



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Seasons Greetings

You are Cordially Invited to:
The Polonus Philatelic Society's
10th Annual Membership Meeting & Exhibition
March 16 – 18, 2012 at the St. Louis Stamp Expo 2012
Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel



See Countdown to St. Louis Stamp Expo 2012 on Page 4

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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

It is hard to imagine where the time goes but I am reminded as I look at the calendar on my desk that 2011 will soon be history. On this note and after a little time for reflection, I want to thank all the Polonus members who have volunteered, contributed and /or actively participated in the continued success of the Society. I would also like to extend to all my Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and for a Happy New Year 2012.

The one disappointment since the previous Bulletin, the article on "Volunteers – Key to Society Future", and the "Survey", that we asked all to complete and return, is the very poor response. I do not have an explanation other than to say that I must now resort to contacting you individually to see if there is some fit and meaningful role for you in the Society. This is not a unique problem as many non-profit organizations struggle for volunteers to get the work done. An important part of my responsibility as President, however, is to have a succession plan to insure the long term sustainability and success of the Society. As I approach the third year in my second and final three-year term as your President, I shall actively engage the membership in pursuit of volunteers for leadership positions, committees, and projects. Please give this some consideration and I am looking forward to directly communicating with you over the next few months.

Dues notices for 2012 will be mailed to all members in December. There is no change in the dues structure from last year. You will have the opportunity to opt for a printed version or an electronic version of Bulletin, as well as, add to the financial support of Polonus with a tax-deductible contribution. More information on this subject can be found in this issue. If I can make two simple requests, be generous and punctual with your returns.

Our 10th Annual Meeting and Exhibition is coming soon.....16-18 March 2012
Polonus will be a convening society at St. Louis Stamp Expo 2012 to be held at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Be sure to read

"10 Reasons To Attend" in my article, "Countdown to St. Louis Stamp Expo 2012" in this issue. If you are planning to attend, be sure to let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or by phone. We are planning for another outstanding showing of Polish exhibits, informative and interesting meetings, and great hospitality. Meet Me In St. Louis!

If you have not been to our website recently, I urge you to pay a visit and check out the new features and updates. Hank Bieniecki, Chairman of the Website Committee, has an important article in this issue in which he explains some of the new features. Be sure to read his article, "Digital On-Line **Registration** and **My Account** Update – Functions Added to Polonus Website" and visit our website for a first-hand look at these new features.

This issue includes the second in a two-part article on the 1944 Olympics at Oflag IID. Roman Sobus' article was also featured in the Journal of Sports Philately. Read the article and the recognition given by Sports Philatelics International.

Have you ever noticed the words, "*Kontrola dewizowa przeprowadzona*" on a cover and wondered what this meant? Be sure to read Miłosz Rządka and Roman Sobus' article on "Postal Enforcement of Foreign Currency Controls, 1936-1939". This is an excellent primer on the implementation of foreign currency controls in pre-WWII Poland.

In addition to Jim Mazepa's "Gems of Polish Philately" and Jan Niebrzydowski's "Military Training of Polish Air Force in Canada 1942-45", this issue contains two book reviews, one of which may be an answer to some of your post-WWII rate questions. Add to this the spurt in new issues by Poczta Polska and you have plenty of good reading to tide you over the holiday season.

**January "To Do List":
Renew 2012 Polonus Membership**

Countdown to St. Louis Stamp Expo 2012

By: Bob Ogrodnik

Polonus will hold its 10th Annual Meeting and Exhibition at the St. Louis Stamp Expo (SLSE) 2012 to be held at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel on 16-18 March 2012. This is an APS World Series of Philately qualifying show and we expect another outstanding turnout of Polonus exhibitors, displaying some of the finest Polish philatelic material in North America.

10 Reasons To Attend

1. **Convenient Location** - The Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel is located next to the airport and has free shuttle service. Special rate for show attendees is just \$89 per night. Book early to quality. (Reservations can be changed or cancelled without charge providing the hotel is notified prior to the arrival date.) Call toll-free (800) 228-9290 or (314) 429-1100 to book your reservation. There are several other hotels near the airport and a listing will be posted on our website. All activities will be held at the Renaissance (a Marriott hotel rated 4-star by AAA) and we highly recommend it for your stay.
2. **Welcome Packets** - Members who advise me of their attendance will receive a "Welcome Packet", containing a personalized nametag, schedule for Polonus meetings and hospitality, listing of members exhibiting and in attendance, etc. Be sure to let me know if you plan to attend; by e-mail krpsl@earthlink.net or by telephone at (314) 821-6130. Packets can be picked up at the Society table.
3. **Polonus Exhibits & Docent Tour** - We are expecting 15 exhibits with over 60 frames from our Polonus members. Deadline for entry is 31 December 2011. If you plan to exhibit, and still have not registered, mailed your entry form and fee immediately. On the morning of 18 March, Dr. James Mazepa will conduct a docent tour of the Polish exhibits.....an event that you will find most interesting, informative and enjoyable.
4. **Annual Membership Meeting** - This meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, 17 March (time and location to follow). Following the business portion of this meeting, an open forum will be conducted to allow members an opportunity to raise questions regarding the Society, their collecting interests, or any other philatelic subject.
5. **Featured Speaker** - Dr. James Mazepa will be featured in a presentation on "Collecting Poland", open to all show attendees (time and location to follow). This presentation will unveil the multiple facets of Polish philately and answers the question, "Why collecting Poland is such a fascinating adventure in philately?"
6. **Reception** - A Polonus Member Reception is planned for Friday, 16 March, following the close of the show (time and location to follow). This is an excellent opportunity to meet and greet members.
7. **Hospitality Suite** - A room will be available after show hours to give Polonus members a place to network and to discuss collecting interests, etc., etc. Frosty Żubrówka will be available, in addition to other refreshments.
8. **Society Table** - As one of two "Convening Societies" the Polonus Society table will be located near the show registration area at the entry to the show. This should be your first stop when coming to the show and continue to be a convenient meeting place throughout the three-day event.
9. **POLPEX and Polonus Collectibles** - These collectibles will be available for sale at the Society table.
10. **Large Dealer Bourse** - Up to 50 dealers will have booths at St. Louis Stamp Expo, including two Polish philatelic specialists: John Rudnicki in Booth #3 and Hank Bieniecki in corner Booth #5. You can expect to find a wide range of Polish philatelic material, from classics to new issues.. It is anticipated that Zbigniew Korszen, Polish Philatelic Expert from Warsaw, and Przemek Konopka, the Polonus Website Designer, will be joining Hank at his booth.

**See Enclosed Show Flyer and
Visit www.stlstampexpo.org**

Digital On-Line **Registration** and **My Account** Update Functions Added to Polonus Website

By: Hank Bieniecki

Figure 1 is a current image of the new Home Page of the Polonus Website www.polonus.org. The purpose of this article is to bring to your attention two major enhancements on the Home Page that will allow Website Users (Members & Visitors) to submit their User data to Polonus digitally versus submitting it on paper forms.



Figure 1 – Home page with **Registration** and **My Account** enhancements

Under the Polonus Logo, note the new **Registration** button. When a User clicks this button they will be taken to the page illustrated in Figure 2, where they may input and submit the requested data. Key

data such as Password and E-mail must be input twice and other data noted as **** Data Required For Registration** must also be completed. When the User clicks on the CHECK DATA button at the bottom of the page they will be taken to a third page which will list the data that the User has provided. If any required data was not completed, or if there were any inconsistencies in the Password or E-mail Address, the User will be requested to

make corrections. After all required data is complete and correct, the User will be linked to the final page, Figure 3, which lists their data and has at the bottom a SUBMIT DATA and To Print icon buttons. The User has the option of first clicking the To Print icon to print a copy of the data on their own printer. Then the User should click the SUBMIT DATA button to complete Registration. Upon completion of the Registration process, Polonus will receive an e-mail at info@polonus.org with the Users' Registration Data attached. The User will also receive a confirmation e-mail which lists the Registration Data they submitted.

Note: If you are both a Member and a Registered Website User there is no need for you to register again. If you are not sure if you are registered or do not remember your User Name and/or Password, e-mail your request to Polonus at info@polonus.org.

Visitors who register do not gain access to "Members Only" features of the Polonus Website. They may, however, request a free sample Digital (PDF) copy of one of our Bulletins. At some point in 2012, Visitors will also have the ability to

purchase various products that will be offered in the Polonus Store that is currently being created.

Registration and My Account Updates (Cont.)

User Name**

Password**

Retype Password**

First Name**

Last Name**

Street Address**

Street Address

City**

State**

Zip Code**

Country**

Email**

Retype Email**

Home Phone**

Business Phone

Cell Phone:

CHECK DATA

** Data Required For Registration.

Figure 2 – Registration data required

User Name Maxman

First Name Max

Last Name Conrey

Street Address P.O. Box 489

Street Address

City Maryville

State IL

Zip Code 62062

Country United States

Email info@biistamp.com

Home Phone 618-659-1325

Business Phone

Cell Phone:

SUBMIT DATA

To complete Registration click "Submit Data" button.

To Print

Figure 3 - Registration data verified and ready to submit

Registered Member Users who Login onto the

Polonus Website will now find a new listing, **My Account**, at the very bottom of the Menu (see **Figure 1**). This item only appears when you are logged into the Website. When you click on **My Account** you will see all your User data. You may now digitally update your address, e-mail, phone, etc. online. You are not able to modify the following items using **My Account**: (1) User Name (2) Password (3) Membership Number. If you wish to change your User Name or Password it will be necessary for you to either use the Registration process or e-mail Polonus at info@polonus.org.

We anticipate that digital User Registration and the digital updating of User information using **My Account** will make it easier for all Members who use computers to keep their data up to date and will eliminate some of the errors that arose in the past when trying to interpret script on paper forms. The Website pages will be updated to make it clear that Visitors who register as Users are not Members of Polonus and will not have access to various features restricted to members. The President and Membership Chairman will communicate with Registered Visitors, who typically will have some interest in Polish philately, and work to have them become Members.

Coming in 2012: Early in 2012, it is anticipated that we will have a digital "Application for Membership" available on the Polonus Website. Once this is implemented there will be no need for current or future members of Polonus, who use online access, to complete paper applications. Yes, we are going "green".

Visit www.polonus.org
& Find Out What's New At:

- Current Polonus Activities
- Poland New Issues
- Digital Bulletins
- Useful Links

POLONUS PURLS – Portals to Poland

By: Sam Ginsburg

Web portals -- I had run across them before but didn't realize that I was looking at an unfamiliar genre, one that I would never be able to completely explore, nor adequately describe. But they are very useful and important to know about. And I don't mean that popular Portal game, whatever it is. Exploring portals may be familiar territory, because many of the sites mentioned in previous PURLS columns are found on the portals listed below.

Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_portal) defines a web portal as "a web site that function[s] as a point of access to information on the World Wide Web. A portal presents information from diverse sources in a unified way." Portals come in several flavors: general- or special-purpose search engines; sites which list a zillion other sites but provide no content of their own; and ones like the latter which also provide their own content. Most of them are ad-supported, but some are sponsored by governmental or educational institutions and don't have ads.

This column lists a few of the English-language Polish portals -- web sites that are points of entry for a vast variety of information about Poland and all things Polish. It has language, history, geography, economy, and whatever else you've always wanted and never been able to find. (Well, maybe not quite.)

My newest favorite is **Info-Poland** (<http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/>), sponsored by the Polish Academic Information Center at the University at Buffalo (SUNY-Buffalo), without ads. Bob Ogrodnik, whom I consider a master at finding interesting websites, says "This site is a priceless source of information on Poland in the English language. It is like a 'one stop shop'. It is definitely in my 'Favorites' menu and a frequently used reference. I especially like their annotated links to Poland-related information." The design is pleasant, with plenty of white space to make it easy to read. Its scope can be easily grasped by clicking on site maps (yes, there are several site maps) and scrolling down and across. Almost all

portals seem to have a mode in which it can be hard to find your way back to a particular link or section, and **Info-Poland** is no exception. For example, not all pages have a home link, so you have to use the back button a lot. Nonetheless, I think it's the best-organized and easiest to use of the Polish Portals, although a few links are broken, which is inevitable in such a massive undertaking. (But don't confuse it with the Dutch info-poland.com, which may be a travel site.)

Others portals can be found in **Info-Poland's** search engines or in multi-page guides: **Poland.pl**, **onet.pl**, etc. If you link from **Info-Poland**, these sites all open in Polish. But **Poland.pl** has a convenient British flag to click on and get to an English-language version of the website. At the end of April 2011, Polonus was at the top of a prominent list of new sites in **Poland.pl's** Poland on the Internet section. Like **Info-Poland**, the site map is an easy way to grasp **Poland.pl's** scope. **Poland.pl** is a national portal providing a directory for "Poland on the internet," including stamp collecting. Under "Lifestyle" in the directory, select "Hobby", then select "Stamp Collecting", which links to 16 websites, including Polonus.

The above listings are relatively general-purpose Poland portals. But there are also a variety of special-purpose portals, such as:

- Language: **bab.la**, reviewed in Bulletin 542
- Genealogy: **Poland Gen Web** (rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/); **Polish Genealogical Society of America** (pgsa.org); **Jewish Gen** (jewishgen.org). If you try exploring these databases you will find that some (the last two) have member-only restrictions, just like Polonus.

Hopefully, this article will help you navigate the internet. Please send me your favorite websites (samgins1730@yahoo.com) for possible inclusion in a future column and/or on the Polonus website. I'd also appreciate your feedback on any of the sites listed here or names of websites that should be included in this topic. Thanks.

Gems of Polish Philately - First Warsaw Issue Printed Matter Rate

By: Dr. James Mazepa

Poland regained independence and its Second Republic was declared on November 11, 1918. The Polish Post was organized at once and on November 17th the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph issued the first official stamps, a series of four provisional stamps for circulation in the territory of the former German occupation, previously occupied by Russia and including Warsaw. The unissued Warsaw Local Post stamps of 1916 were used and overprinted into provisional Polish stamps with new values and the words "Pocztą Polska."

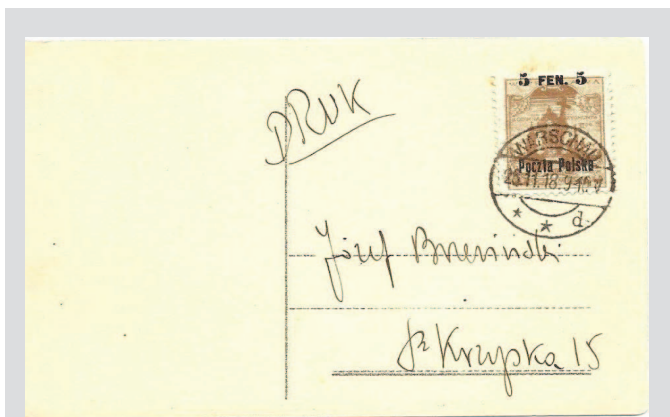


Figure 1 – Post card sent at the printed matter rate of 5 Fen.

Initially the postal rates were based on the German rates. Of all the rates, the most difficult to find are the printed matter rates. In fact this is true for all countries, not only Poland. Printed matter rates usually include newspaper wrappers, meeting notices, unsealed merchandise offerings, which we would call "fliers" today, and sometimes unsealed invitations. Upon receipt most of these were discarded and very few were saved. They are "gems" of postal history of any issue and of any country.

The printed matter rate in Poland from November 11th to December 9th, 1918, was 5 fenig. On December 10th it was increased to 10 fenig. **Figure 1** is a post card with the notation "DRUK" (Printed Matter) and sent November 28th. During this time "printed matter" for a post card only applied to a card without a message on the left (correspondence) side. If there were a message on the correspondence side it would have to be sent at the post card rate of 15 fenig.

Figure 2 is a newspaper wrapper postmarked November 28th in Warsaw for local delivery. This is the only 5 fenig newspaper wrapper I have recorded on this first issue. Professor Auleytner's book "Philatelic Gems in the Crown of the II Republic" pictures a 5 fenig merchandise offering card dated November 27th. In the period from February 25, 1919 to October

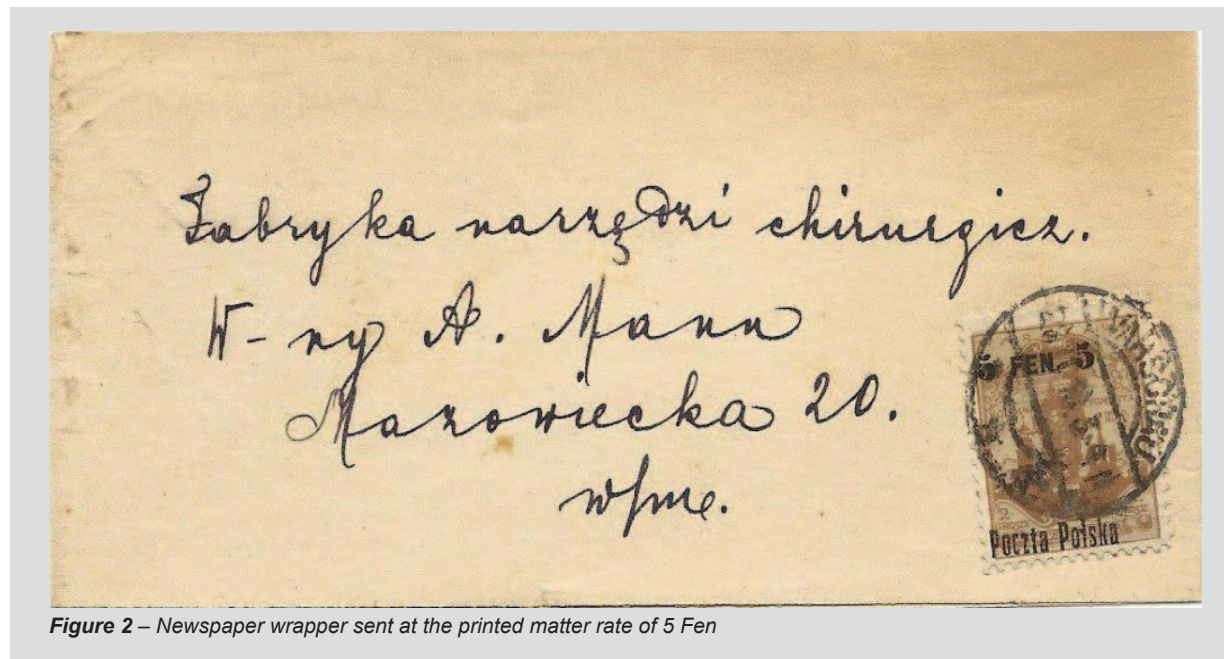


Figure 2 – Newspaper wrapper sent at the printed matter rate of 5 Fen

Gems of Polish Philately (Cont.)



Figure 3 – Newspaper wrapper sent to Switzerland at the rate of 10 Fen.

1, 1919, the foreign rate for printed matter and specifically for newspapers was 10 fenig. **Figure 3** is a newspaper wrapper with a first Warsaw provisional issue 10 fenig stamp, the correct rate to Switzerland. At the top of the wrapper is the notation "GAZETA" (newspaper).

Figure 4 is a very interesting meeting notice flier. The Warsaw postmark is June 6, 1919. We do not know when the Warsaw provisional issues were withdrawn. What we do know is that the first government issue was withdrawn on January 27, 1919 and that the continued use of provisionals



Figure 4 – Meeting notice with demonetized stamps

New Members

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

Laurence H. Glenzer, Jr. - #1725
591 Canterbury Drive
Plover, WI 54467

Andrew Sader - #1727
2 Amboy Road
Toronto, Ontario
M1G 3J1, Canada

Richard M. Woldenberg - #1726
176 Hastings
Highland Park, IL 60035

Program of 1944 Olympic Games at Oflag IID

By: Roman Sobus

In the previous issue of the Polonus Bulletin (#544), we presented a most interesting document made available by Polonus member Mr. Andrzej Szymanski of Brampton, Ontario, Canada. The document was a three-page letter of typed text detailing the schedule of events for the 1944 Camp Olympic Games and mailed within the Oflag IID POW Camp in Gross Born.

The schedule included a glimpse of the opening ceremonies, with all the speeches, the procession of athletes, musical performances, lighting of the Olympic flame and raising of the flag on that July day. Though meager in a material sense, the Olympic spirit was as strong on that day as it was at every Olympic Game before and since. A translation of the opening ceremonies from the first page is shown below.

Olympic Organizing Committee Camp Olympics Program

30.7.44	9.00-10.00	Field Holy Mass – in chapel
	18.00-20.00	Opening Ceremonies (Reviewing Stand) a/ assembly, review and procession of participants b/ lighting of the flame by the relay runner c/ announcement of the opening of the Olympic Games d/ administering of the pledge by 2nd Lieutenant Weiss e/ performance by the orchestra and choir of their themed works f/ gymnastics performance g/ performance by the choir of themed hymns

The subject of this article is the second and third pages of the letter, which detail a preliminary schedule for the Olympic Games themselves. To the author's knowledge, this document is a second or third generation carbon paper copy, which may be the only surviving example of a program for the Oflag IID Olympic Games.

The 1944 Olympic Games were held at two German prisoner of war camps, both housing Polish officers, in



Figure 1 – POW Camp graphic by Lt. Stefan Zukowski depicting a soccer match at Oflag IIC Woldenberg. Author's collection

late July and early August of that year. At Oflag IIC in Woldenberg, the games were held from 23rd of July to the 13th of August, while at Oflag IID in Gross Born from 30th of July to the 15th August. The competitions featured similar events, given the limited availability of resources, and were designed to give officers of a wide range of ages an opportunity to participate. Volleyball, soccer (**Figure 1**), tennis, and a number of track and field events were supplemented with chess tournaments, various educational exhibits and entertainment consisting of presentations of song, dance and theatre.

The three-page letter that is the subject of this article was mailed six days before the Games were scheduled to begin, and one day after they had already begun at Woldenberg. We can speculate that planning for this event began somewhat earlier at Oflag IIC in Woldenberg, given that a formal program was prepared and sold to spectators at that camp. It consisted of a tri-fold booklet, consisting of five woodblocks printed in five colors. While the schedule was not etched in stone, it was carved in wood limiting major changes in the arrangement of events. (**Figure 2**)

There might be several possible reasons for the last-minute preparations for the Games at Gross Born.

1944 Olympics Programs (Cont.)



Figure 2 – Oflag IID Olympics Program sold during the games at Woldenberg. The Olympic stamp is postmarked on the final day of the Games, 13 August 1944. The outside of the tri-fold booklet is shown above; the inside is shown below. Courtesy: Andrzej Szymanski

The first is that while commemorating the 1944 Olympic year by the Camp postal authority, which may have been planned in advance with the emission of postage stamps and cards, the idea of actually holding an Olympic style event was somewhat of an afterthought. Upon receiving news of the events being planned at Woldenberg, preparations began at an accelerated pace.

The second probable scenario is that permission had not been received from the German camp authorities to hold such a large-scale event. Undoubtedly, there were reservations in permitting the organization of so many POW's in a united cause. Perhaps news that a similar event was granted permission at another nearby camp softened the attitude of the Camp Command into relaxing restrictions.

The copy of the Oflag IID, Gross Born program made available to us was mailed a mere six days prior to the scheduled opening date of the Games and

reflects a hasty effort at planning. It has numerous blank spaces, handwritten notations and corrections, indicating this was still a work-in-progress. There are lines that have been crossed out, new ones penciled in, and others are still blank.

Quality of the original also hinders complete deciphering of the document. Used carbon paper impressions of old typewriter type bars on tissue paper did not leave sharp and clear text. The handwritten notes in many cases are illegible. We can only surmise what the author wished to note. Age has also taken its toll, fading the black and yellowing the paper.

A translation of excerpts from the second and third pages of the letter is shown below.

Olympic Organizing Committee Camp Olympics Program

31.7.44 semifinal	9.00-10.00	Track and field: 100m run prelim, shot put
	10.00-12.00	Field volleyball championships
	16.00-17.00	Volleyball 6's
	17.00-18.00	Track and field: 100m run semifinal, shot put final
1.8.44	18.00-20.00	Tennis (~~crossed out~~) volleyball 3's
	10.00-12.00	Field volleyball championships
	14.00-16.00	Triples volleyball
	17.00-18.00	Track and field: 100m run final, 3000m run
	18.00-20.00	Soccer match
7.8.44	9.00-10.00	Track and field: high jump semifinal
	10.00-12.00	Chess exhibition (hall)
	15.00-17.00	Tennis
	17.00-18.00	Track and field: 4x100m relay, 5000m run
	18.00-21.00	Recital, ballet, national dances in the Variety Theatre

1944 Olympics Programs (Cont.)

15.8.44	9.00-10.00	Holy Mass (field)
	10.00-11.00	(<i>not legible</i>) (exhibition)
	15.00-18.00	Display organized by rifle brigades
	19.00-21.00	Closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games a/ procession of athletes b/ announcement of awards c/ closing statements by 2nd Lieutenant Weiss d/ music and choir productions e/ announcements of the completion of the Olympic Games, extinguishing the flame, and lowering of the flags

The games themselves must have been quite the event in a place where loneliness, hunger and despair were the norm. It was a brief diversion from the day-to-day monotony, not only for the prisoners, but their captors as well, who observed the activities with admiration. Figure 3 includes a photograph of a tennis match taken during the games. Since, for obvious reasons, photographic equipment was forbidden for the prisoners to possess, the photograph was most likely taken by one of the camp guards and given to one of the prisoners. It was then mailed within the camp on August 14th during the games to Kapitan Pierzyński. (**Figure 3**)

The event at Gross Born and its counterpart at Woldenberg represent one of the most interesting highlights in the history of the Olympics, yet few individuals are even aware of the events that occurred during those days in July and August of 1944.

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Figure 3 – Photo of a tennis match at Oflag IID Gross Born used as a post card mailed to Kapitan Pierzyński on 14 August 1944. Courtesy: Rick Woldenberg

Editor's Note:

Articles covering the 1944 Olympics at Oflag IID in Gross Born found in #544 & #545 have been recognized by the Sports Philatelists International (SPI). With permission granted by the author, Roman Sobus, and Polonus, SPI has included the articles as a two-part series in the Fall and Winter issues of their *Journal of Sports Philately*.

SPI serves the needs of both novice and experienced Olympic and sport stamp collectors throughout the world. SPI has a broad base of members from 38 countries, several of whom are also members of Polonus. We have agreed to reciprocate links in our websites, theirs being www.sportstamps.org. The resulting collaboration with SPI demonstrates one of the ways Polonus can expand the awareness and knowledge of Polish philately in the global market.

Postal Enforcement of Foreign Currency Controls, 1936-1939

By: Miłosz Rządkosz and Roman Sobus

Due to the worldwide economic crisis during the first half of the 1930's, many countries initiated foreign currency controls by the middle of the decade. Poland instituted such regulations on 26 April 1936 with changes of personnel within the government, namely in the post of Minister of the Treasury. [6]

Among early actions taken by the Polish Government, restrictions were placed on sending foreign capital out of the country. Initially, the postal restrictions affected only transactions conducted by mail. This was a form of censorship and postal inspection, which according to [4] went into effect on 24 July 1936. These were strengthened over time with other regulations. The purpose was to stem the flow of foreign capital out of the country, which would destabilize the national economy. These restrictions encompassed items such as checks, money orders, bank transfers and other negotiable financial instruments that could be readily circulated in international markets. The initial controls applied only to registered mail sent out of the country. Letters were examined at the time of mailing in the presence of the mailer. The article to be mailed was presented unsealed at the post office window. The registration and cancellation of stamps was done in the standard way, but an additional examination of the contents was performed. The letter was then sealed and marked as inspected. This control was carried out at all postal agencies.

As the political situation with Germany deteriorated, first over the Free City of Danzig (Gdańsk) and later as the Germans annexed Austria and western Czechoslovakia, tensions increased dramatically. The Polish government prepared lists of individuals suspected of being a threat to national security and the regulation used for currency controls also facilitated the censoring of the letters themselves.

The purpose of this article is to describe the implementation of the regulation and the various methods used to show that the control had been carried out during the years 1936-1939. The methods used fall into three categories: handwritten annotations, labels, and stamps.

Handwritten annotations

Immediately following the introduction of the fiscal controls in April of 1936, postal procedures utilizing handwritten notations were introduced to designate that the control had been carried out. The statement "*Kontrola dewizowa przeprowadzona*", was written in pen or pencil, along with the postal employee's signature and a cancellation of the postal agency on the exterior of the letter. These can appear on either the front or reverse side of the envelope as shown in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 – Registered letter mailed from Sniatyn on 27.VII.1936 to Edmundton, Canada, just three days after the stated [4] introduction of the Foreign Currency Controls. Note the red ink notation that the inspection had been carried out, the signature of the clerk and a Sniatyn cancel, all part of the process.

Labels

Labels were introduced in 1937 to indicate that the control had been administered. We can identify two types (**Figures 2 & 3**), which differ slightly from one another in size, color, frame construction and font.

Currency Controls (Cont.)

Both bear Polish / French text “Kontrola dewizowa przeprowadzona / Contrôle de devises effectué”.

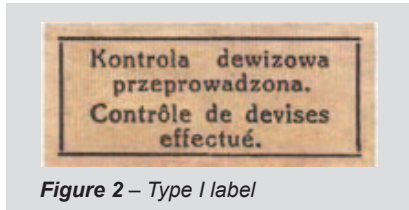


Figure 2 – Type I label

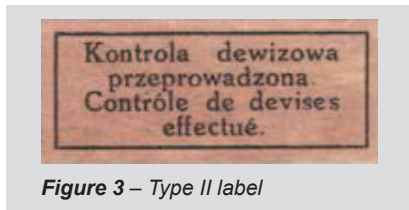


Figure 3 – Type II label

Specifics for each type are as follows: Type I (**Figure 4**) - frame size: 34 x 14.5mm, color: light yellow, length of text: 30mm. Type II (**Figure 5**) - frame size: 35 x 14mm, color: dark yellow, length of text: 27mm. It has been suggested that the Type II was introduced as the supplies of Type I were depleted. [1] From our small sampling, the Type II was introduced in 1938 and most likely, both types were in use concurrently at various postal agencies.

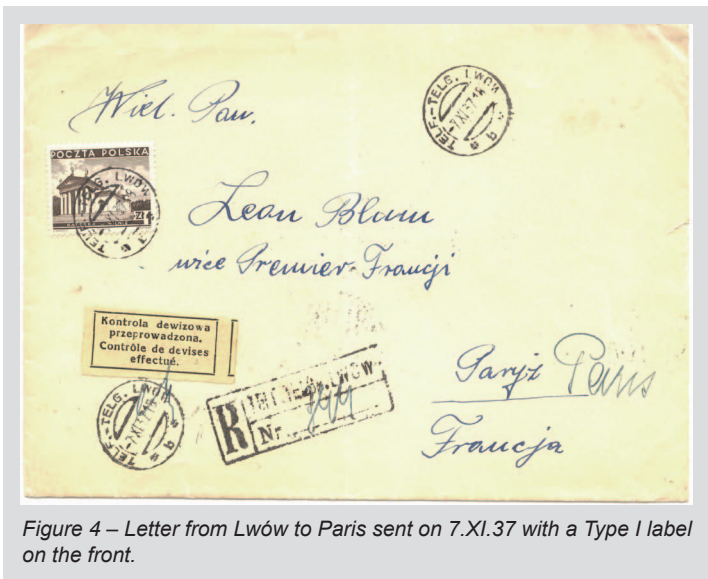


Figure 4 – Letter from Lwów to Paris sent on 7.XI.37 with a Type I label on the front.

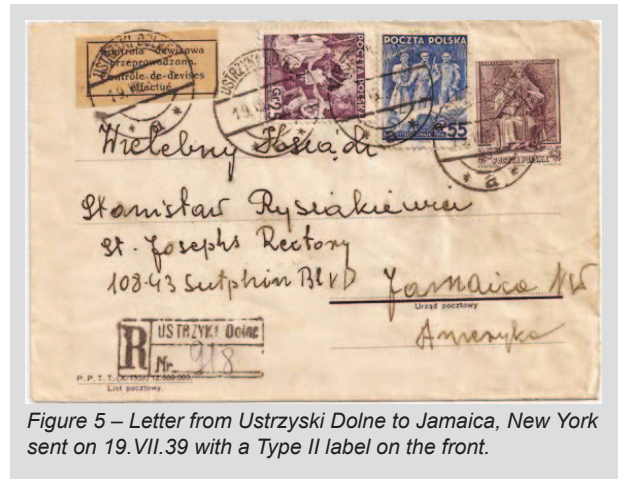


Figure 5 – Letter from Ustrzyki Dolne to Jamaica, New York sent on 19.VII.39 with a Type II label on the front.

Handstamps

The introduction of handstamps, to indicate that this control was being administered, took place soon after the regulation had been initiated. Apparently, the writing of the text, signing, and cancelling were time consuming. At post offices located in cities that were major centers of commerce, the process caused major delays. Our sampling has the earliest control handstamp usage from: Łódź (27.V.36) and Katowice (2.VI.36). [1] A larger sampling would aid in determining the transition dates from handwritten designation to label to handstamp at various agencies.

The variety of handstamps would seem to suggest that each agency had its own design produced based on the regulations that were handed down, although it is possible that a local manufacturer may have supplied a design to several post offices. As handstamps wore out at some of the larger post offices, new ones were ordered, not necessarily from the same suppliers. Over the three-plus years that the handstamps were used, a single post office could have used multiple designs. Tables 1 - 4 illustrate the design variations that had been used by the various post offices.

Currency Controls (Cont.)

	Boryslaw 1 12.V.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 55 mm; second line - 43 mm; letter height - 6/3/4 mm
	Boryslaw 1 13.VI.1939	Two line stamp: first line - 64 mm; second line - 65 mm; letter height - 6/4/2.5 mm
	Brzesc n. Bugiem 3.XI.1938	One line stamp - 75 mm; Letter height 6/5 mm
	Chorzow 1 20.VIII.1938	Two line stamp: both 60 mm; Letter height - 4.5/3.5 mm
	Drohiczyn Poleski 1 19.V.1937	Three line stamp: first line 32 mm; second line - 26 mm; Third line - 16 mm; letter height 3/2 mm
	Gdynia 1 13.XI.1937	One line stamp - 62 mm; Letter height 4.5/3 mm
	Gdynia 1 26.VIII.1938	One line stamp - 70 mm; letter height - 5/4 mm
	Hrubieszow 11.VIII.1938	One line stamp - 45 mm; Letter height 2/1.5 mm
	Katowice 1 21.VII.1936	Two line stamp in frame: First line 63 mm; second line - 13 mm; letter height 4.5/3.5/2 mm; Frame size - 70x4 mm
	Katowice 8 5.II.1937	One line stamp - 72 mm; Letter height 3.5/3 mm
	Kolno 11.IX.1938	Two line stamp in frame: First line - 42 mm; second line 35 mm; letter height 2.5; frame size 55x13 mm
	Krakow 4 26.II.1939	Two line stamp in frame: First line - 73 mm; second line - 61 mm; letter height 7/5.5 mm; frame size 79x27 mm

Table 1 – Variations in stamp designs from Boryslaw to Krakow

	Krzemieniec 11.X.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 25 mm; second line 21 mm; letter height - 2.5 mm
	Lwow 1 10.VI.1936	Two line stamp: first line - 30 mm; second line - 26 mm; letter height - 3/2 mm
	Lwow 1 7.VII.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 33 mm; second line - 30 mm; Letter height 4/2 mm
	Lwow 1 27.X.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 32 mm; second line - 30 mm; letter height - 2 mm (smaller) 3 mm (bigger)
	Lwow 2 30.VIII.1938	
	Lwow 5 28.IX.1938	Two line stamp: Length 1st line - 46.5; 2nd line - 41 mm; Height - 5/4 mm
	Lwow 24 (Zalesienie) 8.XI.1938	Two line stamp in frame: first line - 45 mm; second line - 32 mm; letter height - 2.8 mm; Frame size - 45x13 mm
	Lublin 1 26.VIII.1936	Two line stamp: first line - 37 mm; second line - 30 mm; letter height 4/3 mm
	Lodz 1 27.V.1938	Two line stamp: first line - 51 mm; second line - 55 mm; Letter height 4/3 mm
	Lodz 1 8.X.1937	Two line stamp: First line 75.5 mm; second line - 56.5 mm; height 4.5/3.5
	Lodz 5 17.X.1939	Two line stamp: first line - 51 mm; second line - 37 mm; Letter height 4/3 mm
	Lodz 10 3.IV.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 75 mm; second line - 59 mm; Letter height 3/2 mm
	Lodz 10 2.I.1939	

Table 2 – Variations in stamp designs from Krzemieniec to Łódź

	Lublince 14.X.1937	Two line stamp in frame: first line - 46 mm; second line - 38 mm; letter height 3 mm; frame size 55x13 mm
	Otyka 9.II.1938	Two line stamp: first line - 36 mm; Second line - 31 mm; Letter height 3/2 mm
	Radun 1.III.1938	Two line stamp: first line - 48 mm; second line - 42 mm; Letter height 2.5/2 mm
	Skole 9.IX.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 45 mm; second line - 37 mm; Letter height 2.5 mm
	Slonim 19.XI.1938	Two line stamp: first line - 35 mm; second line - 32 mm; Letter height 3/2 mm
	Stanislawow 1 8.VII.1937	Three line: First line - 41 mm; 2nd line - 34 mm; 3rd line 36.5 mm; Height - 4.5/2 mm; last line 2/1 mm
	Tarczyn k. Lucka 4.III.1938	Two line stamp in frame: first line - 46 mm; second line - 32 mm; letter height 3 mm; frame size 54x13 mm
	Tczew 1 9.VI.1939	
	Warszawa 1 9.I.1937	One line stamp - 76 mm; letter height - 3 mm
	Warszawa 1 3.VI.1938	
	Warszawa 2 28.VII.1938	Double line stamp: first line - 51 mm; second line - 42 mm; letter height 4/3 mm
	Warszawa Unia Wolnosciowosci 12.V.1938	One line stamp - 64 mm; letter height - 2.8 mm (smaller), 4.2 mm (bigger)
	Warszawa 2 "Lot" 28.IV.1937	Two line stamp: first line - 64 mm; second line 54 mm; letter height 5/4 mm
	Warszawa 2 Kjosk 2.VI.1939	Two line stamp: first line - 54 mm; second line - 47 mm; letter height - 4 mm (smaller), 6 mm (bigger)

Table 3 – Variations in stamp designs from Lublince to Warszawa 2 Kjest

	Warszawa 7 17.V.1939	Two line stamp: both lines - 58 mm; letter height - 4 mm
	Warszawa 7 17.V.1939	Two line stamp: both lines - 67 mm; letter height 3 mm
	Warszawa 13 30.X.1937	One line stamp - 63 mm; Letter height 4.5/3.5 mm
	Warszawa 14 8.V.1937	Four line stamp in frame: letter height - 2 mm; frame size 51x19 mm
	Warszawa 30 24.VII.1938	Two line stamp: first line - 35 mm; second line 30 mm
	Warszawa 35 28.VIII.1939	Three line stamp: first line - 45 mm; second line - 40 mm; third line - 39 mm; letter height 4/3/2 mm
	Wilno 1 3.II.1937	
	Zbaraz 7.II.1939	Two line stamp: first line - 50; second line - 40 mm; letter height 5/4 mm
	"Universal" Type	

Table 4 – Variations in stamp designs from Warszawa 7 to Zbaraz

Currency Controls (Cont.)

Conclusions

- The cover illustrated in **Figure 6** with a “Kontrola dewisowa przeprowadzona” stamp and dated 27 May 1936, which is earlier than the 24 July 1936 date mentioned in [4], suggests that the enforcement of foreign currency controls began sooner after the regulation was instituted (26 April 1936) than previously known.

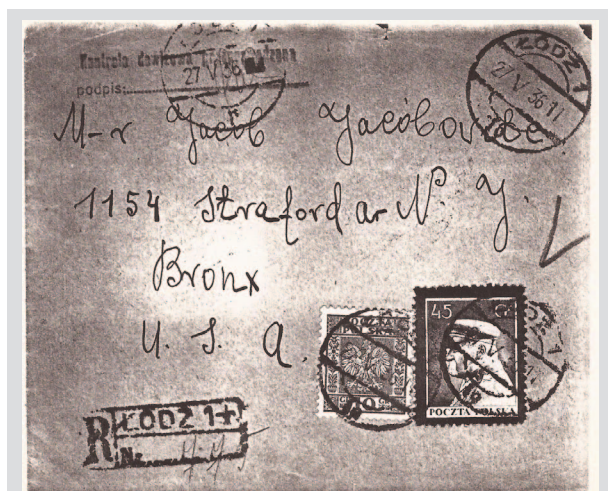


Figure 6 – Registered letter from Łódź 1 to Bronx, New York City sent on 27.V.36, almost a full month before the earliest date of implementation mentioned in [4].

- Multiple designs at individual post offices were possible. The handstamps wore out quickly with high volumes of foreign-bound mail and replacements were frequently of different designs.
- Post offices in the Kraków and Katowice postal districts used the same design, suggesting a single source or at least a single approved design.
- Notations, including handwritten markings, labels and handstamps, can appear on either the front or reverse of the envelope, contrary to the statement in [1] that they only appear on the front of the envelope.
- Handstamps can appear printed in black, violet, red, and other colors. It varies among post offices indicating the lack of firm policy on this issue.

- Post offices in Łódź 10 and Lwów 1,2,5 & 8 used a second canceller with different identifier and having a different diameter to certify the control process had taken place. Perhaps other offices in these and other cities also had similar procedures? These appear to be the exception rather than the rule as most post offices applied the same canceller to cancel stamps and to indicate that inspection had taken place. (**Figure 7**)



Figure 7 – Registered letter from Lwów 1 to Kiel, Germany sent on 27.X.37. Note the violet “Kontrola dewisowa przeprowadzona” stamp and two different size cancellers. The larger was used to cancel postage stamps on the reverse side.

- The most common method used to indicate that the inspection had taken place was the label, followed by the “universal” type handstamp used in some of the Kraków and Katowice postal agencies. Handstamps from some of the smaller postal agencies are extremely scarce.

Control procedures were also introduced on inbound mail to Germany, which was carried out by opening mail and resealing it with special tape and applying a stamp indicating that the control process had been carried out. [4] The use of this tape predates the Polish currency controls by at least a year in Germany. [5] (**Figure 8**) Czechoslovakia also carried out such controls, but on a more limited scale (**Figure 9**)

Currency Controls (Cont.)



Figure 8 – German control stamp in red and with sealing tape on the reverse used to close the envelope after inspection.

In the process of enforcing the foreign currency controls, the Polish Postal authorities expanded the list of items forbidden in mail, including certain types of photographs and maps, to countries deemed politically hostile toward the policies of the Polish Government. Once mobilization for war began in August 1939, the censorship duties were taken over by the Polish military authorities.

The handstamp types illustrated in this article are meant as a starting point in the cataloging process of the “*Kontrola dewisowa przeprowadzona*” handstamps used by various postal administrations. Certainly many more types exist. The authors would be interested in hearing from readers regarding various handstamp types they may have in their collections, including those illustrated on these pages. This will aid in determining with greater accuracy the usage dates of specific types.

Special thanks to Mr. Piotr Madej of Toronto, Canada for granting access to his collection.



Figure 9 – Czech control stamp on letter sent from Czeladź on 20.XIII.38. The letter was inspected at Czeladź and again at Liberec as indicated by the Czech stamp on the front of the letter.

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Military Training of Polish Air Force in Canada 1942-45

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series of articles by the author that provide an historical insight into the perseverance by Polish forces to contribute towards the allied cause during WWII. This untold history is based upon a collection of letters and cards addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska (see Bulletin #541).

Training of Polish air force personnel in Canada between 1942 and 1945 was conducted under the auspices of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in the Dominions. Over the course of four years, some 450 Poles underwent

training in Canada. This program included various specializations, such as flight training, navigation, bombing, shooting, observation, aircraft maintenance, etc.

According to "The Polish Air Force in the West 1939-47", there were 12 training centers in Canada: Chatham, New Brunswick; Moncton, New Brunswick; Jarvis, Ontario; Malton, Ontario; Port Albert, Ontario; St. Hubert, Quebec; Mont-Joli, Quebec; Medicine Hat, Alberta; Mount Hope, Ontario; Mountain View, Ontario; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; and Swift

Current, Saskatchewan. From letters written by Polish recruits to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska in Boston, it is clear that there was a canteen (hostel) in Toronto and a transit camp in Ottawa from which they were sent to the separate training centers.

Mail between Canada and the USA was not censored and postage was paid as for ordinary civilian letters. In the Canadian training camps, date stamps of the Military Post

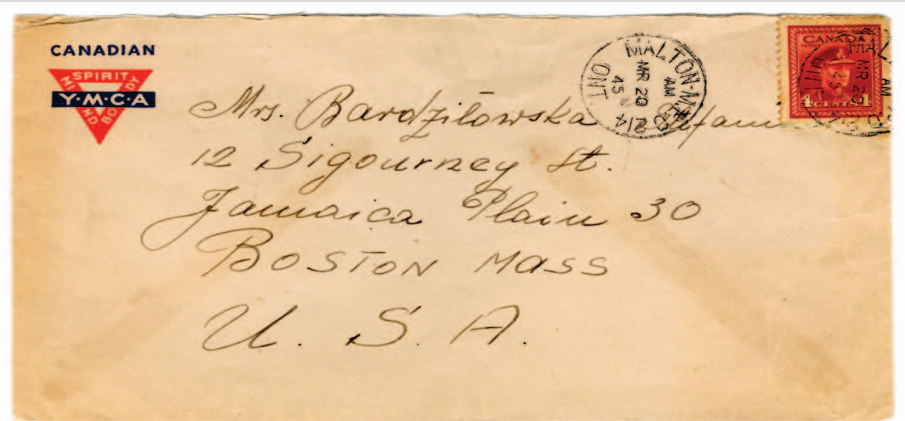


Figure 1 – Canadian YMCA cover with 4 cents postage and cancelled in Malton, Ont, MPO 214 MR 20/45 (March 20, 1945)



Figure 2 – Canadian YMCA printed matter with 4 cents postage and cancelled in Moncton, N.B., MPO 705 MY 15/44 (May 15, 1944)



Figure 3 – Knights of Columbus War Services printed matter CAH with 4 cents postage and cancelled in Mont Joli, P. Q. MPO 502 AU 18/44 (August 18, 1944)

Military Training (Cont.)



Figure 4 – Air mail letter with 7 cents postage sent on May 30, 1944 from Toronto. Return address: Officer's Mess 1, "M" Depot. This was used by the Polish officers in Toronto.

Office (MPO) were used. In my collection I have three MPO cancellations with a date stamp sent

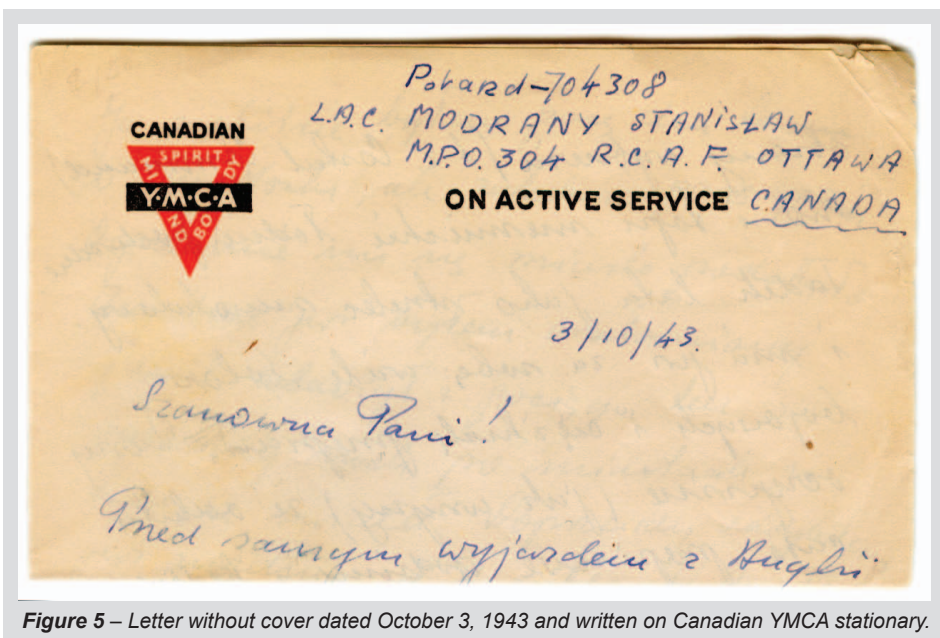


Figure 5 – Letter without cover dated October 3, 1943 and written on Canadian YMCA stationery.



Figure 6 – Card from Wilkowyski (an internment camp for Poles in Lithuania) from Stanislaw Modrany to his father held in Oflag XII A in Germany. Dated April 25, 1940 and posted in Kaunas centr. Nr. 5, stamped by the Lithuanian Red Cross, which was forwarding correspondence to prisoners. Censored (Geprüft) by the Oflag XII A administration.

from Malton (MPO 214), Moncton (MPO 705) and Mont-Joli (MPO 502). These are shown in **Figures 1, 2, and 3.**

In addition to the MPO cancellations, I have three other interesting covers from Poles who participated in the Canadian training program.

Figure 4 is an air mail letter sent on May 30, 1944 from an Officer's Mess in Toronto. This most likely was a transit stop for Polish officers on their way coming to or departing from Canada.

Figure 5 is a letter on Canadian YMCA stationery without cover dated October 3, 1943. Return address is given as: MPO 304 RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) in Ottawa. This was most likely a transit camp, although I was not able to establish this beyond a doubt. The letter was written by Stanislaw Modrany, who

(Continued on Page 20)

Book Review

General Anders' Polish Army in the USSR 1941-42

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Przemysław Drzewiecki, a well known Polish collector and historian from Bydgoszcz, has just published a book entitled, "**General Anders' Polish Army in the USSR 1941-42 in Historical Postal Documents**". The hardback, which is printed on high quality paper and comprises 160 pages, includes a summary in the English language. It deals with deportations of civilians to Siberia and other parts of the Soviet Union after the outbreak of World War II and the Polish military recruitment centers set up following the Polish-Soviet agreement of 30 July 1941. The book provides an interesting picture of the correspondence to and from the camps where the Polish units were based until their departure to Persia in August 1942.

The publication has 165 colored philatelic illustrations, maps, documents and photographs. The author discusses the important stamp issue "Dojdzimy" (meaning: "We shall get there" i.e. to a free Poland) and the unissued project "Stan" (meaning: "State that we are in"). The reprinted items come from some of the best collections in Poland and abroad, including from two members of the Polonus Philatelic Society. This is a limited edition publication with a print run of only 350 copies. Price including postage is \$ 50.

The book may be purchased directly from the author: Przemysław Drzewiecki, Opławiecka 225, 85-469 Bydgoszcz, Poland, E-mail: pdrzew@onet.pl, Tel: (011-48) 52 340 2828.

Military Training (Cont. from Page 19)

was interned in Lithuania following the unsuccessful Polish campaign of September 1939. His father, Major Karol Modrany, who had been captured by the Germans, was imprisoned in Oflag XII A. In the spring of 1940, the Red Army occupied Lithuania and moved the interned Poles, including Stanisław Modrany, to camps in Russia. Prior to being moved, Stanisław Modrany sent a card to his father held in Oflag XII A. (see Figure 6)

In 1942, along with tens of thousands of other Poles who had been deported to Russia, Stanisław Modrany joined the Polish Army under the command of General Władysław Anders and was evacuated to Persia and thence to Britain and Canada, where he trained as a military flight navigator. He took part in bombing raids aimed at targets of strategic importance to the Nazis. While serving with the 300th Bomber Squadron, his plane was shot down during a night raid on February 20-21, 1945 and he was killed.

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Book Review

Polish Postal Rates 1941-2010

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The new book "Polish Postal Rates 1941-2010" by Adam Kielbasa-Schoeni and Stanisław Folta fills an important gap in the documentation of Polish post-war postal rates. Until now there has not been a publication which contained complete and systematic information about all the rates. This new book is a hard back, 18.1 x 25.2 cm, 516 page collection of rates based upon transcripts and quotes from authentic documents and organized systematically by category of postal service. It contains the following:

- Tariffs of Polish Post for Great Britain
- Common tariffs (1944-1961) including all 27 changes and rates for domestic and international traffic
- Domestic tariffs (1961-2011) including all 12 changes
- International tariffs (1961-2011) including all 6 changes
- Airmail tariffs (1945-1982) including all 15 changes
- Official mail (1944-1955) including all 15 changes
- Postage due tariffs (1945-1966) including all 11 c changes
- Agreements, Communiqués and Instructions

This book is prepared in the Polish language but has guide to postal terminology in six (6) languages, including English. It also contains an introduction in three (3) languages, including English. With the help of the guide to postal terminology and the manner in which the tables of rates are presented, I believe a collector not understanding the Polish language can navigate through this book to find the sought after rate information.

Some of you may be familiar with the book, "Polish Postal Rates 1918-1939" by Marek Zbierski, considered to be the "gold standard" for rates in this time period. This new book by Adam Kielbasa-Schoeni and Stanisław Folta will have the same recognition. While working on my post-war exhibits I

found researching rates, especially for international air mail, to be very difficult and frustrating.

Even through consultations with experts, many conclusions were reached using logic or intuition.

The new book is without doubt an answer to this need. In filling an important gap this publication is a major contribution to Polish philately and a very valuable resource to advanced Polish and foreign philatelists, in particular to exhibitors and experts.

Bieniecki Int'l., Inc. has arranged to acquire a limited supply of this book for sale to Polonus members. For members within the US, price is \$65 + \$5 media mail. Members ordering from Canada or other countries should contact Hank Bieniecki for P/H charges due to the weight of this book. Orders may be placed via e-mail to info@biistamp.com or by mail to: P.O. Box 760, Maryville, IL 62062.



New Issues



St. Maximilian Kolbe

This 1.95 zł stamp portrays St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941), the Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in place of another prisoner at Auschwitz.

He was born in Zduńska Wola (then part of Russia), and earned doctoral degrees in philosophy and theology. While imprisoned at Auschwitz during World War II, he heard the cries of an unidentified man sentenced to die in a starvation cell, the man calling out that he was married with a wife and children. Hearing this, Kolbe volunteered to take

the man's place in the cell and later starved to death. Kolbe was canonized in 1982 by Pope John Paul II and declared a martyr of charity. The first day cancellation depicts numerous broken eye glasses confiscated from holocaust inmates at Auschwitz and now displayed in a room at the camp museum.

Date of Issue	August 12, 2011
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk



Date of Issue	August 29, 2011
Sheet Format	16 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Janusz Wysocki



Poles in the World

Four stamps were issued to honor alchemist Michał Sędziwój (1.55 zł), inventor Jan Szczepanik (1.95 zł), inventor Jan Józef Baranowski (3 zł), and microbiologist Rudolf Stefan Weigl (3 zł). Sędziwój was a pioneer in alchemy/chemistry who concluded that air is not a single substance and the "food of life" is oxygen. His writings contain various scientific, pseudo-scientific, and philosophical theories. He

attended the court of King Sigismund III Vasa around 1600, and today at the Wawel Castle in Kraków the chamber where he worked is still intact. The inventor Szczepanik was born in Rudniki (then in Austria-Hungary) and is credited with over 50 inventions, several with patents, primarily for movies and photography, including the telectroscope, photosculptor, colorimeter, and sound recording and playback equipment. He encountered Mark Twain, who references the Polish inventor in his writings. Baranowski invented machines for business accounting, voting, and printing and ticket control for railroads. He is also well known for his automatic railway signaling system. Weigl was born in Prerov, Moravia, and later moved to Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). He developed the first effective vaccine against epidemic typhus, using infected lice that were grown and then crushed into a vaccine paste. During World War II, the Nazi German invaders had him set up a vaccine production plant in Lwów. He employed, and thus helped save, thousands of workers, including intellectuals, Jews, and members of the Polish Underground. He also smuggled vaccines into the Lwów and Warsaw ghettos. In 2003 he was posthumously awarded the medal of Righteous Among the Nations of the World by the state of Israel. The two official first day covers for the four stamps have circular cancellations indicating "Polacy na świecie" ("Poles in the World").

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New Issues



Bicentennial of Father Jan Dzierżon

This 1.55 zł stamp honors the pioneering apiarist and Roman Catholic priest of Polish descent from Upper Silesia.

Fr. Dzierżon is credited with discovering the phenomenon of parthenogenesis in bees and designed the first successful movable-frame beehive. He was able to balance his work in apiculture with church duties until his forced retirement and excommunication in 1873. His discovery of the asexual reproduction of drone bees and his questioning of papal infallibility were rejected by the Church. However, in 1905 he reconciled with

the Church before his death. The very attractive first day cover shows a cluster of wooden beehives in the cachet and a hexagonal cancellation depicting a bee.

Date of Issue	September 2, 2011
Sheet Format	20 Stamps
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Jacek Konarzewski



Early Life of Karol Wojtyła in Niegowić

This 1.95 zł stamp adds to the numerous other stamp issues honoring the late Polish pope. The stamp depicts the church where the former pope began his priesthood in 1948 in Niegowić, a small village outside Kraków. The attached stamp tab shows a photograph of him with parishioners in Niegowić. Monuments honoring the former pope are also portrayed in the sheet margins (etiquettes). The official first day cover cancellation shows a crucifix.

Date of Issue	September 22, 2011
Sheet Format	5 Stamps with Tabs & Marginal Imprints (Etiquettes)
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Janusz Wysocki



Date of Issue	September 30, 2011
Sheet Format	Souvenir sheet with Single stamp
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Małgorzata Osa

Twentieth Congress of the PZF at Polkowice

This 4.15 zł stamp in a numbered souvenir sheet celebrates the 20th Congress of the Polish Association of Philatelists (PZF), founded in 1950 to promote Polish philately. The PZF is a member of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). The PZF organized the early October 2011 European Youth Stamp Exhibition at Polkowice (in southwestern Poland) together with the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). The stamp depicts the town hall and adjacent church of St. Barbara. The grand prize awarded at the exhibition went to an exhibit on the "Magical World of Harry Potter." The official first day cover portrays symbolic views

of perforated stamps in both the cachet and circular cancellation.

New Issues



Christmas 2011 (Boże Narodzenie)

Date of Issue	November 24, 2011
Sheet Format	100 Stamps (1.55 zł) 10 Stamps (2.40 zł)
Printing Method	Rotogravure (1.55 zł) Offset (2.40 zł)
Designer	Marek Kwiatkowski

Two Christmas stamps have been issued for 2011 by Poczta Polska: a 1.55 zł stamp depicting Santa Claus in his sleigh, pulled by a reindeer; and a 2.40 zł stamp depicting the baby Jesus in a manger, with Mary, Joseph, and nearby farm animals watching. In addition, two official colorful first day covers were issued with cachets showing rural and urban winter landscapes, and a cancellation of a decorated Christmas tree.

For topical collectors, Polish “holiday” stamps issued from late November thru December, a time of increased mail volume for greeting cards, might be divided into three categories:

- Stamps depicting classical religious art, but not specifically referencing any holiday:

- December 19, 1969 - Angel (1 of 8 folk art items)

- December 2, 1974 - Flight into Egypt (1 of 4 stamps)

- December 15, 1976 - Madonna & Child (2 stamps)

- December 4, 1979 - Holy Family & Nativity (2 stamps)

- December 21, 1989 - Madonna & Child (1 of 6 stamps)

- Stamps recognizing the New Year (“Nowy Rok”):

- December 12, 1986 - Star

- December 14, 1987 - Running Snowman

- December 9, 1988 – Snowman

- Stamps specifically recognizing Christmas (“Boże Narodzenie”):

- November 25, 1991 - Nativity Scene

- Every year to date, often accompanied by a New Year stamp

The general pattern suggested above is explained in large part by the turmoil between a declining Communist totalitarian government in Poland and a deeply religious Polish people.

We further note at least two holiday postmarks used by Poczta Polska that depict a shooting star or star of Bethlehem long before any of the above stamp issues:

- November 10, 1936 - Łódź

- December 17, 1936 - Gdynia

Anyone wishing to contribute further to this discussion is welcome to contact the editor.