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POLONUS

PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Polonus

web site
www.polonus.org

By: Hank Bierniecki

The basic web site for Polonus (www.polonus.org) is now activated and will be linked to as many Polish and philatelic sites as possible. This site will give our society an efficient and cost effective means of reaching those with interests in Polish philately and polonia. We anticipate that this site will be the key to the growth of our society in the USA, Canada, and Europe. We have recently added members from Argentina, Italy, and England.

We are asking every member who has access to a computer to visit polonus.org, and to send their comments and suggestions via email to biistamp@charter.net, so that we may expand this site to better serve the needs of our current and future members.

At this time visitors to polonus.org have access to the following features:

1. History of Polonus.
2. Polonus Membership Information, as well as ability to download and print out our Membership Application.
3. Index to all Bulletins from #1 to #400.
4. Poland New Issue Information

In 2002, the site will be divided into two parts. The part containing the existing sections will be free to all who visit the site. The following sections as well as other features to be added in the future will be available only to Polonus members who have a valid password.

1. A question and answer forum where members can post questions they have regarding Polish philately, and where any member can post their answers or comments. All members will be able to use this forum to post

questions and comments for Polonus officers and committees. It is anticipated that this feature will significantly improve communications between our geographically dispersed members.

2. A section where duplicate material (more about this in next Bulletin) donated by members to Polonus will be listed for sale to our members. If there is sufficient interest, this section will be expanded to allow our members to post their want lists, and to offer material for sale directly to other members.

If you have access to a computer, please visit this site and send your comments and suggestions to biistamp@charter.org. If you wish to participate in the future development and maintenance of polonus.org, please email your name, email address and phone number so that I may contact you via phone.

CORRESPONDENCE OF POLISH SOLDIERS SERVING IN NATO MISSION IN BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA - PART I

By: Col. Józef Kowalczyk, ret.

Reprinted From Filatelista and Translated by Ernest Kowalczyk

Before treating the main subject, I would like to provide the reader with a short introduction on the circumstances creating NATO military peacekeeping operations in Bosnia Herzegovina.

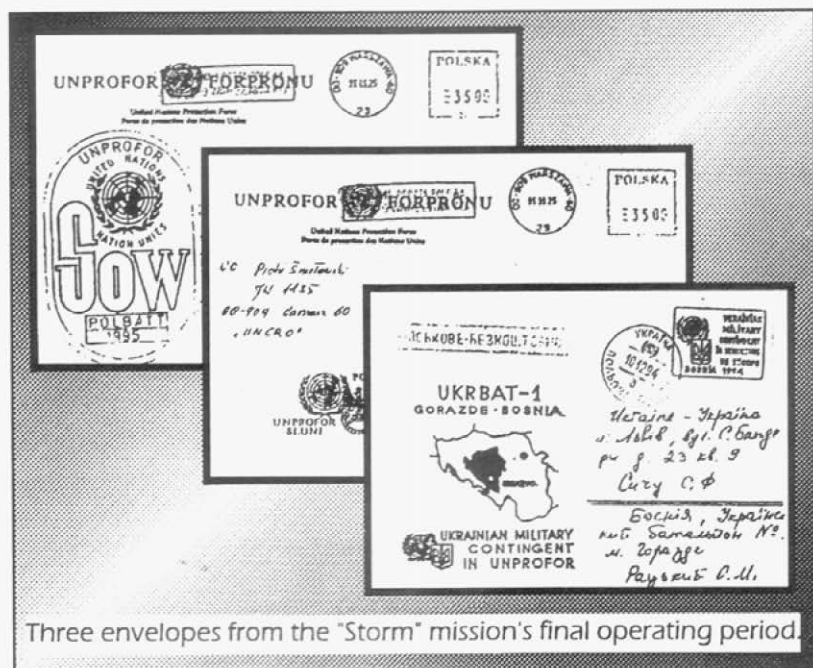
The Balkan War started in 1991. From the very beginning it was condemned by the international community. I doubt whether the community managed to estimate properly in the initial phase of the conflict how it could have been resolved, and how the murders, rapes, and hate, caused by religious and national differences spreading in that part of Europe, could have been prevented.

The sending of Western European Union observers failed after two of them had been murdered. On the strength of the 1992 UN Security Council decision, the UNPROFOR (UN Protection Forces) mission was created in Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina. The mission consisted of ten thousand soldiers including a Polish military contingent.

From the beginning these forces turned out to be insufficient and inefficient as UN soldiers. They carried only personal weapons while their opponent were fully armed with aircraft, artillery, and tanks. Despite the augmentation of the UNPROFOR members to forty thousand in 1995,

and dividing the mission into smaller units, as done by UNCRO in Croatia or UNMiBH in Bosnia Herzegovina, the opposition parties managed to realize their goals without major difficulties. The best example was operation "Storm" carried out by the Croatian Army in August, 1995. The results of that operation were the so called "usurpatory Serb Republic of Krajina" ceased to exist, ethnic purges took place, and 300 thousand Serbs left Croatia heading mainly for Kosovo.

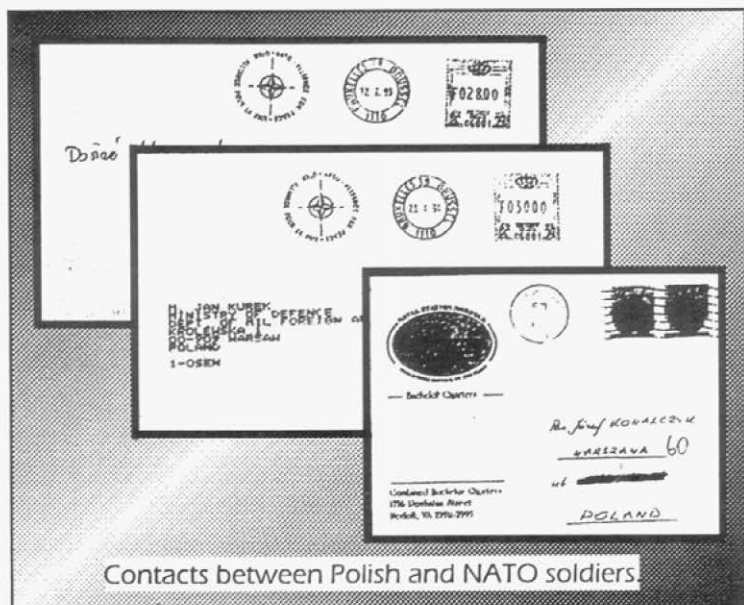
Operation "Storm" revealed the complete helplessness of UN military troops equipped only with personal weapons, their pointless stay in Croatia, and the decision of the Croatian authorities to deny any further assistance from the "Blue Helmets."



Three envelopes from the "Storm" mission's final operating period.

In the Balkans and especially in Bosnia Herzegovina there was no peace. A treaty signed in Geneva on September 8, 1995, as the result of an international mediation created the Federation of Bosnia Herzegovina and the Serb Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina; dividing the country of Bosnia into two separate parts. On September 26, 1995, the Bosnian, Croatian and Yugoslav Ministers of Foreign Affairs created a Contact Group in New York and together with the Western European Union special negotiator, Carl Bildt, worked out a peace treaty. The Dayton Agreement, named for the city of its origin, was signed on November 21, 1995, in

Paris. It consisted of 11 articles and 11 large appendixes. The first addressed military aspects and regional stabilization. The articles included a request to the UN Security Council to create a Multinational Military Implementation Force (IFOR) under NATO command consisting of infantry, navy, and air units. The commanding officer of UNPROFOR was to be replaced by a new IFOR commanding officer. The UN Security Council ended the UNPROFOR mission on November 30 (resolution no. 1026) and accepted decisions of the Dayton Agreement including the creation of IFOR (resolution no. 1031) on December 15.



Contacts between Polish and NATO soldiers.

First official contacts between Polish and NATO soldiers dated back to the beginning of the nineties. After the conclusion of the "Storm" operation, representatives of the Polish MOD negotiated a possible participation of military in the future NATO peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. It was decided that Polish soldiers would take part in the operation as a member of the Multinational Nordic-Polish Brigade together with the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish units. The "NORDPOLBde" was to serve in the American North Sector of IFOR with one American division, an American helicopter brigade, a Russian parachute brigade, and a Turkish brigade. The British were known as the "Northwest" sector and the French were the "South" sector. The commanding officer of the American division was the commander of all

units. The Nordic Support Group (NSG) and the National Support Elements (NSE) supplied the NORDPOLBde from Hungary.

A letter sent by the Supreme European Allied Commander, General George A. Joulwan, to the Polish Ambassador in Brussels, Andrzej Krzeczunowicz, invited Poland to take part in IFOR. In a bilateral decision a Polish battalion prepared to cooperate with NATO was assigned and as a member of the IFOR had to "transfer authority" i.e. command of the unit in a specified area, to a NATO officer.

Experienced in NATO maneuvers, the Sixteenth Airborne Battalion and the Sixth Parachute Brigade became part of the IFOR on December 5, 1995. The Polish Council of Ministers voted on the creation of the Polish Military Contingent of 650 men as part of IFOR in Resolution 141/95. From January 18, to February 5, 1996, these Polish soldiers were transferred from Cracow to Banja Vrucica in Bosnia Herzegovina to execute IFOR mandatory tasks. *(to be continued)*

Zbigniew Korszen Polish Expert- Polonus Member

By: Hank Bieniecki

As you know from Bulletin 505, Dr. Kronenberg passed away in December 2000. Polonus and its membership relied on Stanley for many years to write new articles and to translate from Polish articles that appeared in *Filatelista* and *Filatelistyka*. In addition he provided reliable and reasonable expertising services for Polish philatelic material. His passing created a black hole that will be difficult if not impossible to fill.

We are most fortunate to have as a member of Polonus since 1986, Zbigniew (Ziggy) Korszen, Warsaw, Poland. Korszen has agreed to help the society and its membership by writing articles, helping us procure accurate translations of articles appearing in the Polish philatelic journals as well as to provide discounted expertising services to our membership. Given that he resides in Warsaw, there were some logistical problems that had to be overcome, but practical solutions for safe economical transport and fee payments have been developed.



Background Information:

Zbigniew was born in Lublin in 1961 and joined the Polish Philatelists Union, Lublin in 1978. He moved to Warsaw in 1980 to participate in philatelic activities and pursue his studies for certification by the PZF Commission for expertising. He is now recognized as the foremost expert in Warsaw, and has been qualified by the PZF to expertise all Polish postage stamps, postal stationery, Polish airmails and postal history.

Korszen has authored many philatelic research articles which were published in "The PZF Filatelista"; "The Wroclaw Filatelista"; "Warsaw Philatelic Bulletin"; "Historical Research Philatelic Bulletin" and other Polish philatelic journals. From 1996 to 2000, he was the leader of "Circle Polonia" for PZF which unites philatelists from around the world who collect Polish postage stamps.

He has built a number of collections which have won honors at Polish and foreign exhibitions. A few of these collections are: "Aviation in Poland - 1919-1939" (large vermeil at Atlanta 96), "The Warsaw Town Post 1915-1918, Poland Locals 1918-1920 (large vermeil at Philexfrance 99 and Hafnia 01)"; Revenue Stamps Used In Poland in the 18th and 19th century (vermeil in London 2000). Zbigniew Korszen has been decorated with the Silver Honorary Award of PZF for his contributions to Polish philately and is a member of *Association Internationale Des Journaliste Philateliques*, the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain, and the American Philatelic Society.

Proposed Services To Polonus Membership:

1. Facilitate cooperation with PZF to allow publication of English translations of article that appear in *Filatelista* and in *Filatelistyka*
2. Provide discounted expertising services for Polish philatelic material via procedures established through cooperation with Bieniecki, Int'l, Inc (BII). These arrangements will include provisions for regular periodic registered/insured shipment of philatelic material to Korszen for expertising and payments for those services to BII via check, credit card etc.

While it is understood that no one can take Stanley's place in our hearts, he would be the first to encourage all of us to work to fill the void in services created by his passing. While this is only the first step, I think we will find in time that Ziggy will become an important resource in the pursuit of our common interests. If you have any questions about the expertising services you can email your questions to biistamp@charter.net or call me at (618) 659-1325. 

New Classification of the Oceanic League Proofs (*Liga Morska*), cat. #367, 370

By: JANUSZ BERBEKA, Poznań (*Filatelistyka—Miesięcznik*, May 1999, Pg. 255-258)

In number three of *Filatelistyka* (1991) I published an article entitled "The Oceanic League [*Liga Morska*] Series of 1945 and Its Forgeries". Since that time virtually no mention has been made concerning the stamps of that series (except for two articles about the publications of the Ocean League and an article by W. Wicława).

Since available literature (PZP, catalogues) provides only very general, incomplete, and even erroneous information about the proofs of this series, the following article becomes an attempt at summarizing, tidying, and generally updating our current knowledge on the subject. Research materials were provided by various individuals, among them Lesław Schmutz and Zygmunt Zurek, for whose assistance I am very grateful. The results of this research are based exclusively on materials known to me from my own experience. I am not ruling out the possible existence of other, currently unknown proofs (e.g. coloring) or classifying proofs described in PZP (in fours printed recto-verso), since as of yet I have not seen them.

Current classification of the proofs

The Oceanic League stamps were printed in the postal graphics factories of Łódź. The proofs of this series were made in the *Lublin Chemografia*, a firm located in Lublin on Rybna street #1 - the very same place in which the plates were created for the *Wodzowie* (*Leaders*) issues along with its consequent proofs.

1. Polish postage stamps (*Polskie Znaki Pocztowe*), from pages 328-330, provides the most information about these proofs: 'Proofs of the above-mentioned stamps were made in the Lublin firm *Chemografia*. We know the error prints from the zinc plates which one encounters



Illustration 1



Illustration 2 Illustration 3



Illustration



Illustration 5



Illustration 6



Illustration 7



Illustration 13



Illustration 14



Illustration 15



Illustration 16



Illustration 19



Illustration 20



4



Illustration 8
Proof in light
blue color



Illustration 9
Stamp in
granite color



Illustration 10



Illustration 11



Illustration 17



Illustration 12

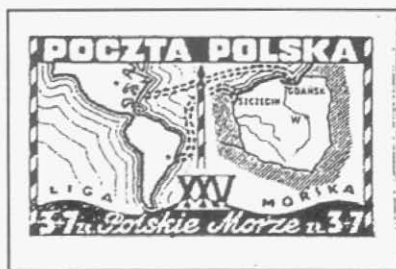


Illustration 17a
The fifth design
which was not ac-
cepted to the
Oceanic League
series
granite color



Illustration 18



Illustration 21

in blocks of four, each of equal value and printed recto-verso. A fifth stamp portraying the oceanic road to America never received approval and is known exclusively from proofs. In addition, we know the black sheet prints on three types of paper: (a) on yellow cardboard paper, value 50 gr. and 2 zl. and 3 + 5 zl.; (b) on illustration paper, 3 + 5 zl.; (c) and on wood paper, with denominations of 1 + 3 zl. and 2 + 4 zl. Non-perforated stamps of each value exist. Also known are non-perforated stamps #369 X in carmine and #370 in a shade of light green, some-times as a double-print.' The authors of PZP fail to mention anything about the color of the proofs in fours printed recto-verso, or the fifth, unapproved stamp.

2. The *Illustrated Catalogue of Polish Stamps* (1972) lists informs and values "proofs and spoilage: non-perforated stamps in normal colors, black non-perforated carmine stamps, 2 + 4 zl., as well as a green 2 + 4 zl. double-print.

3. The *Catalogue of Specialized Postage Stamps from Polish Lands* of 1981, 1985, and 1990 distinguishes five black proofs: '367 P1 on thick yellow paper, 368 P1 on gray-gold paper, 370 P1 on thick yellow paper, and 370 P2 on white paper'.

4. The Fischer catalogues of 1996-98 also distinguish five black proofs, only on different paper: '367 P1, 368 P1, 369 P1, 370 P1 on thick yellow paper, P2 on white paper'.

In illustrations 1-4, the non-perforated (spoiled) *Oceanic League* series (cat. #367-370) is shown. One should approach the data contained within the catalogues critically - including the PZP (though this is a rare exception). Unfortunately, this is exactly what W. Wieclaw didn't do when he mixed, among other things, proofs (including non-existent ones) with non-perforated stamps.

A new classification of proofs

367

P1 black - paper of medium thickness, wood, grayish (X), no gum (#5).

P2 black - cardboard paper, yellowish (Y), no gum (#6).

368

P1 black - paper of medium thickness, wood, grayish (X), no gum (#7).

P2 black - cardboard paper, yellowish (Y), no gum.

P3 light blue - paper of medium thickness (X) as a basic stamp, with gum (#8; proof - see #9 for basic stamp).

P1 black - paper of medium thickness, wood, grayish (X), no gum (#10).

P2 black - cardboard paper, yellowish (Y), no gum.

P3 dark carmine red - paper of medium thickness, wood (X) with gum.

P1 black - paper of medium thickness, wood, grayish (X), no gum (#11).

P2 black - cardboard paper, yellowish (Y), no gum.

P3 black - paper of medium thickness, non-wood, recycled (Z), no gum. On the reverse side of this proof, one can find fragments of a black-and-white photo or raster and fragments of a violet German postmark (#12).

The protective black line appearing on the edge of the form, visible in #6, preserved the edges of the stamps from deformation during the first phase of printing; it was later removed. It has been affirmed that this line first appeared in proofs 367 P2 and 370 P2. The black proofs 367-370 P1 exist in mirror print on the reverse side (#13, 14, 15, 16). These are not, however, separate proofs, but simply erroneously made proofs of the basic proof.

Illustration #17 shows the design of the fifth stamp 3 + 7 zł. (Illustration #17a, on the inside cover, shows a mirror reflection; picture of the stamp by means of electric editing apparatus) - the oceanic road to America, which was not accepted. I have not personally observed this proof and I have only seen a photocopy. Also discussed is the issue of whether this *walor* is actually a proof or simply a design.

Updating catalogue information

The most commonly known proof of an *Oceanic League* stamp is the double-print that appears only non-perforated worth 3 + 5 zł. (#370, see #18).

Also known are perforation errors, which are often observed along perforation lines. #19 shows stamp #370 minus any upper horizontal perforation, #20 a pair of stamps with-out vertical perforation, and #21 a pair of stamps missing a significant portion of vertical perforation.

In order to complete my article about the publications of the *Oceanic League*, I now present the exhibition ticket discussed there



Illustration 22 - Non-perforated stamp in a block of four (#370)

released in 1946 (500 were printed). Except for stamp #406 with a red-violet postmark (the ticket was postmarked in red) "KPSO 46 048", stamp #428 was attached and postmarked with a non-catalogued, black postmark reading "Święto Morza 1947, Szczecin 1, 29 VI 47" without a replaceable date, as well as series 459-461 with postmark #48 045: "Oceanic League mobilizes a nation to accomplish its oceanic plan, Warsaw 1". The ticket is #363.



Illustration 23



Polish Post, Warsaw

VIRGIN MARY FROM RÓŻANYSTOK AND LICHEŃ

The Polish Post issued two stamps from the series of St. Mary Sanctuaries on August 14, 2000:

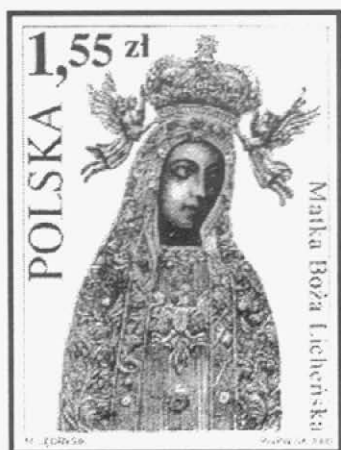
70 gr.: Image of Mary with the Jesus child from St. Mary Offertory Church in Różanystok;

the original painting, made in the 17th century. It was ordered by the



Tyszkiewicz family from Jan Schretter, a painter from Vilnius and a converted Protestant. The picture disappeared during WWI. After the war, Salesian Friars took over Różanystok and ordered a new picture. A painting by Włodzimierz Tur was blessed by Pope Pius XI. Crowning celebrations were held June 28, 1981, with Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the Archbishop of Krakow, attending.

1.55 zł: Image of St. Mary from the church of St. Dorothy in Licheń Stary. It was probably painted during the Bar Confederation in 1772, with



First Day Cancel

oil paints on a larch board. St. Mary has the white eagle on her breast. During WWII the organist hid the painting in Malimiec, in the house of the Counts Kwilecki. It was

restored to the church altar in 1945 where Marian friars cared for the sanctuary. Pope Paul VI issued a decree in November, 1965, in which he announced that this picture, famous for its graces, was

considered to be miraculous and ordered its coronation with the Papal crown. Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, crowned the picture on August 15, 1967.

Designed by Zbigniew Staik and Maciej Jedrysik, these issues were printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. Quantities issued: 70 gr. 3,000,000; 1.55 zł.; 1,800,000.

SOLIDARITY TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The independent, Self Governing Trade Union "Solidarity" was founded in September, 1980, as a result of social disappointment with the deteriorating economic situation under the Communist government. During the second half of 1980 mass workers' riots took the form of strikes organized in small industrial centers and in bigger cities. They reached a peak when a sit-in began in the Gdansk Shipyard on August 13. An Inter Company Strike Committee was formed in Szczecin on August 18. State authorities, forced to take up negotiations, reached agreements with workers on strike. The Gdansk Agreement of August 31 contained the government's consent to create independent trade unions. NSZZ *Solidarność* was established and the National Conciliatory Commission,

chaired by Lech Walesa, was formed during the meeting of representatives of Strike and Foundation Committees in Gdansk on September 17, 1980. Since its birth, the Union was an undesirable phenomenon for authorities of the Peoples Republic of Poland. After the imposition of Martial Law in 1981, it was delegalized. Solidarność continued underground until it was again legalized in April, 1989.



On August 31, 2000, the Polish Post issued a miniature sheet with a 1.65 zł. value, designed by Tomasz Bogusławski, and offset printed on flourescent paper in the quantity of 400,000 copies.

27th OLYMPIC GAMES AT SYDNEY 2000

The 27th Summer Olympic Games were held September 15 to October 1st in Sydney. Ten thousand two hundred sportsmen from 200 countries, including Poland, participated. There were 28 sport categories, with Tae-kwondo and Triathlon included for the first time.



The International



Olympic Committee granted the right to host the games to Sidney in 1993. Australia participated in

the Olympics in 1896 and it took part in all summer games in Athens. This country hosted the 16th Summer Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 for the first time.

Four values, 70 gr., 80 gr., 1.10 zł., and 1.55 zł. were offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. The gr. values were in a 3,200,000 quantity; and zł. values were printed in the quantity of 1,600,000 copies.

WORLD POSTAL DAY

Four values: 70 gr., 80 gr., 1.10 zł., and 1.55 zł. were issued October 9, 2000, for the occasion of World Postal Day. Children from elementary



First Day Cancel



schools competed with original designs. Those selected were: 70 gr. Tomasz Wistuba; 80 gr. Katarzyna Chrzanowska; 1.10 zł. Joanna Żbik; 1.55 zł. Katarzyna Łonak.

Offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. Quantities issued: 70 gr. 2,800,000; 80 gr. 2,900,000; 1.10 zł. 1,500,000; 1.55 zł. 1,400,000.

POLISH PHILATELIC UNION 100th ANNIVERSARY

A 1.55 zł. miniature sheet was issued October 13, 2000, for the event. The Polish Philatelic Union was founded in 1950 at the initiative of philatelic clubs in Kraków, Warsaw and Wrocław. The first known association of



First Day Cancel



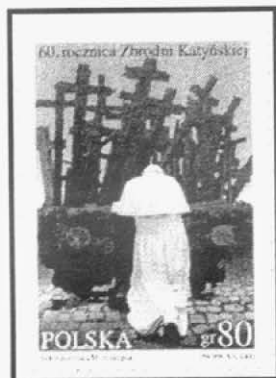
philatelists was founded in Belgium in the early 1850's. "Polski Klub Filatelistyczny" started January 6, 1893, in Kraków. Designed by Robert Konrad and offset printed on fluorescent paper in a quantity of 350,000.

KATYŃ 60th ANNIVERSARY

Two values, a 70 gr. with a priest standing by a cross and an 80 gr. with Pope John Paul II at the monument of crosses in Muranów,



First Day Cancel



Warsaw, were issued November 15, 2000; designed by Janusz Wysocki. Offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheets of 20. Quantities: 70 gr. 3,800,000; 80 gr. 4,000,000.

UPCOMING Mailings!

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