



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Polish Red Cross Postal Card Sent from Jasło to Kraków on 19 October 1939 – See Pg. 13

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the State of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing in the Polonus Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for **Regular Members** opting to receive **Printed Bulletin (via mail)** are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40 or Electronic Bulletin (via website)** are: **North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: \$10. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are pro-rated for the time of the year application is submitted, i.e., for period **Jan – Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr – Jun 75%**; **Jul – Sep 50%**; and **Oct – Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 489, Maryville, IL 62062.

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee.

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President.

Bulletin Advertising:

Member to Member Ads – Members have the opportunity to post ads to fellow members **free of charge**. Limit of 500 characters, defined as a letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Member's name and address is not included in this limitation.

Dealer Ads – Dealers wishing to advertise to members have the following options:

Business Card Ad: \$50.00 annual fee for insertion in four issues.

Send ad copy to: Chairman of Publication Committee and make check payable to: Polonus Philatelic Society

Other Ads: Full page or insert ads for single copy available. Send e-mail with ad copy to: info@polonus.org for pricing.

Message From The President

By: Bob Ogrodnik

As summer winds down and cooler weather is welcomed, it is a time that many of us increase our philatelic activity, especially if one is considering exhibiting at our NAPEX 2013 on 31 May – 2 June, 2013, location of our next Annual Meeting and Exhibition. A “Call for Exhibitors” will be made before year-end and we will be looking forward to a strong response. This promises to be another outstanding event for Polonus members and I urge you to consider planning now to attend.

A special thanks to those members responding to Hank Bieniecki’s article, “Preserve Polonus for the Future – Volunteer Your Time”. We have made progress through telephone conversation, finding good “fits” for some of the open jobs in our Society. Whereas we are encouraged by this progress, there are more openings that need to be filled and we ask you to consider joining the volunteer ranks and contacting Hank at info@biistamp.com or me at krpsl@earthlink.net.

We have initiated the nominating process for the upcoming election of Directors in 2013. The Society News section of the Bulletin has an article explaining the process defined by our By-Laws, announces the appointment of Bob Nowicki as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and outlines a “Job Description” for the Director position. Be sure to read this article and participate in the process that decides the leadership of our Society.

If you are interested in the history of unique post offices, be sure to read Roman Sobus’ article about a “seasonal” post office in Lwów that supported the International Eastern Trade Fair held in that city between the years of 1921-1939. Featured in this article are some interesting covers, including a scarce cover mailed by the Polish post office after the outbreak of WWII.

Dr. Mazepa’s “Gems of Polish Philately – 1924 Issue 25gr Error” covers a very unique error in production. In the midst of monetary reform and a change in currency (from the Mark to Złoty), the new issue of stamps in May of 1924 produced an error that has become one of the greatest rarities in the world.

The outbreak of WWII was first felt in Westerplatte, a peninsula in the Bay of Gdańsk. Jan Niebrzydowski’s article “Westerplatte – Polish Military Outpost” describes the heroic stand by a small group of soldiers in the face of a heavy German attack and adds the personal touch with a German postcard sent by one of the Polish defenders from a transit camp, which may be the earliest correspondence by a Polish soldier in German captivity.

Featured on the cover of this issue is a Polish Red Cross (Polska Czerwony Krzyż or PCK) postal card handled through the mails prior to the opening of the postal system to the Poles after the outbreak of WWII. Have any of you seen articles about the Polish Red Cross during and shortly after WWII? Don’t miss the article, “The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946” by Dr. Paul J. Phillips, in which he attempts to spark interest in the operations of the Polish Red Cross, a subject that has not had much, if any, coverage in the philatelic press.

This issue contains the eighth in a series of articles by Jan Niebrzydowski based on a collection of letters and cards addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska. Part II of the “Polish Air Force in Great Britain 1940-47” features a collection of covers with correspondence from members of the Polish Squadrons of the RAF.

I have received several favorable comments about Myron Kavalgian’s article in the last Bulletin, “How I Started a Poland Collection”, with the suggestion for more members to write about how they got involved with collecting Poland. So, don’t hesitate in sending me your articles. This would make for interesting reading, especially among members who are just beginning their collecting journey.

Arthur Szyk becomes the subject for an article by Myron Kavalgian in this issue, as well as, a “For Sale” offer, for a beautiful set of twenty (20) post cards with Szyk illustrations, by Zbigniew Krawczyk. Don’t miss the offer for the “free” FDC. This made possible by the generous contribution of Zbigniew Krawczyk.

As usual, if you have any comments on the Bulletin content or any other facet of our Society, please send me an e-mail or note. I am always interested in hearing and appreciative of any feedback you provide.

Upcoming Polonus Election

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The time has come when we begin the process of electing a Board of Directors for the Polonus Philatelic Society. In accordance with the Society By-Laws, revised and amended at the Annual Board and Membership Meetings on 2 April 2011, the election of eight (8) members to the Board of Directors shall be for a term of three (3) years.

The current Board of Directors was elected by the membership and announced at the Polonus Annual Meeting in San Francisco (WESTPEX 2010) on 24 April 2010. Therefore, elections for the new term of 2013-2016 will be held prior to and announced at our next Annual Meeting in McLean, Virginia (NAPEX 2013) on 1 June 2013. The purpose of this article is to outline for the membership the election process, as defined by By-Laws.

1. The President appoints a Nominating Committee Chair no fewer than four (4) months prior to the Annual Meeting. I have appointed Bob Nowicki as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. It will be his responsibility to confirm and present a slate of candidates willing to serve to the President, no fewer than three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting.
2. Ballots shall be provided to the members no fewer than two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in January 2013.
3. Members in good standing shall have the opportunity to cast their vote for eight (8) members, either as nominated by the Nominating Committee or as write-ins. Ballots must be received by 31 March 2013 to be valid.
4. In addition to the eight (8) elected Directors, the Immediate-Past President shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Board of Directors.
5. All candidates for the Board of Directors must be able to adequately fulfill the duties and obligations of the office. Please refer to the Position Description below.

Director Position Description

Purpose: To represent the membership in overseeing the affairs of the Society and to meet the legal requirements of an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the affairs of the Society are conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the By-Laws.
2. Meet as a Board of Directors annually at the Annual Exhibition & Meetings venue and at other meetings (which will normally be conducted via e-mail or teleconference) called during the year.
3. As a member of the Board, participate in the selection of Officers.
4. Participate in at least one Committee.
5. Financially support the Society by making a contribution in addition to the annual membership dues.

Qualifications:

- Must be a Polonus member in good standing.
- Must be computer literate – for communication, for the preparation of documents, and for navigating websites.
- Experience with Polonus and/or Polish philately is desirable.

The process outlined above has been initiated and Bob Nowicki will be working with members of his committee to select and confirm a slate of candidates. If you consider yourself a candidate and would like to learn more about serving as a Director, please contact Bob Nowicki (philatelist@comcast.net), Hank Bieniecki (info@biistamp.com), or Bob Ogrodnik (krpsl@earthlink.net). A copy of our By-Laws is available by request.

Julian Auleytner Receives Large Gold Medal

By: Dr. James Mazepa

Our member, Professor Julian Auleytner, received a Large Gold Medal plus Special Prize at the *Planète Timbres Paris Exhibition* held 9 - 17 June in the Parc Floral in Paris. This event was a European Continental exhibition that was shared with the French National competition. As a continental exhibition, the entries were judged by international FIP rules.

Professor Auleytner exhibited his "Beginnings of the Post in Independent Poland 1918-1920." Other than exhibits of Poland #1, this was the first time "modern" Poland has received a Large Gold Medal and marks a significant breakthrough in exhibiting Poland. The judges were reminded that this is an exhibit of the first issues of independent Poland (the Second Republic). In international exhibiting the first issues of a country have special significance.

Our congratulations to Julian and to all who take the time to exhibit their collections of Poland. Exhibiting our Polish material is the best way to educate not only the judges, but also the public, about the joys of collecting Poland.

New Members

We welcome the following new members who recently joined our Society:

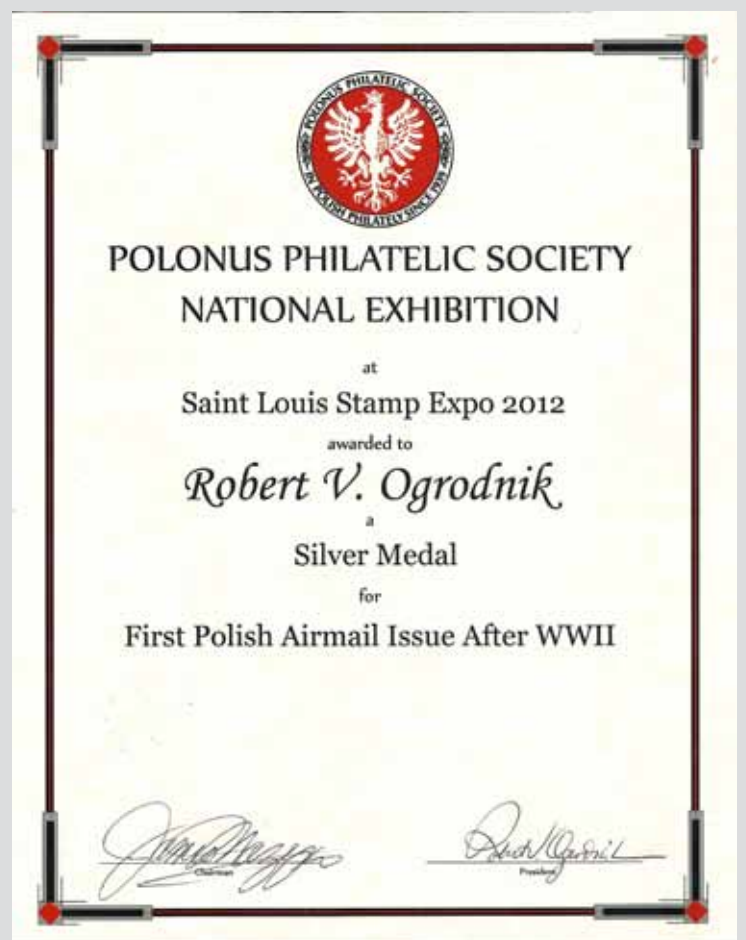
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928 Lake Arrow Way
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Award Certificates Initiated

Polonus has initiated the practice of issuing Award Certificates to exhibitors who participate in National Exhibitions and are awarded Polonus medals. As announced at the Annual Membership Meeting in St. Louis on 17 March 2012, the practice began with the exhibitors at this show and Award Certificates like the one shown below have been mailed to all participants.



PLAN AHEAD for NAPEX 2013

May 31 - Jun 2, 2013 in McLean, Virginia (DC Area)
See websites: www.napex.org and www.polonus.org

International Eastern Trade Fair in Lwów

By: Roman Sobus

Post offices come in all shapes and sizes. When we envision a post office in a large European city with centuries of history, large stone or brick structures towering over cobblestone streets usually come to mind. While in many cases that may be true, there are many other types of facilities that provide the services of a post office to the public. For example, kiosks on busy streets and at centers of tourism sell a variety of products and services that would allow visitors to send a postcard to friends and loved ones back home, quickly and conveniently, without taking time away from their schedule. Others, operated at train and bus stations and loading platforms, facilitate the mailing of letters during times of boarding.

A personal favorite of mine is the “seasonal” post office that operated at the International Eastern Trade Fair in the city of Lwów in Eastern interwar Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine) between the years of 1921 and 1939.

The city of Lwów had been a center of commerce and a “Gateway to the East” for centuries. The qualities that made the city’s location successful for trade in times of peace also made it a prize during times of war. However, over the years the city has changed many times. During the First World War and subsequent conflicts to establish borders, many battles raged for control of the city, yet it escaped the destruction inflicted on so many other cities throughout Europe.

In the days of the founding of the Second Republic of Poland, Lwów was sought by the Poles, the Soviets, and the Ukrainians. Without going into the full history of the Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Soviet wars, in October of 1920 negotiations with the defeated Soviets placed the city well within Poland’s borders. The treaty of Riga, which defined the border between the two nations, was signed in March of 1921.

Building an economy was one of the high priorities in the newly founded Republic. To promote trade with its neighbors and to showcase the country’s products to domestic and foreign clients, an exhibition

was organized. It was dubbed the International Eastern Trade Fair or Międzynarodowe Targi Wschodnie. The first “Targi” opened with great fanfare to the public on 24 September 1921. Diplomats from around the country were in attendance, among them Poland’s new head of state Józef Piłsudski. An unsuccessful attempt on his life was a reminder of the underlying difficulties that still faced the nation. The fair, however, opened on schedule and proved to be a resounding success.

Commerce is dependent on communication and this is where the Polish post played a pivotal role. A post office (see **Figure 1**) was established on the fairgrounds by the Ministry of Post and Telegraph. The Lwów Directorate of the Post-Telegraph-Telephone established the “Lwów Targi Wschodnie” administration with the edict:

**The opening of the Post-Telegraph-Telephone Administration
“Lwów Targi Wschodnie”**

With the opening of the gates on 24 September for the occasion of the Eastern Trade Fair, the Post- Telegraph-Telephone Administration under the designation “Lwów Targi Wschodnie”, becomes operational, offering a full range of postal, telephone and telegraph services. Postal operations shall be scheduled between the hours of 8 and 20, while telegraph and telephone service will be available between hours 8 and 21. This administration will maintain a three time per day scheduled messenger connection with the Lwów 2 Postal Administration. [2]



Figure 1 - The Targi Wschodnie Post Office as it appeared circa 1928. The individuals in the photographs are Postal Service employees and Fair visitors.

International Eastern Trade Fair in Lwów (cont.)

The following year, a slogan canceller was prepared to promote the fair, which was scheduled to open 5 – 15 September. Literature [1] states the cancel was used on all outbound mail during the month of September. However, even the illustration in that source material carries the date 22.VIII.22, indicating that the canceller was used for advertising purposes in the days leading up to the fairs' opening on 5 September. The letter shown in **Figure 2** confirms this earlier usage.

telephone service. Windows one and two were each assigned two cancellers each while the third was assigned a single canceller that was transferred to the next shift. [2]

The fair grew steadily attracting more exhibitors every year. Companies hoping to expand their business showcased their wares and services to both domestic and international visitors. One of these companies was Baczewski, a high quality liquor manufacturer established in Lwów in 1782. The firm was one of the fair's most ardent supporters and may have played a role in organizing the event. In 1923, an advertisement for the company appeared on the reverse of the fair organizers' official envelope (Figures 3a & 3b).



Figure 2 - Letter mailed at Lwów on 28.VIII.22 imprinted with slogan canceller advertising the second Eastern Trade Fair.

As the fair grew, so did the postal service's importance in creating a suitable business climate. Between 1921 and 1926 the service hours of this seasonal post office were announced in periodicals in the days preceding the event. Afterwards, such notices were eliminated and the activation of the post office coincided with the fair opening.

By 1923 a standard canceller, along with a registration stamp, were produced for use at the post office. Five cancellers were produced having identifiers "a" through "e". These were a double-ring 30/20 mm design with the inscription LWÓW TARGI WSCHODNIE at the top and the identifier between two stars at the bottom. A registration stamp also bearing the LWÓW TARGI WSCHODNIE designation was also introduced for use by the post office at the fair. The post office at the fair provided a full range of services to accommodate visitors, commercial vendors and their clients. It was serviced by postal employees working two shifts manning three windows providing service for the registration of mail, sending packages, financial transactions and telephone and

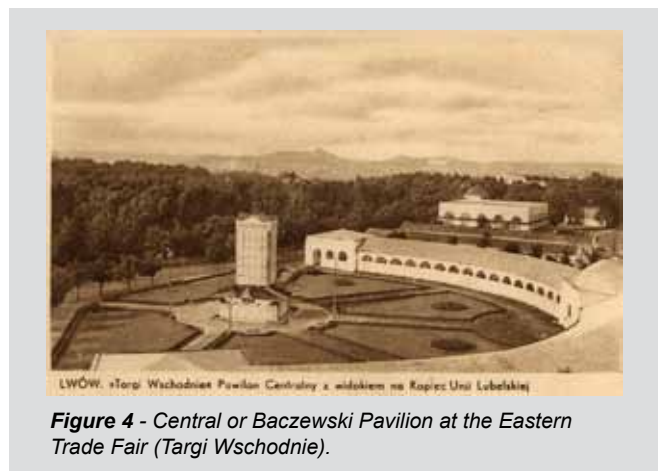


Figures 3a & 3b - Official commercial correspondence from the organizers of the Targi Wschodnie to Zürich. The reverse is an advertisement for "Liqueurs Baczewski".



International Eastern Trade Fair in Lwów (cont.)

On 12 July 1930, many of the fair's permanent structures were destroyed in a fire for which the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) took responsibility. Over the following years new permanent pavilions were built greatly expanding the indoor exhibit space. The firm Baczewski received naming rights to the central Pavilion (**Figure 4**)



The Targi Wschodnie reached its pinnacle about 1928. It covered the vast areas of Lwów's Stryjski Park. It boasted its own customs office and a rail spur, connecting the main rail yards on the western outskirts of the city to warehouses built on the fairgrounds, both of which accommodated the arrival of goods. 1600 exhibitors showcased their wares in 46 pavilions and other indoor exhibit spaces. Another 160,000 square feet of outdoor space was available. In 1928, more than 150,000 visitors pass through the gates, many of the local residents using the tram connection with the city. Individuals I have spoken with who had the privilege of personally attending the fair all had fond memories of their visit.

The stellar success of the event was due to heavy promotion. The Polish post issued slogan cancellers at Lwów 2 each year between 1923 and 1931. This post office accounted for a large portion of the commercial mail sent from the city to business connections throughout Europe and the world. The cancellers were used only from the post office beginning in August of each given year through the time the fair was active. In 1930 a canceller utilizing the same design as that used in Lwów was released to Poznań, and in 1931 it was released to Kraków. Commemorative flights from the city's airfield were



also organized between 1924 and 1931. Companies and individuals mailing correspondence from the post office at the fairgrounds had the opportunity to up-grade to expedited airmail service. These flights, one each year, were of a promotional nature as regular airmail service had already been established between Lwów and many of Europe's commercial centers either directly or via connecting flights. Early flights (1924 and 1925) were identified only by the "Targi Wschodnie" cancels on the stamps, and, when applicable, the fairs registration stamp. In subsequent years the flights are annotated by a violet stamp (1926) or color labels (1927, 1928, and 1929) on the front of the envelope.



International Eastern Trade Fair in Lwów (cont.)

Figure 6 show a letter mailed on 13 September 1926 from “Targi Wschodnie” with stamps cancelled with canceller having the identifier “c-” and red registration stamp.

Figure 7 shows a letter mailed on 7 September 1928 with color paper label indicating its mailing from the fairgrounds and a red hand stamped label for air mail and a purple hand stamp indicating the letter arrived via air mail (Nadeszła pocztą lotniczą).



Figure 7 -Air mail letter from Targi Wschodnie to Warsaw mailed 7 September 1928. (Courtesy of Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski)

There is some question as to whether the fair operation was interrupted between 1930 and 1935 due to the European fiscal crisis. There are, however, indications that it was operational every year without interruption. Advertising posters and labels were produced for each of the years in question. Undoubtedly, the number of exhibitors and visitors during those years may have certainly diminished. The final canceller issued by the Polish post for this event in 1939 designates it as the 19th annual such event, which would tend to reinforce the indication that the fair continued to operate without interruption.

No promotional cancellers advertising the fair were issued between 1932 and 1938 and the advertising function may have been taken over by the fair organizing company itself. Beginning with the first fair in 1921, poster stamps or labels were produced and provided to exhibitors in a form of “self-promotion”. Each year the design was different, but the text

element was always similar, i.e., “We exhibit at the International Eastern Trade Fair” followed by the date. These were available in French, German and Polish language text, which would be applied to outbound mail notifying potential customers of their presence at the fair. Another example of a “self-promotion” label is found in **Figure 8**, a commercial letter from Kraków to Stockholm cancelled 1 July 1935 with green label on the back side promoting the XV International Eastern Trade Fair.



Figure 8 -Commercial letter from Kraków to Stockholm mailed 1 July 1935.

In 1937, a new canceller with the identifier “a” was placed in service for use during the fair. While similar in design to those used during previous years it varies slightly in size having a slightly larger outside diameter of 31 mm versus 30 mm for one that was previously used. Apparently, the original identifier was either damaged and required repair, or more likely was simply misplaced. The replacement canceller was used only during the 1937 season and in 1938, the original was again back in service.

1924 Issue 25gr Error

By: Dr. James Mazepa

When the First World War ended, Europe was crippled economically and inflation spiraled out of control in many countries, especially Germany and Hungary. The creeping inflation affected Poland, and in September 1923 one could say that "hyperinflation" became rampant in Poland. In April 1924 Prime Minister Władysław Grabski instituted monetary reform which changed the currency from the Polish Mark to the gold-based Złoty (pegged at 0.1687 of pure gold). This change took effect on 1 May 1924.

To accommodate this change, a new series of postage stamps was issued in new values beginning 1 May 1924. This set featured a new design, a Polish Eagle in laurel wreath. This set also produced the rarest Polish stamp of the 20th century. The 40gr was printed in indigo. However, a cliché of the 25gr was inadvertently placed in position 35. This mistake was quickly noticed and corrected, however, several sheets were sent to post offices. Only four or five unused examples are recorded, but the rarest is a se-tenant pair on piece with the 40gr (**Figure 1**), used in Wolbrom on July 22, 1925.



Figure 1 - Rare 1924 issue se-tenant pair on piece

This piece has been called the most important rarity of 20th century Polish philately. It was exhibited in 2002 in the Monte Carlo Exhibition of the "100 Greatest Philatelic Rarities of the World". It last sold for about \$32,000 in 2004. It would certainly achieve a much higher price in today's market.

(continued from page 9)

Yet another new canceller, very similar to the promotional ones used in the early years, was introduced for use at the 1939 exhibition. The fair was scheduled to be held from 2-12 September and preparations for its opening most likely were underway for weeks when the Second World War broke out on the first of September. Lwów's geographic location far to the East and prevalent perceptions that the conflict would be over in a matter of days resulted in the 1939 Międzynarodowe Targi Wschodnie opening along with the fair's post office on schedule. We don't know the exact date that the fair was closed as hopes for a quick resolution to the conflict quickly faded. The postcard mailed on 3 September 1939 (**Figure 9**) from the fairgrounds post office to Italy may in fact be one of the last items sent from a small but very interesting post office that operated only a few days each year for almost two decades.



Figure 9 - Postal stationery card mailed at the fair post office on 3 September 1939. (Courtesy of Miłosz Rządkosz)

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Westerplatte - Polish Military Outpost

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This article is a summary of historical facts describing the heroic stand by a small group of Polish soldiers in the face of a heavy German attack at the start of World War II. The defense of Westerplatte served as an inspiration for the Polish Army and people throughout the war, and today is still regarded as a symbol of resistance to the invasion. The author adds a personal touch to this article with a German postcard sent by one of the Polish defenders from a transit camp on 14 September 1939, which may be the earliest correspondence by a Polish soldier in German captivity. As a point of clarification, the Battle of Westerplatte should not be confused with the defense of the Polish Post Office in the Free City of Gdańsk (Danzig), the site at which 51 mailmen put up a long and fierce resistance to the Nazi storming party that would last most of the day.

At the end of World War I, the Treaty of Versailles defined the border between Poland and Germany. The city of Gdańsk (Danzig in German) was separated from Germany and accorded the status of a "Free City" in order to give Poland access to a major port while recognizing that its population was mainly German. In 1925 the Council of the League of Nations authorized the Poles to station 88 soldiers on the Westerplatte peninsula in the Bay of Gdańsk. In 1933 the Nazis came to power in Germany. Hitler demanded access to the Free City of Danzig via a corridor through Polish territory. The Poles refused and began secretly to strengthen their defenses. By September 1939, the Westerplatte garrison numbered 176 men, 6 officers and an army doctor. The armory consisted of one 75mm field gun, two 37mm anti-tank guns, 4 mortars, 18 heavy machine guns, 25 medium machine guns, 160 rifles and 1000 hand grenades. The garrison itself had no fortifications other than a few concrete guardhouses hidden away in the woods. The Polish garrison was under the command of Major Henryk Sucharski.

At 4:45 am on 1 September 1939, the German battleship *Schleswig-Holstein*, ostensibly on a courtesy visit to the Free City of Gdańsk, attacked Westerplatte with 280mm and 150mm guns, firing the first shots of the Second World War. Heavy shelling (the artillery shells weighed 330kg each) did a great deal of damage. This was followed by an infantry attack. The Poles replied with small and machine gun fire and, after 90 minutes, managed to repel the attack. Having suffered heavy losses in this skirmish, the German troops withdrew. There were two further assaults on the same day. On the following day, the

Germans launched an artillery barrage lasting some 40 minutes and a bombardment of Polish positions by 60 airplanes.

After a second day of relentless assault, German losses accounted for 20 dead and 40 wounded. The Polish side had 3 dead and 10 wounded. The Germans intensified their attack sending in fresh infantry units, artillery and two Kriegsmarine T-196 and T-963 minesweepers but these were also repulsed. They then tried to burn the place to the ground with petrol cisterns, but again to no avail. Some of the defenders, led by Deputy Commander Captain Franciszek Dąbrowski, were prepared to fight to the bitter end but the depleted Polish garrison, suffering from exhaustion, severe injuries, shortage of food, water, ammunition and medical supplies, and with no hope of rescue, finally surrendered on 7 September.

The exact number of German casualties has never been disclosed but is assumed to number 300-400 dead and wounded. The Polish losses were 15 dead and some 50 wounded. The Polish General Staff had not expected Westerplatte to hold out for more than six hours. The courage and determination of the defenders of Westerplatte served as an inspiration for the Poles during the war years and continues to be symbol of resistance to invasion.



Figure 1 - A 25-meter (60-foot) monument erected on the site and commemorating the heroic seven day-long defense by 182 Poles against 3,400 Germans, along with a huge inscription – "No More War"

Westerplatte - Polish Military Outpost



Figure 2 - Front side of German postcard with 22 September 1939 postmark



Figure 3 - Back side of German postcard dated 14 September 1939 with message in German

Figures 2 and 3 show the front and back sides of a German postcard sent by one of the Polish Westerplatte defenders. The printed text in German states that the sender was in German captivity in a transit camp and that he would provide an address for correspondence after being transferred to another camp.

The card was sent by Corporal Donat Zdunkiewicz to his wife, Jadwiga Zdunkiewicz, in the village of Ujazd, Brzezany district, near Łódź. It was dated 14 September 1939 and postmarked 22 September. The round cancellation is partially obscured with ink but it is undoubtedly "Danzig b". This is arguably the earliest piece of correspondence from a Polish soldier in German captivity.

The transit camp where Westerplatte defenders were initially held was "Dulag XX.B/Z" in Biskupia Górka (German name is Stolzenberg) near Gdańsk. It was there that the Polish radio operator, Sergeant Kazimierz Rasiński was executed for refusing to reveal radio codes to the Germans, in violation of the international convention on the treatment of prisoners of war.

Addendum: In the 7 August 2012 issue of the New Britain Herald, news from Warsaw reported that Major Ignacy Skowron, the last known Polish survivor for the opening battle of WWII, died on 5 August 2012 at the age of 97. At the time, Skowron was a Corporal and one of the Polish troops guarding the military outpost at Westerplatte when it came under heavy fire from the German warship, the Schleswig-Holstein.



Deceased Member

Ryszard Mroczowski - 1938-2012

We were recently informed that Ryszard L. Mroczowski, Polonus Member #1721, passed away in Paris, France on July 15, 2012 while on vacation. Born in Poland, he most recently resided in New Britain CT since 1968, where he was a member of many Polish civic and cultural organizations. A philatelist for many years, his collection encompassed all areas of Polish philately, but his specialty was General Gouvernment. Among his prized items was a unique full sheet of the Hans Frank propaganda issue. We honor his memory.

The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946

By: Dr. Paul J. Phillips

Preface: The purpose of this article is to spark some interest in the operations of the POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ (PCK / Polish Red Cross) during and shortly after the end of World War II. I am writing it since I have never seen an article on this subject during more than 20 years of collecting WWII Poland. It may be that much more is known from Polish philatelic journals, so perhaps it will provoke a more comprehensive article as there are many questions that I have not been able to answer. This is the first of two articles; in the second I will deal with the operations in the United Kingdom which were quite different in nature from those within Poland.

This article will largely deal with postal cards used by the PCK within Poland or when dealing with the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. These cards, bearing printed legends or red handstamps of the organization and its branches, are difficult to find, and what I am presenting here are the sum total of what I have found during the last two decades. They have fascinated and puzzled me for many years.

The earliest card I have seen comes from the period when Poles were not allowed to use the mail service. It originated in Jasło on 19 October 1939 and was a private communication from a woman looking for her husband. It is written in German on a German postal card and bears the **Deutsche Dienstpost Osten / Jasło** mark with date alongside, all in red. (Figure 1)



Figure 1 – Postal card sent from Jasło to the PCK headquarters in Kraków on 19 October 1939

Since the postal system was not opened to Poles until 7 November 1939 it appears that the card was posted by a friendly German or Austrian, or was held in the Jasło P.O. until 7 November. It is also possible that she was a native German married to a Pole.

The first of the three red marks applied by the PCK in Kraków, **Wpisano do kartoteki / dnia...** (entered in the record book) is dated 10 November 1939. The large mark of the PCK (topmost) is dated 12 November 1939 and reads **POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ / OKRĘG KRAKOWSKI** (Polish Red Cross / County of Kraków). The third mark (between the other two) reads **Zwrócono się do nadawcy / o szczegółowe dane ewid. / dn.** (Requested from the sender / detailed record data / day) is dated 30 November 1939. The latter is the day when they started investigating the request. The reverse of the card simply has the handwritten request and no other useful markings, however, it gives us an idea of the procedure followed and the time it took for action at this early time in the occupation when the mail service was opened up to Poles. They must have been inundated by enquiries.

The next two cards originated in Borysław, which was under Russian occupation. The earliest of these cards was written 18 November 1939 and is postmarked with the Polish mark of the city. (Figure 2a)



Figure 2a – Card written by PCK in Borysław to PCK in Kielce, forwarded to new address

This card was written on 18 November but the postmark is of 8th December. The card was sent first to Berlin where it received the continuous machine mark of Berlin – Charlottenburg on 17 February 1940. Presumably this was for censorship and recordkeeping, although there are no censor marks of any kind. When it arrived in Kielce the PCK branch had been moved. The original address

The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946 (cont.)

was in Jarosław, or was misinterpreted as being in Jarosław. There a handstamp of the PCK branch in Kielce was applied and the card forwarded. On the front of the card is the mark **CZERWONY KRZYŻ / BORYSŁAWIU** (note the absence of **POLSKI** in the name – this had to be a new mark authorized by the USSR) and also the mark **POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ / ODDZIAŁ KIELECKI**. The latter mark is dated **22 LUT 1940**, but has been separately applied. This date, 22 February 1940, correlates with the Berlin date of 17 February 1940. The reverse side of the card (**Figure 2b**) is also of interest as it is typewritten and allows only for a controlled amount of communication. It is reminiscent of the reverse sides of cards used for communication between Poles acknowledging the receipt of parcels from abroad, which will be handled in the second article.

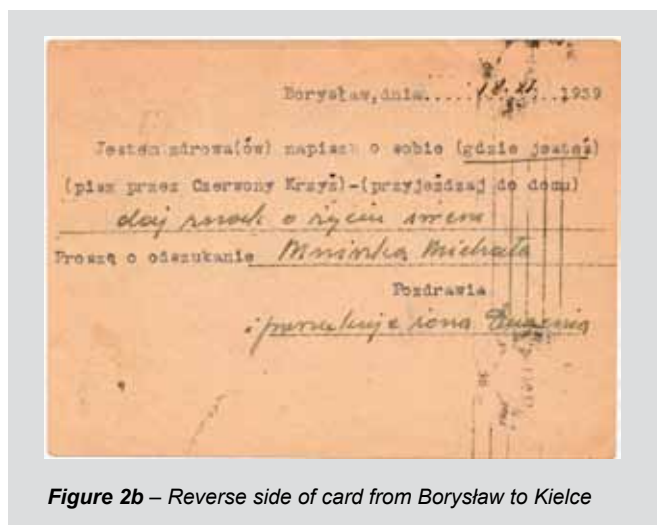


Figure 2b – Reverse side of card from Borysław to Kielce

The third card (**Figures 3a & 3b**) is also from Borysław, but this time was being sent to the headquarters in Kraków. In this case, only the PCK mark of Borysław can be found on the front of the card, with the Kraków markings being on the reverse side, which has other interesting features. This time the new Russian mark for Borysław was used at the post office but the date cannot be read (it is 20 something 1939). However, as the card was written on 20 December 1939, it appears that it had not been delayed an inordinate amount of time. The reverse side of this card has also been typewritten but on a higher quality machine than was used for the earlier card from Borysław shown in **Figure 2b**. Again there was limited space and controlled

messaging. There is a poor example of the PCK mark of Kraków, shown in **Figure 3b**, dated 3 February 1940, and also the **Wpisano..** mark dated 19 February 1940. So, there is still a two-month delay between the card being written and the request being entered in the record books. Also, there is an unusually large handstamped 4 in the top left corner in the usual red ink, apparently identical to the ink used in the **Wpisano** mark. Both of these cards from Borysław are Polish postal cards of the pre-invasion period.



Figure 3a – Card sent from PCK Borysław to PCK Kraków, written 20 December 1939

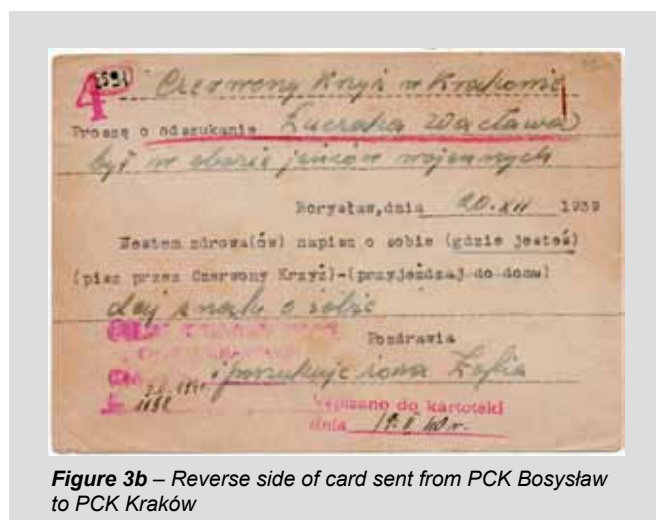


Figure 3b – Reverse side of card sent from PCK Borysław to PCK Kraków

A fourth card dating from 1939 was mailed from Sandomierz using a simple German postal card and was written on the 20th of December 1939. It has a much more complicated history than the previous three cards. It bears a simple double ring cds of

The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946 (cont.)

SANDOMIR dated 20 December 1939 (**Figure 4a**), the day it was written. It has examples of the PCK mark on both sides reading **POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ / Zarząd Oddziału / w SANDOMIERZU** with a line for a ledger number having a cursive M between two thin lines.



Figure 4a – Card sent from PCK Sandomierz to PCK Kraków on 20 December 1939

On the reverse (**Figure 4b**) there is circular PCK mark with a cross in the middle which reads around the circle ***POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ* ODDZIAŁ SANDOMIERSKI***. This all looks fine. On arrival in Kraków, with little delay, two different versions of the PCK Krakow mark were applied on the front shown in **Figure 4a**. The earliest is dated 26 December 1939 and is in magenta with thick non-serif letters reading **POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ / OKRĘG KRAKOWSKI** with two lines underneath for completion as usual. The second mark is identical to the one seen in **Figure 1** and is in thin serif letters and dated 28 December 1939. These two marks differ in the reference numbers added in pen; the one dated 26 XII 1939 has a number 3819/II and the one dated 28 XII 1939 has the number I-3209. So, the card was given two different record numbers, one with a "I" designation and the other with a "II" designation. Does this mean that it was added to two separate ledgers, with perhaps different enquiry routes or just simply Volume I and Volume II?

Correlating somewhat with that date, on the reverse shown in **Figure 4b**, is a **Wpisano** mark of Kraków with the date stamped in a different red ink that reads 7 WRZ 1940 (7 Sep 1940). Near that mark is,



Figure 4b – Reverse side of card sent from PCK Sandomierz to PCK Kraków

in manuscript, Lista Nr. 108, which has been crossed through and under the mark is Neu – Nr. 2126. Does this mean that the card was lying around with no action for nine months? It is interesting to note that the German Neu was written and not the Polish Nowy. Does this mean that the Germans were investigating / overseeing the operations of the Kraków PCK at that time?

The situation becomes even more puzzling as there is a German boxed mark dated 3 November 1940 (two months later) which reads **DER STADTHAUPT-MANN / DER.....** which is incomplete but appears to be **DER KREIS KRAKAU** as fragments of the tops of the letters can be seen. Another interesting feature is that, in addition to the original signature of the writer of the card, there have been two additional signatures added at some time. This is the only card showing punch holes normally used in filing systems for cards.

The above four cards are the only internal communications I have seen between PCK branches and they all date from the end of 1939. The Red Cross can only work where they are permitted and I do not know what services they were allowed to perform in occupied Poland. There is no doubt that the tracing service was carried out in Geneva for most of the war and that the PCK ran, with the help of the British Government, a communication service for Poles still left in Poland with their compatriots in the UK, using a series of undercover addresses in Portugal.

The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946 (cont.)

I have one more item that is related and also postal in nature. It is related to the PCK services for prisoners of war. It is a communication from the PCK in Kraków to an individual in Bielsko dated in February of 1940. This is a pre-typed sheet, filled in as appropriate and folded in two, being sent without a wrapper of any type (**Figures 5a & 5b**).

This document could not be delivered to the recipient and bears appropriate markings in German. The interior of the document is a typed notice with spaces for completion using manuscript. I could not make it out properly because of abbreviations, and Bob Ogródnik very kindly translated it for me. Even he had problems with the manuscript sections.

Here is Bob's message:

The note does not give a status of the POW. It only refers to his documents. One can presume that the Red Cross had these items because of the death of the POW but the note does not state this.

Here is the translation.....

"We are informing you that among the possessions at this Bureau of the Polish Red Cross, we found documents and other items belonging to Franciszek Szarer, that had been received from Dębica."

"To claim these items please report in person between 10,00 and 13,00 hours (10 am and 1 pm), or alternatively send 1.5 złoty to cover the cost of shipping the items by Post."

"When responding, the above-mentioned number (i.e., L.ew. 921) should be given as reference."

Quite often messages such as this use abbreviations for words that are common in communication. "tut." in this case refers to "tutejszy" which

means "in this location" or in the context of the note, "this Bureau". "wzgl." refers to "względnie" which as a conjunction means "alternatively".

The only evidence I have for the workings of the PCK in Poland after this date are two postal cards, one to Kraków and one to Geneva. The card to Kraków shown in



Figure 5a – Front of document sent from PCK Kraków to Bielsko



Figure 5b – Back of document sent from PCK Kraków to Bielsko

Figure 6 is a bilingual Postal Card (German & Polish) dated 20 January 1942 and is datelined Medyka, which currently is a small village of about 3000 close to Przemyśl and is a border crossing for the road and railway into Ukraine. At that time it was known as Medyka uber Przemyśl. The postmark is only partial and the bottom reads Dist Krakau, and is dated in January 1942.



Figure 6 – Bi-lingual card from Medyka to PCK Kraków sent on 20 January 1942

The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946 (cont.)

This card bears a boxed receiving mark of PCK Kraków which reads **POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ / KRAKÓW/ WPŁYNEŁO DNIA / 21 STCZ 1942** (received on 21 Jan 1942) and several smaller lines which have not been completed in manuscript. So it was received the day after it was written.

The second card is a printed postal card of the PCK in Warsaw prepared for the sender to use to the International Red Cross in Geneva. (**Figure 7**) This is an early card written 4 April 1940 with a long list of missing persons. The sender's name and address are handwritten into the designated places on the left front of the card, which has all red printing. The card was sent using Deutsche Post Osten Hindenburg overprints (2x 12 gr and 1 x 6 gr) for a rate of 30 groschen and were cancelled by the Warszawa 1 machine on 10 April 1940. There is a receiving date of the Red Cross of 16 Avr. 1940, so the card was moved promptly.



Figure 7 – Red Cross card from Warsaw to Geneva on 4 April 1940

Those are all the PCK postal cards that I have from the wartime period. The next cards that appear in this article are printed cards of the PCK in Kraków dated 1946, which is the post-war period. The earliest is printed in red on a tan card and used from Bolków (**Figures 8a & 8b**).

The front left side of the card has spaces for the name and address of the sender whereas the right side has the preprinted address of the PCK in Kraków. The card also has a single-ring datestamp of BOLKÓW dated 07.3.46 – 18. Bolków is in the



Figure 8a – Front of preprinted request card of the PCK in Kraków sent from Bolków in 1946



Figure 8b – Message side of the preprinted request card sent from Bolków to Kraków.

new territories acquired from Germany at the end of the War and is in the Wrocław region. In 1945 its name was changed from Bolkenhain to Bolkowice and to Bolków in 1946, so this is a very new postmark. As can be seen from Figure 8b the message side is very well prepared. The writer gives her address as the village of **Pustelnik**, the municipality of **Wirkamów**, the county of **Jawor**, and the postal district of **Bolków**. The detailed address would have been necessary because of all the name changes occurring in this part of the new Poland. Pustelnik is a small village, near the village of Marciszów (Germ. Merzdorf; site of an infamous German textile factory using Jewish women as forced labor), near the county of Jawor (Germ. Jauer). I cannot find any mention of Wirkamów.

The PCK in Poland 1939 - 1946 (cont.)

I have two examples of a card printed on greenish-grey card, both from Łódź 10. The cards are identical, so I will show the one which is registered and has more information on it. (Figures 9a & 9b) This

card has a more detailed address of the PCK Information Bureau in Kraków and the reverse has been completely redesigned. The card bears a double-ring bridge-type cancel dated 13.5.46 and a purple boxed registration mark with the number added in black [the other card, not illustrated, used a single ring Łódź 10 mark date 4.12.46]. A red **PO-LECONA** eagle stamp was used,

whereas the other card used a blue **ZWYKŁA** stamp. As can be seen from the reverse the card received a Katowice 1 of 14.5.46 during transit and a single-ring Kraków 15.5.46 on arrival. The Red Cross receiving mark was no longer used. An internal mark of the PCK is also present, it being a purple boxed mark with **BIURO POSZUKIWANIA RO...** (the last word being incomplete) and a street address. As can be seen from the message sides of the cards, the nature of the enquiries was always about missing persons. It seems highly likely that the writers were not simply seeking missing soldiers or prisoners of war, but may also have been seeking the countless individuals that were moved from the parts of Poland now occupied by the USSR to the new territories in the west.

Conclusion: It is my sincere hope that the readers of this article will write to me with more information, or scans of cards in their possession, so that the story can be filled in. If this occurs, then I will write a follow-up article with a listing of types of PCK markings and cards. At the present time I believe that my examples are too few to make such listings useful. I can be emailed at XLPE@aol.com, or written to via the editor of this Bulletin.



Figure 9a – Printed message card from Łódź 10 sent registered to Kraków



Figure 9b – Reverse of message card sent registered from Łódź 10 to Kraków

Polish Air Force in Great Britain (Part II)

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part article about the Polish Air Force in Great Britain during WWII. Part I was featured in Bulletin #547, which contained the historical background related to the Polish Squadrons in the Royal Air Force.

Part II of the article on the Polish Air Force in Great Britain 1940-47 is focused on the remaining six covers from members of the Polish Air Force to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska in Boston, Massachusetts.

Figure 1 is an air mail letter with stamps (1s 3d in value) cancelled with the rare date stamp of the British R.A.F.P.O. in Ballyhalbert (Northern Ireland) on 7 January 1944. This letter was checked and stamped by RAF Censor 75, with Censor's label: Opened by Examiner 3402.



Figure 2 is a registered letter with R label from Locking Camp, Weston Super-Mare and 5½d postage cancelled with British FPO dater, Locking Camp, Weston Super-Mare 80M, on 29 January 1945. It has a Censor's label: Opened by Examiner 519. The sender, Janina Strzelczak, was a member of the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force).

Figure 3 is a letter with a 2½d stamp cancelled with a civilian post dater from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire on 6 March 1945. It has a Censor's label: Opened

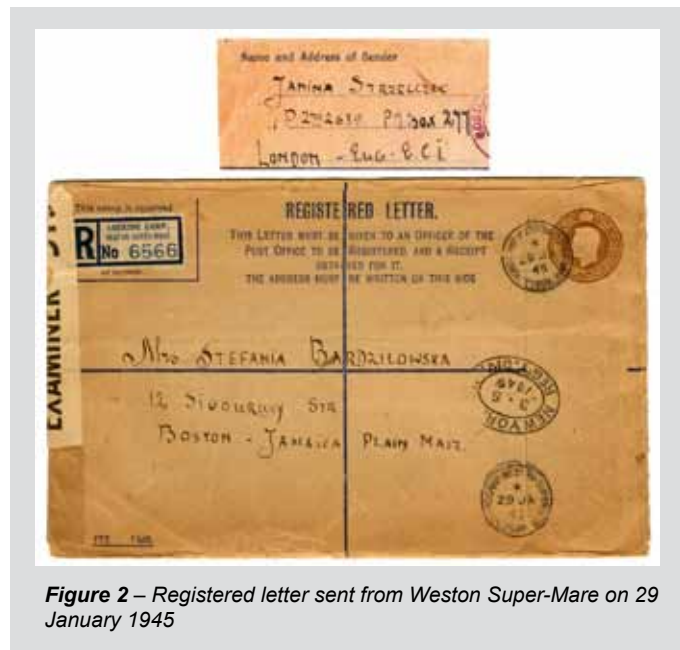


Figure 2 – Registered letter sent from Weston Super-Mare on 29 January 1945

by Examiner 5843. The content is written on a letterhead with RAF and Polish Air Force emblems. The sender opens the letter with "Beloved Wartime Mother!" and thanks Mrs. Bardziłowska for her assistance and solicitude which helped him keep his spirits up during the war.



Figure 3 – Ordinary letter sent from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire on 6 March 1945

Polish Air Force in Great Britain (Part II) (cont.)

Figure 4 is a registered air mail letter with R label from Welton, Lincoln (Lincolnshire) and with 1s 6d postage (three stamps) cancelled with the civilian post dater from Welton, Lincolnshire on 21 November 1945. The address on the reverse side of the cover: Zofia Aksenow, RAF Station, Dunholme Lodge, near Lincoln, England. The content is written on a letterhead with RAF and Polish Air Force emblems. The sender writes that she took part in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. After it was crushed, she was imprisoned in Stalag VI C in Oberlangen. On 12 April 1945, General Maczek's 1st Polish Armored Division liberated the POW camp and the sender made her way to Britain where she joined the WAAF. The sender asked for assistance for her family in Poland, having lost everything during the Warsaw Uprising.



Figure 4 – Registered air mail letter sent from Welton, Lincolnshire on 21 November 1945

Figure 5 is an air letter with 3d postage, cancelled with British dater FPO 764 on 3 September 1944. The letter bears the Censor's label: Opened by Examiner 5851 and the Censor's seal: Passed by Censor N. 4000. The sender gave his return address as P.O. Box 277, London, but said in his letter that he was writing from a military airfield in France, from whence bombing raids on German military targets were undertaken.



Figure 5 – Air letter sent from France via British FPO on 3 September 1944

Figure 6 is an ordinary letter sent via British FPO nr. 850 on 15 April 1946. Return address: RAF 131 Wing HQ B.A.F.O. c/o B.A.O.R. (British Air Forces of Occupation c/o British Army On the Rhine). Some elements of the Polish Air Force had moved to Germany as part of the British army after the end of the war. They remained there until 1947.



Figure 6 – Ordinary letter sent Germany via British FPO on 15 April 1946

Arthur Szyk & Philatelic Art

By: Myron Kavalgian

Editor's Note: An article titled "Arthur Szyk – Stamp Designer" authored by Montgomery Mulford appeared in the May 1951 issue of the Polonus Bulletin (#95). The article covered his accomplishments as a designer of stamps from Liberia and Israel. In this article, Polonus member Myron Kavalgian, who is also a member of the Arthur Szyk Society, gives us an insight into Szyk's works of art.

Arthur Szyk (pronounced "shick"), a Pole from Łódź, an artist, an illuminator in the style of a 16th century miniaturist, a stamp designer, was one of the most prolific artists of his time. I would need several pages in this issue of the Polonus Bulletin to tell you all of his accomplishments. However, in this article I want to just focus on his works of philatelic art. He was an active artist from the 1930's until his untimely death in 1951.

First, by way of a quick review, let's not forget what Arthur Szyk created. There is religious art – Bible text illustrations; a Passover Haggadah considered by many as his most important work; and his Statute of Kalisz, a rendering in the form of medieval manuscript illumination, often referred to as "the Jewish Magna Carta", showing the affirmation of civil and religious liberties for Jews by the Duke of Greater Poland – Bolesław the Pious in 1264.

There are illustrations to Andersen's Fairy Tales and the Tales of Arabian Nights; stamps of Liberia and Israel; various pictures of George Washington; embellishments to the Declaration of Independence; and anti-Nazi and anti-Axis art championing the Allied cause in World War II. Szyk expressed anguish over the Holocaust using his paint brush as a weapon, resulting in Adolph Hitler putting a price on his head. There is also a series of 20 postcards commemorating the Twenty Pictures from the Glorious Days of the Polish-American Fraternity (1939), featuring Polish heroes with descriptions in English and Polish. Since 2008, this series of postcards are referred to as the 400 Years of Poles in America, in recognition of the anniversary of Poles in Jamestown.

His work is held by several individual collectors of art and exhibited at museums throughout the world, including the Library of Congress, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Polish Museum of America, the Jewish Museum, FDR Library at Hyde Park, and others.

He is also known in the philatelic world for creating stamp album title pages. A well-known stamp dealer, Kasimir Bileski of Winnipeg, Canada, commissioned Szyk to create 60 exquisite frontispieces for a unique international stamp album in 1945. A feature of this ambitious project was The History of Flight, designed as the title page for rare aviation and airmail stamps. Additionally, Szyk was to create the visual histories of fifty-nine different countries. Each page was to serve as an introduction to extraordinary and rare stamps from around the world. This phase of the project was entitled Visual History of Nations. In addition to The History of Flight, he finished the following nine before his untimely death in Connecticut in 1951: Canada, China, France, Great Britain, Israel, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, and the USA. **Figure 1** is an example of the frontispiece for Poland.



Figure 1 – Szyk Album Page for Poland

The Szyk album title pages are available for collectors who want to illustrate their albums today. They are frequently listed on eBay (search: Szyk) and can also be acquired through the Arthur Szyk Society, Burlingame, CA (www.szyk.org).

For Sale - Szyk Postcard Set

A complete set of 20 postcards from the remarkable pre-WWII Polish artist and miniaturist Arthur Szyk series of the "Twenty Pictures from the Glorious Days of the Polish-American Fraternity" (1939), more commonly referred to since 2008 as "400 Years of Poles in America". The illustrations connect historical events with Polish heroes of the times, such as: Polish pioneers in Virginia during the 17th century, Jakub Sadowski, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Kazimierz Pułaski, Fr. Leopold Moczygęba, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, et al. Each card contains a description in English and Polish. The illustrations of the Szyk series were reproduced with the cooperation of The Arthur Szyk Society and the cards were printed in Poland.



Card size is 150 x 105mm (approximately 6 X 4.25 in.).

Prices listed below include shipping and handling via USPS Mail (6oz.) with Delivery Confirmation in special envelope.

1 complete set\$12 (US) and \$15 (World)

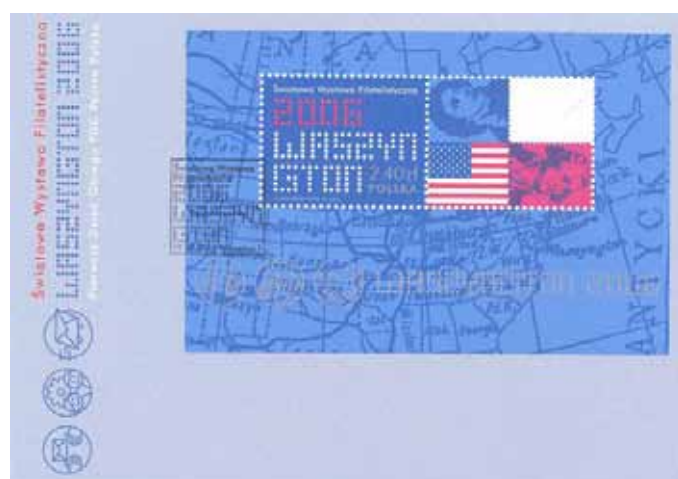
2-5 complete sets\$11/set (US) and \$13/set (World)

Orders may be placed by e-mail (zyby@optonline.net) or by mail:

Zbigniew Krawczyk, 323 Starke Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554, USA. (Tel: 516-483-5639)

Payment by PayPal when ordering by e-mail or by personal check or money order when ordering by mail.

2006 First Day Cover – “Free For The Asking”



New member, Zbigniew Krawczyk, has offered Polonus members a First Day Cover “free for the asking”. The FDC features Fi 4090 (Blok 167), a souvenir sheet issued on 19 May 2006, commemorating the 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition held in Washington, DC on 27 May – 3 June 2006. Note size of the FDC: 6.3 X 4.5 in.

To claim your “free” FDC send a SASE (A6 Announcement Envelope) to: Polonus Philatelic Society, c/o Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428.

New Issues



Date of Issue	May 17, 2012
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Retrogravure
Designer	Piotr Stefankiewicz

150th Anniversary of National Museum in Warsaw

This 4.15 zł issue celebrates the 150th anniversary of the National Museum in Warsaw (Muzeum Narodowe w Warszawie), one of the largest museums in Poland, with over 780,000 items on display. Its collections include ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art; an extensive

gallery of Polish paintings since the 16th Century; and a collection of foreign paintings (especially Italian, Dutch, German, and Russian). It also houses a numismatic collection and a gallery of applied art. The museum was damaged and then looted in WWII. Although the government has since retrieved many of the stolen works, there are over 5,000 items still missing. The numbered souvenir sheet depicts a painting by Tadeusz Makowski entitled Masquerade Ball (Maskarada), 1931.



Europa

The theme for all Europa stamps in 2012 is "Visiting ... (each nation)" to promote European tourism, as selected at

Post Europ's Philatelic Forum. This 3 zł stamp depicts a sign post with 4 directional arrows pointing the way to football/soccer events, historical clock towers and bison, concerts featuring the music of Chopin, and sailing and other aquatic activities and events in Poland.

This year's Europa stamps were judged in two competitions, by public voting on the internet organized by Post Europ, and by a jury of 7 expert judges. Hungary and Russia were the 2 respective winners and prizes will be presented at the Belgian Philatelic Grand Prix in September.

Date of Issue	May 22, 2012
Sheet Format	9 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew



Date of Issue	May 25, 2012
Sheet Format	2 sheets of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Michał Batory

Works of Michał Batory

These 2 stamps recognize the artistic accomplishments of Michał Batory, a follower of the great Polish poster school. He is one of the most remarkable contemporary graphic designers, born in Łódź in 1959, and since 1987 residing in France. He is most famous for his works for theatre companies, especially Le Theatre Chaillot. He studied in Poland at the National School of Arts in Łódź, and achieved notoriety from his work with the Theatre National de la Colline in Paris. The 1.95 zł stamp shows a person's lips and the 3zł stamp portrays many human fingers.

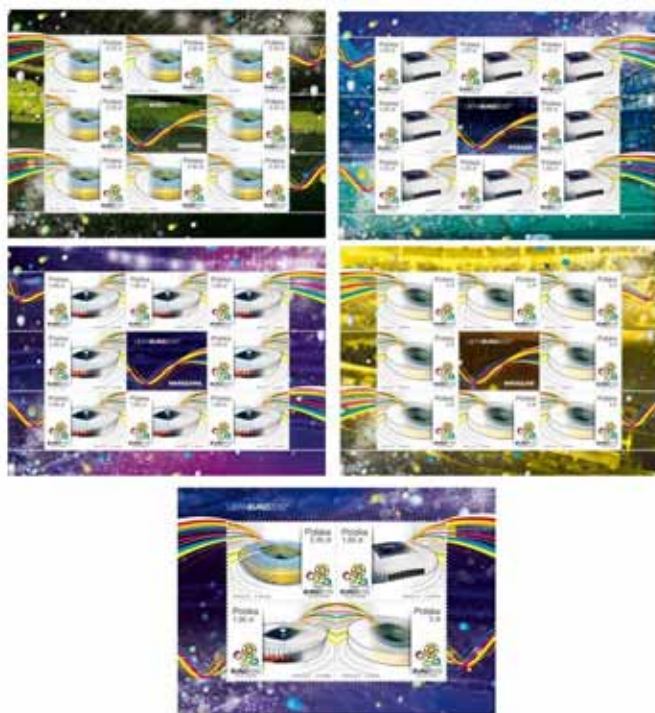


Date of Issue	May 30, 2012
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Piotr Stefankiewicz

Polish Animated Cartoon

This 4.15 zł stamp recognizes Polish animated cartoons, especially the contemporary Polish TV cartoon "The Bunny (Zajaczek) Parauszek." The shows are produced by the

Semafor TV and movie studio in Łódź, and are designed to entertain and educate young children. The shows teach against exploitation, violence, intolerance, envy, and egotism. The numbered souvenir sheet depicts rabbits, a bear, and other animals eating outside a house in the forest; it is obviously aimed at interesting children in stamp collecting.



Date of Issue	June 8, 2012
Sheet Format	4 Stamps in 5 SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

UEFA Euro 2012

The 2012 UEFA European Football Championship (Euro 2012) was the 14th such competition for Europe's national football (soccer) teams. Hosted for the first time by Poland and the Ukraine in June and July, the final tournament competition featured 16 national teams playing on 8 venues, 4 in each host country. The final match in Kiev, Ukraine, saw Spain defeat Italy, Spain's 2nd consecutive European Championship (previously in 2008). The eight host cities were Poznań, Warsaw, Gdańsk, and Wrocław in Poland; and Kiev, Lviv,

Donetsk, and Kharkov in the Ukraine. The 4 stamps depict the new stadiums constructed for the event: the 1.55 zł stamp shows the rebuilt Municipal Stadium in Poznań; the 1.95 zł stamp shows the new National Stadium in Warsaw; the 2.40 zł stamp depicts the new PGE Arena in Gdańsk; and the 3 zł stamp features the new Municipal Stadium in Wrocław. Each stamp is represented in its individual souvenir sheet, and all 4 are together in a se-tenant format in a 5th souvenir sheet.