilding the country and Warsaw".

Figure 2 shows a Type 2 label, also undenominated, on cover. The label is also printed in apple green and appears on a 1946 cover from Bochnia. This label differs from Type 1 in that it is smaller and lacks the NFSO initials. But it still shows the symbol of the city of Warsaw, the mermaid with her sword and shield.

It is the Type 3 labels (**Figure 3**) that come in the greatest variety. To begin, there are two sizes. I have seen six denominations of the small (design 11 by 15 mm.) and three denominations in a larger size (21 by 29 mm.) as listed in the table below. The large sized denominations have a very light yellow orange security underprint, similar to that found on many Polish revenue stamps of the same period (Barefoot 1998).

The perforations on this type are highly variable. This should not come as any surprise, since the perforations on many Polish postage stamps from this period are also highly variable. For example, while Scott catalogs list only a few perforation varieties of the 5 zł. and 15 gr. rebuilding stamps, Bura et al. (1985) lists eight perforation varieties for the 5 zł. stamp and 11 for the 15 gr. stamp. Bura goes to ¼ perfs, something that I will not do in this article. The following table lists perforation varieties for Type 3 labels.

Small size:

15 gr.	red	11 by 11, 11 by 13
30 gr.	apple green	11 by 13
50 gr.	blue	11 by 11
1 zł.	purple	12.5 by 11
2 zł.	blue	11 by 11, 11 by 11.5
5 zł.	purple	11 by 11.5

Large size:

10 zł.	red	12 by ?, 11 by 11.5
20 zł.	dark apple green	11 by 11.5
50 zł.	blue	11 by 11.5

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Groszy overprints:

10 zl.		12 by ?
30 gr.	on 20 zl.	12.5 by 12.5
50 zl.	small overprint	12 x 11.5
50 zl.	large overprint	12 by 11.5

As noted previously, Type 3 labels are known with "groszy" overprints. Those I have seen are shown in **Figure 4**. It is interesting to note that none of these groszy overprints match any of the types described by Kolakowski (1952).

All the evidence suggests that the Type 3 labels were officially printed. The next question is what function they served. The cover shown in **Figure 5** suggests that these labels were at least tolerated when used to pay the rebuilding surcharge. The cover in question was mailed April 27, 1951 from Zgorzelec. At the time the basic postal rate was 45 gr. and the rebuilding surcharge was 15 gr. On this cover that surcharge is paid with a single copy of the 15 gr. Type 3 label. The label is clearly tied to the cover by the handstamp cancel and so must have been accepted in payment of the surcharge by the postal clerk who cancelled the stamps.

Figure 6 shows another postal use of the 15 gr. label also interestingly, from Zgorzelec. This is a piece of a wrapper from a registered cover that probably contained printed matter. It was mailed April 5, 1951, after the currency reform. Postage stamps denominated in the old zl. without the groszy overprint were tolerated. The total of 1.50 zl. in postage (150 zl. in the old currency) pays 75 gr. for a printed matter package of between 500 and 1000 grams and another 75 gr. for the registration fee. The 15 gr. rebuilding surcharge is paid with the red 15 gr. Type 3 label.

On other covers in my collection, however, the Type 3 labels were obviously not used to pay postage. Shown in **Figure 7** is a strip of five of the small sized 2 zl. label affixed to the back of a cover. These labels pay no postage and are not cancelled. The sender seems to have affixed them much in the way that Christmas seals are put on the back of letters during the season.

Even when the labels appear on the front of covers, they are often not tied by the postmark. An example is shown in **Figure 8**. This

WARSAW LABELS

shows a registered letter mailed Sept. 5, 1951 to East Germany from Czechowice. All the stamps are tied but the 5 zł. label is conspicuously not tied, and presumably not accepted in payment for any of the required postal charges.

My sample of covers shown with these labels affixed is small. But on the two domestic covers, the labels are tied and have been accepted in payment of the rebuilding surcharge. On all the international covers that I have seen with these labels affixed, they have not been tied and do not pay any of the postal charges. It may be, then, that the Type 3 labels were acceptable only for payment of the rebuilding surcharge on Polish domestic mail, but not for any fees on international mail.



Figure 1

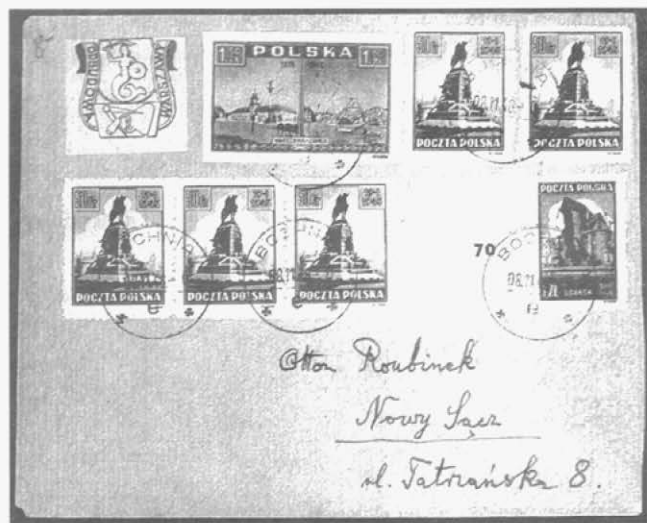


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

REFERENCES

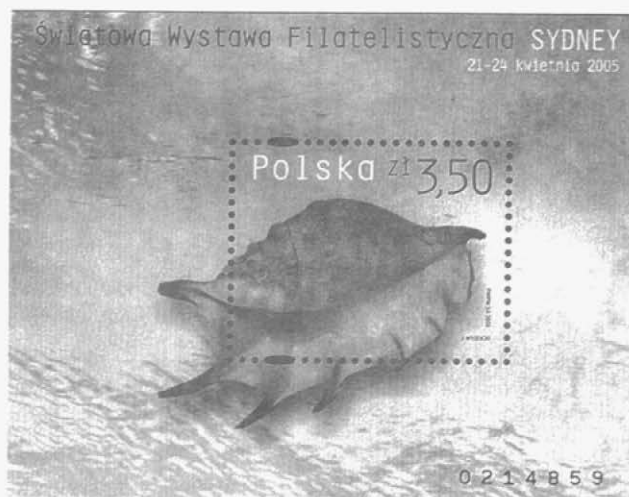
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- Hines, T. (1995). Philately and the rebuilding of Warsaw. *American Philatelist*, 109 (3), 240-247.
- Kolakowski, W. (1952). Polish stamp "groszy" overprints. Great Neck, NY: W. Kolakowski Co.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

If you have Warsaw Rebuilding Labels or usage on covers not documented in this article, please email Terry Hines at terencehines@aol.com or Hank at biistamp@charter.net.

POLAND NEW ISSUES

by: Dan Lubelski



World Philatelic Exhibition- Sydney

Date of Issue	April 21, 2005
Sheet Format	Block
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Janusz Wysocki

For the occasion of the World Philatelic Exhibition, held on April 21-24, 2005 in Sydney Australia, the Polish Post has issued a commemorative stamp in the form of a block. The design was created with the assistance of the Museum of Asia and the Pacific in Warsaw. The museum has among its collections items linked to the Pacific and Australia. Depicted on the 3.50 PLN stamp is the shell of *Lambis truncata*. The block was issued in both perforated (300,000 pc.) and imperforated (150,000 pc).



JEZU UFAM TOBIE

Pontification of
John Paul II
1978-2005

Date of Issue	April 22, 2005
Sheet Format	Souvenir Sheet
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Włodzimierz Terechowicz

The second of April marked the passing of a great man and a great Pole. Millions of people from around the world, of different ethnic backgrounds, races, and religions paid their respects to John Paul II. He reached many, as no other had before.

The Polish Post has issued a special stamp in the form of a souvenir sheet. John Paul II is depicted, on a mountain background on the 3.50 PLN stamp. "Jesus, I Trust in You" is inscribed on the sheet below the stamp.



Polish Cities: Przemysl

Date of Issue	April 30, 2005
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Justyna Wróblewska

This issue is part of the on-going series of stamps, "Polish Cities". It features the south-eastern town of Przemysl. It is situated on the banks of the river San and considered one of the most picturesque towns in the area. It lies between the Sandomierz Valley, the Carpathian Plateau, and the foothills of the eastern Carpathian Mountains. Tourism is an important aspect of the town's economy.

The oldest written historical record of the town dates to 981. The town received its city rights in the first half of the 14th century.

Modern Przemysl is an attractive city with narrow cobblestone streets and historical architecture including the monastery complex of the Franciscan and Carmelite orders as well as the Cathedral of John the Baptist. The tower of the cathedral appears on the 3.50PLN stamp.



Europa

NEW ISSUES

Europa

As a member of Post-europe, the association of European Public Post Operators, the Polish post

Date of Issue	May 1, 2005
Sheet Format	20 stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Magdalena Blazkow, Cezary Hladki

has issued a 2.20 PLN stamp whose theme centers on the European Community. Fine cooking is the theme of this year's issue. Pictured on the stamp is a type of gourmet cheese named "Oscypek" from the Polish region of Podhale. Oscypek has been produced for centuries by shepherds in their mountain sheds, during the prime grazing season of May thru October. Six to seven liters of milk are necessary to produce one kilogram of cheese. Oscypek belongs to the same family of sheep cheeses as are produced in Mediterranean countries, but is unique in its shape, color and flavor.



End of World War II, 60th Anniversary

Date of Issue	May 6, 2005
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Buszewicz

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. The 1.30 PLN stamp commemorates this occasion. The design incorporates a photograph of the symbol of the Third Reich lying in the rubble.



Polish Cities: **Szczecin**

Date of Issue	May 30, 2005
Sheet Format	100 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Maria Dziekanska

The city of Szczecin, the capital of the province West Pomerania, is the topic of this 2.80 PLN stamp in the continuing series "Polish Cities". Its stormy history dates back to the turn of the 11th century which was originally inhabited by the Slavs. The city received its city rights in 1243, and became the Prince's seat.

Szczecin owes its beauty to the time of the rule of the princes of the Griffin Dynasty. Their influence played an enormous role in the history of Pomerania. The heraldic crest of the city depicts the head of a crowned red griffin on a field of blue.

Rapid economic growth came to the city at the turn of the 19th century. The city's port and shipping center became a hub for much of Europe.

The city was destroyed during the Second World War, but was rebuilt by settlers and craftsmen from all over Poland. While the appearance of the city has changed from that of old Szczecin, it has developed a unique character all of its own. Its architecture of antique and secessionist buildings, along with the climate of a coastal city delight the residents and visitors alike.

WW I POST CARD DOCUMENTS

A SAD 1914 CHRISTMAS

By: Stanely T. Wlodek

The simple card shown in **Figure 1** is written on December 26 1914 by a little Polish girl to her father in France. In a childish handwriting the Polish text reads:

The 26th of December 1914. Steblow.

Dear Daddy

*We were very sad during the holidays without you, and we were even sadder when we learned that it will be a long time before we see you. I am not well, my tummy hurts. I kiss you Daddy very hard
Leluchna*

On the right hand side the card is addressed in French, in an adult hand, to:

*Monsieur Maurice Schmitt
At the 17th Territorial Infantry Regiment
At Versailles
France.*

The card is franked by two 2 kopeck Scott 89 stamps and cancelled with a Russian cancel dated 12/12 (Julian calendar) that reads Steblow Kiev Gubernia (Province). It also bears the Petrograd (St. Petersburg) Censor's (Petrogradska Voennaya Tsenzura) marking [1] purple stamp and the French censors (No. 13 and Initials) marking in similar color. Most telling is, however, the straight line, purple, French marking, in an oval frame, "Inconnu au 17^e Territoraille Le Vaguemestre 3...?" (Unknown to the 17th Territorials Postmaster March ...?) The Versailles address was then obliterated in blue pencil and the card was routed in red to Bernay, which was a small town some 100 kilometers (60 miles) due west of Paris. The card was probably never delivered to the addressee.

To appreciate the significance of the card, the historical background of that time needs some amplification. The Julian calendar, which differed by being some thirteen days behind the Gregorian, used

world wide to-day, was still in use in Russia until January 31 1918. Thus, the handwritten date of December 26 is in agreement with the post mark of December 12. The fact that the family celebrated Christmas on December 25 by the Gregorian calendar indicates that they were Roman Catholics and thus reinforces their Polish roots. As the Ukraine was essentially under Polish control before the first partition of 1773, a Polish family living in the Kiev province was not unusual, nor was the fact that the family name was German in origin. Many Germans had been encouraged to populate these lands and many became Polonized. World War I broke out over the period August 1 to August 4 1914. Poland was at that time partitioned between Austria, Germany and Russia. Poles who had to serve in the armies of the partitioning powers found themselves fighting each other, with much of the fighting in the eastern fronts occurring in ethnic Polish areas, leading to great destruction. In the west, the Germans invaded Belgium and attacked France from the north, a direction that the French did not expect. The French were woefully unprepared for modern warfare. Their infantry still wore bright blue jackets and red trousers. Their Cuirassiers heavy cavalry regiments still were resplendent in brass breast plates that shone gloriously in the sun, as they had been constantly polished since their introduction in Napoleonic times. The Germans had grayish green uniforms, modern Mauser rifles and machine guns; lots and lots of the latest machine guns. By September 1914 the Germans were within 25 miles of Paris and were actually capable of shelling the city with their heaviest artillery, the Big Bertha. The French finally woke up, formed a new army group and attacked the Germans on their far right flank. This was the famous First Battle of the Somme, when the French General staff commandeered all the Parisian taxi cabs to bring reinforcements to the front. The 17th Territorial Infantry Regiment was part of that attack, which, with great courage and loss of life, successfully pushed the Germans back.

Essentially this simple card is an example of the suffering that war brings to common people. It traveled from a loving daughter to Kiev, then Petrograd and probably reached France through the Russian province of Finland and neutral Sweden, only to be routed in France on a quest to find the father. The card apparently never reached the addressee. He probably died in the early days of the war.

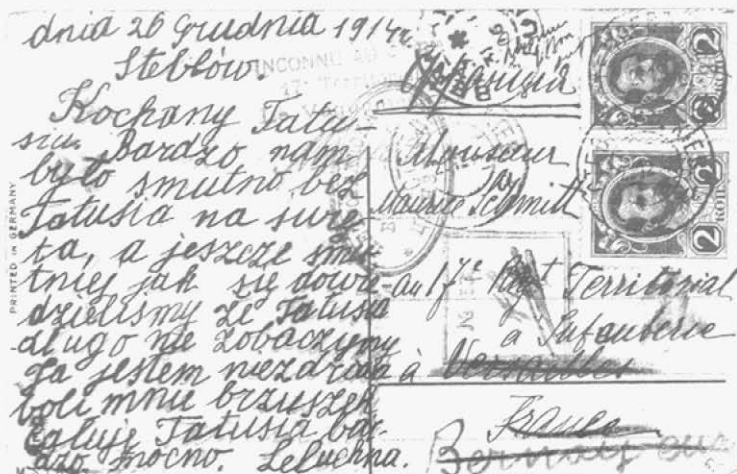


Figure 1

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1. A.V. Kiryushkin and P. E. Robinson, "Russian Postmarks, an Introduction and Guide," J. Barefoot Ltd, (1989), ISBN 0 906845 43 2. See Page 90 Figure 630.



The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization which was incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. Its objective is to promote Polish philately via the dissemination of Polish philatelic information in English. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Members receive the Polonus Philatelic Bulletin quarterly, have full access to www.polonus.org and participate in the events and activities of the society. Annual dues are payable in US funds before the end of March of each calendar year. Membership categories are as follows:

Regular Member: \$25.00 payable in US funds

Junior Members: (under age 16) \$10.00

Charge Card Payments: Members that pay their annual dues using a charge card will be assessed an additional \$4 banking fee.

New members will receive all the "Bulletins" for the year in which they join. All memberships are based on the calendar year.

(1) Dues, (2) Article for publication, (3) Changes of address, (4) Inquiries regarding and Applications for memberships, (5) General matters or complaints pertaining to the Society should all be sent to:

Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2, Maryville, IL 62062