



BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Issue No. 525

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 2007

POSITIVE CHANGES FOR POLONUS

by: Hank Bieniecki

The publication of this Bulletin was delayed as I wanted it to serve as a report on all the positive changes that have been taking place in your Society over the course of the last few months. As you may have concluded from the 40 names of new members posted in Bulletin 524 our Society is gaining new members. In this issue you will find the names of an approximately 30 additional members. I would once again suggest you look for new members in your area and contact them. The communications between members will be greatly enhanced by the Forum facilities provided in the new Polonus Website which are described in detail in a separate article in this issue.

With or shortly after this Bulletin, you will receive Bulletin 526 prepared by Chris Kulpinski who will serve as the Editor of future Bulletins. They will be published in a new larger format. These changes are outlined in a separate article in this Bulletin. No doubt Chris will provide additional information on these changes in 526.

Those of you who were members back in 1999 may recall my article entitled "Transition of Polonus into New Millennium". I am pleased to report that all of the objectives set forth in that article have been achieved. While many other philatelic organizations have disappeared, or find themselves in difficulty, our Society is flourishing due to the efforts of this organization's dedicated Board of Directors, Officers, Committees, and membership. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support.

NEW POLONUS WEBSITE

by: Hank Bieniecki

I am pleased to report that the old Polonus website has been replaced by a brand new expanded and enhanced website at www.polonus.org. This new site is state of the art. It was built using the most powerful software available today and has administrative controls that allow me as the Administrator to assign access to various features to members who will manage and update those features. Therefore this website will always be a work in progress to which an infinite amount of data may be added. For many of you this may sound like geek speak. Suffice it to say that it has the potential to become one of the most sophisticated philatelic society websites in the world.

At this point the website is like a library in which only a portion of the books have been placed. During the course of 2007 various members will be working to move more literature into this library. When you visit certain features today you will find "Under Construction" plus dates when new material is expected to appear. Other sections are complete and fully functional. Keep visiting to find what has been added since your last visit.

With the exception of not being able to post questions, answers and images on the Polonus Forum, all other sections of the website are open to all visitors. When you click on the Membership Info and Application link in addition to the new Polonus Application Form you will also find a Website Registration Form. As a member to log into the Polonus Website (**PWS**) you must complete and send me the requested information. I will then register you as a member on the website and you will full access to the Forum. The Login Name and Password work are identical for both the **PWS** and the Forum. When you login please note that a "Forum Picture" link is added to the bottom of the Menu. This feature will allow you to automatically upload images to your messages on the Forum without using FTP or any other software. Non-members will be able to read the Forum. However, they will not be able to use it to communicate with the membership.

NEW POLONUS WEBSITE

Before getting into all the details of the new website I wanted to explain the dedication of this site as a living memorial to my Father Joseph Bieniecki. As members or visitors enter the site they will see this dedication page and those who wish to may follow another link to find additional information about my Father. My father's brother Henry S Bieniecki, Bieniecki Int'l, Inc and I proposed that in exchange for this dedication that we would donate \$1500 to Polonus as well as pay all the initial costs associated with the creation of the PWS. The proposal was approved by the Polonus Board of Directors. As Website Chairman I will administer the site and give other members the access required to main and expand the site.

In addition to providing existing members with information and an efficient means of communication via the Forum the PWS is the source of 80+ percent of our new members. I anticipate that the new expanded site and the ability to use the Forum will encourage more visitors to join our Society.

The balance of this article will outline the features on the PWS and introduce you to their current and future use:

Home:

Enumerates the benefits of membership and allows visitors to send questions to info@polonus.org which is the email address for the PWS.

Membership Info & Application:

- Provides visitors with the information on how to join Polonus and enables them to print out an application.
- Provides members with Website Application Form which they may complete and submit in order to be registered in the website and gain access to "Members Only" features (Now limited to full Forum usage).

Index to Bulletins:

NEW POLONUS WEBSITE

- Offer for bound Polonus Bulletin Index for Issues 1 thru 401
- Description of searchable Electronic Index database which will be available in the future for all Bulletins issued from #1 to the current Bulletin. The data needs to be loaded into this database. As a printed index already exists for issues 1 through 401 the focus will be to have a committee of members enter the data for Bulletins starting with 402. Visitor clicking on this link will be redirected to the PDF Bulletin Index.
- PDF Bulletin Index which allows members to do an alphabetical search by topics for Bulletins 1 thru 401. When the Electronic Index database is finished this section will be deleted.
- Instructions on how to purchase earlier Bulletins along with pricing for Members and Non-Members.

Poland New Issue Information:

You will be able to see the new issues of Poland with descriptions and Fischer catalog numbers. This feature will be updated on a regular basis by Dan Lubelski

Expertizing Services:

As there are no expertizing services for Polish Philatelic material in North America I have been working for the last couple of years with Zbigniew Korszen, Expert of the Polish Philatelists Union, Warsaw Poland to establish a Polonus Expertizing Committee. By the end of February you will find new expertizing forms at this link which you will be able to use to submit philatelic material of Poland to determine if it is genuine or a forgery and for variety typing. Fees for members are substantially less than fees for non-members. Polonus will not sign any philatelic material. Korszen will provide that service.

NEW POLONUS WEBSITE

Korszen will also issue Certificates of Authenticity when requested.

The Polonus Expertizing Committee will initially serve as a screening function and will provide Expertizing Notes where submitted items are forgeries, or are not as described. Where items have been signed by Korszen and others and the member or non-member simply requires a certificate stating "In The opinion of the Polonus Expertizing Committee the item is genuine" Polonus will issue such a certificate.

Stanley Kronenberg Poland Collection:

Dr. Stanley Kronenberg was one of the foremost collectors of Polish philately and a renowned expert on the stamps of Poland. During his life he assembled what is believed to be the first complete collection of Poland. I had the privilege to know him and visit him frequently before his death in December 2000. One of his objectives was to fully document his Poland collection so that it might be preserved and shared with other collectors of Poland. After his death I began to work with his wife to ensure that the entire collection was scanned. Now it will become part of the PWS and be available for us and future generations of collectors interested in Polish Philately. With the assistance of member volunteers the entire Dr. Kronenberg collection will be loaded section by section onto the Polonus Website. It is anticipated that the introduction and first sections will be added by the end of March. Subsequent sections will follow until his entire collection is available on the PWS. Members interested in working on this project should contact me at info@polonus.org.

Exhibits:

Many of our members exhibit their collections at various philatelic events such as the upcoming ChicagoPex 2007. This section of the site will allow all members to have access to those exhibits. A ten frame exhibit consists of 160 pages of material. So look forward to seeing well described exhibits of Aero-Philately, P.O.W. etc when you visit this site in the future. Not only will you have the opportunity to see scarce and unusual material, but you will also see how excellent award winning exhibits are presented.

NEW POLONUS WEBSITE

Krakow Review and Krakow Supplement

Both of these sections were written by Dr. Michael Melnichak, noted expert on the Krakow issues of Poland, and have been incorporated into the new website from the prior site. Both links provide users with 13 pages of understandable background information about this complex issue, which are certainly the most frequently forged issue of Poland. Members and visitors alike will continue to benefit over the years from this excellent reference material. I know it is Mike's wish that his work will educate collectors and help them to avoid the huge number of Krakow forgeries that remain in circulation.

Useful Links

All members are encouraged to submit useful links pertaining to Polish Philately so that they may be incorporated into this section of the website.

Polonus Forum

Members and non-members will have access to all the items posted on the Polonus Forum. However only members will be able to post topics and reply to other posting on the Forum. The Forum represents one of the most important elements of the website as it gives members any where in the world the capability of communicating with their fellow members. If a member has questions about any type of Polish philatelic item they may scan it and use the Forum Pictures feature to upload the image and post their question(s) for viewing by all members and visitors to the Forum. Anatoly Chlenov will serve as the Administrator of the Forum and will have the ability to assign other members as Moderators of various Topics. His email is achlenov@yahoo.com

For control purposes members must register and provide a user name and password in the format specified on the Website Registration Form. The user name and password are identical for both the Polonus Website and Forum.

NEW EDITOR AND BULLETIN FORMAT FOR 2007

By: Hank Bieniecki

We live in a time where the only constant is change and in most instances when we reflect on where those changes take us we discover that the outcome is positive. I have served as the Editor of the Bulletin since issue 500 in January 2000. A couple of years later I also took over as the Publisher. For those of you have not been involved in the production of a publication there is a clear distinction between being an Editor and a Publisher. The Editor is responsible for the acquiring the content that constitutes the publication and also for preliminary lay out of that content. That content then goes to the Publisher who uses printers to get that content produced as the publication you read. Both jobs are challenging and have their own unique problems.

I am pleased to announce that effective with Bulletin 526, Chris Kulpinski will relieve me of my duties as Editor of our Bulletin. It is without question the most time consuming function of any philatelic society. I extend my sincere thanks to Chris for taking on this responsibility. It will allow me more time to focus on the Polonus Website, Polonus Expertizing Service and other society activities. As you will see upon receipt of Bulletin 526, Chris is opting to bring a new format and look to the Bulletin. There are various reasons for these changes and Chris will share them with you in 526.

John LaPorta, owner Custom Impressions (formerly K-Line) has been retained to function as the Publisher of the Bulletin. This Bulletin was published and printed by John. My only regret is that John did not find and join Polonus far earlier and request to relieve me of the publishing function years ago. Better late than never!

As this is my last Bulletin I have numerous contributors to thank for their invaluable assistance including but not limited to:

Dr. Stanley Kronenberg who before his death wrote original material and translated articles during the dark early days when survival was in doubt.

NEW EDITOR AND FORMAT

Chester Schafer who edited the Bulletin for 50 years before I became Editor, and who continued as Publisher during my first years as Editor.

Dr. Stanley Wlodek who came to my rescue as Translator Extraordinaire in 2002, and also contributed excellent original material.

Dr. Conrad Straub for his contributions on the Second Provisional Issues of 1918-1919, his work on the Bulletin Index for post 400 issues, and his mentoring.

Sam Ginsburg, Proof Reading Phenomenon

Roman Sobus, Jerzy Kupiec, Jim Mazepa, Dan Lubelski, Gerald Zedlitz, and Chris Kulpinski who all contributed excellent articles during my tenure.

While I certainly enjoyed the people I worked with, I will not miss the task of editing the Bulletin. I encourage the membership to offer Chris their full support in his new role. The first couple of Bulletins are relatively easy. Then it tends to become a somewhat arduous task.

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**FUNDUSZ OBRONY NARODOWEJ,
KATALOG ZNACZKOW I NALEPEK
LOPP I FOM**

**(NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND –
CATALOG of STAMPS and LABELS
LOPP AND FOM)**

AUTHORS: Wladyslaw Lugowski and Jacek Kosmala

by: Dr. James Mazepa

This work of 116 pages, published in Leszno, Poland, 2006 was written by two of the world's leading experts in Polish air mails, fills a long existing gap in our knowledge of the air post in Poland. Not since the old *RUCH* Catalog has there been an extensive catalog of the LOPP labels of Poland. The authors have gathered information that has been scattered in various journals, including our *POLONUS BULLETIN*, searched the outstanding collections of Polish air mails, as well as collections of Polish labels and ephemera, to produce the most complete listing of these labels ever put together in one volume.

The book is in three parts, Part One is the author's introduction, Part Two, the types of Air Defense (LOPP) labels by chapters, and Part Three, the Marine Defense Fund (FOM)

Unlike earlier listings of the LOPPs, the authors have added to our knowledge of these issues by arranging them by the reason for their production. Part Two of the book is divided into eight chapters. The first is Stamps for Member Fees, #2 Stamps and Labels issued by ZG (Zarazdu Glownego) and voivodships commissions, #3 Stamps and Labels issued by local committees, #4 Stamps and Labels issued for the erection of airports infrastructure, #5 Stamps and Labels issued for the purchase of equipment,

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#6 Stamps issued for aviation entertainment, #7 Stamps issued for aerial shipments, #8 Stamps and Labels for the Countergas Defense Society. (The English here is as written in the table of contents except that stickers have been changed to labels).

Those of us who have collected these fascinating issues will find labels we have never seen before. The book pictures both the labels, as well as some on cover examples, in full color, which make the book very user friendly, especially since the text is in Polish.

The book concludes with a "Bibliography," which is not what we usually expect (a listing of previous works on the subject), but rather a fifteen page excerpt from the Journal of the General Directorate of Post Office and Telegraph, which details information about the use of these labels. This is followed by a two-page excerpt from Marek Zbierski's book on postal rates.

For the English speaking reader, the major draw back is that the book is in Polish. The authors do provide a table of contents in English, German, Russian, and French. I wish they would have provided a translation of their "Author's Notice" and "Introduction" since these pages contribute much valuable information relevant to the understanding of the LOPP labels. The same can be said of the information in the Journal in the Bibliography.

There has always been a question as to what to call the LOPPs. The authors use the terms "znaczki" and "nalepki," which translate as "stamps" and "labels". The authors point out that they were sold at the post offices and thus, in my mind, almost have the character of semi-postals. The authors do not address this. How do they compare to the Swiss air labels and the Russian "Air Fleet" labels? How are they similar and how different? If the authors addressed this issue, we would have a better understanding of how the LOPPs fit in the broad scope of world aero philately.

All the labels are priced, but the pricing levels are a bit mysterious. As I understand the authors, the prices are meant to be in Polish

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PLN (Zloty). If so, the prices are extremely low and do not reflect market values. If in U.S. dollars, the prices are closer to current market values. At the time of this writing, the U.S. dollar is about 2.95 PLN.

The work is hard bound, but without any imprinting on the spine or front. This addition would certainly be welcome. Since the book is a "printed on demand" work, we can hope that future printings might correct this and include more of the translations noted above.

In any case, this work is a major step forward in the advancement of aero philately not only of Poland, but in the understanding of the growth of air mail in the early part of the 20th century. It belongs in the library not only of collectors of Poland, but of any one interested in world wide aero philately.

The book is available from Bieniecki Int'l, Inc. P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062 for \$55.00 postpaid in North America. You may also order from biistamp@charter.net.

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First Woldenberg Project

by: Roman Sobus

The story of the internal camp posts pertains to four different camps specifically created for the internment of Polish officers during the WW II by Germany. Internal camp posts never existed before or after WW II, and created a unique place in philatelic history.

The post of Oflag IIC in Woldenberg was the most prolific and longest lasting of the four camp posts, and the motive for its inception sheds light on the character of the men interned there. The officers, then in their second year in captivity, and with no end of the war in sight, must certainly have pondered their dark future. As difficult as their situation was, those on the outside were in a similar situation under Nazi occupation. The officers held a special place in their hearts for the families of their comrades who had fallen in battle. Early into their internment, a fund for the assistance of these families designated the Widows and Orphans Fund (FWS) was formed, and assistance was sent to those most in need on the outside.

The Easter Post, as it is commonly called, of April 4-5, 1942, was initially proposed as a way of increasing contributions to this cause, and as a secondary benefit gave the prisoners a bit of pleasure from receiving mailed Easter greetings, from their fellow inmates. The camp was very large and the prisoner's movements were restricted to certain areas. The internal mail was their primary means of communications with those in other areas of the camp.

The proposal to the Senior Officer of the Camp, requested permission for a one time mailing, with the FWS being the beneficiary of the funds collected. While the request was formally submitted on March 18, 1942, a scant three weeks prior to Easter, new information indicates the spark for the idea was ignited some time prior to that date. The current location of the original request document or whether it still exists is unknown to the author.

P.O.W. STUDY GROUP

However a number of transcripts made of the request letter by members of the camp's philatelic circle exist. A copy is illustrated in **Figure 1** on page 525-14.

Literature on the subject states that the now-familiar "Widow" design was hastily prepared, and the stamps were printed with very little time to spare. A recently uncovered, design, illustrated in **Figure 2** below is said to date to late 1941, and may very well be the earliest Camp Post design. While we may never know why it was never introduced, we can assume that the "Widow" design was deemed to more appropriately reflect the purpose of the project.



Figure 2: *First proposed Woldenberg stamp design. It was not accepted for production.*

The design of the stamp in Figure 2 was attributed to 2nd Lt. Rezerwy Wysocki. It depicts a rising sun, half above the horizon, rays surrounding the disc. At the top, "Poczta", below, following the contours of the sun's rays, "Obozowa", and "11" and "C" in the left and right corners respectively.

A denomination of 10 in the bottom left and F in the bottom right with FWiS between them completes the design. The design is 26x31 mm, and exists on thick and tissue paper, with impressions

Fundusz Pomocy
Wdowom i sierotom
po poległych

/ Odpis /

Dnia 18 marca 1943 r.

Starszy Obozu II C

w miejscu

Ciągły wzrost potrzeb Funduszu Pomocy Wdowom i sierotom po poległych zmusza nas do wystąpienia owar to nowych źródeł dochodu. Jedynym z takich źródeł, w którym posiadamy duże nadzieje będzie loteria F.P.W.i.S., której regulamin przed kilku dniami Pan Pułkownik nam zatwierdził.

Order loterii pragnęlibyśmy jeszcze uruchomić na okres nadchodzących Świąt Wielkopostnych pocztą obywateli. Mamy tu na myśli pocztę z właściwym biurowościem, agenturami, znaczkami, taryfą oraz datownikami. Wobec rozległości obozu i dużej ilości mieszkańców nieprzeobrażać ma kapitałowe poodeczenie. Twierdzimy to na podstawie przeprowadzonych z wielem oficerami rozmów i kilku niezależnych od siebie w tej sprawie wniosków.

Prosimy Pana Pułkownika o wyrażenie zgody na urządzenie przez nas pocztę w okresie Świąt Wielkopostnych. Organizacja i przeprowadzaniem pocztę zajmie się Komisja Rozdz. F.P.W.i.S. Cały dochód będzie przeznaczony na F.P.W.i.S.

Za Komisję Rozdziałową

Sekretarz

m. odciskający

/ por. dr. M. Pacholowski /

/ kmdr ppor. Bł. Kulziak /

23 kwietnia 1943 r.
6. 15. 43.
Zdjęcie
m. odciskający
m. odciskający



Figure 1: Official transcribed copy of request for one time mailing.

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PHILATELIC LITERATURE FOR SALE

**National Defense Fund – Catalog of LOPP and FOM
Stamps and Labels**

written by Wladyslaw Lugowski and
Jacek Kosmala. 116 pages, in Polish, fully illustrated in color.
The definitive work on this fascinating area of early Polish
aero philately. **Special Polonus Member Price:**
\$50.00 postpaid in North America Media Mail.

Bieniecki Int'l, Inc.

P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062

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**** E-mail addresses are provided for each individual listed above**

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Regular Members: \$25.00

Junior Members: (under age 16) \$10

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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