



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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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

I am pleased to report that SLSE 2012 proved to be a successful venue for Polonus. We exceeded expectations in the number of frames entered in the exhibition and in the number of members who attended the show. The Society News section of this issue covers the highlights of this event together with the Palmares results, the President's Report, and the Financial Report for 2011. Overall, a good time was had by all and we look forward to our next Annual Meeting and Exhibition at NAPEX 2013 on 31 May – 2 June, 2013. It is not too soon to plan your trip to the Washington, DC area and to start or fine-tune your exhibit.

The coming year will represent a challenge for our Society. We will be completing the three-year term of office for the Directors and Officers, with elections to be concluded at our NAPEX 2013 meetings. The specific challenge I refer to is the willingness of the membership to get involved and become a part of the succession plan for the Society. Please take a moment to read Hank Bieniecki's article, "Preserve Polonus for the Future – Volunteer Your Time" in which he discusses volunteering as a key to the sustainability of our Society. Consider this a "must read".

If you have opted for the "digital version" (vs. the printed version) Bulletin, please note that you must be a Registered Website User and Login whenever you want to access the Digital Bulletins, as well as, other "Members Only" sections of our website. To become a Registered Website User, click on the **Registration** button under the Polonus logo on the home page and complete the on-line registration application. Members who opt for the Digital Bulletins receive an e-mail alert when the new issues are uploaded onto the website. Let us know if you experience any difficulty.

Featured on the cover of this issue is a unique pair of the Second Lublin provisionals with a double overprint error, subject for our Gems of Polish Philately article by Dr. James Mazepa. Check your collection of Second Lublin provisionals to see if you have any of these gems.

Study Group (POW Camps) leader, Roman Sobus, provides an interesting account of the "Rejected Neubrandenberg Essay" and the story behind the Polish celebration on February 10th. Were you aware that on February 10, 1920, General Haller reached the Baltic Sea at the resort town of Puck and commemorated Poland's marriage with the Baltic, which had been interrupted for 148 years due to partitioning?

Another very interesting part of Poland's history is revealed in an article by Piotr Pelczar. "Private Issue Correspondence Card from the Warsaw Uprising" provides the reader with a glimpse of how the Varsovians communicated during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Polish scouts not only were called upon to participate in the fighting but also to process and deliver the mail during this 63-day struggle.

Read the ABC's of Polish Philately article on "Gregorian/Julian Calendars" for a refresher in how to interpret dates when covers and/or documents use both calendars as reference.

This issue contains the seventh in a series of articles by Jan Niebrzydowski based upon his collection of letters and cards addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska. "Polish Air Force in Great Britain 1940-1947" is the first of a two part article that brings you close to the action, especially with the celebrated "Kosciuszko 303 Squadron".

New member, Myron Kavalgian, offers a case study of how he got hooked on collecting Poland. As we have stated in the past, our goal with the Bulletin is to provide a range of information that will serve the full spectrum of Poland collectors, from beginners to experts. This article, "A New Adventure – How I Started a Poland Collection" represents one of the many ways in which one can begin collecting Poland.

If you have any comments on the Bulletin content or any facet of our Society, please send me an e-mail or note. I would be most interested and appreciative of any feedback you provide.

SLSE 2012 Highlights

By: Bob Ogrodnik

The Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel was the site for the Saint Louis Stamp Expo 2012 on this past March 16th – 18th. Overall attendance at the show was less than expected, however, the attendance by Polonus members, including new members, reached 30 and exceeded our expectations. All parts of the country were represented by attending members, including Poland and Canada. A total of six new members signed-on during the show. Key meeting points for our members were: the Society Table, the Annual Membership Meeting, the Member Reception, the Awards Banquet, and the popular hospitality room.



Polonus Society Table with eager attendants (L-R) Grochowski, Puchala and Mazepa

As a “Convening Society” of the show there is an obligation to commit a certain number of exhibit frames from the membership. Our commitment was 60 and we exceeded it with a total of 72, or 38% of the total 200 frames entered. This was an outstanding response that was well appreciated by the show organizers and, I am sure, by the visitors who came to enjoy the exhibits. Palmares results and more details about the exhibits of Poland-related material can found on page 8 of this issue.



Polonus President Ogrodnik (L) presenting Gold Medal to Kostka (R)

Another highlight was the Annual Membership Meeting at which the President’s Report was presented, supplemented by the Directors and Committee Chairs attending. Copies of this report were distributed to the membership in attendance and a copy of the report can also be found in this issue. 2011 was a good year, as reflected by this report, with a nice improvement in our financial position, enhancement of our website, resumption of our expertizing program, increases in membership and great participation by exhibitors at our Annual Exhibitions. The one sour note was the very poor response to our “call for volunteers”. More on this critical matter can also be found in this issue.



Polish Specialist working the bourse (L-R) Rudnicki, Borowski, Grochowski and Wrzosek (seated)

Society News (cont.)

A presentation on "Collecting Poland...A Philatelic Adventure" was delivered by Dr. James Mazepa to an audience that was open to all attending the show. This proved to be a very interesting and insightful look at why Poland represents such a variety of collecting possibilities. This presentation started with the stampless period and worked chronologically through the "partition years" to Poland #1, the occupation period, town posts, Central Lithuania, Free City of Gdańsk, Plebiscites, etc. etc. Based upon the reception from the audience, this topic will be addressed at future shows with the goal of luring more collectors to become interested in Poland.

On the lighter side, the hospitality suite at the hotel proved once again to be the most popular gathering location for members at the show. Well stocked with beverages and snacks, including żubrówka and kobanos, members were able to network, make new or renew old acquaintances, and in general, relax in a congenial atmosphere.



Enjoying refreshment at the Polonus Hospitality Suite (L-R) Kupiec-Weglinski and Ginsburg

The climax to the 3-day event was the Awards Banquet at which our Chairman Dr. James Mazepa was honored as the guest speaker for the event. Jim kept the evening moving with stories of his experiences in philately and with a sense of humor to entertain the audience.

A list of the awards granted to the exhibitors of Polish-related material is covered on page 8. Of the thirteen exhibitors, twelve are Polonus members.



Guest Speaker Mazepa at the Awards Banquet

I want to thank all who helped make this year's Polonus participation at a National Philatelic Exhibition a success and I want to remind you that next year's Annual Membership Meeting and Exhibition will be at NAPEX 2013 in McLean, Virginia, on 31 May – 2 June, 2013.



At the Polonus Reception (L-R) Mazepa, Cwiakala, and Wrzosek

President's Report Polonus Annual Meeting – March 17, 2012 SLSE 2012 – St. Louis, Missouri

This is the 10th Anniversary of our Annual Meeting & Exhibition format and, as I complete the second year and final three-year term as your President, I am pleased to report that Polonus continues to thrive as a viable philatelic non-profit organization. In fact, we are stronger today than at any time in the past decade. The generous response by our membership to the annual appeal for tax-deductible contributions along with dues payments not only strengthens the financial health of the Society, but it provides us with a vote of confidence that we are on the "right track" relative to the programs that our Society offers.

Now for a summary of the 2011 highlights:

- Our financial position has improved in 2011 due to income exceeding expense by \$10,305.90 and resulting in a year-end cash balance of \$12,670.81. This improvement is due in large part to two non-recurring entries:
 - 1) A \$1,000 restricted contribution by a member for the development of a Monograph on POW Camp Graphics
 - 2) A \$5,887 transfer of funds from the Chicago Chapter of Polonus

Looking ahead to 2012, our projected income will slightly exceed expense resulting in a higher year-end cash balance. Through 3 March 2012, our cash balance was \$17,009 comparing favorably with the prior year's balance of \$7,924. At this time of the year our cash balance is usually at the highest for the year due to income leading expense (dues and contributions).

- The Polonus Bulletin is one of the major benefits of membership and I am pleased to report that we not only continue to deliver a quality Bulletin on-time but we have successfully launched a "digital version" accessible to "**Members Only**" on our website. In 2011, 29% of our membership opted for the "digital version" Bulletin and in 2012, the trend appears to be increasing with 32% of the early returns opting for the "digital version" Bulletin.
- In 2011 we adopted a new dues structure recognizing the increases in postage and the benefit of distributing our Bulletin via the internet ("digital version") vs. via the mails ("printed version"). In addition, we introduced and encouraged tax-deductible contributions in order to support existing and new programs. I am pleased to report that over 40% of our members made contributions in 2011, totaling over \$2800. Thus far in 2012, over 50% of our members are adding a tax-deductible contribution.
- Membership as of this date totals 221, of which 46 are located in 10 countries outside the USA and 175 are located in 31 states within the USA.

The 221 membership as of March 2012 is a net gain of 15 over the 206 reported at the beginning of 2011. In that same period of time, we welcomed a total of 26 new members but lost 11 resulting in the +15.

(continued on page 7)

Society News (cont.)

Our website appears to be the main channel for developing new members. As a global organization, this will be key in our future development. The tri-fold pamphlet is also an excellent tool in recruiting new members and we encourage use of this promotional tool by our members, especially among the local clubs and stamp shows.

- Our performance as a “featured” or “convening” Philatelic Society at major stamp shows has been exemplary and our reputation among show organizers is excellent. This means that we can enjoy the privilege of choosing the shows at which we are “featured”. I want to thank our membership for the support at shows, especially in the following areas: exhibiting, attendance, staffing the Society Table, and participation in Polonus and Show meetings and events.

In 2013, we will be featured at NAPEX in McClean, Virginia on 31 May – 2 June. In 2014, we celebrate our 75th Anniversary as a Philatelic Society at CHICAGOPEX on 21 – 23 November. As Chicago is where Polonus has its origin, this show should be on everyone’s “must attend” list. In 2015, we will be in Los Angeles for SESCAL on 2-4 October. In 2016, we go to New York City for the International Show of the Decade and in 2017, we return to San Francisco for WESTPEX. This schedule will be presented in our upcoming Bulletin and in our website.

- I am pleased to report that our Expertizing service has been enhanced to facilitate the administration of the process. This program is the only professional expertizing service for Polish philatelic material in North America and another value added benefit for Polonus membership. Zbigniew Korszen, Expert of the Polish Philatelic Union, continues to serve as the primary expert in this program.
- The Polonus Website is another of the major benefits of membership and I am pleased to report that several enhancements have been made this past year, such as, an online user registration capability, a “My Account” menu item for members to check their user data, an expansion of useful links, and an expansion of the number of exhibits available for viewing. We are certain that the Polonus Website represents the communication technology of the future and is a key, not only to attracting collectors to Polish philately but, to recruit and build a global membership organization. Hence, this program is an ongoing work-in-process and many more enhancements will be forthcoming. We encourage our members to visit www.polonus.org frequently.
- One of the disappointments this past year was the poor response to a “Volunteer Survey”. Fewer than 3% of the membership returned the survey form. What is at stake here is the sustainability of the organization. As a non-profit organization with minimal cash balances, we are dependent upon volunteers for the leadership and for the work required within the programs that benefit the entire Society. Next year is an election year for Polonus and a priority challenge for the current leadership is to outreach the membership and find the volunteers willing to carry-on the work of the Society.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their contribution towards the accomplishments reported and look forward to working with all towards continued success and philatelic enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Ogradnik

Polish Exhibits Dominate at SLSE 2012

The turn-out by Polonus exhibitors at the recent Saint Louis Stamp Expo 2012 exceeded expectations, with over one-third of the exhibits and frames showcasing Poland-related material. Thirteen exhibitors entered 16 of a total 42 exhibits, representing 72 of a total 200 frames, of Polish philatelic material. Listed below is a summary of awards granted to the thirteen exhibitors, as presented in the SLSE 2012 Palmares.

Frank M. Wiatr received the Bieniecki Award for his exhibit, "Fortress Krakau 1914-1918". This is the Polonus Grand Award given to the best multi-frame exhibit. In addition to receiving SLSE and Polonus Gold Medals, he received the American Philatelic Society Award (for the 1900-1940 period), the Posthorn Medal from the Postal History Society, and the Military Postal History Society Award.

Dr. Ross Marshall received the President's Award for his exhibit, "Poland – First Official Stamp Issue 1920". This is the Polonus Award given to the best one-frame exhibit. In addition, he received Polonus Gold and SLSE Vermeil Medals.

Wiesław Kostka received SLSE and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, "Kingdom of Poland – Study of Rates for Stampless Mail 1815-1871". He also received SLSE Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for exhibit, "Postmarks of the Eastern Territories of the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1871".

Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski received SLSE and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, "The Siege of Przemyśl (1914-1915)".



Following the Awards' Banquet (L – R) Kupiec, Kugel, Mazepa, Kostka, Phillips, Sobus, Peter, Ogrodnik, Karwoski and Grochowski

Alfred F. Kugel received SLSE Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, "Polish Forces in Exile During & Following World War II". He also received SLSE and Polonus Silver Medals for his one-frame exhibit, "The Polish Post Office in the Free City of Danzig 1925-1939".

Dzintars Grinfelds received SLSE Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, "The Republic of Central Lithuania".

Harold E. Peter received SLSE Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his exhibit, "Köslin (Koszalin) – A Prussian (Polish) City in Pommerenia". He also received a Bronze Medal from the German Philatelic Society.

Andrew Urushima received SLSE Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his one-frame exhibit, "The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born & Woldenberg". He also received the American Philatelic Society Award (for the 1940-1980 period).

Marcus I. Meyerotto received SLSE Vermeil and Polonus Gold Medals for his one-frame exhibit, "Im-printed Telegram Receipts of Poland".

Bob Ogrodnik received SLSE and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, "Battle of Grunwald Commemorated by Polish Philately". He also received the AAPE – Gold (American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors) for this exhibit. In addition, he received SLSE and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, "First Polish Airmail Issue After WWII". He also received the Women Exhibitors Award (WE) for this exhibit.

Roman Sobus received SLSE and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, "Lwów 1917-1941 – The City of the Lion as Part of the Second Polish Republic".

Frank Karwoski received SLSE and Polonus Silver Medals for his exhibit, "Nicolaus Copernicus – How His Solar System Transformed Astronomy". He also received the American Topical Association First Award for this exhibit.

Regis Hoffman received SLSE and Polonus Silver Medals for his one-frame exhibit, "Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II".

Financial Report for 2011:

Cash Balance

From all accounts – January 1, 2011.....\$ 2,364.91

Income

Membership dues.....	5,702.50
Donations.....	3,962.50
Sales.....	869.20
Transfer of funds (Chicago).....	5,887.06
	16,421.26

Expense

Bulletin print & prep.....	3,517.10
Website & database.....	485.00
Exhibitions	710.47
Membership related.....	96.69
Postage for mailings.....	850.00
Office supplies & services	113.47
Fees (bank, P.O. box, etc.).....	173.00
All other	523.63
	6,469.36

Net Income 9,951.90

Cash Balance

From all accounts
– December 31, 2011.....\$ 12,316.81

Note: See comments on Financials in President's Report on page 6.



A stroll through the exhibits (L – R) Kostka, Kupiec-Weglinski and Puchala

New Members

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

Chris A. Jackson - #1733

6 Sunnyside Drive, SS1
St. George, Ontario
N0E 1N0 Canada

Myron Kavalgian - #1734

141 Boston Post Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371-1303

Jason Heskett-Mills - #1735

24a Fletcher Street
Applecross, WA
6153 Australia

Peter G. Piszko - #1736

62 Credon Drive
Toronto, Ontario
M9C 3G7 Canada

Dr. Dariusz Grochowski - #1737

Zachodnia 29-24
Chelm, 22-100 Poland

Zygmunt Borowski - #1738

3055 Orleans Road
Mississauga, Ontario
L5L 5W6 Canada

Norman J. Pinkowski - #1739

5611 Jamieson Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109

Dr. Peter G. Tuteur - #1740

6 Glen Forest Lane
St. Louis, MO 63124

Lawrence A. Weisz - #1741

100 Jackson Trace
Festus, MO 63028

Marcus L. Meyerotto - #1742

411 Meramec Way
St. Charles, MO 63303

Erratum: Richard Piotrowski's membership number was incorrectly listed in Bulletin #546 as 1729. Corrected number is 1728.

Preserve Polonus For The Future - Volunteer Your Time

By: Hank Bieniecki

Organizations require two critical elements to survive: (1) funding (2) dedicated members who volunteer and reliably perform various functions or discrete tasks as part of a team. With a geographically dispersed organization such as Polonus, the identification and recruitment of team members to perform various functions represents a critical challenge given we don't have a regular opportunity to meet and get to know each other.

Ever since we transitioned from a Chicago Club to an International Society, a relatively small group of individuals have worked together as a team to perform the various administrative and managerial tasks that keep Polonus functioning. We understand that the typical member has virtually no concept of the multitude of functions that must be performed, or the level of cooperation and communication between the current team members, in order to keep our Society viable.

Therefore, the key objective of this article is to communicate what has become an obvious and irrefutable point. If additional members do not volunteer to become part of the team and reliably perform specific functions, our Society is at risk of stagnation, and eventually, ceasing to exist.

While Polonus membership and the benefits offered have grown and become more far more sophisticated, the team itself has not expanded. There is only one solution to this problem. The team must be expanded with additional volunteers.

As you read this you may think that you do not have the time, skills, or knowledge to volunteer and make a difference. **You are probably wrong!!!** If you a member with a computer, use e-mail and believe that Polonus is worthwhile, you have the basic qualifications to volunteer and make a real difference. Many critical functions only require a commitment of several hours per month in addition to some level of e-mail communications with other members of the team.

The next Annual Membership Meeting will take place on 1 June 2013. Polonus will be electing a

new Board of Directors and Officers at that meeting and a new slate of candidates has to be sent to the membership by 1 April 2013.

The primary purpose of this article is not to ask you to volunteer to serve on the Board or as even as an Officer. Its purpose is to simply ask you to email me at info@biistamp.com or Bob Ogrodnik at krpsl@earthlink.net if you want to help ensure the continued success and existence of Polonus.

During future communications we will get to know you better and learn what you enjoy. You will have the opportunity to discuss various functions that have to be done to keep Polonus operational. You might opt to take responsibility for mailing out the Bulletins to members every 3 months after you receive the shipment of printed Bulletins, postage stamps, and mailing labels. Maybe you would like to welcome new members and respond to membership inquiries received at info@polonus.org. This critical task typically requires a couple of hours per month. Larger roles are available to those who have more time.

The first key step is to contact us and begin a conversation that allows us to decide together, what role in Polonus works for you.

If you contact us and become part of the team, irrespective of the role you accept, I guarantee that you will gain far more than you invest from your enhanced association with Polonus and your fellow team members.



(L-R) Bob Ogrodnik with Show Organizers, Penney and David Kols

Second Lublin Provisional Error

By: Dr. James Mazepa

When Poland declared independence on November 11, 1918, one of the first tasks was to ensure a viable postal system. The two major postal administrations at that time were in Warsaw, which had been occupied by the Germans, and in Lublin, which had been occupied by the Austrians. Because of the immediate need for postage stamps, both of these administrations overprinted the available German and Austrian stamps.

In the Lublin administration, Austrian field post stamps were overprinted "Poczta Polska" and some were also overprinted with new values. The Second Lublin Provisional Issue of ten values was put into use between December 19, 1918 and January 8, 1919. Due to the haste to get these stamps into circulation, several rare errors were made. The rarest of all the errors occurred on the 10 heller overprinted on the 30 heller gray-green. This value was overprinted on January 8, 1919, the last of this series to be overprinted. This is somewhat surprising because there was certainly a need for a 10 heller value much earlier. An inverted overprint is known to exist on this value but by far the rarest error is the double overprint. To-date, the only examples known to exist are a single and a pair. The pair is shown below. (Figure 1)



Figure 1 - Second Lublin Provisional (Fi 22aNP) with double overprinting error

This stamp is catalogued in the 2012 Fischer as #22aNP with a value of 10,000 zł. The single stamp was offered in the Allegro Polish auction in December 2011 with an estimate of 25,000 zł. This unique pair is without a doubt one of the gems of Polish philately.

Dr. Kupiec-Weglinski's Article Featured in American Philatelist

The June 2012 issue of the American Philatelist (Journal of the American Philatelic Society) featured a 12-page article on "The Siege of Przemyśl 1914-1915" authored by Polonus member, Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski. This article is an expansion of the "Gems of Polish Philately" article authored by Jerzy for our previous Bulletin (#546) issue.

Our congratulations to Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski for having an article featured in this premier philatelic magazine (since 1887) distributed to nearly 35,000 APS members.



(L-R) Peter Piszko, Frank Karwoski and Roman Sobus at the Polonus Reception



(L-R) Kostka, Grochowski, Larson, Korszen and Rządkosz at the Polonus Reception

Rejected Neubrandenberg Essay

By: Roman Sobus

The camp post at Oflag IIE, Neubrandenberg, was the shortest lived of the four internal post offices operated by Polish Officers while in German captivity during the Second World War. The Neubrandenberg internal post issued its first stamp on January 23, 1944 and ceased operation on June 23rd of the same year after the camp was closed. Occupants from Neubrandenberg were transferred to Oflag IID at Gross Born, which was located approximately one kilometer to the southwest.

During the short time that the Neubrandenberg internal post was operational, it issued a mere eight stamps, one envelope and three post cards. The final four stamp designs were overprinted and used by the post at Gross Born, both as stamps and as a souvenir sheet containing all four stamp designs. The final two post card designs were also adopted by the post at Gross Born. In that the two posts were consolidated, it is not unusual to find the Oflag IIE canceller used on Gross Born stamps.

The third stamp issued by the Neubrandenberg internal post commemorated the 24th anniversary of Poles regaining access to the Baltic on February 10, 1920, after General Józef Haller's forces reached the sea and formally reunited Poland with the sea, as granted by the Treaty of Versailles.

General Haller reached the Baltic at the resort town of Putzig (Puck) on February 10th,..." *rode his horse down the beach into the sea...and with a few ringing sentences, told how, after 148 years, Poland had once again returned to the sea*".... (dipping the Polish colors into the water). General Haller, stepping forward, drew from his finger a golden ring and, with a splendid gesture, threw it far into the water saying as he did, "As Venice so symbolized its marriage with the Adriatic, so the Poles symbolize our marriage to our dear Baltic". (Figure 1) [2]

At least two designs for this commemorative issue were submitted for consideration, one by Marian Gwizdki, and the second by an unknown artist. Gwizdki's design shows a silhouetted destroyer riding the waves at the center, "Poczta Oflag IIE" at the top, a stylized monogram "F.S." at the bottom below a dividing line, the denomination "20" on the right, and the date "10 Luty" (10 February) on the bottom. The design has dimensions of 46 x 27 mm. and is printed in black ink on blue paper procured from the covers of writing tablets. The stamp entered circulation on February 9 without gum and not

perforated. (Figure 2)[3]



Figure 2 – Stamp issued by the camp post of Oflag IIE on February 9, 1944 commemorating the 24th Anniversary of "Poland's Marriage with the Sea".

The second design, which was rejected, cannot be attributed to any one individual. [1]

Reference to this second design noted in [1] incorrectly attributed it to Oflag IID, Gross Born. It must have been difficult for the author to ascertain origin as the illustration



Figure 1 – General Józef Haller performing the ceremony of "Poland's Marriage with the Sea" as painted by artist Wojciech Kossak.

Rejected Neubrandenberg Essay (cont.)

provided with the text is of extremely poor quality. An original copy of the essay (**Figure 3**) surfaced recently in the collection of a fellow collector and I was granted access to examine the item first hand. This essay incorporates the bow of a modern liner under sail as the central theme of the design, with stylized art deco “rays” on either side of the ship.



Figure 3 – Rejected design for the 24th Anniversary commemorative issue.

The date “10 Luty” is located at the top, a stylized “SF” is at the bottom left corner, “Poczta / Oflag IIE” at bottom center, and the denomination “20” in the lower right corner. The image is 25 x 45 mm. and printed in black ink on dark cream colored tissue paper.

The author estimates that very few impressions (in most cases less than ten) were made of such items and regards them

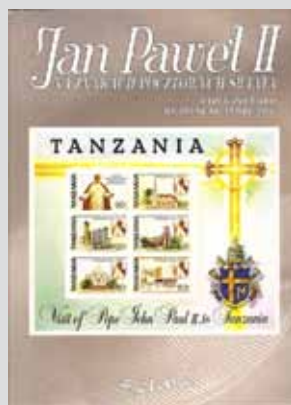
among the scarcest items for POW Internal Camp Post collectors. Special thanks to Polonus member Rick Woldenberg for providing the images of the philatelic items for this article.

Periodically, essays of unaccepted designs for stamps surface on the philatelic market. Camp artists were encouraged to submit their planned emissions. Often, two or more artists submitted their creations for consideration to the Postal Commission, who chose the final design. The winning design appeared on stamps used throughout the camp and became the property of the camp post. Most of the works that were rejected are not noted in the Camp Post Protocol and were relegated to the artist's collection and into obscurity.

Bibliography:

- [1] Autolycus; *The Polish Prisoner of War Posts*; Caldra House Ltd, 1994
- [2] *The Gazette Times*, February 13, 1920
- [3] Machowski, Józef; *Katalog Poczty Obozowej W Neubrandenberg*, Zeszyt 4; wyd. Artystyczno-Graficzne, Kraków, 1963

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Private Issue Correspondence Card from the Warsaw Uprising

By: Piotr Pelczar

Translated by: Roman Sobus

Editor's Note: The Polish Scouts' Postal Service played a key role in maintaining contact between the inhabitants of Warsaw during the Uprising of 1944. On 2 August 1944, Scoutmaster Kazimierz Grenda organized the very first postal service in the Śródmieście-Południw district. By the 4th of August this service was set-up for all liberated parts of the city, with the Main Post Office located at 28 Świętokrzyska Street and eight other post offices in various districts. In addition, post boxes were distributed in forty places throughout the city. Correspondence had to be limited to no more than 25 words and was subject to censorship. Its delivery was free of charge, though voluntary contributions were willingly accepted. The daily volume of letters going through this postal service ranged between 3,000 and 6,000. Postmarks were not used during the first few days of service, however, on the 6th of August, a postmark, in the form of a circle with the letters "POCZTA HARCERSKA" (SCOUT'S POST) and an

image of the scouting symbol, fleur-de-lis, was introduced and used on stampless mail. Various materials were used for the cancellor. One of the first was created by carving the lettering and design into a potato half. Other materials used included linoleum, rubber and various soft metals. In the second month of the Uprising, the Scouts' Postal Service was incorporated into the AK, thereafter called the "Army Postal Service", and postage stamps were added for use on the mail. The Scouts' Postal Service continued to operate until the insurgents' capitulation on 3 October 1944. This background will help you, if you are not familiar with the role Polish Scouts played during the Warsaw Uprising, to have an appreciation of this article, which was originally published in Przegląd Filatelistyczny 12/2011.

In response to requests for Correspondence Cards from the Warsaw Uprising, that were created and delivered by members of the Scouts attached

to the Anti-Aircraft Battery "ŻBIK", we received photocopies of a true curiosity from Mr. Jan Wawszczyk.

The front of the card (**Figure 1**) has the handwritten annotation "POCZTA POLOWA / XXV "PL-2 ŻBIK" / Plut. 563 / IV zgrup." and a stamped numerical mailing number, 02477, printed utilizing a type 27 Uprising stamp.

The back of the card (**Figure 2**) has a type 4 Scout Field postmark "POCZTA HARCERSKA with fleur-de-leis"; a type 28

stamp with the mailing date "12 SRP. 1944" (12 Aug. 1944); and a message from the sender.

The sender was "Nalecz Wojciech" aka Wojciech Psarski (1928-2007) who used the pseudonym "Ślżzak" and later "Nalecz" during the Uprising.

From a philatelic point of view, this card is not an item issued by the Scout Postal Service during the Uprising. However, as a private issue Correspondence Card it is an item that had been put into circulation and qualifies as a unique item. We hope that this article adds to our knowledge about the correspondence mailed from ŻBIK.

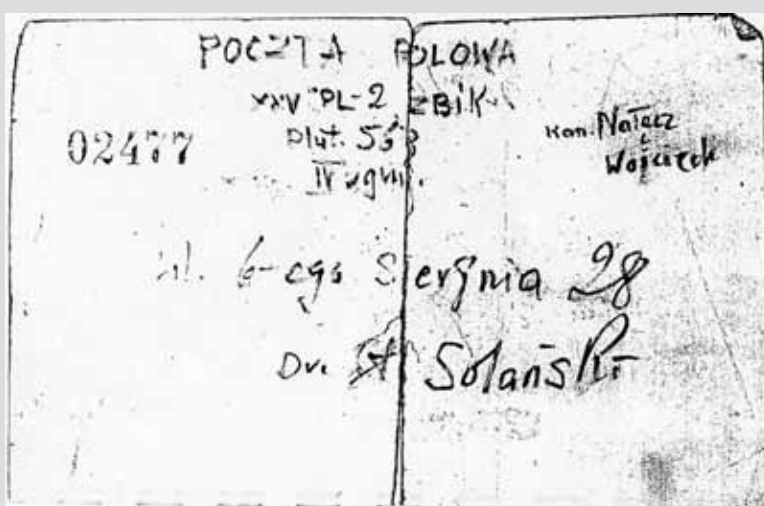


Figure 1 – Front of Correspondence Card with mailing address



Figure 2 – Back of Correspondence Card with message.

Polish Air Force in Great Britain 1940-47 (Part I)

By: Jan Niebrzydowski

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part article about the Polish Air Force in Great Britain during WWII. In joining with the RAF, the Polish airmen represented 5% of the pilots active during the Battle of Britain but accounted for 12% of the total victories. In referring to the RAF in the Battle of Britain, Churchill summed up the results with the words "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few". However, of those "few", forgotten were the Polish airmen who were forbidden to march in the Victory Parade in 1946. We are grateful to Jan Niebrzydowski for the continued effort to share an insight into the contribution by Polish forces during WWII based upon a collection of letters and cards addressed to Stefania Bardziłowska (see Bulletin #541).

On 11 June 1940, the Polish Government in Exile and the British Government signed an agreement enabling the formation of a Polish Air Force in Great Britain. The core of this force was composed of Polish airmen who had made their way to Britain, after the defeat of Poland in September 1939, via Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Greece, the Azores, Lithuania, Latvia, and France.

Volunteers were also recruited from the USA and Canada. More came forward from the ranks of the Army of General Władysław Anders, which had been formed by deportees to the Soviet Union. Support services were provided by the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). A number of women, who had fought in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 and were then held in German POW camps until liberated in 1945, subsequently joined the WAAF.

A training center for Polish pilots and two bomber squadrons, 300 and 301, were initially set up as part of the Royal Air Force (RAF). These were followed by two fighter squadrons, 302 and the legendary 303 also known as the "Kościuszko Squadron".

By the end of the war, the Polish Air Force numbered approximately 18,000 pilots, navigation officers, gunners, mechanics, instructors and women auxiliaries. It was organized into 15 squadrons. In addition, Polish pilots served in the RAF and trained pilots, i.e., in Heliopolis in Egypt. They delivered airplanes to the military airports. The daughter of Marshall Piłsudski, Jadwiga Piłsudska, was one of the women pilots. A special unit, known as Skalski's Circus, distinguished itself in the 1943 North Africa campaign.

Units of the Polish Air Force (squadrons 302 and 303) were deployed for the first time in August 1940 in the Battle of Britain, when they helped to defend London against the German air raids. 145 Polish fighter pilots served in the RAF during the Battle of Britain, making up the largest non-British group of pilots. Records confirm that they shot down 126 enemy machines and damaged 7. Another 19 planes are believed to have been shot down by Polish pilots. This amounts to some 12% of the total German losses in the air battle. The legendary "303 Kościuszko Squadron" was the highest-scoring squadron in the Battle of Britain.

Throughout the war, Polish squadrons were used to bombard strategic German targets. They also provided cover for allied naval convoys, including those sailing to Murmansk with supplies for the Soviet Red Army. They safeguarded naval vessels, and bombed German airports and lines of supply. According to Adam Zamoyski, author of "The Forgotten Few: The Polish Air Force in the Second World War" (John Murray, London 1995), Polish squadrons sank three enemy naval vessels, eight mini-submarines, two U-Boats, and damaged another 30 vessels.

They also shot down 190 V-1 rockets that had been targeted for London. In addition, the Polish squadron destroyed 1,171 tanks and armored carriers, 84 train engines and 606 railway carriages.

In total, Polish pilots are credited with 745 confirmed kills, 175 probable kills and damaging 256 planes. They carried out 102,486 sorties, dropped 13,206 tons of bombs and installed 1,502 mines. The Polish Air Force took part in the allied invasion of Normandy in 1944. On the 25th of April 1945, the Polish bomber squadron 300 took part, under escort of fighter planes, in the allied air raids on Germany. This was the last battle of World War II. In the course of duty, 1,973 Poles were killed and 1,388 were wounded. The Polish Air Force was disbanded in 1947.

After WWII, Poland was subjugated to the Soviet Communist block. Over 75% of the airmen and auxiliary staff who were serving in the RAF remained in Great Britain or settled in the USA and Canada, fearing that they would suffer repressions if they returned to Poland.

Polish Air Force in Great Britain 1940-47 (Part I) (Cont.)

Only a few letters originating from the Polish Air Force have survived. All the letters in my collection were addressed to Mrs. Stefania Bardziłowska in Boston, Massachusetts. Until 1944, only two sender addresses were officially in use: RAF Polish Depot Blackpool and PO Box 277, London. The date stamps have the same location. If the sender had given a different address, the censor covered it with a "dumb" cork cancellation or simply cut it out. From 1944 to 1945, letters were postmarked with different place names and different sender addresses. Letters were censored and stamped with the RAF cachet or sealed with labels bearing the examiners' numbers. Twelve of the most interesting covers from my collection will be featured and discussed in this two-part presentation. The first six covers are featured below.

Figure 1 is an air mail cover with 1s 3d postage, cancelled and dated Blackpool Lancs (Lancashire) on 28 October 1940. Censor's label is shown as "Opened by Examiner 794". It may be the only known letter sent by a Polish pilot from flight



Figure 2 – Air mail cover sent from Ruislip Middx on 11 March 1944

squadron 303 (the Kościuszko Squadron) sent during the Battle of Britain which took place from 10 July to 31 October 1940.

Figure 2 is a cover with content written on US Army writing paper sent from Ruislip Middx (Middlesex) on 11 March 1944 with 2½d postage. Censor's label is shown as "Opened by Examiner 794". The sender of this letter writes that he served in the Polish Air Force and, following the German and Soviet invasions of Poland in September 1939, fled to Romania where he remained in a refugee camp for six months. From there, he escaped to Yugoslavia and subsequently to Greece. He joined the Polish pilots in France. After the French capitulation, he succeeded in reaching Africa and the Azores and only from there was he able to reach Britain.



Figure 1 – Air mail cover sent from Blackpool Lancs on 28 October 1940.

Polish Air Force in Great Britain 1940-47 (Part I) (Cont.)



Figure 3 – Air letter sent from Heliopolis, Egypt on 20 April 1945

Figure 3 is an air letter sent on 20 April 1945 with 3d postage and an indistinct date stamp, posted at the Polish section of the Royal Air Force in Heliopolis in Egypt. Censored and stamped with RAF censor's cachet 170, as well as a sealing label by Base Censor 3312. A Polish section was attached to the RAF training school for pilots. Trainee pilots who were evacuated from the Soviet Union with the Army of General Anders in 1942 were stationed there. This unit was used for transporting people and delivering supplies to Mediterranean ports and to India.

Figure 4 is an air letter with 6d postage dated 7 November 1943. Dater smudged over (intentionally to cover) the postmark with a round "dumb" ink seal. The original return address was cut out and a new one stuck in its place: PO Box 277 London E.C.1. A Censor's label is shown as "Opened by Examiner 5851". (continued on page 18)



Figure 4 – Air letter sent from an unknown location in Great Britain on 7 November 1943

Wanted

Contact: Myron Kavalgian
141 Boston Post Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371-1303, USA
kavalgian@att.net

A correspondent in Poland to trade stamps. I need new issues cancelled on cover only. In return, I can send an equal money value (złoty/dollar) in current USA mint commemorative stamps. I am also interested in Polish postally used stamps from the 1990's to present day. A Polish mixture/kiloware on paper is welcome too.

Figure 5 is an air letter with 6d postage dated 25 September 1944. Censored and stamped with a round, two-ringed seal 16 mm in diameter with AF letters (abbreviation for Air Force) in red color. Censor's label is shown as "Opened by Examiner 5851".



Figure 5 – Air letter sent from London on 25 September 1944



Figure 6 – Registered letter sent from Doncaster on 1 March 1944

Figure 6 is a registered cover sent from Doncaster on 1 March 1944 with 5½d postage. Censor's label is shown as "Opened by Examiner 5851". The sender, Franciszek Wojtulewicz from Augustów in Northern Poland, was deported to Siberia by the Soviets in 1940. In 1942, he was evacuated with General Anders' Army to Persia (Iran) and subsequently to Britain, where he underwent training. Having gained the skills of a gunner and radio operator, he served with the bomber squadron 300. He saw action over France where his plane was shot down by the enemy's anti-aircraft fire on 14 August 1944 during a bombing raid of German positions. Only two of the seven crew survived the crash and they were executed on the spot in violation of the Geneva Convention. Details of this incident can be found in the Polish publication "Ku Czci Poległych Lotników 1939-45", Warsaw 2006 by Robert Gretzynger, Wojciech Matusiak, Waldemar Wójcik and Józef Zieliński.

Poland's Most Beautiful Stamps & Postcards in 2011

Poczta Polska (Polish Post) conducted a poll in which Readers of their publication and visitors to their website www.kzp.pl chose one of the 26 issues of stamps and one of the 33 postcards issued last year. The winners in the "Stamp" category were:

1. 100th Anniversary of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for Maria Skłodowska

2. "Smiles of the World" in the Photography of Elżbieta Dzikowska
3. Beatification of Pope John Paul II

The designer of the top three finishers in the poll was Marzanna Dąbrowska.

The winners in the "Postcard" category were:

1. Arboreturns and Botanical Gardens in Poland
2. 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Władysław Szpilman
3. Scattered Craft Koronkarka

Images of the above emissions can be found on website www.kzp.pl.

Gregorian/Julian Calendars

By: Chris Kulpinski

While Poland was a free nation, and even when it was partitioned, it used the Gregorian calendar, the most widely used calendar in the world today. Russia, on the other hand, used the antiquated Julian calendar. When Poland was subjugated to Russia in the 18th and 19th centuries, documents many times contained both dates.

The first example is in a letter (**Figure 1**) in which the date is shown as 22 April 1845 in the Julian calendar and 4 May 1845 in the Gregorian calendar.



Figure 1 – Excerpt from document dated “dnia 22 Kwietnia / 4 Maja 1845” (22 April / 4 May)

The second example is on a cover from Wilno to Warsaw (**Figure 2**) in which the cancellation from the sending post in Wilno has a date of 3 May 1857 (black cancel in Cyrillic script) and the cancellation from the receiving post in Warsaw has a date of 20 May (red cancel in Roman script). Please note, the transit time for mail from Wilno to Warsaw in 1857 was 5 days and the remaining 12 days was the difference in the calendars.

The Gregorian calendar was first proposed by the Calabrian doctor Aloysius Lilius and decreed by Pope Gregory XIII, after whom it was named, on 24 February 1582 by papal bull *Inter Gravissimas*. It was a reform of the Julian calendar, which contained many errors and was constantly being addressed and modified by scholars of the time. The Gregorian calendar continues the yearly numbering system of the Julian calendar, counting years from the traditional incarnation year of Jesus Christ. Years after this date are given the designation “Anno Domini” (AD) or “Common Era” (CE); year before



Figure 2 – Cancellations on rear of envelope; 3 May 1857 in black from Wilno and 20 May in red from Warsaw

this date are labeled “Before Christ” (BC) or “Before the Common Era” (BCE).

The Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 BC. It was in common use until the 1500's, when countries started changing to the Gregorian calendar. However, some countries (for example, Russia and Greece) used it into the 20th century, and the Orthodox Church in the Eastern countries still uses it today.

The Gregorian calendar system dropped 10 days to bring the calendar back into synchronization with the seasons and, to keep it there, adopted the following leap year rule:

Every year that is exactly divisible by four is a leap year, except for the years that are exactly divisible by 100; the centurial years that are exactly divisible by 400 are still leap years. For example, the year 1900 was not a leap year; the year 2000 was a leap year. In the Julian calendar, all years exactly divisible by 4 are leap years.

This change resulted in a difference of 10 days from 1582 to 1699; 11 days from 1700 to 1799; 12 days from 1800 to 1899 (as evidenced in **Figures 1** and **2**); and 13 days from 1900 to February 1918, when Russia adopted the Gregorian calendar.

(continued on page 20)

“Speed Dating”

By: Sam Ginsburg

Instead of the usual wordy discussion, we’re trying some bullet-point listings. These are either in the Polonus website links, or we expect to add them shortly:

1. **Stamp Encyclopaedia Poland** - <http://www.stampspoland.nl/>

- Overview of Polish philately with description and images of issues from 1858 - 2009
- Excellent supplement to the Fischer catalog (English)
- Link to Polish-English glossary of philatelic terminology - <http://bennieb.org/dictionary/dictionary.php>

2. **Polonica** - <http://www.polonica.info/>

- Comprehensive catalog of non-Polish stamps with Polish themes
- Presented with a choice of four languages: English, Polish, German, and Dutch
- Organized by topic (People, Organizations, Places, and Events) and by issuing country

3. **Info-Poland** - <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/>

- Thousands of Polish-oriented links organized in five major groupings and many sub-groupings.

4. **Ask Phil** - <http://www.askphil.org/>

- Wide variety of general philatelic links and information
- Glossary of over 30,000 philatelic terms in several languages, including some Polish terms

5. **Filatelistyka.org** - http://www.filatelistyka.org/index_dictionary.jsp

- Polish-English philatelic dictionary downloadable PDF
- English-Polish, Polish-German, Polish-Russian and reverse dictionaries

6. **MAPY WIG** (Map Archive for the Military Geographical Institute of Poland (WIG), 1919 - 1939) <http://english.mapywig.org/news.php>

- Many maps from the Polish archives and other sources.

7. **American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE)** - <http://www.aape.org/>

- Examples of winning exhibits
- Guides to exhibiting
- Mentoring program for members
- Back issues of journal available online

8. **Exponet** - <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/>

- Hundreds of on-line philatelic exhibits

ABC's of Polish Philately (Cont.)

Even though Poland was under Russian administrative control, the Poles used the Gregorian calendar for personal use and both dates were used on official documents. Today, when one sees both dates on documents as in **Figure 1** or dates on cancellations as in **Figure 2**, the earlier date is from the Julian calendar and the later date is from the Gregorian calendar. Hopefully, this article will help you understand and interpret dates found on documents and covers.

A New Adventure

How I Started a Poland Collection

By: Myron Kavalgian

I grew up knowing a few things about Poland and even fewer Poles. There were the world famous - Chopin, Copernicus, Curie, and Landowska (my mother collected her harpsichord records). Then came Ślania, Szpilman at the piano (there was a movie) and Pope John Paul II.

But I knew nothing about Polish stamps until last year. I went to a stamp show run by a local club and looking for covers to find the used stamps I was missing in my collections of Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, French art stamps, Great Britain, Ślania designed stamps, Slovakia and USA.

One dealer had a large box filled with covers thrown in as a means of getting them out of the way at a dollar each. I started digging through and an hour later in the bottom of the box were hundreds of covers from various towns in Poland all addressed to the same man. I was fascinated. And each had a letter inside. I dug them all out. They filled 3 shoe boxes with covers on end and a plastic Wal-Mart bag. There were over 300 covers and postcards. I made a deal with the dealer and left smiling!

They were addressed to a man in Brooklyn, NY, from the years 1958 through the mid-1980. The letters were in Polish and one with a wedding invitation. Also enclosed were Mass cards, photographs of wedding, photographs of a christening, a girl dressed for her first communion and various postcards from all over Poland.

What a collection! What an opportunity! I bought a new Scott Poland album. I bought a 2009 Fischer Katalog. I got out my Scott Catalog and started organizing the stamps to fill the spaces in the album. I decided that since there were multiple copies I could get a set of stamps with sock-on-the-nose cancels, I could get another set with cancels on the right side or a set on the left side. The possibilities were endless. I joined Polonus.

But who was the addressee? Józef.... he emigrated from Poland in the 1950's, a survivor of the horror of World War II. In 1958, he was a signer of the certificate of the Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men, Inc., Brooklyn, NY which is still in Brooklyn. He sold products made of asbestos. Was he married? Did he have a family? How did his personal correspondence end up in a stamp dealer's junk box in 2011? I don't know.

But he provided me with an opportunity to learn about Poland through its stamps. He showed me how to appreciate all sorts of things Polish through its stamps and I have only just begun to investigate all the possibilities. There are many people on the stamps I have yet to know and I am fascinated with the Polish cities, monuments, landscape, and country estates such as SC 3344, et al.

You always wonder how you will start your next collection. Józef helped me decide.



Figure 1 – A sampling of Myron's deal that led to collecting Poland

New Issues



Date of Issue	February 19, 2012
Sheet Format	Single in SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

200th Birth Anniversary of Zygmunt Krasiński

This 4.15 zł issue recognizes the 200th birth anniversary of Count Napoleon Stanisław Adam Ludwig Zygmunt Krasiński, traditionally ranked with Adam Mickiewicz and Juliusz Słowacki as one of Poland's great romantic poets who influenced the national consciousness during the period of Poland's political subjugation. Born of Polish nobility in Paris in 1812, Krasiński studied law at Warsaw University and in Geneva. He is best known for his philosophical Messianist ideas. His most famous works include: "The Undevine Comedy" (1835), a portrayal of the tragedy of an old-world aristocracy defeated by a new order of communism and democracy – a poetic prophecy of class conflict and Russia's October Revolution; "Irydion" (1836), a drama concerning the struggle of a subjugated nation against its oppressors, employing a study of Christian ethics; and "Agaj-Han" (1834), an historical-poetic novel filled with macabre plots. The stamp depicts a portrait of him and the numbered souvenir sheet and official first day cover show the author's text flowing and swirling.



Date of Issue	March 9, 2012
Sheet Format	3 sheets of 100
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

Easter 2012

These 1.55 zł, 1.95 zł, and 3 zł stamps depict the traditional lamb, egg, and rabbit, respectively, that commemorate Polish Easter (Wielkanoc). The 3 stamps are printed in pale blue, green, and yellow designs with dense ornamentation.



Date of Issue	March 20, 2012
Sheet Format	50 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

200th Birthday of Leopold Kronenberg

This 2.40 zł stamp honors the Polish-Russian banker and railroad tycoon Leopold Stanisław Kronenberg (1812-78). He was from a wealthy and influential Jewish family that converted to Protestantism. His early successful investment in a tobacco company enabled him to later invest in banking and railroad construction. In 1870 he founded the Commercial Bank of Warsaw (Bank Handlowy w Warszawie S.A.). He helped instigate the 1863 Polish uprising against Russian rule. In 1875, he established the Warsaw School of Economics. He supported Jewish charitable institutions and helped fight anti-Semitism in the various publications he owned. The cachet on the official first day cover portrays a railroad train and station.



Date of Issue	March 28, 2012
Sheet Format	Sheet of 12 Stamps 4 Designs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

History of Polish Photography

Two 1.95 zł and two 2.40 zł stamps depict four examples of early Polish photography. These early days of Polish photography were connected with the economic and cultural development of the former Austrian, Prussian and Russian partitions. In January

and February 1839, news of the discovery of photography reached partitioned Poland and articles were quickly published on the subject. The first Talbotypes (calotypes) were done as early as 1839 by the Kielce district's head engineer, Maksymilian Strasz. The most important photographer of the 19th century, however, was Karol Beyer, active in Warsaw after 1845. More information on the History of Polish Photography can be found on website <http://www.culture.pl/>. The two official first day covers have cachets showing two additional early photographs and the cancellations show a camera lens.



Date of Issue	March 30, 2012
Sheet Format	Sheet of 50 Stamps
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Bożydar Grozdew

300th Anniversary of City of Suwałki

This 1.95 zł stamp honors the founding of the old Polish city of Suwałki, located in northeastern Poland in Podlaskie Voivodeship. The village was founded in 1667 by Camaldolese monks during the reign of King John II Casimir. In 1710 King Augustus II the Strong granted the village a privilege to organize fairs and markets. Five years later, in 1715, the village was granted town rights. The official first day cover shows color photographs of the city.



Date of Issue	April 30, 2012
Sheet Format	Sheet of 4 Stamps 4 Designs
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

150 Years of the First Polish Discoveries in Egypt

This sheet of four stamps commemorates the 150th Anniversary of Polish Excavations in Egypt by Count Michał Tyszkiewicz, the first Polish explorer who focused on ancient Egypt. A century and a half ago, he found gold, papyri and mummies by the River Nile. An exhibition at the Archeological Museum in Warsaw (from 13 December 2011 to 31 May 2012) featured 125 of the most interesting artifacts that have survived and were being shown for the first time since they were found. Tyszkiewicz's excavations took place in Karnak, Western Thebes, the Esna area, Wadi es-Sebus (Nubia) and in Saqqara. He had astonishing success and his collection was added to the collection of the Louvre Museum and laid the foundations for Egyptian collections at several museums in Lithuania, in addition to the National Museum in Warsaw.

The mini-sheet consists of four stamps: a 1.55 zł stamp with a mummy figure; a 1.95 zł stamp with a mummy figure; a 2.40 zł stamp with figure-statuettes of Nefertum, considered as a separate deity closely associated with newborn sun and worn by ancient Egyptians as a good-luck charm; and a 3 zł stamp with the photo of Michał Tyszkiewicz.