

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Annex,
5800 W. Diversey Avenue, Chicago, IL

ISSUE No. 444

Price: \$2.00

NOV.-DEC., 1990

The Soviet 1939 Campaign Against Poland

By ST. M. J. ŻÓŁKIEWSKI

During the night of September 16-17, 1939, the Government of the Soviet Union requested the presence of Wacław Grzybowski, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, in the Peoples' Ministry for Foreign Affairs. They tried to hand him a note signed by the Chief of Peoples Commissars of the USSR, Władysław Molotov which read:

"The Polish German War disclosed the internal bankruptcy of the Polish State. During the ten days of war Poland lost all its industrial and cultural centers. Warsaw is not any more Poland's



A registered cover with two Polish stamps and one Soviet stamp sent from Lwów to Kołomyja on October 20, 1939.

capital, the Polish Government is in the state of decay and does not show signs of vitality. This means that the Republic of Poland and its Government ceased to exist. Therefore the agreements between the U.S.S.R. and Poland lost their validity. (This pertains to the Treaty of Riga of 1921 and to the Polish-Soviet agreement of 1932—Author's note). Under these circumstances the Government of the Soviet Union ordered the Command of the Red Army to cross the border to protect the lives and property of the population of the Western Ukraine (the districts of Wołyń, Lwów, Stanisławów and Tarnopol—Author's note) and the Western Bielorussia (the districts of Wilno, Nowogród and Polesie—Author's note)."

On September 17th, 1939 the Soviet Army crossed the Polish border in its entire length. This was the result of an agreement with secret amendments between Hitler Germany's representative Joachim von Ribbentrop and the U.S.S.R.'s representative Wiaczeslaw Molotov. This agreement was ratified on August 31, 1939, during a special session of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Government planned the formation of two front lines against Poland:

A — The Ukrainian front led by the First Rank Commander Siemion Timoszenko with the range of action: Olewsk - Szczepienówka - Wołczyńska - Niemirów - Romanian border. According to the directive of the Chief of Command (Stalin), the Ukrainian front had the objective to reach by September 20: Kowel - Włodzimierz Wołyński - Sokal - Lwów and then was to proceed quickly toward the central parts of the rivers Wisła and San. This front line consisted of three armies: (5th, 6th and



ZYGMUNT KRASIŃSKI, 1812 — 1859.

Wielki poeta. Jego dramaty „Irydion”, „Nieboska Komedia” i inne twory pełne są głębokiej troski o przyszłość narodu i ludzkości.

Grand poète. Auteur des drames „Irydion”, „Nieboska Komedia” et d’autres oeuvres pleines de souci pour l’avenir de la Pologne et de l’humanité.

KARTKA POCZTOWA



W Pani
Zofia Wzesełniowska

Zimna Woda
koło Lwowa

A Polish postal card with the Ukrainian postmark "Kalush" dated October 9, 1939.

POCZTA PERONOWA ZAPEWNIĄ W PODRÓŻY ŁĄCZNOŚĆ ZE ŚWIATEM

KARTKA POCZTOWA



Towarzysz Inż
Maksymilian Geisler
Lwów
Obersyriska 22

NADAWCA
Proszę zamieścić
p. Mary Skotnicka
ul. Nowy Świat 22 m. 4
aby na wizytę
w mieszkaniach nadbytkowych
2. i 3. m. 5 podać
moją adres i niech
eventualnie, zamie-
ska, koniecznie.

P. P. T. T. (X-1938) 20.000.000.

A Polish postal card mailed from Lubaczów to Lwów. Accepted by the Soviet mail it was postmarked Lwów on November 27, 1939.

POCZTA WPROWADZIŁA PACZKI BEZ ADRESÓW POMOCNICZYCH

KARTKA POCZTOWA



Wichusina Pani
Halina Dembińska
Lwów
Sabietaka 12 m 4.

NADAWCA
Wilno
Stowiska 17



A Polish postal card sent from Wilno to Lwów on October 30, 1939 with imprinted 30 kop. postage due. It has a transit postmark of Moscow dated November 5, 1939.

12th) which were composed of seven corps containing nine rifleman divisions, twelve cavalry divisions, five independent brigades of light tanks and one brigade of heavy tanks.

B — The front line of Belorussia led by the Second Rank Commander, Michal Kovalov whose range of action was from the Polish-Latvian border in Zestawia through Polesie to the region of the 5th Army of the Ukrainian front. This front line consisted of three armies: (3rd, 4th and 10th) with four corps composed of twelve rifleman divisions, seven cavalry divisions, five brigades of light tanks and one motorized brigade.



A Polish postal card with an added Soviet stamp sent registered within Wilno on October 28, 1939.

The concentration of the units of the Belorussian front was not completed until the middle of September, therefore its commander ordered the formation of three fast moving combined units "Polock" (one cavalry division and two tank brigades), "Minsk" (one cavalry division and one tank brigade), and "Dzierzynsk" (one corps of riflemen, two cavalry divisions, one armored corps, and one tank brigade). They were expected to reach in the late evening hours of September 18, the following goals: "Polock" - the region of Swieczany and Maliszki and then Wilno; "Minsk" - the region of Oszmiany and Iwie and then Grodno; "Dzierzynsk" - the River Szczary and then head toward Walkomysk.

The total of both fronts consisted of 21 rifleman divisions, 19 cavalry divisions, two armored corps and ten self sufficient tank brigades. The war was never declared but the invasion started.

The borders of Lithuania, Latvia and U.S.S.R. were defended by the Polish "Corps of the Border Defense" (Korpus Obrony Pogranicza

- KOP). According to the status of KOP of September 1, 1939, its commander, General Wilhelm Orlik-Ruckeman (1894-1986) could counteract the invaders only with 34 batalions of riflemen, 12 corps of KOP cavalry and two artillery divisions. This army was formed of reservists, regular soldiers were reinforcing individual units. The batalions and companies of KOP are listed in the reports on the specific units: the River Flotilla in Pińsk consisted of 34 fighting units. It was weakened by the transfer of numerous units toward the lower Wisła River region.



Front and reverse of letter sent from Hoża to Lublin. Soviet stamps and postmarks of October 10, 1940 with a Polish registration rubber stamp. German censorship on the reverse side.



Polonus Christmas Party

Our traditional "Opłatek" was held on December 28, 1990 in our meeting room at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Annex in Chicago. Polonus invited Andrzej Jaroszynski, the cultural attache to the Polish Consulate in Chicago, along with his wife, as guests. Good food, cheer, and Polish caroling were the order of the evening.



Photos: Mark Dobrzycki

Among those attending were (left to right): Stanley Dobrzycki, president Roman Strzelecki, cultural attache Andrzej Jaroszynski, Romuald Ordowski, guest Andrzej Gonera and Walenty Poniecki. Mr. Gonera is a member of Polski Związek Filatelistyczny, Okręg Warszawa.

POLPEX NEWS

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Hubert Romanowski, will officiate at the opening ceremonies of POLPEX 91, on Friday, March 15th at Przybylo's White Eagle in Niles. He will also be a guest at our Beeba-Banquet on Saturday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.

A U.S. Postal Station will operate on the premises using a special Polpex cancellation. Three different cacheted covers will be issued, one for each day of the show, relating to the Polish Constitution theme.

NEW CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF POLAND,

&c. &c.

In the name of God, one in the Holy Trinity!

Stanislaus Augustus, by the grace of God, and the will of the Nation, King of Poland, Grand Duke of Lithuania, Ruffia, Prussia, Masovia, Samogitia, &c. &c. &c. together with the Confederate States assembled in double number to represent the Polish nation.

PERSUADED that our common fate depends entirely upon the establishing and rendering perfect a national constitution;

ARTICLE 2

tion;

NEW CONSTITUTION ETC. THE SECOND EDITION. PRINTED IN LONDON, FOR J. DERRATT, OPPOSITE BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, 1791.



At the left is an excerpt from a book printed in London in 1791. At right is the only stamp issued by Poland honoring the May 3rd Constitution.

A souvenir card will show the Constitution stamp of Poland along with the Constitution stamp of the U.S. The traditional pair of souvenir sheets will be issued with a historical description printed on the folder. A program book with the catalog of the exhibits is also planned.

Polpex entry applications for exhibitors are available from Polpex chairman, Romuald Odrowski, 5327 West Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60641. Gold medal winners will receive the special Polish Constitution medal which is in production at Medallie Arts for the Polish American Numismatic Association.

Bud Henning Named to Stamp Advisory Board

Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank has announced the appointment of Polonus honorary member Bernard Henning, Sr., attorney and international philatelic judge, of Chicago, to the Stamp Advisory Committee. This independent group reviews thousands of stamps subjects submitted by the public annually and recommends selected ones to the Postal Service.

Poland's Explorers Went to the Antarctic

Copyright Linn's Stamp News, Sidney Ohio. Reprinted with permission.

By Steve Pendleton

Poland is obviously a long way from Antarctica geographically, yet even this nation has had a long involvement with the frozen continent. This involvement has left collectors with an array of philatelic material.

Poland's interest in Antarctica began with the activities of Henryk Arctowski. Arctowski, a geologist who lived from 1871-1958, joined the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897. During the expedition, he made the first complete weather records of an Antarctic year.

Two Polish stamps depict Arctowski. A 1-zloty stamp (Scott 2002) issued in 1973 shows a medal picturing the explorer with a scene of penguins. A portrait of the explorer is featured on a 40zl value released in 1986 (2734).

Figure 1 depicts an Antarctic cover franked with the 1973 Arctowski stamp.

The fact that Poland honored Arctowski at all is unusual. He spent the last 19 years of his life in the United States as a refugee from the Nazis and the Communists.

The first Polish expedition to the Antarctic was the result of a gift from the Soviet Union.

The Soviets founded the Oasis Base in 1958. On Jan. 21, 1959, the Soviet Union turned the base over to Poland. The Poles renamed the base Dobrowloski Station and occupied it until 1961.

The Arctowski Base has been permanently occupied since its founding. About 25 scientists spend the summer, while about 19 usually winter over.

The Soviet Union had a postmark for Oasis. However covers sent during the Soviet period are very scarce.

No postmarks are known from the Dobrowloski period.

Although the base is not pictured on a stamp, the explorer A.B. Dobrowloski is shown on a 1986 5zl stamp (Scott 2733) issued on the same day, June 23, as the Arctowski commemorative.

In the 1970s, Polish interest once again turned south. The Polish Academy of Scientists decided to build a permanent base. Also, the Polish ocean fishing fleet began voyages to collect krill, the tiny sea creature upon which the Antarctic food chain depends.

On Feb. 26, 1977, Henryk Arctowski Base was officially opened on King George Island in the South Shetlands, off the northern tip of Graham Land. As with many other countries that placed bases on the island, the site was chosen because it is easy to supply.

Poland has never opened an official post office at the base, so no postmarks exist. It is easy to identify base mail, however. Such covers receive a variety of cachets.

One of the most common cachets is a circular double-ring design with a stylized ice-berg in the middle and the wording "Polska Stacja Antarktyczna H. Arctowskiego." Another cachet features a penguin.

Leaders and scientists often apply their own cachets to covers.

No stamps have been issued showing the base by name. However, a 1982 Polish stamp marking the 50th anniversary



Figure 1. This Antarctic cover is franked with a 1973 Polish stamp honoring Henryk Arctowski.

of Polish Research (Scott 2541) shows an unnamed polar base. At the time the stamp was issued, Arctowski was the only active Polish polar base.

Poland issued a five-stamp set (Scott 2782-87) in 1987 to note the 10th anniversary of Arctowski Station. Strangely, the set neglects to show any pictures of the base itself.

Those interested in contacting the base may do so through Poland. Since there is no postal facility, however, much of the station's mail is routed through other bases on the island.

Sometimes sending to the base via Polish ships provides good results, but this information is often not available until shortly before sailing.

Because of the prevailing

cooperation between bases on the island, Polish cachets have been found on Chilean, Russian and even Chinese station mail.

Polish ships play a large role in the country's Antarctic effort. This is reflected in stamps and on cachets. The training freighter *Antoni Garmuszewski* is depicted on 1978 and 1987 Polish stamps (Scott 2905, 2782). This ship made several voyages to the Antarctic in 1978 and later.

One of the most important ships was featured on Scott 2734. Along with Arctowski's portrait, this stamp also showed *Profesor Siedlecki*. This research vessel, owned by the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia, has made many voyages beginning in the late 1970s.

Profesor Siedlecki cancels its mail with a large circular "Profesor Siedlecki-Paquebot" pictorial postmark. It is, therefore, possible to get a Polish postmarked cover from the Antarctic, but not from its base!

Figure 2 shows a cover with the *Profesor Siedlecki* postmark and several cachets, including one from Arctowski Station.

Several other Polish Antarctic ships have been featured on stamps. Scott 2733 also featured the ship *Kopernick*. This vessel supplied the West Antarctica Polish Geophysical Expedition of 1979-80.

The 1987 set of Scott 2783-87 featured, respectively, *Zulawy*, *Pogoria*, *Gedania*, *Dziunia* and *Kapitan Ledochowski*. All have sailed to the Antarctic at various times.

Other ships have not been featured on stamps but have serviced collector mail. They include the research vessel *Profesor Bogucki*, active in krill research. Also known are *Zawichost*, *Neptunia*, *Koral* and *Sagitta*, among others.

Arctowski has become a popular destination for Antarctic tourist ships. Covers are known from such ships as the *Lindblad Explorer* and *World Discoverer*.

Poland seems committed to a permanent presence in Antarctica, both on land and sea. As a result, philatelists can continue to look for many new stamps and covers of interest. ■



Figure 2. This Antarctic cover was canceled on the Polish research vessel *Profesor Siedlecki*. The cover also bears a cachet from Arctowski Station and other Antarctic cachets.

NEW MEMBERS

#1404 Zbigniew Zielkiewicz
1764 E. Orange Grove
Pasadena, CA 91104

#1405 John E. Sledz
3341 N. Avers Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618

Many More Years of Successful Activities to the Polish Philatelic Society of Australia

Following the article in our Bulletin #442, a few more words on the 30th Anniversary Souvenir Book, we received from Australia. POLONUS was a PATRON, in addition to many individuals listed on the front page. In over 150 pages, Mr. A. Alwast, showed 30 years of activities of the Polish Philatelic Society of Australia in articles, photos and pictures of souvenirs issued from POLPHIL Exhibitions 1960 to 1986. You can purchase this special souvenir book for \$25.00 including postage, from the Society: Polish Philatelic Society of Australia

Post Office Box 1455/N
Melbourne, Vic. 3001, Australia.

"POLAND" In Other Languages

Polish	Rzeczpospolita Polska, 1918—, Polish Government in Exile, in London, England Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa 1944—1989, Polska Rzeczpospolita - Present Government in Poland.
Albanian	Pollonia
Arabic	Polande
Bulgarian	Polsha
Chinese	Porando
Czech	Polsko
Danish	Polen
Dutch	Polen
German	Polen
Greek	Polonia
Hawaiian	Polani
Hebrew	Polin
Hindu	Poland
Hungarian	Lengyel Orszag
Estonian	Poola
Finnish	Puola
French	La Pologne
Iranian	Lehistan
Irish	An Pholain
Italian	Polonia
Japanese	Porando
Latin	Polonia
Lithuanian	Lenkija
Norwegian	Polen
Portuguese	Polonia
Romanian	Polonia
Russian	Polsha
Serbo-Croat	Poljska
Slovak	Polsko
Swedish	Polen
Spanish	Polonia

Turkish Polonya
Ukrainian Polsha
Yiddish Poyln

Stanley King Visits Chicago

Our member St. K. King of Florida visited Chicago in November during CHICAGOPEX. He lost his wife this year and himself was ill for a while, but is feeling much better. He spent a few days with Fred Szebel, visiting Polish book stores, restaurants, and the PRCUA Museum. We had a great time. Stanley is working on Krakow issues with local experts in Poland.

New Members

#1400 Ardo Vaumund
P.O. Box 44-88-67
D-2800 Bremen 44
Germany

#1401 Janusz Majewski
5062 W. Pensacola Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641

#1402 Teresa Poniecka-Lederer
110 W. Old Elm
Lake Forest, IL 60045

#1403 Leon J. Siemczuch
645 Briar Hill Ln., #1
Addison, IL 60101

Stanley King Visits Chicago

Our member St. K. King of Florida visited Chicago in November, during CHICAGOPEX. He lost his wife this year and himself was ill for a while, but is feeling much better. He spent a few days with Fred Szebel, visiting Polish book stores, restaurants, and the PRCUA Museum. We had a great time. Stanley is working on Krakow issues with local experts in Poland.

New Members

- #1400 Ardo Vaumund
P.O. Box 44-88-67
D-2800 Bremen 44
Germany
- #1401 Janusz Majewski
5062 W. Pensacola Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641
- #1402 Teresa Poniecka-Lederer
110 W. Old Elm
Lake Forest, IL 60045
- #1403 Leon J. Siemczuch
645 Briar Hill Ln., #1
Addison, IL 60101

POLAND NEW ISSUES

Romuald Odrowski



MUSSEL



FRESH WATER SNAIL

Issued July 16, 1990
Designed by J. Brodowski



KATYN 50 th ANNIV.
Issued July 20, 1990
Des.: W. Freudenreich



POLISH METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
Issued July 20, 1990 - Designed by J. Konarzewski



SOLIDARITY 10th ANNIV.
Issued August 31, 1990
Designed by J. Konarzewski



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER
LECH WAŁĘSA
Des. by M. Piekarski



ENDANGERED FLOWERS SERIES (Six values) Designed by A. Balcerzak

Polonus Dues Increased

At a recent Polonus Board Meeting it was voted that membership dues be increased to \$16.00 per year effective January 1, 1991. The amount of \$12.50 is no longer sufficient to cover the rising costs of the Bulletin and operating expenses of the Society.

With this issue of the Bulletin you received a remittance envelope. Please use this convenient form to pay your dues for 1991.

Dr. Rozanski Recipient of Award

The Ministry of Culture and Arts of the Republic of Poland, honored Dr. Edward C. Rozanski for his 50 years of outstanding dedication to preserve Polonica-Americana, memorabilia pertaining to the history of Polonia in the U.S.A.

He and his wife Leocadia, amassed over 140 thousand items. They never were sold, but in turn donated to the Cultural Institutions in Poland, France, Switzerland, Sweden, England and the Vatican. The bulk remained in the United States.

According to the Ministry of Culture, the sponsor of this honor is the Gen. Pulaski Museum in Warka. It designates him to be "Merit Attainment for the Culture of Poland."

Dr. Rozanski is a director of the Polish Museum of America, archivist of the Polish American Congress, and Advisory Board Member of the Illinois State Historical Society. He is also an Honorary Member of Polonus.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ROMAN STRZELECKI, President
7006 West 29th Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

ARKAD'USZ WALINSKI, Vice Pres.
7353 West Estes Street
Chicago, IL 60631

TED KWIECINSKI, Secretary
3 North Forrest Avenue
Arlington Hgts., IL 60004

STEFAN CZARNIECKI, Treasurer
P.O. Box 82
River Grove, IL 60171

FRED SZEBEL, Membership Chrm.
1615 E. Central Rd.
Arlington Hgts., IL 60005

Board of Directors:

AL RYBARSKI
JOSEPH PALECZNY
CHESTER SCHAFFER

Bulletin Editor:

CHESTER SCHAFFER
864 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622

A.P.S. Affiliate #119

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

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