

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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ONLY EIGHT MONTHS TO WORLD STAMP EXPO "POLSKA 93"

After the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, Poland is going through difficult times. The World Stamp Exhibition, POLSKA 93 slowly but surely is taking shape. Since the only exhibition halls large enough for such a show are located in Poznan where the International Fair is held, the exhibition will take place there May 7-16th, 1993.

Approximately one hundred booths will be provided for post offices from around the world as well as domestic and foreign stamp dealers, to sell postage stamps, postal stationery, and accessories.



Information on commissioners nominated by the American Philatelic Society has just come in. The commissioner for Eastern U.S. is Seymour Bachik, P.O. Box 8, Rockway Park, NY 11694. The co-commissioner for the Midwest and West U.S. is James Mazepa, Ph.D., P.O. Box 1217, Oak Park, IL 60304, phones: res. (708) 848-9094, office (708) 848-9087.

The Polish Airline LOT has the only direct flight to Poland and this is the route for the safe delivery of collections to the exhibition. As the official travel agency, the commissioners have appointed Falcon Travel, 9018 Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL 60648, phone: (708) 298-0550, Fax: (708) 298-0553. Details on dates of departure, cost, accommodations, excursions, etc., will appear in the next POLONUS BULLETIN.

We are planning to leave together. Then everyone is on his own as far as attending the exhibition, taking tours, visiting friends and family. You can return with us or as you wish.

There are specific requirements for exhibitors at this FIP sponsored international exhibition which can be obtained from the commissioners. If you are interested only in travel to Poland and back, contact

Fred Szebel, (708) 437-1601 or Wanda Szebel at Falcon Travel, (708) 298-0550.

During the visit in May of our honorary member, Czeslaw Slania, the reknown world engraver from Sweden, we received word that he has been commissioned to engrave two souvenir sheets for POLSKA 93, presenting the history of the Polish Eagle. The designs will be by Prof. Andrzej Jeziorkowski of Poland.

Among Polonus members in the U.S. and Canada nominated as consultants to the Organizing Committee are Romuald Odrowski and Fred Szebel.

It is not too early to make plans now to join us in this once in a lifetime excursion to POLSKA 93 this coming May!

—Fred Szebel

Virtuti Militari 200th Anniversary New Issues

On the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Virtuti Militari Order, the Polish Post issued two commemoratives and a miniature sheet on June 18, 1992.

The first order was an oval medal in silver and gold with the latin inscription VIRTUTI MILITARI, given after the victory at Zieleńnica on June 18, 1792 during the war with Russia in defense of the Polish Constitution of May 3rd. It was established by King Stanislaw August Poniatowski and initiated by his nephew, Prince Jozef Poniatowski who headed the armed forces at that time.

The 1500 zloty value shows Prince Jozef from the portrait by Jozef Kosinski. The 3000 zloty value shows Marshal Jozef Pilsudski from the portrait by Stanislaw Zawadzki. Marshal Pilsudski was awarded the highest class of this military order, the Large Cross with Star, for his military achievements when Poland regained her Independence in 1918.



The 1500 zloty value with Prince Józef Poniatowski and 3000 zloty stamp with Marshal Józef Piłsudski wearing their respective Virtuti Militari decorations. The cancellation is the special cancellation made for the return of the remains of Ignacy Jan Paderewski to Poland on July 2, 1992.



The 20,000 zloty miniature sheet refers to the opposition to the July, 1974 granting of the order of the Virtuti Militari First Class to Leonid Brezhnev. The objections were made by the elder living generals of the Second Republic and their subordinates. They decided to relinquish their orders in homage to Our Lady of Czestochowa. From their some 300 orders, chaplain Eustachy Rakoczy decided to make a "hetman's robe for a copy of the Our Lady of Czestochowa painting.

At the left of the sheet is the original medal of 1792. At the right is the Silver Cross Order of the Virtuti Militari fashioned after such an order recovered during the exhuming of graves of Polish officers murdered at Charkov.

The stamps and sheet were printed on chalky paper. The individual stamps were rotogravure printed in a quantity of 1,500,000 each. The miniature sheet was offset printed in a quantity of 1,300,000. First Day covers were cancelled at the Warszawa 1 Post Office. The stamps, covers and cancellation were designed by Maciej Jedrysik.

—Romuald Odrowski

Above was translated from an official release by the "Centralny Zarząd Poczty Polskiej" (Central Administration of the Polish Post) in Warsaw.

POLONUS SPONSORS EXHIBITION AT POLISH MUSEUM

In conjunction with October as Polish American Heritage Month, Polonus will sponsor a philatelic exhibition at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago. As an ethnic group the Polish Americans are very fortunate to have three heroes: Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Casimir Pulaski and Ignacy Jan Paderewski. All three have been honored on United States stamp commemoratives as well as Poland's issues which are collected by Polonus members.

Also participating in this exhibition will be the Polish American Numismatic Association. The exhibition will take place during the month of October in the Great Hall of the museum building. Further details to be announced in the next Polonus Bulletin.

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLISH POSTAL SERVICE IN 1941 IN THE LIGHT OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Marian Dabrowski and Janusz Ksieski

After September 1939 Polish state agencies were reorganised abroad and an attempt was made, for political reasons, to maintain all services. Although these had to function on foreign territory, they encompassed all areas of social and economic life. The circumstances required some changes in the organisational structure of these services, one being that the Ministry of Post and Telegraph Services ceased to exist as an independent office.

The Postal Section was created within the Ministry of Finance and, as a result, at the beginning of the 1940s, came under the direct authority of Tadeusz Janta Polczyński, the Minister of Finance at the time, who was much involved in the re-establishment of the Polish postal service. The Ministry of Finance was located at Stratton House in Stratton Street, off Piccadilly. Later, after 1943, the Postal Section functioned as part of the Ministry of Trade in Sloane Street, also in London. These were the addresses to which post was sent for transmission by the Polish postal service.

Until now our knowledge about the functioning of the Polish postal service in this period has been limited to the fact of its existence and a brief mention in the international law catalogues, without mention even of specific paragraphs; these legal rules allowed for the functioning of the Polish postal service despite the occupation of Polish territory. It is worth studying the complicated, multi-level activities of the Polish authorities (Note 1), in recreating the Polish postal service, despite war conditions.

Considerable Efforts

The first plan to renew the Polish postal service arose in France; as a result of France's capitulation, however, it could not be realised. The project was finalised in Great Britain. This required considerable efforts relating to the taking advantage of international law, but also simultaneously respecting the law of another sovereign state. For the activity to be fully legitimate, it also required the approval of the Universal Postal Union.

The results of internal and inter-departmental discussions and deliberations were finalised in a memo dated 10 September 1941; at that time, work on the printing of the so-called 'London edition' was already advanced. The memo was entitled 'Scheme for the use of Polish postal stamps; proposal of the postal and telegraph censorship in regard to the scheme of the Polish Government for the use of Polish postal stamps'. This 'scheme for the use of Polish postal stamps...' with proposals for despatch, censorship, etc, contains seven fundamental points. The first two are the definition of aims and principles involved in applying the scheme; a handwritten comment with a question mark alongside the second point reads 'merchant ships?' Evidently, initially, the proposal to establish Polish postal service agencies on merchant ships raised British doubts. Point 3, entitled 'Permitted addressees', specifies that correspondence will be sent '... only to addresses in countries which are not enemy territory, or territory occupied by the enemy'. In the margin, a handwritten note by the British partner: 'including Great Britain', signifies the acceptance of distribution with Great Britain. Point 4 entitled 'Collection and Checking of mail' (*Zbieranie i sprawdzanie poczty*) defines the basis of control by British censors, using the cryptonym 'MI12'. The Polish project envisaged that after censorship, letters would await instructions from the Polish Embassy; a note in the margin states *inter alia* '... not Polish Embassy, but Polish Ministry of Finance/Post Section'. After the technical details relating to the delivery of mail to the ships (point 5), point 6 contains a 'Guarantee by the Polish Government'. The guarantees comprise three fundamental points: firstly, that letters addressed to enemy states will not be franked with Polish stamps; secondly, that letters will be prepared and postmarked only on board Polish ships; and thirdly, that the franking and postmarking of stamps on board ships will be overseen by a specially authorised Polish officer.

Acknowledged and Recognised

The continuation of the Polish postal service on the principles preceding 1 September 1939 had thus been acknowledged and recognised by the UPU and the governments of allied and neutral countries, with the exception, of course, of axis and satellite states (e.g. Slovakia, Hungary and Rumania). This is important for the location of the relevant stamp issues in catalogues because, in the light of the above information, these issues should not be treated separately but should constitute a normal continuation of the issues of the inter-war decades.

On 1 December 1941 *The Polish Daily (Dziennik Polski)* published an official communique of the Ministry of Finance concerning the Polish post and mentioning the possibility of preparing first day covers (the first collection was carried out by postal officers from 2–5 December 1941). The principles of the functioning of the post were given, information on the stamps themselves, prices and also details regarding their philatelic sale. Because items were to be posted on board ships and boats, Polish foreign tariffs were in force. The stamps of these issues have been thoroughly researched and described (Note 2). However, the functioning of the postal service presents an area which requires much detailed study.

An expression in the 'communique' of the Ministry of Finance that '... As a result of agreement with British postal authorities, it has been determined that four times a year ... Polish military personnel in Great Britain may send their correspondence through the Polish post ...', does not mean that letters could only be posted four times a year on board ships and boats. The expression related to the collection of letters from camps within British territory. This is clearly shown by the dates of postmarks on authenticated items posted at the time.

Not Respected

Even officially, the provisions of the agreements were not always respected. The last communique of the Postal Section, then part of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Merchant Navy, concerned the last collection on 3 May 1945 (no 716/PP). It was signed by the then Director of the Postal Section, R Machalski, and contains the sentence: 'If, however, the senders forward letters carrying stamps of the first series, or "Monte Cassino" or "Warsaw" from their own stock, then these letters will be normally processed, together with others by the Polish postal service', a

procedure which had been the subject of negotiation and to which the British had not agreed. Similar problems relate also to postmarks, in particular of the authenticated use of a postmark without an agency number (Note 3).

On 11 July 1945, as a result of a decision taken by British authorities, the Polish postal agencies on board ships and boats finally suspended their activity; exactly half a century ago this same activity was one of the important elements reminding the world of the existence of independent Poland.

Notes

1. The archives of The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London. File entitled 'Postal Section', document No 4—'Memoranda and materials relating to the establishment of "the Polish post" on men of war and merchants ships.'
2. Full details of all issues, giving details of printings, varieties and errors can be found in *Katalog Specjalizowany znaków pocztowych ziem polskich 1990*, KAW, Warsaw 1989, Part 1, Vol 1, pp 227–9.
3. Księski, Janusz, 'Stempel IIR z numerem "OO"', *Filatelista*, No 17/1974.



London Return Stamp — designed by Lt. A. Horowicz, intended to be issued upon the return of Polish Forces in Exile to Poland — never issued.



A cover from Lagos, Nigeria posted via MS Batory (left) and an envelope bearing the complete set, posted on board the destroyer CRP Piorun



A Postal Service from Free Poland

The 'scheme', with a covering letter (ref 158/PP/41) dated 22 November 1941, was sent to the Postal and Telegraph Censorship Department, which worked under the auspices of the Ministry of Information. After analysis, which included the 'notes' already mentioned, it was returned very promptly on 25 November 1941 with a lengthy letter (ref PC 78/41) addressed direct to Janta-Polczyński. We quote it here almost in its entirety:

'Dear Mr Janta-Polczyński,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 November. In accordance with the proposals discussed on a previous occasion, letters from Polish Army Camps will be forwarded for censorship in separate parcels, without any postal stamps. The most convenient way of handling this correspondence would be to use the same procedure—"Special Postal Route" (*Specjalna Droga Poczтовая*) ...'

After description of this, known from the 'Scheme' a lengthy paragraph relates to the difficulty of the censor's task, on the assumption that the majority of letters would be written in Polish; moreover, it would have been impossible to predict the volume of correspondence. For letters written in English, the stated censorship delay was three days. The letter closes thus:

'... I assume that the Polish Government is prepared to undertake the responsibilities contained in the sixth paragraph. I hope these agreements will be easily executed and finalised. I wish every success to this project for a postal service from Free Poland.'

The final acceptance from the British authorities was also addressed to T Janta-Polczyński in person, and was in reply to a letter sent from the Ministry of Finance on 8 December 1941 (ref 176/PP/41). In a letter (ref 27610/41) dated 12 December 1941, the Postal Service Department, General Post Office, recognised and accepted all the aforementioned regulations. Of interest is the paragraph in which the British Postal Service Department requires that 11 specimens (*uzór* in Polish) be sent for inclusion in 'official collections' and forwarded to the relevant services of British colonies. Assuming that this was carried out, there must be specimens of stamps, printed on behalf of the Polish wartime Government, in other postal museums. But that is a totally different problem. Also of interest is the instruction, with an example attached, explaining the principles of the mailing of official correspondence (*Service des postes*) without stamps from post offices and postal services to the administrations of other countries. The letter was signed by W J Beale.

Notifying the UPU

The second course of action resulted from the participation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). On 14 December 1941 (ref 400/PP/41), the director of the Postal Section of the Ministry of Finance sent a letter, written in French, to the Director of the UPU in Berne (Switzerland); it informed him that the Polish Government—in accordance with regulations—would recommence the activities of the Polish postal service on 15 December 1941, and that its offices would be on board Polish ships and boats. The letter informed him that all types of letter would be accepted, and that the tariff would be that in force on 1 September 1939, the day of the outbreak of war. Moreover, in accordance with Article 193 of the UPU Convention, passed in May 1939 during the Congress in Buenos Aires, three complete sets of stamps were forwarded. The stamps entered service the following day.

The third course of action, which prepared for the re-establishment of the Polish postal service, was the distribution of information/propaganda in allied and neutral countries. The importance of this was that the functioning of the Polish postal service should take place in the international arena. Already, on 10 September 1941, the Minister, T Janta-Polczyński, had written to the Polish Foreign Office (ref 6582/41/PP) asking for such action. On 19 September 1941 the Polish Foreign Office replied (ref 836/41) that on that day all Polish diplomatic missions were informed by airmail of the re-establishment of the Polish postal service planned for 15 December 1941. The information note and the attached instruction were signed by the acting minister (*Kierownik Ministerstwa*), Edward Raczynski.

The instruction circular stated that *'...the service will be available exclusively on Polish ships and boats on the high sea, in accordance with article 48 of the Universal Postal Convention dated 26 May 1939.'* Further information contained in the instruction related to the principles of functioning of the post, methods of distribution of stamps, including the possibility of distribution in some Polish agencies abroad (including commercial aspects), and also a text to be deposited with the government authorities in the relevant countries.

These instructions were sent to the Polish Embassies in Ankara, Washington and Moscow (Tokyo was deleted); Polish Legations in Berne, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Lisbon, Madrid, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, Stockholm and Teheran (Shanghai was deleted); Polish Legations accredited to exiled

Belgian, French, Czechoslovakian, Yugoslavian, Greek, Norwegian and Dutch governments in London; Polish Consulates-General in Bombay, Cape Town, Jerusalem, Ottawa, Wellington and Dublin and the Polish Consulate in Batavia. Later, referring to the above instruction circular of the Polish Foreign Office, the Ministry of Finance distributed, on 20 March 1942 (ref 400/PP/42) to the above-listed Polish offices, information notes and three sets of stamps to be forwarded to the postal administrations of the relevant countries, as well as three sets of stamps of the first, so-called, 'London edition' for the agency itself, for propaganda purposes.

This information/propaganda activity bore fruit as expected by the Polish Government. The Polish Consulate-General in Ottawa (Canada) wrote on 4 December 1941 (ref 836/1) to the Polish Foreign Office and included a copy of a note received from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs concerning the re-establishment of the Polish postal service. The note, dated 27 November 1941, in reply to a verbal note from the Consulate of 21 November 1941, acknowledged the re-establishment of the Polish postal service. It also said that relevant Canadian services were informed.



Colour trials in purple and orange for the 1943 50g. depicting General Sikorski with Polish troops in the Middle East



Regular 5 groszy stamp of the Polish Government in Exile issue of 1943, designed by Lt. A. Horowicz.



Some of the Lt. A. Horowicz designs of "VICTORY" stamps never issued.

POLISH STAMPS PRODUCED IN ITALY

By ROBERT E. LANA

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Why were Polish stamps designed by an Italian, printed by Italians and issued and used in Italy? The answer to this question lies embedded within the chaos intrinsic to any far-reaching war.

When the Germans overran Poland in 1939, a large contingent of the Polish army retreated into Russia. The Russians, suspicious of the Poles' willingness to fight alongside them, given the long-standing animosity between the two countries, disarmed them.

Remarkably, the Polish army stayed intact and apparently walked from Russia to the Middle East. The surprised British armed the Poles. As a result, this remainder of the Polish forces fought the Axis in North Africa and Italy, on through the end of World War II in 1945.

It was the Polish forces that finally took Monte Cassino in southern Italy during one of the most famous battles of WWII.

Four months after the war ended, Polish troops were still on occupational duty in Italy and the Middle East. On Dec. 30, 1945, General Anders, commander of the Polish forces, entered into an agreement with the Italian post office to produce stamps for use by members of the Polish corps. Soldiers, of course, were allowed to send cards and letters free, but there was a need for stamps to pay postage for the mailing of packages and registered letters.

In 1946, 29 regular stamps, three airmail stamps and five souvenir sheets were issued. The first 17 regular-issue stamps were denominated in Polish groszy and zlotys, with 100 groszy equaling 1 zloty. The re-



Italian stamp designer Corrado Mezzana designed these stamps for use by Polish troops in Italy and the Middle East after World War II. They also were printed in Italy.

mainly 12 regular stamps were denominated in Italian lire. The first two airmail stamps, and the first two souvenir sheets were issued in Polish denominations. The other airmail stamp and the last three sheetlets were in Italian lire. The stamps were valid for use in 30 post offices established in Italy and the Middle East.

Interestingly, Italian citizens were free to use the stamps denominated in lire. Only Polish troops stationed in Bari in the heel of Italy could use the lire stamps. The Polish stamps were valid even for registered letters and packages sent through the Italian civil post office. However, Polish stamps canceled with Italian postmarks are exceedingly rare.

Perhaps the most attractive of these 1946 issues were those stamps designed by Italy's premier stamp artist, Corrado Mezzana. The first five values in this series are shown in the illustration.

In 1954, several of these stamps were overprinted in London by the Polish government in exile to commemorate the victory at Monte Cassino. The Italian government approved a special cancellation for the occasion.

Paderewski Postcard at Milwaukee Polishfest

The Polish statesman, patriot and artist, Ignacy Jan Paderewski is the subject of a set of three souvenir postal cards issued by the Polish American Stamp Club to complement Milwaukee's 1992 POLISHFEST held at the lakefront Henry W. Maier Festival Park, June 12-14, 1992.

The Polishfest card designed by Milwaukee artist Klaus Birkhain features a likeness of Paderewski printed on the 19 cent Carnegie Hall postal card. The Friday card has the design printed in blue and red; the Saturday card in green and red; and the Sunday card is brown and red.

The United States Postal Service in Milwaukee applied a special postal service pictorial postmark Friday thru Sunday, June 12-14, during Polishfest 92. It has a special piano theme noting Paderewski's musical abilities.

Orders for the POLISHFEST 92 postal cards with special postmark for \$2.00 for the set of three should be sent to POLISHFEST CARDS, Polish-American Stamp Club, Box 1920, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Checks should be made out to: "Polish American Stamp Club" and a stamped, self-addressed envelope should be furnished for the return of the cards.

The Polish American Stamp Club is an organization of 50 area stamp collectors and celebrates its 60th anniversary in 1992. It meets monthly at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist Church, South 107th Street and West Oklahoma Avenue. The public is invited.

OLYMPIC SPECIALIST seeks

1944 Polish P.O.W. Olympic material, especially covers, and Polish Olympic Committee labels. Please write first to: Sherwin Podolsky, 16035 Tupper, No. Hills, California 91343, U.S.A.

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Pope John Paul II in Philately

By: ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI

ST. GABRIEL — POZNAN 92

The ninth Congress of the World Union Saint Gabriel and the International Philatelic Exhibition ST. GABRIEL - POZNAN 92 will take place in Poznan, Poland on August 28th through the 30th, 1992.

St. Gabriel is a World Philatelic Society dedicated to the collection of postage stamps depicting religious themes.

A postal card and two pictorial postmarks will be used by the Polish Post to commemorate the Congress and Exhibition.

The Postal Administration of the United Nations from Vienna will have a special postmark which is shown at the top. It shows St. John The Baptist outside the Walls of the Church of the Order of Malta in Poznan (XII century).



NEW ISSUES

On June 29, 1992 the Polish Post issued two "Love" stamps in 1500 zlotys and 3000 zlotys. The designs are symbolic children's drawings offset printed, on chalky paper in a format of 31.25 x 39.5 mm. Total 1,500,000 sets printed. First day covers were cancelled at "Warszawa 1" postoffice. The stamp, cover and cancellation were designed by Janusz Wysocki.

A miniature sheet was issued for the World Philatelic Exhibition OLYMPHILEX 92 at Barcelona. It has a 20,000 zloty value, roto-gravure printed on chalky paper, in a quantity of 1,300,000 copies. A framed stamp in the center is 43 x 31.25 mm., while the block is 86 x 81 mm. in size. The exhibition was held July 29 thru August 6, 1992. First Day cancelled at "Warszawa 1". The miniature sheet, cover and cancellation were designed by Henryk Chylinski.

—Centralny Zarząd Poczty Polskiej

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE FORMED

At a recent meeting Polonus formed a Publication Committee in our effort to promote Poland's philately. Its purpose is to supply the philatelic press with articles as well as the Polonus bulletin. The committee is comprised of Thomas Gobby, Dr. Stanley Kronenberg, Dr. James Mazepa, Ryszard Poddubiuk, with Fred Szebel as co-ordinator.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. funds only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, P.O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic So-

ciety, P. O. Box 82, River Grove, IL 60171. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints, or general matters should be directed to the President.

The Polonus Philatelic Society is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated in the State of Illinois (1939). The opinions expressed by authors of articles appearing therein, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

WANTED: Pre-1939 Polish flight covers. Write: Roger J. Szymanski, P.O. Box 1960, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53201, or call 414 - 287-4226.

In Memoriam

MICHAEL S. OCHALSKI

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