

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Poland holographic butterfly stamp

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

Poland has issued the first animated and holographic postage stamp in conjunction with Philanippon 91, an international stamp exhibition held November 16-24, in Tokyo, Japan.

The stamp depicts a butterfly whose wings appear to flap when one keeps changing the angle of incidence of light. While the wings of the butterfly flap, they keep changing their vivid iridescent colors.



The stamp in Poland's Philanippon 91 souvenir sheet has a holographic image of a butterfly with wings that flap.

This effect is achieved using a hologram. Previous holographic stamps and postal envelopes were made to achieve a three-dimensional image. Using this approach for a two-dimensional image that moves is a postal first.

The animated stamp with a face value of 15,000 zlotych (U.S. \$1.35) is in a souvenir sheet. The sheet also contains a perforated label with the Philanippon 91 emblem.

In addition, Poland issued six se-tenant stamps for the international show. All these stamps depict butterflies from the collection of the Polish Academy of Science, Institute of Zoology, in Warsaw.

To encourage private enterprise, the Polish government entered into a contract with private parties in Poland to produce the holographic

Butterfly issue.

It was recognized that the production capability for a holographic stamp did not exist in Poland. Therefore, the Polish firm was allowed to subcontract the production elements outside of Poland.

In an example of capitalism, it was the responsibility of the Polish firm and its subcontractors to deliver the design and to solve all production and financial problems. Several firms in the United States contributed to the final product.

The issue was designed by Ovidiu Opresco of Ovidiu Opresco Studios in New York entirely on a Macintosh computer. The software used was Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Separator.

The stamps were printed and perforated by Specialty Printers of America in Scranton, PA.

The two-channel, full-spectrum hologram was mastered by Light Impressions, Inc. in California.

The holographic foil was produced by Transfer Print Foil in New Jersey, and the holographic image was transferred from the plastic foil on paper using heat and pressure by Letterhead Press of Wauwatosa, Wis.

The souvenir sheet and the six Butterfly stamps were issued Nov. 16. First-day services took place both in Poland and Japan.

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POLPEX 92 COMMITTEES

Chairman Fred Szebel announced that the following members make up the Exhibition Committee for POLPEX 92 scheduled for March 27-28-29 at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois:

Entries	Arkadiusz Walinski
Art ...	Leon Kawecki, Chester Schafer, Fred Szebel
Sales	Al and Fran Rybarski
Set-Up	Stanley Dobrzycki and Ted Sokolowski
Program Catalog	Chester Schafer
Ads & Patrons	Al Rybarski

We have a dual theme for the Polpex this year: the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus and Jan of Kolno, a Polish sailor in the service of the King of Denmark, who reached the coast of America just sixteen years before Columbus.

There will be a class for exhibits pertaining to Columbus, ship mail, Port Gdansk and the sea. The show is open also to general exhibits and Poland, U.S. and Foreign.

A special cancellation is being designed by artist Leon Kawecki of California to be used by the post office operating at our show.

Columbus medals have been ordered from the Gravarte Mint in Lisbon, Portugal which will be given as awards.

For entry applications write to entries chairman A. Walinski, 7353 W. Estes Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631.

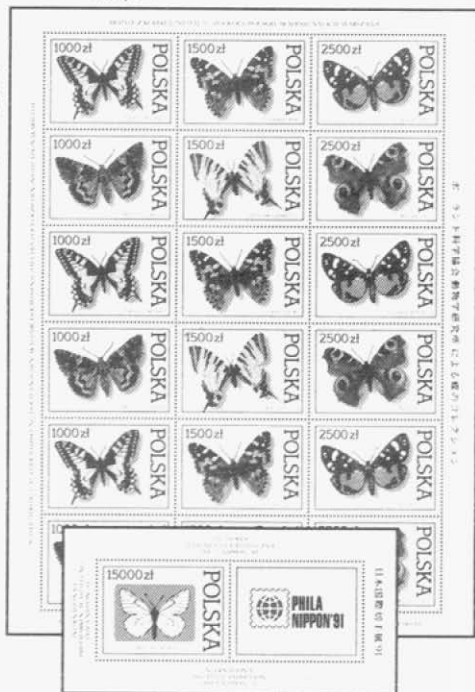
With every Polpex we publish a program catalog with a list of the exhibits, philatelic and historical articles, ads, patrons and well wishers. We appeal to members to have their names listed as Patrons and Well Wishers in this program, listing your preference in the enclosed self-addressed reply envelope. Your donation will help defer the expenses of Polpex.



POLAND continues its history making tradition...



ACTUAL SIZES: Mini-Sheet: 178mm x 238mm • Souvenir Sheet: 127mm x 63mm



POLAND is the first country in Eastern Europe to produce a HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE on a Postage Stamp. This beautiful Butterfly Hologram is integrated into a 5 color Souvenir Sheet honoring Japan's PHILA NIPPON '91.

For the first time, WORLDWIDE, a sophisticated 2 Channel, Full Spectrum Butterfly Hologram is integrated into a valid postage stamp. As a result the butterfly's wings appear to move in flight.

To compliment this Holographic Butterfly Souvenir Sheet, POLAND also issued 6 se-tenant Butterfly Stamps in a 5 color Mini Sheet of 3 full sets. This issue was created by noted designer, Ovidiu Opresco, using the latest computer imaging techniques to produce exquisitely detailed and entomologically correct Butterflies.

Both the S/S and M/S contain English, German, Japanese and Polish Text in their selvage. This highly thematic issue is limited, as only 2 Million Souvenir Sheets and 835,000 Mini-Sheets are to be issued.

TERMS OF SALE

	MINT	FDC
Hologram Souvenir Sheet.....	\$5.00	\$6.00
Butterfly Mini-Sheet	\$5.50	N/A
Se-tenant Butterfly Set (6)	\$2.00	\$3.00

U.S. ORDERS: Payment with order. Mastercard & Visa accepted for orders of \$25.00 or more. Add Postage & Fees based on amount of order as follows: Up to \$25 (\$1.50) • \$25-\$101 (\$2.50) • \$101-\$250 (\$4.00).

FOREIGN ORDERS: Bank Cheque with order. Mastercard & Visa accepted. Add appropriate payment for Airmail Postage & Fees.



ASDA • POLONUS • APS

FAX: (618) 451- 6066
PHONE: (618) 451- 9616

Political Polonicum

By JERZY TOKAR

Shown is a fragment of a letter mailed in Chicago on August 25, 1944. It is franked with two three cent stamps "Win the War" (Scott no. 905) and has an additional rubber stamp: "There Must Be NO / PARTITION / of POLAND" in a frame imprinted in lilac ink.

One should keep in mind that in August 1944 it was already known that lands of the 2nd Polish Republic located east of the river Bug (lands around Vilno, Polesie, Volynia and Eastern Galicia) would be incorporated into the Soviet Union on demand by Stalin with the concurrence by Roosevelt and Churchill. The Polish Exile Government in London and Polish Communities abroad disagreed with that decision.



Thus the shown rubber stamp was a form of a protest against the decision by the three allied powers, particularly against the position of the U.S.A. and Great Britain which was considered to be treasonous toward Polish interest and disloyal toward Polish Armed Forces in the West whose soldiers were sacrificing their blood in the common fight against Hitler's Germany. A considerable part of these soldiers were natives of those Eastern lands. Therefore the postmark under discussion has a strong political propaganda character whose purpose was to influence the opinion of the American People.

There remains the question: who applied this additional rubber stamp? Most likely it is not a postal mark but, according to philatelic classification, a private mark used on correspondence sent by some Polish organization in Chicago, or perhaps by several organizations. If this mark were available on an entire cover instead only on a cover fragment one could make conclusions easier. I own this cover fragment for many years. It appears that a cover with this mark was brought to Poland from the West soon after the end of World War II, and after its fragment was saved, it was destroyed fearing repressions during the Stalin Era. This is evident from the careful removal of all parts of the address.

Perhaps colleagues in "Polonus" can be able to explain who applied this mark and through what period.

Translated from the Polish by Stanley Kronenberg.



Photo of the Jan Witkowski Medal awarded to Dr. Stanley Kronenberg for his outstanding contribution to Poland's philatelic literature by the Poland Chapter of the German Philatelic Society.

MARIE CURIE EXHIBIT in MONTREAL CENTER

Post House, a philatelic, exhibition and resource center in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, is exhibiting a collection of postage stamps honoring scientist Marie Curie. The exhibit will be at the museum through the end of February. The museum also is offering a special cancellation depicting Curie.

Curie has been featured on more than 80 postage stamps, more than any other scientist in her field. Her husband, Pierre, also has appeared on several stamps. The Curies discovered the chemical elements of radium and polonium.

The stamps on exhibit are from the collection of Richard Gratton, president of the Quebec Philatelic Federation.

Among the rare and beautiful items in Gratton's collection are a surcharged souvenir sheet from Curie's native country, Poland; a French maximum card that was given to participants of an international meeting commemorating the discovery of radium; a souvenir sheet with three different cancellations from a 1967 stamp exhibition in Paris; luxury proof sets from Djibouti; and the French colony semipostal series from 1938 with surcharges that went for cancer research.

The Post House is located at 1035 Saint-Jacques St. in Montreal. Its hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Saturdays.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1992 ARE PAYABLE NOW!!

Polonus membership dues for 1992 are now payable. In order to meet payments of our meeting hall rent, the printing and mailing costs of our bi-monthly bulletin, and other operating expenses, we urge you to make your annual contribution.

With this bulletin we enclose a self-addressed reply envelope. Your prompt response will be greatly appreciated.

—Stefan Czarniecki, Treasurer

A horse for the royal chamberlain

By RYSZARD Z. PODDUBIUK

"Bring forth the horse!" — the horse was brought;
In truth, he was a noble steed.

Lord Byron, *Mazeppa*

Anyone interested in Polish postal history, will tell you that its beginnings go back as far as the transportation services of King Boleslaw Chrobry (Boleslaw the Valliant), known in Polish as "podwojny." However you will be looking in vain for letters carried by Boleslaw Chrobry's podwojny. The reasons are simple enough. In the 10th century Europe, literacy was limited to a very few and most if not all messages, carried by royal messengers, were verbal.

When did the first letters appear in Poland? There is no easy answer to that question. Stanislaw Kutrzeba, an eminent Polish historian specializing in the history of development of Polish law, mentions the existence of a letter from the 11th century Polish king, Boleslaw Smialy (Boleslaw the Bold) but I am not sure if this letter survived the last two world wars. Perhaps, rather than trying to locate and identify the first Polish letter by examining possible sources of correspondence from the 10th century onward, we should start in our own times and look back.

I am sure every collector of Poland has 20th century Polish covers since they are inexpensive, easy to acquire and often very attractive. The situation changes when we look at the 19th century, sometimes called a classic period of philately, and by implication, postal history. While the material here is still plentiful, it is getting more scarce and with some letters, particularly those bearing the first stamps of Poland, Russia, Austria and Prussia being fairly rare and quite expensive.

18th century Polish letters are few and far between. In a 1984 article in the "Polonus Bulletin" I have suggested that probably less than a thousand 18th century letters survive outside major archives. Since then I have located over a hundred of them but that has not changed my opinion as to the total probable number and nobody has challenged me as yet. However, it is always possible that the contents of some private archives will surface and upset my speculations.

How many of you have seen 17th century Polish letters? Probably not many. I have searched very hard and succeeded in seeing perhaps a few dozen.

16th Century?? Still less.

Imagine then my excitement, when three and a half years ago, at CAPEX 87, I spotted a document described as the letter of King Wladyslaw Jagiello, tucked away in a postal history exhibit of Czechoslovakia. Its description stated that it was possibly carried by Fuggers' private post which may have operated between Cracow and Venice at the time. The letter, dated May 25th, 1499, fascinated me, the more so because Wladyslaw Jagiello, the first Lithuanian on the Polish throne died 65 years earlier.

After CAPEX, I got in touch with Mr. Paul H. Jensen, the owner of this beautiful exhibit and with his most helpful and friendly assistance

found most of the answers to questions that had occurred to me. The letter turned out to have the signature of Wladyslaw II Jagiellon, King of Bohemia and Hungary, grandson of Wladyslaw II Jagiello.

Wladyslaw II Jagiellon was born on March 1st, 1456 in Cracow. His parents were Casimir Jagiellon, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, and Elizabeth of Austria. He was educated under the tutelage of Jan Dlugosz, a prominent Polish scholar and historian. At the age of fifteen, he was elected King of Bohemia by the assembly of nobles in Kutna Hora and nineteen year later, elected King of Hungary by Hungarian nobles. The second crown did not come easily; he had to fight off an attempt by his own brother, Jan Olbracht, King of Poland, to take the Hungarian crown from him. Unfortunately, he wielded little power within his two kingdoms. His willingness to give in to all demands of his nobles earned him the ironic nickname "rex bene." He died in Buda on March 13th, 1516, and within ten years, after the death of his only son Louis, both crowns went to the Hapsburgs.

The image shows a handwritten document in an old script, likely Czech with Latin interjections. It is signed 'Wladyslaw Jagiello' and dated '1499'. The text is written in a cursive hand typical of the late 15th century. There are some corrections and additions in the text.

From the middle of the 15th century the House of the Fuggers had a private postal line running monthly from Venice to Cracow. There is a faint possibility that this letter may have been carried on this line. The obvious explanation, however, is that this was really a money order carried by hand to the Royal Mint. The letter is personally signed by King Wladislaw Jagello "the Sabbath before Trinity in Our 10th Year of Government in Hungary and the 29th in Bohemia. This works out to be the 25th May 1499.

The letter itself is in a form of a money draft, written in what appears to be old Czech with the usual sprinkling of Latin. It's addressed to "high born" Bohus Kostka of Postupice, Lord Mayor of Kutna Hora and authorizes a payment of 30 Bohemian Schocks to "high born" Burian of Lichtenberg and Bietow, a Royal Chamberlain, for the purchase of a horse.

Unfortunately, there is nothing to indicate that the letter was carried by Fuggers and strictly speaking it turned out not to be a Polish letter. Nevertheless, it is still an interesting early item of postal history with historic links to Poland.

Have you seen or do you own any 15th century Polish letters? Or earlier? I am still searching!

☆ ☆ ☆

I would like to thank Mr. Michael Madesker, General Manager of CAPEX 87 and in particular Mr. Paul H. Jensen, Norwegian postal history collector, without whose assistance this article could not have been written.

STAMPS TO LOOK FOR and STAMPS TO AVOID

A PHILATELIC SURVEY

By J.M.S. KALUSKI, P.P.F. London, Member

1.1. 1925: NATIONAL FUND (Na Skarb)



S.G. Nos. 230-40 - P.Z.P. Nos. 194-204

100,000 sets were ordered but actually 105,000 of 10 Gr., 20 Gr. and 50 Gr. and 115,000 of other values were issued. Cat. values at £. 215 per M or U set. Individual stamps: used are more expensive but the 40 Gr. + 50 Gr. M. is the rarest value (£. 65). I am still puzzled, why? At the then prevailing Postal Tariff, the Registered Letter was 30 Gr. (up to 20 grams), then 15 Gr. for each additional multiple of 20 grams.

10.9. 1925 - AIR MAIL ISSUE.

S.G. Nos. 252-60 - P.Z.P. Nos. 216-24:

The mint set now valued at £40 Mint and 20 Used. In 1935 those stamps were extensively forged, against collectors, in order to provide material for "Air Issue" packets. In the 1970's such forgeries were fetching around £. 20, which was twice the value of genuine stamps. Incidentally - all cancellations on forgeries were also forged, showing only a fraction of cancellation but if lucky one may recognize forged handwriting of POZNAŃ.

Genuine covers bearing air-mail stamps command at least 150% premium above the stamps' values.



Editor's Note:

Reprinted from the "Polish Philatelic Review", the official bulletin of the Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain. Prices are quoted in English pounds with U.S. value about \$1.80 per pound. The initials "S.G." stand for Britain's Stanley Gibbons catalog, while the "P.Z.P." numbers are Poland's equivalent.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Among our members there
are those — who complain,
and those — who blame
and those — who act.



IN OUR MAIL BOX

Dear Editor:

I am completing a booklet on the Polish Second Provisional Issue (PP/GGW) and would appreciate any information on the following:

- 1) Specific provisional cancels on covers. For example, Kutno in a large circle.
- 2) Specific provisional registration marks as well as regular registration marks on cover.
- 3) Specific German cancelers used and modifications thereto, if any.
- 4) Other markings on covers bearing stamps of this issue.
- 5) Any literature concerning any of the above.

Xerox copies, photographs, or descriptions would be most helpful.

You may correspond with me directly. My address is 2330 Chalet Drive, Columbia Heights, MN 55421-2057.

— Conrad P. Straub, Ph. D.

NEW POSTAL RATES IN POLAND

According to the newspaper "Gazeta Wyborcza" nr. 201(670)W of 8-29-91, page 1, new postal rates were set by the PTT (administration) for the post, telegraph and telephone enterprise) to cover the rising cost of operation. As of September 1, 1991 a local letter costs 1000 zlotys (up from 700 zl.), an out-of-town letter 1500 zl., and a registered letter 2000 zl. A 1000 zl. stamp is required for mailing of a domestic postcard.



An air mail letter to the U.S. (shown above) mailed October 8th, 1991 was franked with two 1700 zl. stamps. Unfortunately, no rates were given for mail going abroad.

— Edward D. Wolski

NEW MEMBERS

Hans Vogels #1423

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5671 AE. Nuenen
Netherlands

Norbert J. Walczak #1424

1220 Ponderosa Dr.
Erie, Penna. 16509

IN OUR MAIL BOX

Alatri, 5 December, 1991

Polonus Bulletin:

I'm a young stamp collector and I'm a member of the Polish Philatelic Federation in Great Britain.

I received your address from Mr. Wojciech Tuz from Varsovia. The following cancels are of interest to me:

1. Buenos Aires, 16-5-1969, 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino.

2. Orchard Lake U.S., August 6, 1984 with the ruins of Monte Cassino and the writing: "Victory in Unity."

I'm willing to buy them or exchange them for other philatelic material about the Battle of Monte Cassino.

I hope you can find them. Waiting your news, I send you my best greetings.

Petricca Filippo
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POLONUS BULLETIN RECEIVES AWARD

At the November 2nd meeting, held at CHICAGOPEX 91 at the O'Hare Expo Center in Rosemont, IL, Polonus was honored by the presentation of a medal and diploma from the Polish Philatelic Federation (Polski Związek Filatelistów, Krakow) to the editor of the Polonus Bulletin for the continuous publication and enrichment of Poland's philately. The presentation was made by Fred Szebel who just returned from Poland after a meeting with members of the PZF.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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

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