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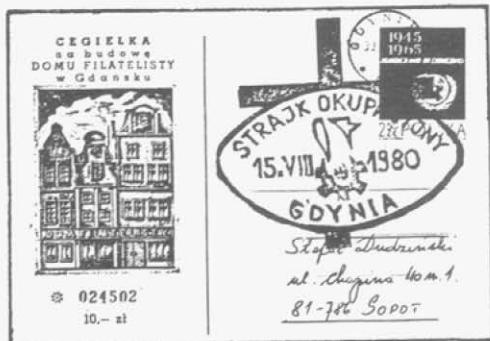


Little-known markings of
Solidarity interment camp
Strzebielinek.

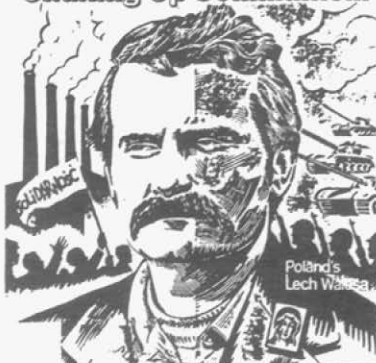
The coup d'etat which was carried out in Poland on December 13th, 1981 is illegal and in violation of post-war Polish constitution and human rights.



The Solidarity period brought many unthinkable postal markings.



Shaking Up Communism



The Solidarity movement began on August 15th, 1980, and strikes ended on August 30th with communist government concessions.



In September of 1981, the first free national convention of Solidarity was held in Gdansk. The Polish P.O. commemorated this rare event with two special postmarks.



One of the last postmarks of the 16 months of relative freedom in 37 years of communist oppression: the 63rd anniversary of Poland's independence gained by the Pilsudski legions.



World-wide premiere of Karol Wojtyła's play "Jeremiasz" on December 11th, 1981, just two days before the 13th.

*From the deep past, from dark regions,
Ancient forests, fields and steppes
Our birthright, our beginnings
From the time of Piast, Krak and Lech.
A long chain of human beings
Linked by just one simple notion:
So that Poland, so that Poland,
So that Poland could be Poland.*

*At times when unknown destiny
Drove us to the world's far corners,
When alien winds furled the banners
Bearing alien eagles on them,
Songs would burst forth by campfires
With unrestrained, their own, refrain:
So that Poland, so that Poland,
So that Poland could be Poland.*

*Schoolboys tearing down tsar's portraits,
Father Ściegienny in prayers,
Minding his wagon Drzymala
And proud poetry of Norwid.
Who could only lift a saber
Formed a legion or an army
So that Poland, so that Poland,
So that Poland could be Poland.*



"Polonica" philatelic exhibition in Swarzędz on Oct. 16, 1981 to honor Pope John Paul II.

*Mothers, wives, in darkened chambers,
Embroidered flags with a sacred
Motto: Honor and Fatherland
And to battlefields marched the braves.
And to battlefields marched the braves
From Chicago to Tobolsko
So that Poland, so that Poland,
So that Poland could be Poland.*

**Żeby Polska, żeby Polska,
żeby Polska była Polską.**



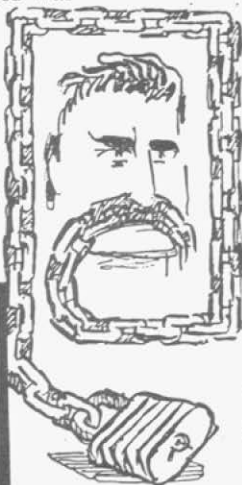
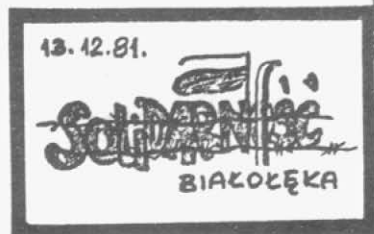
"PAX" Catholic organization exhibition in Szczecin on October 16th, 1981 — Polish Pope John Paul II in philately.



"Polish [is a] nationality [that is] not so much alive as surviving, which persists in thinking, breathing, speaking, hoping, and suffering in its grave, railed in by a million bayonets."

—Joseph Conrad, 1911

The silence of the bayonet fell on Poland last week. To a degree unprecedented in Europe since the end of World War II, a modern nation was sealed off from the outside world. In the icy cold of a savage winter, the country's telephone and telex lines were cut. What little news reached the West was smuggled out by travelers, or was broadcast over tightly censored Polish radio and television.



Situation in Poland after Dec. 13, 1981. A "state of war" was introduced to prevent an economic crisis, but after five months economic disorganization still continues.

Poland

Jaruzelski's Law

What is martial law in Poland? By week's end the Polish people faced more than 20 separate orders, some predictable, some startling. Among them:

► Basic civil rights, in particular those pertaining to personal liberty (freedom of speech, press, assembly, and means of communication), are temporarily suspended.

► All public gatherings, including demonstrations, strikes, sports and artistic events, are banned. Exception: religious services inside churches. A curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. is imposed.

► Distribution of any publications and the use of any kind of printing equipment, including office copying machines, are banned without prior government approval.

► Mail, telephone conversations and other forms of communication are subject to censorship. Telephone and telex services are temporarily suspended.

► Radio and television broadcasts are to be restricted to one station and channel. Programming will be supervised by government-assigned teams. All broadcasting is to be done from Warsaw; regional broadcasting is suspended.

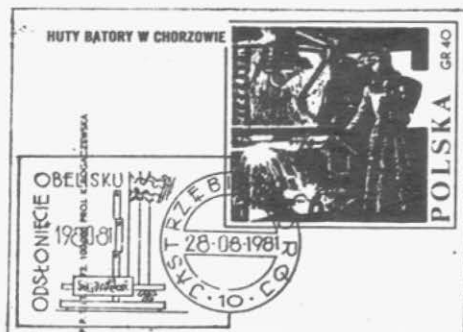
► Polish citizens must carry their identity cards at all times. Poles are prohibited from leaving their place of residence for more than 48 hours without permission.

► The sale of gasoline to private motorists is forbidden. The sale of alcoholic beverages is halted. (The military later changed its mind.) Movies, theaters, nightclubs and discotheques are shut down. Except for nursery schools, all educational institutions, including universities, are closed for an indefinite time.

► Poland's frontiers are sealed to all private traffic. Polish airspace is closed to international and domestic commercial flights.

► Summary proceedings will be undertaken against citizens violating martial law. Poles over the age of 17 may be interned at isolation centers if their past behavior gives rise to suspicion that they will disobey martial law or engage in activity that threatens the "interest, security and defense of the state."

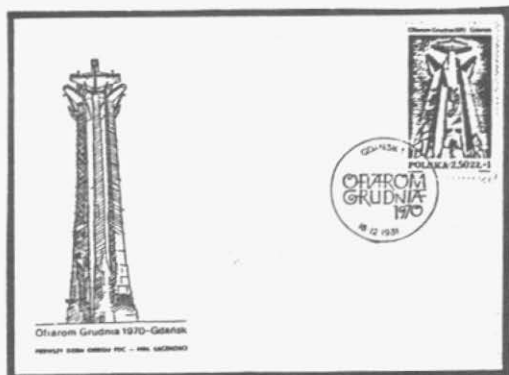
► Members of the military, police, fire and civil defense services, as well as thousands of workers newly "militarized" to deter them from striking, will be subject to penalties, including death, applied to soldiers on active service in time of war. The armed forces are authorized to use "coercion to restore calm, law-and-order."



Unveiling of Solidarity monument in Jasztowie Zdrón in Silesia on August 28th, 1981.



December 10th, 1981 postmark of Solidarity period — 40th anniversary of Polish defenses of Tobruk.



The first Solidarity stamps for the "Martyrs of December, 1970" of Gdansk and Gdynia were planned for December 16th, 1981. After martial law they were still issued, but distribution halted.





Only known (so far) commercial cover from Wrocław of April 6th, 1982 with the "Gdynia 1970 martyrs of December" semi-postal stamp, uncensored.



After five months of martial law, military censorship still in effect in Poland. Since April, 1982 postage rates of foreign mail were increased by 400%, making correspondence with the free world much more expensive.



First day registered cover with a set of Polish Nobel Prize winners, including Czesław Miłosz, critic of the regime in Poland.

CAMP MURNAU SOUVENIR SHEET ON WATERMARKED PAPER

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

An unlisted and not previously reported Camp OFLAG VII A, Murnau item is described here. It is the 15th stamp of the camp which commemorates the 100th performance of the camp's theater, blue and yellow, made in the form of a souvenir sheet with overall dimensions: 67.5 x 104.5 mm., which contains a single stamp. The stamp is serrated on all its sides by means of a sharpened watch gear with 14.3 notches per two centimeters (figure 1), ungummed.



Figure 1.

The outstanding feature of this item is its paper. It is of a very high quality, somewhat rough on both sides, slightly off white (grayish), thin (0.058-0.065 mm.), with a pronounced watermark in the center of the sheetlet. This watermark is illustrated in figure 2. Its overall diameter measures 70 mm. This paper was apparently made in Poland, "Quovadis" being the title of the famous novel by the Polish author Henryk Sienkiewicz. I do not know the meaning of the initials: "PL" in the center circle of this watermark.

The authenticity of this souvenir sheet and its origin in the Camp Murnau are indicated by the fact that this kind of watermarked paper was indeed available in the Camp to Lt.

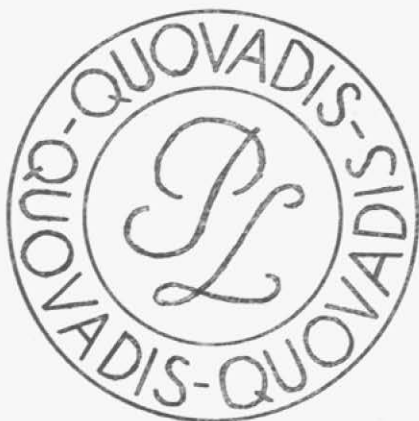


Figure 2.

Tadeusz Kluzniak, the Camp's stamp designer, engraver and printer. Fig. 3 shows a woodcut by Kluzniak (126 x 90 mm) depicting the overall view of the camp with the Alps in the background. This woodcut is imprinted on exactly the same paper as the above described souvenir sheet and contains the upper part of the watermark shown in figure 2; it is signed and dated in pencil: "Kluzniak 1942" on the right side of its bottom margin.



Figure 3.

GRODNO DISPATCH POSTMARK ON A RAILROAD ADVERTISING COVER

By JAMES MAZEPA

An interesting aspect of postal history is the study of railroad routes in and through a country. The railroad line between Warsaw and St. Petersburg was not completed until sometime in 1862, however, mail was carried on those portions of the line which had been completed and this was accomplished either by steam locomotive or horse-drawn carriage.

The envelope illustrated here (fig. 1) is an advertising cover of the "Grand Society of Russian Railroads - St. Petersburg to Warsaw Line". It originated in Grodno and on the reverse bears the two-lined Cyrillic postmark (fig. 2) in red "GRODNO OTPRAY. 14 OCTOBER 1859." This indicates Grodno dispatch (otpravleniya) on October 14th of the Eastern calendar which is October 26th by the Western calendar.

This postmark was described in an early issue of the "Journal of the British Society of Russian Philately" as being recorded on a Russia #1

from the Faberge collection. To date, no entire envelopes have been recorded with this postmark.

Grodno was located within the borders of Imperial Russia in 1859 and would use Russian stamps Scott #1-4 and #8-10 during this period. Mail could also be sent part-paid and collect, and, in fact, foreign mail, such as the envelope here, was usually sent in either of these fashions. On the reverse is a manuscript "PORTO" which indicate that postage was paid to the border (Polish-Prussian) only. The addressee was responsible for the tariff from the border to the destination in France. The letter was received in Warsaw on October 29th (reverse) and forwarded on the 30th (front). When it was received at the Prussian border station, the postal employee applied the origin cachet "AUS RUSSLAND" (from Russia) and possibly then boxed "P. 35.," although this may have been applied on the traveling postal carriage



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

of the Prussian railroad. This mark refers to particular postal conventions between Prussia and France which controlled the amount of postage credits between the two countries prior to the founding of the Universal Postal Union. Several different "P" numbers are known from Poland and Russia during this period. I believe the large manuscript "3s" in blue and red indicate the debit and credit. The letter traveled on the Prussian railroad as indicated by an unclear Prussian RPO postmark on the reverse to the French border station at Valenciennes. Here the small double-circle green transit mark "PRUSS. VALENCIENNES 1 NOV. 59" was applied. The French office indicated a postage due of "11" centimes and forwarded the letter to Paris where it was received November 1.

The fact of the three-day transit from Grodno to Warsaw suggests the rail line was not completed at this date between these towns and transport was accomplished by horse-carriage. The two-day transit from Warsaw to Paris attests to the efficiency of the railroad postal service in 1859. All in all, this is an interesting envelope which touches on the postal history of Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Prussia and France.

STaMpsSHOW '82

The annual convention of the American Philatelic Society will be held in Milwaukee the week-end of August 19-22. During this convention, the Annual Champion of Champions competition will be held. The twenty Grand Award recipients of National shows from the past year will be in competition for the "Champion of Champions." The APS holds this competition in a different city each year in a different part of the country so that collectors across the United States will have the opportunity to view some of the finest collections in the country. In addition, there will be over 200 frames in open competition. The site will be the Milwaukee Exposition and Convention Center and Arena (MECCA) in downtown Milwaukee. Sixty-five dealers will be present from throughout the United States and Canada, and several post offices will sell their stamps to collectors at face value. Here is an excellent philatelic opportunity that will not occur in the Midwest area for some time to come. Plan to attend. Further details available from John Bartzak.

NEW MEMBERS

Henry Osinowicz
195 NE 164 St.
Miami, FL 33162
Leonard Novak-Nowak
2629 Stella St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

NEW OFFICERS

Elected at the May 28 meeting were:
John Bartzak President
Thomas Gobby Vice President
Chester Schafer Secretary
Stanley Rusin Treasurer
Romuald Odrowski Director
Walenty Poniecki Director
Al Rybarski Director
Alfred Szebel Director

Martial Law Censorship of Polish Mail

Thomas J. Gobby

(Reprinted from
APS Journal)

With the imposition of country-wide martial law in Poland on December 13, 1981, all communications within and without the country stopped temporarily. Newspapers ceased publication, the telephone system went dead, foreign and domestic air flights were suspended, rail travel was restricted, and there was no delivery or forwarding of mail.

Residents of Chicago's large Polish community knew that something was amiss in the weeks preceding the declaration of martial law in Poland — mail had been slow in coming as November 1981 drew to a close, and then it all but stopped in December 1981.

Many Chicago residents with family and relatives in Poland grew concerned. It was Christmastime, a very special holiday for the Poles, and a traditional time to exchange letters and cards of greeting for the season, and now it became a very anxious time.

Shortly after January 1, 1982, mail from Poland again began to arrive in Chicago, but now incoming cards and letters bore markings in the Polish language: *OCENZUROWANO* or *NIE CENZUROWANO*, which translate as "Censored" and "Not Censored." To date (March 1982) there are four known types of censorship markings. Rubber handstamps appear to be the devices used to apply these markings.

The four types and their characteristics are:

Type I: (Figure 1): *OCENZUROWANO*

"Censored" in English; a straight-line stamp with a rectangular box enclosing the word "*OCENZUROWANO*" (all letters uppercase).

Dimensions: rectangular box, 54.5 mm by 16.6 mm; wording 10 mm high by 49 mm long.



Figure 1. Type I handstamp, usually applied to the left side of the obverse of the envelope. Tear in envelope at upper right resulted from removal of staple used to reseal the piece after opening by censor.

Type II (Figure 2): *OCENZUROWANO*

Similar to Type I, except without the rectangular box. All letters in uppercase.

Dimensions: 10 mm high by 54 to 54.2 mm long. Less frequently encountered than Type I.



Figure 2. Type II, the scarcer of the censored handstamps.

Type III (Figure 3): *NIE CENZUROWANO*

"Not Censored" in English. Marking is in two straight lines enclosed in a rectangular box. All letters are uppercase, but "NIE" is more than twice as large as "CENZUROWANO." Dimensions: rectangular box, 54.6 mm by 23.8 mm; "NIE" approximately 9.5 mm high by 25.5 mm long; "CENZUROWANO" approximately 4 mm high by 46.2 mm long. This is the most frequently seen marking.



Figure 3. Type III, the most frequently encountered marking. It is always found on the obverse of the envelope or card, but there does not seem to be any protocol for its placement.



Figure 5. A censored letter with Type I



Figure 6. An uncensored letter with Type III

Type IV (Figure 4): WOLNE OD CENZURY

"Free of Censorship" in English. As in Types I and III, the phrase is enclosed by a rectangular box. All letters are in upper-case, with the word "WOLNE" very large.

Dimensions: rectangular box, 50 mm by 24 mm; "WOLNE" 10 mm high by 41.5 mm long; "OD CENZURY" 5.5 mm high by 45.2 mm long.

Type IV seems to be the scarcest of the handstamps. It appears that, on the basis of unknown criteria, some mail is not subject to censorship.

Figures 5 and 6 show entire covers with Type I and III markings, respectively.



Figure 4. Type IV, the "Free of Censorship" handstamp, and the scarcest of all the censorship-related markings.

Some General Comments:

Censored mail: All mail seen thus far that bears the "OCENZUROWANO" marking has been slit open on the left side and resealed, usually with a single metal

staple. Some few items have been seen that were resealed with a small piece of brown paper tape.

Some postcards have been seen with the "OCENZUROWANO" marking — it seems that cards with long messages receive this imprint.

Uncensored mail: This type of mail appears to be the most common. None of the examples seen so far appears to have been opened, though some pieces seem to have been mailed without being sealed.

Colors: The color of ink used for all four types tends toward magenta. Shades through pink seem to be a function of how much ink was on the handstamp when it was applied. Some markings of the various types have been seen in a deep red or carmine color.

Dating: Based on items with legible postmarks, it looks like outgoing foreign mail was held in Poland beginning about November 15, 1981, and that around January 1, 1982, military authorities began to release it.

Incoming foreign mail to Poland and regular domestic mail also were subject to censorship. In the coming weeks and months it will be interesting to see what other varieties and types of markings show themselves. In any event, the situation is an example of evolving modern day postal history.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

The May 28th Meeting of Polonus was held at COMPEX at the Expo-center in downtown Chicago. Discussion arose on program meetings where speakers would bring along album pages, hold them up as they spoke, and pass them around. By the time those in the rear of the room would get to see the pages, the speaker's description of them was long forgotten. Color slide presentations are the solution. We understand that the APS has a service for its members where they make color slides of album pages at a minimal cost. No doubt, this is the way to go.

At the meeting that night, Tom Gobby spoke on "Martial Law Censorship of Polish Mail". He passed around Xerox copies of this article which appeared in the APS Journal and then proceeded to show us actual mail he had in his collection of some 300 pieces. With additional information contributed by Ed Link, Alfred Szebel, Roman Strzelecki, Frank Wolosewick and John Bartczak, the evening became one of the best program meetings Polonus had thus far this year. —C. Schafer

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— Annual Dues are \$10.00 —

(Please remit in U.S. Currency)

Stanley Rusin, Treasurer

P.O. Box 56148, Chicago, IL 60656

POLAPEX '82 WINNERS

POLAPEX 82, annual exhibition of Milwaukee, announced the award winners of the exhibition held at the Southgate Shopping Center Mall in Milwaukee in early May.

Best In Show & President's award was won by Robert Konowal for his exhibit "The 1950 Groszy Overprints."

Advanced Class awards were won by: Carl Skupski, "Japanese Woodcut Prints on Stamps" (gold); Erik Martini, "Czeslaw Slania and the Issues of Poland" (gold); Irene Orz, "Poland's Men of Music" (silver); Robert Meyer, "The Flower Issues of Poland" (silver); Arthur Schmitz, "The Jagiellonian on Stamps" bronze and Edith Malson, "The International Women's Year" (bronze.)

Novice Class award went to: W. Fischer, "Pope John Paul II" (gold).

Limited supplies of the POLAPEX '82 souvenir cachet envelopes, printed in multi-color and hot foil stamping, are available. The design features Polish Music. Write Irene Orz, Box 1266, Milwaukee, WI 53201; \$1.00 each or two for \$1.75.

WANTED

AIR MAIL LETTERS sent by Adamowicz Brothers of 1934 also Letters & Post Cards from Polish Camps in New Zealand, India, Africa and Mexico during World War II. Will pay or exchange for stamps and post cards from various camps.

J. Niebrzydowski

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