

# **POLONUS** **PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



**Meets every 4th Friday at the Polish Youth Association Building,  
(Dom Harcerski) 6434 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL**

**ISSUE NO. 480**

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## **POLPEX '97 OPEN FOR COMPETITION**

POLPEX '97 will be a "for competition" exhibition. Awards will be given for winning collections. Dates of the show are March 14, 15, and

16 and the site: House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. Entry applications are available from Arkadiusz Walinski, 7353 W. Estes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

This year's theme is a religious one: the 1,000th anniversary of the death of St. Adalbert. He brought Christianity to Slavic tribes in the second half of the 10th century. A descendent of a Czech-Slavic tribe, he was born about 957. At his confirmation he received the name of Adalbert. After an extensive education at the cathedral school in Magdeburg, he became Bishop of Prague. As a result of some geneological discord, he left Prague and with permission from the Pope, he entered the Benedictine Abbey of



St. Boniface in Rome where he took vows. He went to Poland, to the court of King Bolesław Chrobry and with his help, he left to preach the gospel to the pagan Prussians. He was killed by Prussians on April 23, 997. His body was exhumed and laid to rest in Gniezno which became the first metropolis in Poland.

Legend has it that when the Poles requested the body of Adalbert from the Prussians, they stipulated that the body be exchanged for its equal weight in gold. When the body was being weighed at the time of the exchange, its weight was equal to only that of a gold coin--a miracle!

## NEW POLONUS OFFICERS ELECTED

At the November 6, 1996, Polonus Board Meeting the following were sworn in as officers: Roman Strzelecki, President; Arkadiusz Walinski, Vice President; Stephen Zarko, Treasurer, and Chester Schafer, Secretary. Members elected to the Board of Directors were: Stefan Czarniecki, Stanley Dobrzycki, and Fred Szebel. Senior member, Al Rybarski, administered the oath.

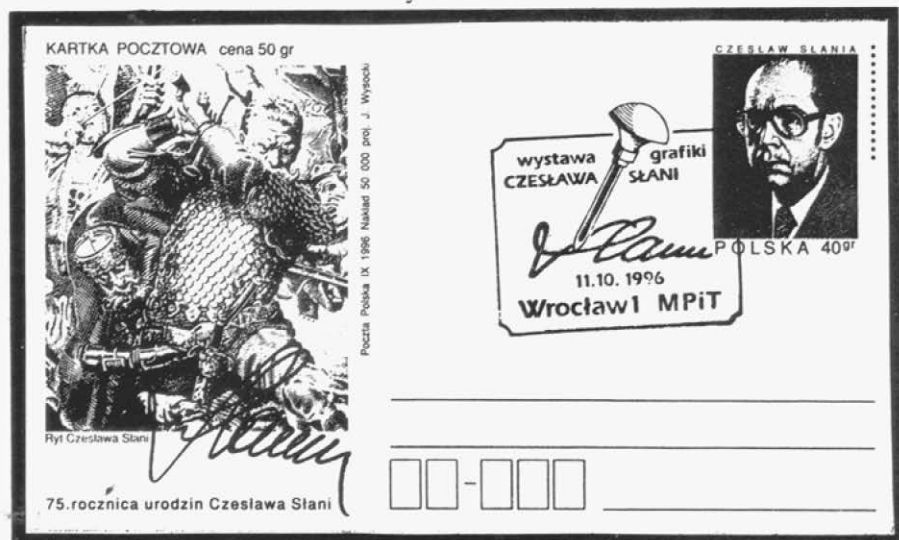


Left to right: Al Rybarski, Chester Schafer, Stephen Zarko, Roman Strzelecki, Arkadiusz Walinski, Stefan Czarniecki, Fred Szebel, and Stanley Dobrzycki.

## Commemorative Postal Card Honoring Czesław Ślania

Poland issued a postal card honoring the world's foremost engraver, Czesław Ślania. Pictured is a fragment of his engraving of the Battle of Grunwald. The special cancellation is for the Exhibition of Graphics by Czesław Ślania which opened at Wrocław on October 11, 1996.

He celebrated his 75th birthday on October 22nd.



# FREE POLISH FIELD POST IN WORLD WAR II

(For personal reasons, the author of this article desires to remain anonymous.  
—the Editor.)

During World War II, the United States had Military Post Offices in every foreign country where we had troops. There were, during the war years, some unusual usages of our stamps by our Allies; among others were the Free French Forces, which has been completely written up in recent years. A little-known use of our stamps was by the Free Poles fighting in Italy, beside our troops and the British from 1943 thru 1945.

After 35 years history tends to be forgotten. A brief outline of the events leading up to the Poles being in Italy follows: On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. A few days later Russia joined the attack. On October 5, 1939, Poland collapsed. Russia immediately set up large numbers of camps in Russia and filled them with Polish slave labor. This continued until Germany, on June 22, 1941, invaded Russia. As a result of the German attack, Stalin signed the "Sikorski-Stalin Declaration" on July 30, 1941, permitting all Poles in Russia to leave and thus permitted them to join the Polish Army in Exile in the Middle East, which was then reorganized and expanded in 1942, mainly in Iraq and Palestine.<sup>†</sup> They were equipped, supplied and paid by the British for the most part. Many of them were then shipped to Egypt where they served beside the British Eighth Army in North Africa and Italy.

All Polish forces were under the jurisdiction of the Polish Government in Exile which was based in London. After the collapse of Poland, a Polish Government in Exile was set up in England in 1940. A Polish military force was also set up at the same time composed of Poles that got out of Poland by various means other than via Russia. Most of these soldiers were shipped to Egypt and subsequently they merged with the Poles that got out of Russia. It is very important to realize that all nations friendly to the Allies had granted recognition to the Polish Government in Exile, shortly after its formation in 1940 but this did not include or give the Poles the right to issue their own stamps. As a result the Poles used whatever stamps were available where they were at the time. The Poles had the privilege of Free Frank and they used this privilege, but like the troops of the other nations, used stamps when they could get them.

Italy was invaded from Africa via Sicily on July 10, 1943 by the US Fifth Army and the British Eighth Army. The Free Poles, under the command of General Władysław Anders, first landed in Italy in December, 1943. The first Polish Field Post in Italy was #121 which began service on December 23, 1943 in Taranto. Immediately thereafter #111 and 122 began service in the same town. As the fighting progressed in Italy the PFPO's moved with the troops and new PFPO's were added as needed. By the end of the war all but ten PFPO's were in Italy.

The exact number of the Polish Forces in World War II is unknown,<sup>‡</sup> but it is believed to be about 100,000 men.<sup>‡</sup> A large number of them died in Italy and are buried in four cemeteries located in Monte

Cassino, Loreto, Casamassima and Bologna. All Polish military forces were officially disbanded by the end of 1947.

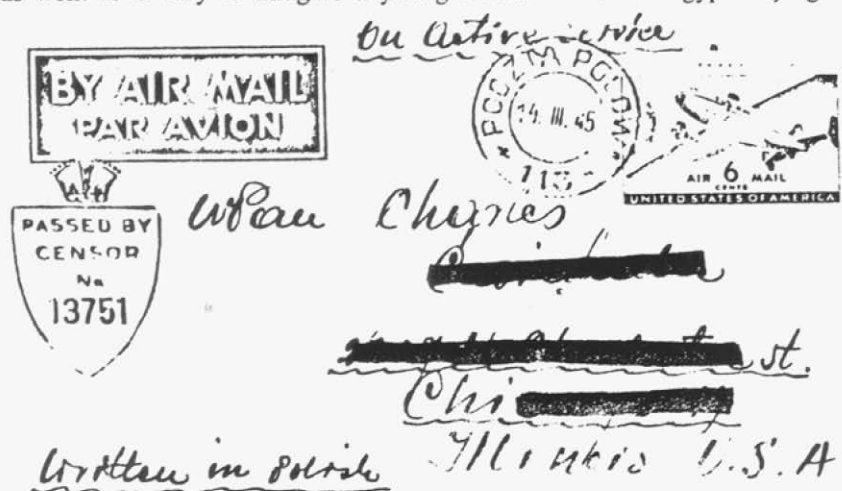
Free Frank was restricted to First Class Mail only. It did not include Air Mail or Registry Service. Postage stamps were required for these services and could be the stamps of any Allied country.

The Polish Military Field Posts were complete units with their own censors and were normally assigned to specific bodies of troops. They placed their postal markings on all the letters of these troops. After the mail was cancelled and censored, it was then turned over to the British and/or American Military Post Offices for shipment to its destination. On occasion the British re-censored the mail, as proved by their censor markings on the covers. No American censor markings have been seen on any of these covers. Censor markings exist on covers until October 12, 1945, when censoring was discontinued.

The Polish Military Field Posts were of two general types: Mobile field post offices - when the troops moved, they moved — and stationary post offices - which rarely moved or never moved from where they were first set up. The postal markings employed in all the field post offices are alike in that they contain "Pocza Polowa" as part of the cancellation.

The following classes of Polish Field Post covers have been seen: Free Mail, First Class Mail, Air Mail and Registered Mail. No Postage Due covers have been seen.

The Polish Forces used on their mail the stamps of various countries. The following have been seen: Great Britain, India, Egypt, Italy, Palestine, Iraq and the U.S. The use of other country's stamps may very well exist. Every numbered Polish Field Post cancel should exist on covers with British stamps. Every Polish Field Post that was in Italy may well have cancelled covers bearing American and Italian stamps as well. It is easy to imagine a young Polish soldier in Egypt buying a



Polish Field Post 113 dated March 14, 1945 with British censor marking was located at Forli, Italy, when this letter was written.



Polish Field Post 113 dated February 1, 1943, with Polish Censor marking was located at Mosul, Iraq, when this letter was written.

dozen or so Egyptian stamps, then being shipped to Italy and using them there to write to, say, a girl friend in Egypt or Palestine. The Poles were never in India but the troops of India were in Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa and Italy at the same time as the Poles, thus we find Polish Field Post covers bearing the stamps of India. It is very important to realize that the Poles had no stamps of their own, thus many odd combinations exist because of ignorance of Postal Regulations and the inability to speak the local language.

During the war Poles could not write to Poland directly. Any covers so addressed with the Polish Field Post cancels must be very rare. A good percentage of the covers seen were addressed to other units of the Free Polish Forces or Nairobi, Kenya, the headquarters for the Polish Red Cross, which acted as a clearing house for locating and reuniting Polish families, etc.

In examining covers watch for the following dates, you may be lucky! November 26, 1942 — earliest dated cover I have

December 23, 1943 — Poles first landed in Italy.

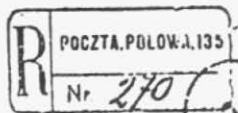
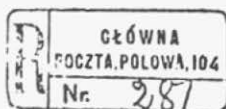
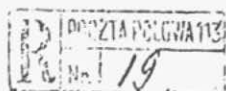
May 11-18, 1944 — Battle for Monte Cassino, Italy,

April 9-21, 1945 — Battle of Bologna, Italy,

May 7, 1945 — end of the war.

The comments that follow on the Postal markings appearing on these covers is based on the examination of actual covers. These markings are very interesting and they appear to be quite standardized, all things considered. It is believed that most of them were manufactured by one concern in Egypt.

## Registered Mail Markings



All seen are the same type as below. All show the Polish Field Post Number. Black or purple ink.

## Air Mail Markings

All seen are the same type as below. Black or purple ink.



## Hand Stamp Types

Black ink only. The Field Posts that used each type are shown below the cut. Each cut is shown in the order of its being placed in use by the Polish Field Post.



#111 to 119, 121 to 124  
and 127 (117 Type I)



#102, 130, 131, 132 and 141



#106 and 117 Type II



#109, 125, 126, 128 and 129



#103, 105, 133, 135, 137, 138 and 140



#101 and 104  
(both types—large and small letters)



#110, 120, 134, 136 and 139

### Censor Markings: Polish

The only type known. Black or purple ink. The following numbers have been seen: 52, 53, 54, 55, 102, 103, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115.

The censor numbers used in conjunction with each Field Post number are enumerated later in this article. Study of this relationship is quite interesting from many angles, for example: Censor #52 is the most common and was used in conjunction with no less than eleven different Field Post numbers. I am of the opinion that this censor was assigned for a time at the Polish Base Post Office at Napoli and censored any mail that showed up there uncensored. It is also interesting to speculate as to why there are 39 Field Post numbers and only 14 censor numbers known to date.



### Censor Markings: British

Both British and Polish censor markings on the same cover are not unusual. Above are the two types generally used. Black or purple ink.

This third type (on the right) has been seen only used early in the war in the Middle East on covers with Indian stamps. Black ink only.



### Censor Markings: American or any other country

None known.

### British Field Post Markings



A back stamp appearing on some covers. Black ink only. This Base Post Office was located at Naples, Italy, during the war.

Many of these covers have British Field Post markings similar to above. Black ink. Location is unknown.



## American Field Post Markings

The only American Field Post markings seen on any of these covers. Red ink on some Registered Mail. APO 790 was located at Naples, Italy.



## The Mystery Marking



Seen on some of the covers. Black or purple ink. Many different numbers have been seen. The meaning of this marking is unknown to this author.

Of prime interest to all collectors is an opinion of how rare is the item under discussion. In my opinion if you add one or two covers a year to your collection you are doing well. None of these covers can be called common. The following rarity classification is based on study of covers in several collections of this material.

Most frequently seen: Numbers 101, 103, 104, 106, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 117 Type II, 118, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128, 130, 131, 133, and 135.

Seldom seen/rare are numbers: 102, 109, 110, 111A, 116, 117 Type I, 119, 120, 129, 132, 136, 137, 139, 140, and 141.

None in any of the collections known to author: numbers 105, 126, 134, and 138.

Earliest and latest dates of actual covers seen by this author are shown in the following list as there is much confusion as to when the various Field Posts were in actual operation. I am sure many of these dates can be improved on with the cooperation of interested collectors.

The list also shows the censor number used with each Field Post and is also based on actual examination of covers. Some Field Posts show no number because:

A—No cover has been seen or the number cannot be read

B—The Field Post did not start operations till after censoring of mail stopped on October 12, 1945.

C—No cover seen used prior to October 12, 1945.

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Comments on above listing of Polish Field Posts:

- 1—Did not exist until after the war (?). The lack of covers dated prior to May 7, 1945 is the controlling factor.
- 2—Polish Field Post cancel is known on cover with entire postage paid by US stamps.
- 3—Field Post existed in Italy only.
- 4—No complete cover has been seen by author.
- 5—Field Post never in Italy.

NOTE: Numbers above 141 are "favors" only.

| Field Post | Earliest Date     | Latest Date      | Censor Number     | Comments              |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 101        | 5 Feb 1943        | 1 October 1947   | 53                | Base Post Office 5    |
| 102        | 10 May 1944       | 18 December 1946 | 102               | FP & Censor # same 5  |
| 103        | 14 March 1944     | 7 January 1947   | C                 | 5                     |
| 104        | 15 December 1944  | 25 April 1946    | 52 & 108          | Base Post Office 2    |
| 105        |                   |                  | A                 | Have not seen cover 5 |
| 106        | 19 April 1943     | 18 May 1946      | 55                |                       |
| 107        |                   |                  |                   | None known to exist   |
| 108        |                   |                  |                   | None known to exist   |
| 109        | 1 March 1946      | 4 July 1946      | C                 |                       |
| 110        | 15 April 1946     | 18 May 1946      | B                 | 1                     |
| 111        | 20 January 1943   | 2 March 1946     | 111               | FP & Censor # same 2  |
| 111A       | 23 June 1943      |                  | 111               | FP & Censor # same 5  |
| 112        | 18 December 1942  | 29 April 1946    | 109, 55           | 5                     |
| 113        | 26 November 1942  | 29 July 1946     | 112, 55           | 2                     |
| 114        | 11 March 1943     | 15 August 1946   | 114               | FP & Censor # same 5  |
| 115        | 18 May 1943       | 3 May 1946       | 115, 109          | FP & Censor # same 5  |
| 116        | 6 February 1943   | 17 May 1943      | 112, 113          |                       |
| 117        | 20 April 1944     | 27 May 1945      | 107, 52           | Type II               |
| 117        | 21 January 1943   | 2 May 1943       | 107               | Type I                |
| 118        | 8 February 1943   | 30 July 1945     | 52, 107, 114      | 2                     |
| 119        | 20 June 1946      |                  | B                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 120        | 1 January 1946    | 24 May 1946      | B                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 121        | 7 December 1942   | 11 July 1946     | 111               | 2                     |
| 122        | 2 January 1943    | 15 August 1946   | 111               | 2                     |
| 123        | 5 March 1943      | 10 June 1946     | 52, 55, 107 & 113 | 2                     |
| 124        | 17 April 1943     | 27 March 1945    | 112               | 2                     |
| 125        | 13 March 1946     | 10 August 1946   | 52                | 1, 2 & 3              |
| 126        |                   |                  | A                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 127        | 8 August 1944     | 9 July 1946      | 52                | 2 & 3                 |
| 128        | 13 January 1946   | 11 March 1946    | B                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 129        | 7 February 1946   |                  | B                 | 1, 2 & 3              |
| 130        | 12 May 1943       | 25 February 1946 | 52, 103, 108, 111 | 2                     |
| 131        | 27 September 1944 | 7 October 1946   | 52                | 2 & 3                 |
| 132        | 29 June 1944      | 15 July 1945     | 52                | 2                     |
| 133        | 3 December 1944   | 18 December 1945 | 52, 112           | 2 & 3                 |
| 134        |                   |                  | A                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 135        | 11 August 1945    | 6 July 1946      | 52, 107           | 2 & 3                 |
| 136        | 9 May 1946        |                  | C                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 137        | 30 July 1944      | 16 November 1944 | 54, 112           | 2 & 3                 |
| 138        |                   |                  | A                 | 3 & 4                 |
| 139        | 19 January 1946   | 18 October 1946  | B                 | 1 & 3                 |
| 140        | 21 June 1946      | 9 May 1946       | 111               | 2 & 3                 |
| 141        | 12 June 1946      | 17 January 1947  | C                 | 5                     |

In addition to the Postal Markings that appear on these covers there are also manuscript markings as well. Their reason and meaning is as follows:

**Written in Polish** — Because of the mixture of languages in the Allied forces this was necessary so that the mail could be sent to the censor that could read the language.

**On Active Service** — To indicate the letter was written by military personnel and thus entitled to military rates of postage.

**CMF** — Central Mediterranean Forces (Italy).

**MEF** — Middle East Forces (Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, etc.).

The following location list of the PFPO's is the most difficult part of this article. I am sure it is not the last word on the subject but I believe it is reasonably complete and accurate. First date shown is when and where PO started operations, subsequent date shows start at new location.

**FIELD POST #101**

Sidi-Bishr, Egypt, May 1941; Cairo, Egypt, August 1941; Rechoboth, Palestine, May 1942; Bagdad, Iraq, October 1942; Qassasin, Egypt, Decemb. 1943.

**FIELD POST #102**

Cairo, Egypt, April 1942.

**FIELD POST #103**

Qassasin, Egypt, 1942.

**FIELD POST #104**

Qassasin, Egypt, January 1944; Bari, Italy, February 1944; Napoli, Italy, March 1944.

**FIELD POST #105**

Unknown.

**FIELD POST #106**

Habanija, Iraq, November 1942; Bagdad, Iraq, August 1943; Qassasin, Egypt, March 1944; Italy, April 1944; Basilio, Italy, (PWFL).

**FIELD POST #107 and 108**

None known to exist.

**FIELD POST #109**

Qassasin, Egypt, January 1945; Pascara, Italy, September 1945.

**FIELD POST #110**

Porto Recanati, Italy.

**FIELD POST #111**

Dekhel, Egypt, November 1940; Tobruk, Libya, August 1941; El Gazal, Egypt, February 1942; Gaza, Palestine, May 1942; Jala-Ula, Iraq, October 1942; Taranto, Italy, January 1944; S. Benedetto, Italy (PWFL).

**FIELD POST #111A**

Jala-Ula, Iraq, 1943.

**FIELD POST #112**

Sidi-Bishr, Egypt, December 1941; Jerusalem, Palestine, April 1942; Khanaqin, Iraq, September 1942; Jerusalem, Palestine, March 1944.

**FIELD POST #113**

Mosul, Iraq, November 1942; Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943; Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943; Italy, February 1944; Forli, Italy (PWFL).

**FIELD POST #114**

Bey-Girgij, Palestine, August 1942; Khanaqin, Iraq, November 1942; Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943; El Kantara, Egypt, and Palestine Border, December 1943.

**FIELD POST #115**

Rechoboth, Palestine, September 1942; Barbara, Palestine, March 1944.

**FIELD POST #116**

Mosul, Iraq, November 1942; Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943; Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943; Italy, February 1944; Meidola, Italy (PWFL).

**FIELD POST #117 - Type I**

Mosul, Iraq, November 1942; Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943; Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943.

**FIELD POST #117 - Type II**

Italy, February 1944; Porto Recanati, Italy (PWFL)

**FIELD POST #118**

Mosul, Iraq, November 1942; Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943; Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943; Italy, February 1944; Sonigallia, Italy (PWFL).

**FIELD POST #119**

Vinchiatturo, Italy, March 1944; Ancona, Italy (PWFL).

**FIELD POST #120**

Barletta, Italy, September 1945.

**FIELD POST #121**

Mosul, Iraq, October 1942; Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943; Qassasin, Egypt December 1943; Taranto, Italy, January 1944; Giulianova, Italy (PWFL).

FIELD POST #122

Mosul, Iraq, October 1942;  
Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943;  
Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943;  
Italy, January 1944; Peaaro, Italy,  
(PWFL).

FIELD POST #123

Mosul, Iraq, November 1942;  
Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943;  
Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943;  
Italy, February 1944;  
Macorata, Italy, (PWFL)

FIELD POST #124

Mosul, Iraq, January 1943;  
Rechoboth, Palestine, April 1943;  
Qassasin, Egypt, December 1943;  
Italy, February 1944; Vittorio  
Veneto, Italy (PWFL)

FIELD POST #125

Porto Civitanova, Italy.

FIELD POST #126

Camerino, Italy.

FIELD POST #127

Vinciatiuro, Italy, March 1944;  
Ancona, Italy (PWFL).

FIELD POST #128

Matera, Italy.

FIELD POST #129

Napoli, Italy.

FIELD POST #130

Teheran, Iran, January 1943;  
Italy, March 1944; Mattola,  
Italy (PWFL)

FIELD POST #131

Italy, 1944; Porto Giorgio, Italy,  
(PWFL).

FIELD POST #132

Iraq, October 1942; Italy, 1944;  
Porto Giorgio, Italy (PWFL).

FIELD POST #133

Italy, 1944; Cervia, Italy (PWFL)

FIELD POST #134

Macorata, Italy.

FIELD POST #135

Italy, 1944; Porto Recanati,  
Italy (PWFL).

FIELD POST #136

Casa Massima, Italy.

FIELD POST #137

Bari, Italy.

FIELD POST #138

San Giuliano, Italy, January 1944;  
Asco Li Piceno, Italy (PWFL).

FIELD POST #139

Benodetto, Italy.

FIELD POST #140

Bari, Italy.

FIELD POST #141

Ahvaz, Iran, March 1943; Nazareth,  
Palestine, September, 1945.

NOTE: (PWFL) - Post War Final Location

It is very likely that during the war in Italy some of the PFPO's were located in a number of unknown towns at one time or another. After the war they were located as shown till they were closed down.

It is very probable that many of these field posts were not in constant operation at all times during the war. Some may well have been closed for months at a time because of troop movements, security and other reasons.

There are a fair number of articles that have been published on the Polish Field Post of World War II that I know of. They have been written in Polish, Italian and English. Unfortunately, there are numerous points of disagreement among them; they contradict themselves and they are somewhat limited in scope. It has been said the best way to learn about a subject is to write about it, thus this article. May those who know any facts not presented here, make them known.

American Philatelist, December 1942 and July 1943.

Barberis, Nino. Studio Sulla posta da campo Polacca in Italia durante la seconda guerra mondiale, 1964.

"British Association of Palestine," Israel Phil. December 1952.

Crouch and Hill. British Army Field Post Offices, 1939-1950.

Polonus Philatelic Society. 12-46, 4-46, 2-47, 5-47, 4-50, 3-55, 6-57  
10-57, 10-61, 6-62, and 3-69.

Robson Lowe Encyclopedia of BEPS, Volume 3, p. 84.

War Cover Bulletin, 2-75.

Western Stamp Collector, "Polish Field Post Offices", 3-25-47 and 4-12-47.

# POLAND NO. 1 OF INTEREST TO COLLECTORS IN JAPAN

Polonus member Tsutomu Yamamoto who lives in Kobe, Japan, publishes a bulletin for a study group of collectors interested in Poland's stamps. In his publication, reproduced below, he has the text printed bilingually in Japanese and English.

## <欠点その1/Variety No1>

向かって右側のマントの縦線が、途中で切断されている  
 ものです [broken line]。よく観察すると、一部の切手  
 には、さらに2つの共通する特徴があります。

① 枠線の左下角が、2重になっておらず、くっついて  
 いる(1)(2)(4)。(3)は完全な様に見える。(5)は図  
 版不明瞭のため確認できない。[joined or unclear  
 double frame-line at bottom left-hand corner]

② 「ŁÓT」の「Ó」下、二重になった枠線間に、微細な  
 点がある(1)(2)。(3)~(5)は、図版不明瞭のため確  
 認できない。[tiny dot under "Ó" of "ŁÓT"]

## ページ 1

## ページ 2

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80  |
| 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85  |
| 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90  |
| 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95  |
| 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |

## ページ 3

## ページ 4

## アイテム(4)と(5)について

両方ともBojanowicz氏の著作「The Kingdom of Poland」63頁に載っていたものです。彼は、(4)を6-11-16-21番とし、(5)を51-56-61-66番としています(右上のシート構成図参照)。

その根拠は、まず、下3枚の切手に左側面破損というシート左端の特徴があるので、左端一列だけを考える。さらに、1番切手には、「egg variety」という明瞭な欠点があるとされているので考察から除外。残り9枚(6-11-16-21-51-56-61-66-71)から考えます。

(4)の一番上の切手には6番切手の特徴があり、これで(4)は、6-11-16-21と推定。(5)の一番上の切手には6番切手の特徴が無く、上から3枚目にはシート左端中央(11番又は61番)に特有と思われるcrackがある(Tの下部及びその下の枠線欠け)ということから、(5)は51-56-61-66という推定になりました。

しかし、肝腎の「6番切手の特徴」についての記述がありません。そして、彼の言う6番、51番には、ともに今回の欠点が見られます。私には、この4枚ストリップ2つは、全く同一ポジションのように思えるのですが、十分な材料を持っていないので、残念ながらこれ以上の考察ができません。情報をお寄せください。

Variety No1 has a broken line as illustrated. This variety has another two characteristics ①&②, which are not constant. As for items (4) and (5) which are shown in the page 63 of Mr. Bojanowicz's book, I assume that these two strips of four are from the same position, because both of the top stamps have the same variety mentioned above. But I can't come to a definite conclusion because I have a few materials. Any information welcomed.  
 Address: TSUTOMU YAMAMOTO, 4-38-105, Kariguchidai, J-655 TAKUMI/KOBE, JAPAN

## 正常/Normal

## 欠点その1/Variety No1



① 二重の枠線が不明瞭で、つぶれている  
 (double frame line unclear or joined together)



② 枠線間に微細な青い点  
 (tiny blue dot between frame lines)

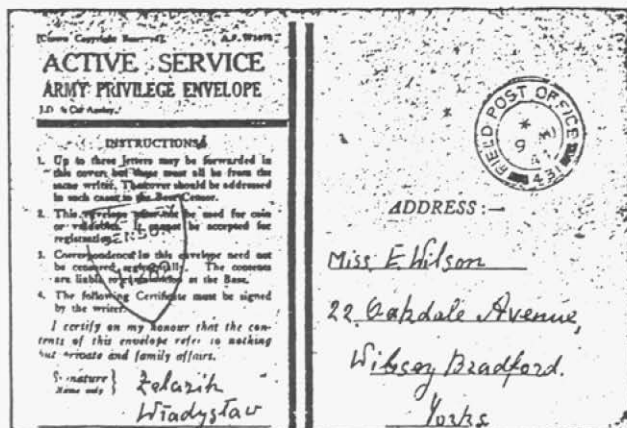


断線  
 (broken line)

## THE STORY BEHIND A COVER

Polish Army in France 1939-1948

By ROY E. READER



Cover of a letter sent to Miss E. Wilson at Bradford from 24717 Corporal Władysław Zelazik on August 9, 1944. At the time he was on active service with the 1st Polish Armoured Division in France. (P/31 - Polish Forces.) The Division had arrived there from Britain on August 1, 1944, almost two months after the first Allied troops landed in Normandy. On August 7, two days before the letter was written, the Division had taken up position south-east of Caen for a lightning midnight advance on Falaise which, however, the Germans were going to be intent on holding on to at all costs. On August 8, the Division had battled on to reach only Saint-Aignan-de-Cramesnil, a distance of five miles, by late afternoon. On August 9, continuing combat allowed the occupation of the Cauvicourt area and the evening capture of Saint-Sylvain, only some 7.5 miles from their point of departure. Despite all the fighting, Corporal Zelazik had been able to find time to write to his friend in England.

He enclosed the letter in this so-called "Honour Envelope", thus named as the sender signed it to certify on his honor that the contents of the envelope referred to nothing but private and family affairs. The cover was cancelled with the date-stamp of Fieldpost No. 431, one of the five Fieldpost numbers allocated to the Polish Army by the British. It was passed unopened by the unit censor, as was the custom with "honor envelopes." In this case, it was not opened by the base fieldpost censor either and the letter was sent on its way to England.

Corporal Zelazik was not to be one of the 600 Poles who died or were missing during the bloody battle of Falaise. Provided he escaped unwounded, he would be able to follow the advance of the 1st Polish Armored Division across France, Belgium and Holland and into Germany where it was poised to take the port of Wilhelmshaven when the Germans surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Reprinted from "Polish Philatelic Review", Great Britain.

# MODERN STAMPS OF POLAND

By EDWARD T. SUPERSON

Poland, as most of the countries including the United States, print multiple mediocre stamps, which look more like labels. Cartoons, caricatures, medicine flowers, posters, more of the bird series, and other questionable issues are prominent. In addition, starting in about 1994 most of the issues are printed in sheetlets of 12, 18 or 20 stamps.

Of course, this cheapens the philatelic standing and consequently a lot of collectors stopped buying such label type stamps.

In consolation however, within the maze of these stamps, a searching philatelist still can find some good items, as illustrated below. Unfortunately, most of these issues are not listed in the Scott catalog.

Fig. 1 depicts a 1989 stamp of Gen. B.G. Korczyński of 50 zł orange brown on chrome yellow paper which was not issued. Fig. 2 and 3 show the 1991 issue of King Bolesław Krzywousty on 1000 zł grey-green and black, and King Władysław II Wygnaniec on 1500 zł without the overprint. These three stamps were not issued, but some of them were already distributed to a few post offices and had to be recalled.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

Also, overprinted stamps with new monetary values can be found in numerous varieties.

In 1989 the 4 zł blue-violet stamp was overprinted with a 500 zł value. On some stamps this overprint was displaced, as illustrated in Fig. 4. In 1990 the 15 zł dark brown-carmine was overprinted with 350 zł; this overprint was not only displaced, but it is also found inverted, as seen in Fig. 5 and 6. And finally, in 1990 the 60 zł blue-violet has the 700 zł overprint displaced and on another example it has a double overprint, as depicted in Fig. 7 and 8.

These are examples of a few, but there may be others.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

Since there are cartoons and caricatures on the recent stamps of Poland, it is suggested that a stamp depicting a saddled cow be issued, in order to confirm Stalin's much known statement, "To convince a Pole to be a communist is like to saddle a cow".

### POLCAPEX '97

The Polish Philatelic Society of Canada will hold its POLCAPEX '97 on March 8 and 9, 1997, at St. Casimir Auditorium, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The exhibition will include a court of honor; philatelic competitive call of Poland general collections, postal history and specialized studies; military competitive class, and a non competitive numismatic class.

President of PPSC is Jozef Podejko, 510 George St., New Westminster, BC, V3L 1L2, Canada.

### DR. MIET KAMIENSKI

Being a philatelist and retired has worked well for our member, Dr. Miet Kamienski of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. While visiting in Arizona, he gave a slide illustrated talk to the Sun City West Stamp Club on the Republic of Kraków 1815-1846, and Central Lithuania 1920-1922. He plans on attending the World Philatelic Exhibition PACIFIC '97 this coming May in San Francisco and showing 8 frames

of Poland 1720-1923. The exhibition committee has scheduled him for a lecture on June 2nd on Poland 1720-1923 including Western Ukraine and Central Lithuania. On June 4th he speaks on: "Fakes, forgeries and skullduggery, plus the Polish forgeries of Eugene Lewicki of Toronto."

### NEW MEMBER

Benek Teper #1479, 7 Carmel Court, North York, Ont., Can. M2M-4B2

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