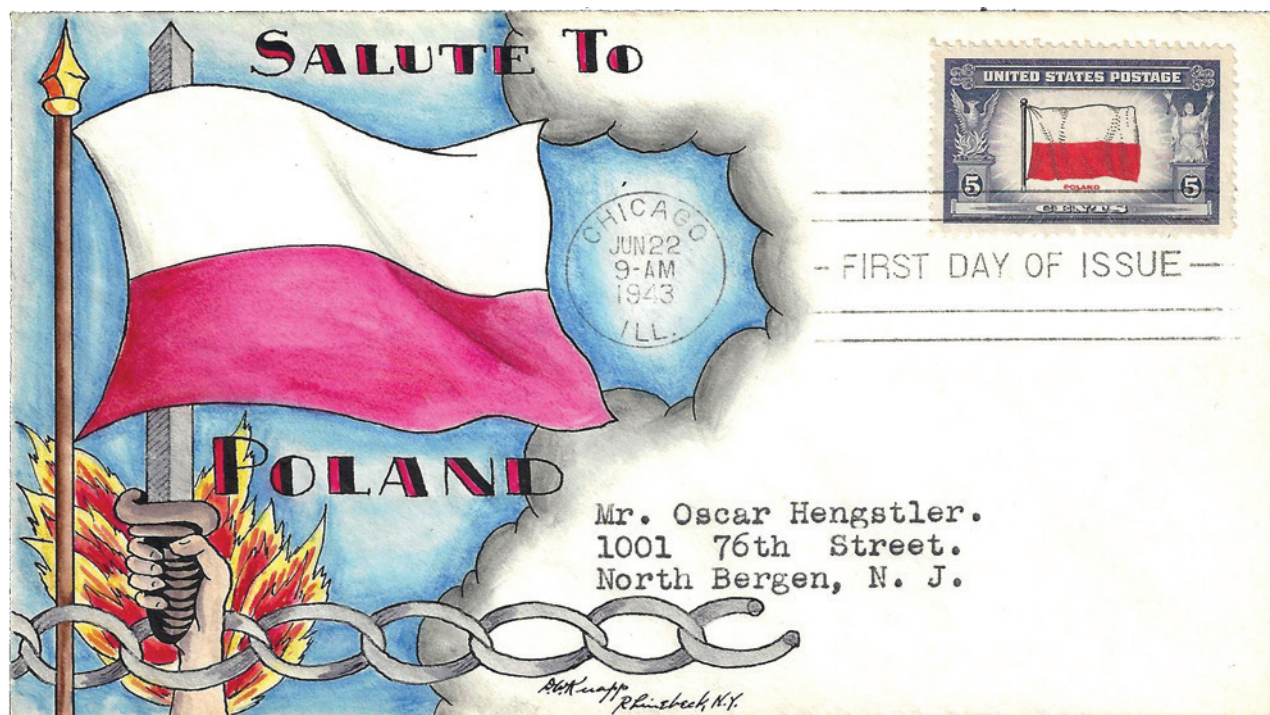




BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Marking the 75th anniversary of the Poland flag stamp ... see page 8 for details

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The Polonus 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 the authors of articles appearing in the *Polonius Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonius 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; Electronic Bulletin (via website) Worldwide - \$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 prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan-Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510

Articles for publication to be sent to the editor.

Membership queries to be sent to the membership chairman.

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to the president.

Message from the President

Ed Andrews
afacinc@yahoo.com

Dues are ... overdue!

If you have not paid your 2018 dues please do so as soon as possible or this will likely be your last mailing of the *Polonus Bulletin*. Compared to other societies we have strived to keep our dues low yet sufficient to cover the costs of printing and mailing the *Bulletin* and maintaining our website. The many benefits and services we offer members far outweigh the minimal cost of membership. Dues can be paid by sending a check to Treasurer William Williges at P.O. Box 2212, Benicia CA 94510. You can also send payment via PayPal using the merchant address info@polonus.org. If you are unsure of your paid status please contact the treasurer via billwil@znet.com. Thank you for your continued interest and membership in Polonus.

Success at St. Louis

We had a great show at St. Louis signing up nine new members. Selling off POLPEX and donated materials from our eBay annex site was also a success. Our exhibitors fared well, having a third of all show frames featuring Polish material. Congratulations to all our member exhibitors.

A special congratulations to Wiesław Kostka who won the show Reserve Grand Award and Large Gold medal for his *Kingdom of Poland-Study of Rates for Stampless Mail 1815-1871*. He also won the Polonus Grand award for that exhibit, and the Polonus Grand Award for a single frame exhibit, *1945 Traugutt 25 Groszy Stamp with Surcharge 5Zł/22.I.1863*. In total our members had 13 exhibits taking 47 frames. We also presented three well attended seminars on Polish philately.

Our member meeting, annual members' dinner and several nights of an open hospitality suite with flowing Żubrówka proved an all-round success. We missed those of you not attending and do hope you will plan in advance for November 2019 when we will convene at CHICAGOPEX along with the Russian, Ukrainian and Lithuanian Philatelic Societies for an all Eastern European Philatelic event. More details will follow in the December 2018 *Bulletin*.

New Translation Service

We have arranged with the Lithuanian Philatelic Society to have reciprocity in regard to translation of Polish and Lithuanian materials. That means our current Translation Services Committee can now handle Polish, Russian, Ukrainian

and Lithuanian. To have documents translated free of charge, contact Andrew Katz via katz95040@yahoo.com.

Polonia in Philatelic News

If you are also an American Philatelic Society member you'll note mention of Polish philately twice in the March issue of the *American Philatelist*. Polonus member Edward Krolikowski from Georgia wrote a great little article (actually a letter to the editor) detailing his knowledge of doomed Polish mailmen in Gdańsk during the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. Bob Lamb, former APS executive director, writes a nice one page column each month on a different country. In the March issue Bob featured Poland. His quick overview was a reminder of the depth and breadth of Polish philately from the pre-stamp days to modern philately.

Committee Changes

We welcome Ron Klimley to the list of officers. Ron has taken the open secretary and board position for the remainder of the current term, to 2020. Amanda Morgenstern has joined us as our new *Bulletin* Editor. You may note a new look about this, her first issue. Ray Pietruszka has assumed the chair of the Website Committee and will work with our webmaster Allan Clapp and other committee members to advise of necessary changes and upgrades to our website. More on that in later issues of the *Bulletin*.

A Call to Arms ... or perhaps just exhibits.

2018 is the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence and creation of the Second Republic. In November there will be many celebrations of this event across Polish cultural and fraternal organizations. Polonus can do its part by assuring exhibits of Polish material are regularly shown at APS World Series of Philately shows across the nation, as well as at regional and local stamp shows. If you have Polish exhibits or relevant material suitable for an exhibit please consider showing it this year. Your efforts will not only promote Polish philately but will acknowledge the significance of this important anniversary.

As part of this effort Polonus will hold a West Coast regional convocation and exhibition at Filatelic Fiesta in San Jose, California, October 20-21, 2018. One of our West Coast members will host and coordinate the event where we expect to have a

seminar on Polish philately, a meeting for members and interested collectors, and exhibits of Polish philately. Polonus will provide a suitable award for the best Polish exhibit at the event. And yes, there is a judge with Polish expertise on the jury, former Polonus board member Dr. Paul Phillips. Please consider showing your exhibit at the show and/or attending the event. We hope this will help promote our cause, celebrate the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence, and perhaps, garner us a few new members in the process.

Want to Enjoy Polonus More?

It's easy ... get involved. The experience of involvement, minor or large, brings you closer to the organization and those dedicated to running it, which benefits all. In each issue I remind the membership that we have a number of volunteer positions

open and while several have been filled, we still have many others where even minimal assistance can help us improve our operations and services. In particular we are looking for several members to assist Dan Lubelski, our membership chair; ideally a member west of the Rockies and one east of the Mississippi. If you would like to help but are not sure what volunteer opportunity to consider please send me an email so we can openly discuss what would fit your needs.

Please continue to let us know how we are doing. We are only as good as our ability to service the needs of our membership. So we need to hear from you if we are not providing an activity, service or resource that you believe would help you and other members. Contact me using the email address above.

Many thanks for your continued support and interest in Polonus and Polish philately.

POLPEX Store Offerings

Polonus Website and new eBay Site

As you will recall the POLPEX Store inventory of POLPEX souvenir sheets and show cards was uploaded to the Polonus website last year. In addition, we opened a store annex eBay site last August. The eBay site offers a mix of POLPEX material as well as donated material to Polonus for resale. There are philatelic items of every description offered on the eBay site. Generally there are up to 50 lots each month and they will vary from month to month, so be sure to check frequently for material. Most eBay lots are fixed price and offer free shipping. To find the site do an advanced search by seller name using polonusstoreannex-0.

Literature

The Julian Auleytner book, *Postal Communications in Haller's Blue Army 1917-1920*, is still available at \$39.95 with free shipping. Only four copies left!

The Polonus Bulletin Index by Marion Dudek also is available at \$13.99 with free shipping. This covers all issues from 1940-1983 and is a good cross check reference for material.

We also have a few copies of *Fischer Tom II* left at \$42.99 with free shipping.

June Bulletin Special

We have a limited supply of special covers from the recent Kościuszko anniversary event at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. Polonus participated in the event and created a limited edition of 100 covers featuring a colorful cachet and special USPS-issued postmark, both designed by member Adam Gigel. The covers are franked with the 1933 5-cent Kościuszko

stamp (Scott 734) and a 2011 44-cent Quill and Inkwell coil stamp (Scott 4496). Quite a few covers were sold at the Kościuszko event and the remaining covers are available on a first come basis for \$10.00 with free shipping.



To place an order for any of the above offerings, send a check or money order with a description of item(s) you wish to purchase to: Polonus, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia CA 94510. Or use PayPal, sending a remittance to the address info@polonus.org. Be sure in all cases to indicate what the payment is for and make sure you have listed your return mailing address.

Free shipping is only offered for domestic mailing

Any address outside the United States should contact Ed Andrews at afacinc@yahoo.com or 919-932-0942 for an estimate of international shipping costs. For inquiries about other store material contact Ed Andrews.

Charity is the Spice of Riches

Activities of the Jewish Committee for the Relief of War Victims in Wilno

Raimundas Marius Lapas



A glimpse of Wielka Pohulanka Street where for decades EKOPO offices were located. 1941 photograph

Conditions during World War I produced a large body of destitute Jews dependent upon communal support for food, clothing, medical care and shelter. Providing for such Jews became a primary avenue through which Jewish women became involved in the war effort. With local Jewish communities in the war zones understandably unable to generate the necessary resources, the burden of providing such support fell upon Jewish organizations abroad. Major roles in this regard were played by the German Jewish Relief Association (Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden, established in 1901 to assist in improving material conditions for Jews in the Russian and Ottoman empires), the Vienna-based Israelite Alliance (Israelitische Allianz zu Wien, which had assisted Jewish victims of the Russo-Turkish war in 1876–1877), and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (founded in 1914 as an alliance between German and East European Jews in the United States for the explicit purpose of aiding Jews in the war zones).

East European Jews also organized their own relief agencies. Most prominent among them was the Jewish Committee for the Relief of War Victims (Еврейский Комитет Помощи жертвам войны - acronym ЕКОПО), launched in 1914 by members of the Russian Jewish elite residing outside the Pale of Settlement. This organization, headed by a broad coalition of Jewish communal leaders of diverse ideological orientations – including Kadet Party vice chairman Maksim Vinaver, prominent liberal St. Petersburg attorney Genrikh Sliozberg, former socialist Duma deputy Leontii Bramson, railroad executive David Feinberg, and Zionist publicist and historian Julius Brutzkus, among others – demonstrated considerable political

skill, obtaining contributions of more than 17 million rubles from Russian government sources during the first two years of its existence (more than half of its total disbursements during that period). Its principal beneficiaries were the Russian Jewish deportees and other refugees to the Russian interior, but it also extended aid to Jews in Galicia and Bucovina when Russian forces occupied those regions. Still, the greatest number of Jews needing assistance lived under German or Austrian rule for most of the war; during those times they were beyond EKOPO's reach.

“EKOPO” in pre-war Wilno

The Jewish Committee for the Relief of War Victims (Żydowskie Towarzystwo Pomocy Ofiarom Wojny) commenced activities in then German occupied Wilno during WWI on April 29, 1915. On November 8, 1920 the Society was entered into Central Lithuania's ("Litwa Środkowa") Temporary Governmental Departments of Internal Affairs Societies and Union's register # 4 and later, as recognized by the Republic of Poland's governmental representative for the Wilno territory agreement, officially registered on July 27, 1922.

The society operated in Central Lithuania, later in the Wilno lands and Wilno Wojwodship territory. It was governed by general membership meeting as well as an auditing committee. The society's activities were supervised by the city of Wilno Township as well as Central Lithuania's Temporary Governmental Department of Internal Affairs, later the Republic of Poland's governmental commissioner for the city of Wilno as well as the governmental delegate for Wilno land offices, the city of Wilno Township and the administration of the Wilno Województwo (the highest-level administrative subdivision of Poland, corresponding to a "province" in many other countries).

On August 16, 1935 the society was renamed the Territorial Jewish Committee EKOPO (Krajowy Komitet Żydowski EKOPO) and was thus registered as such (#1874). It continued its work as governed by previous ruling agencies. One last revision occurred on May 24, 1940 when the organization (now in Wilno) was simply renamed the Jewish Society EKOPO as confirmed by Lithuania's Ministry of Internal Affairs (registry # 9606). The organization was liquidated sometime in October 1940 (exact date unknown).

Organizational structure

EKOPO's purpose was to aid Jewish war victims to enhance standards of living as well as morale in the Jewish community. Citizens of Lithuania (as well as in certain cases non-Lithuanian citizens with the approval of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) could be members of the Jewish Society EKOPO. Assistance was also extended to war refugees, immigrants and re-patriates, unemployed, and widows. Food and legal advice were given, shelter and clothing provided. Relief funds were allocated to orphans, homeless and poor children. Orphanages, schools and dormitories were established. Summer camps were organized. It also financed the GEMILAS CHESED (Interest free treasury) and other orphan societies, administering their activities. It sponsored trade programs, the establishment of co-ops, over-looked professional development amongst Jews, created schools, conducted lectures, opened libraries, and published books.

What covers can truly unveil?

Every cover, no matter how ratty, torn or dog-eared it might be, has an exciting story to reveal! That is why I've been a die-hard collector of postal history for some 45 years (and a philatelist, a decade prior, starting at the age of five). Having seen my first EKOPO bilingual Polish / Yiddish advertising cover (Figure 1) franked with a 10-mark Central Lithuanian commemorative (the Lublin Union issue) postmarked WILNO June 18, 1921, I decided to "bite the bullet" and acquire it for my reference collection. It was sent to Jew's College in England (a rabbinical seminary renamed as The Long School of Jewish Studies in 1999). Back then EKOPO was located on W. Pohulanka 9 in Wilno.

My initial reaction was that this cover might serve as a nice spin-off for an article? Maybe? But ...

As fate would have it, later I landed a cover from EKOPO's "tenant" (Figure 2): the Central Jewish Emigration Society JEAS in Poland Wilno division (Żyd. Centralnego T-wa Emigracyjnego JEAS w Polsce Oddział Wileński) relocated next door to W. Pohulanka 5. The bilingual cover was postmarked WILNO 2 on June 27, 1938 and sent to HIAS in Washington, D.C. HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) is an American nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees. The organization works with people whose lives and freedom are believed to be at risk because of war, persecution, or violence. HIAS has offices in the United States and across Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Since its inception, HIAS has helped resettle more than 4.5 million people. It still remains active today.

However, my interests are not merely limited to my own holdings. Knowing that a substantial collection of the EKOPO papers are housed in Lithuania's State Central Archives in Wilno, I decided to inquire with my colleagues abroad. How can they say no to someone who has been donating material for their collection

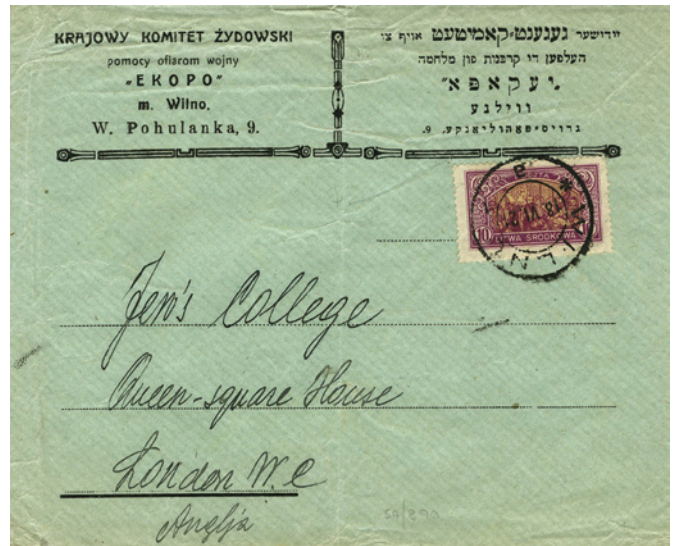


Figure 1



Figure 2

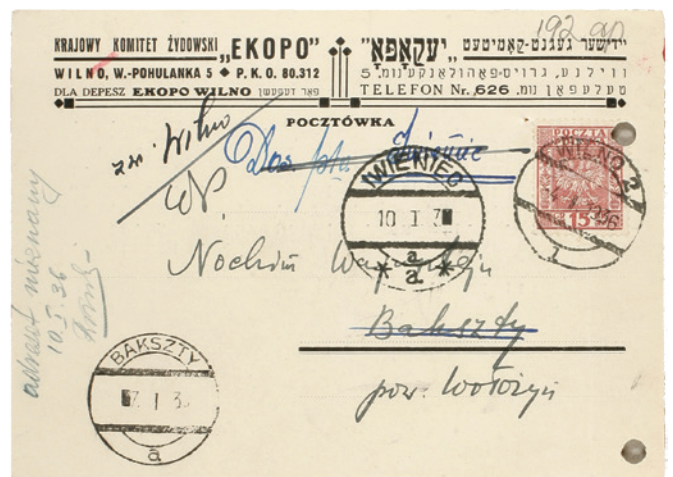


Figure 3

these last four decades? Archivist Vladas Agurkis flew to the rescue with two interesting items from their collection.

The first item (Figure 3) was a bilingual Polish / Yiddish formular card addressed to a recipient residing in Bakszt



Figure 4

(property of Lithuania's State Central Archives 347-1-49-192). Postmarked WILNO 2 on January 4, 1936, the addressee was not found (BAKZSTY January 7) and the card was forwarded further (IWENIEC January 10). No luck there, and so the card was returned to the sender.

The second one (Figure 4) is truly "eye-candy" (property of Lithuania's State Central Archives LCVA 347-1-110-185). It is a bilingual Polish / Yiddish formular card postmarked WILNO 2 on June 8, 1937, and sent to Amsterdam. Alas, the addressee

in the Netherlands was never found and the card was returned to sender. It sports numerous postal markings: a two-line boxed "Onbekend / Inconnu" (unknown cachet), another two-line boxed "Retour à l'expéditeur / Terug afzenden" (return to sender) cachet, an unframed two-liner "Adres Niet Te Amsterdam" (no such address in Amsterdam) and a numeral boxed 21 processing marking. The card was returned to the EKOPO office in Wilno.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank archivist Inga Vizgirdienė and Vidas Agurkis of Lithuania's State Central Archives in Wilno for breaking away from their demanding schedule by providing appropriate illustrations for this article. Without them, this article would have been far more mundane. Any mistakes herewith found should be addressed to me via email at studijar@msn.com

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1. Koss, Andrew N. *World War I and the Remaking of Jewish Vilna, 1914 - 1918*. A dissertation submitted to the Department of History and the Committee on Graduate Studies of Stanford University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. August 2010.
2. Rafes, Yulian I. *Doctor Tsemakh Shabad. A Great Citizen of the Jewish Diaspora*. Baltimore, Md. VIA Press, 1999.



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The Poland Flag Stamp of the United States Overrun Country Series

Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

Part 4 (1 of 2): First Day of Issue Cachets, the Polonus First Day Cover and the Hand Painted Cachets

In part 3 of this series I discussed the first day ceremonies in Chicago and Washington. In part 4 I address the multitude of first day cachets made specifically for the Poland stamp. (First Day Cachet = a design or inscription on the envelope that directly relates to the stamp.)

The use of patriotic designs to promote a war's effort goes back to the early 19th century. During World War II this was no exception. The Overrun Country Series was issued at the height of World War II. Dr. Lawrence Sherman [1] estimates that more than 11,000 different cachets were manufactured to promote the war effort and inspire the civilian population. Because a large number of these envelopes are available, many can be found for a very reasonable price, often in the \$5 to \$10 range. Many of these can be found with the Poland stamp.

For this part of the series I will only address those envelopes that have a first day cachet for the Poland stamp. There are Poland first day covers that have other types of patriotic cachets which I will discuss later. But first, I would be remiss if I did not discuss the Polonus Philatelic Society's first day cover. I will then continue with the hand-painted designs.

The Polonus First Day Cover

As discussed in Part 3, Polonus played a significant role in the first day ceremony. A beautifully designed envelope was created by Polonus for the occasion (Figure 1). Five earlier stamps are reproduced on the envelope's blue-green back ground. Two stamps issued by the United States are shown; the 1931 Pułaski and the 1933 Kościuszko stamps. Three Polish stamps follow, the 1933 Kościuszko/Washington/Pułaski issue, the 1937 stamp honoring the U.S. Constitution, and the 1919 stamp picturing Ignacy Paderewski. I have not been able to find who designed the envelope or where it was printed. At the bottom left is the statement "Copyright 1943 Polonus Philatelic Society, Chicago." The envelope itself is made of stiff cardboard and the



Figure 1, Polonus First Day Cover

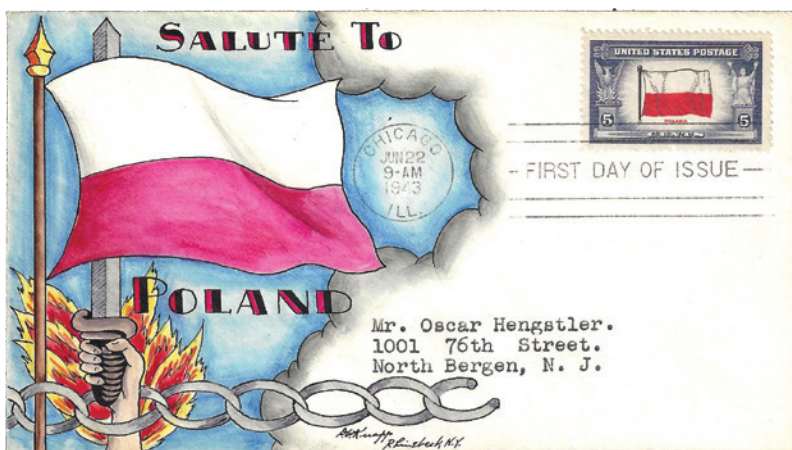


Figure 2, Dorothy Knapp hand-painted water color cachet



Figure 3, FDC painted by Dorothy Knapp for Mae Weigand

reason for this is that a mint example of the Poland stamp was inserted in a cellophane pouch in the lower left corner of the envelope. This was the first time a newly issued stamp was included in the first day cover!

This envelope was available in Chicago and Washington, but those postmarked in Washington are more difficult to find. For both cities, both types of cancellers (see part 3) were used, the smaller machine canceler and the larger hand canceller. One source states 800 FDCs were made and a majority of them

were given to Polonus members. This FDC is not hard to find and I believe there are some in the Polonus Store.

Hand Painted Envelopes

For the collector of first day covers, hand-painted cachets are held in the highest regard. For the collectors of the Overrun Country Series, and the Poland stamp in particular, this is also the case. Some of the most famous names in cachet art made covers for the Poland stamp, as well as individuals whose names have been forgotten over time. Sherman [1] estimates only about 11 percent of the World War II patriotic covers have hand-painted designs.

Dorothy W. Knapp

Dorothy Knapp is regarded as the “Queen of Cachet Art.” There are three categories of Knapp covers:

- Type 1 – those she made for her customers and sold to them either directly or by a third party
- Type 2 – those with designs she made but were painted by others
- Type 3 – those she designed for Fleetwood Cover Service

These will be discussed in the future as they are not hand-painted. The most sought after are those she made for her customers and sold to them directly.

A complete history of Knapp covers can be found in the book by Douglas Weisz [2]. Mr. Weisz records only four examples of the type 1 cachets with the Poland stamp (Figure 2). It is unknown exactly how many of each was produced but certainly it was a very, very limited number. Typically, Knapp added her signature to the covers. If anyone is lucky to have the opportunity to purchase a type 1 cover, the cost will be around \$500. These are the most expensive of the Poland first day covers.

Mae Weigand

As Dorothy Knapp’s business expanded, she developed a relationship with Mae Weigand in Brooklyn, New York. Knapp would design the cachet and send them to Mae Weigand who would paint in the design. Knapp did make and paint some cachets that she sent to Weigand which Weigand sent directly to her customers (Figure 3). The story becomes somewhat complicated because Weigand also made her own cachets in the style of Knapp. Typically, Weigand would initial her work “MW” in the lower left corner. The Knapp/Weigand covers are the second most sought after covers of the Overrun Country Series (Figure 4, 5 and 6)

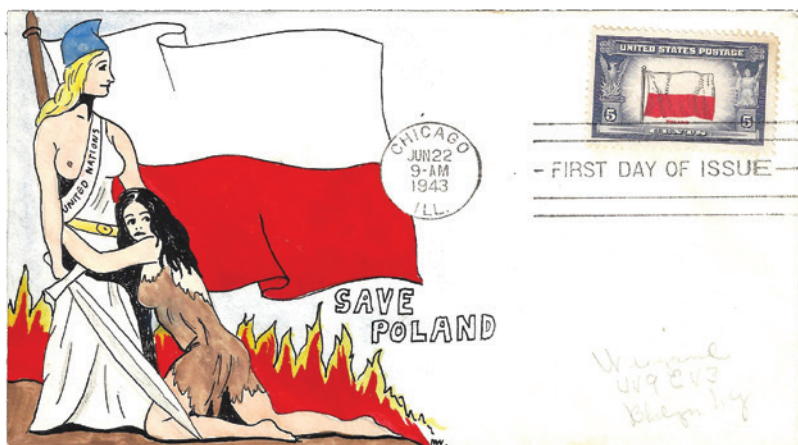


Figure 4, Mae Weigand “Save Poland”



Figure 5, Mae Weigand “Free Poland/sword”

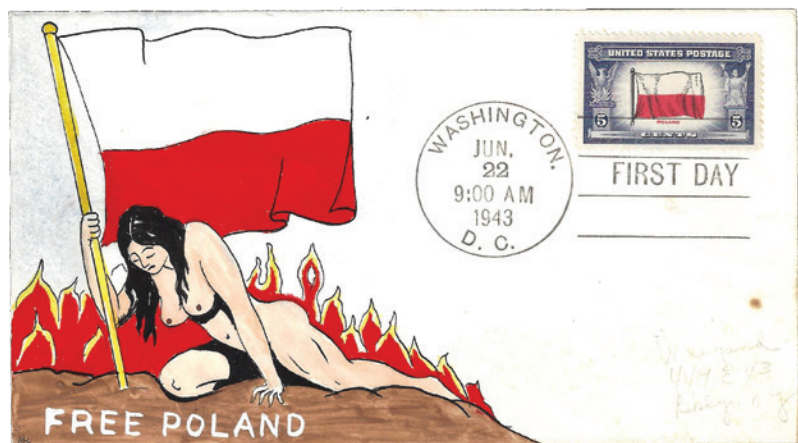


Figure 6, Mae Weigand “Free Poland + flag”

because of their bold and colorful cachets. I have counted eight different Knapp/Weigand cachets with the Poland stamp, but there may be more. Prices vary but are usually between \$100 and \$250.

Other Hand Painted Cachet Artists

There is no exhaustive list of artists who hand painted Poland first day covers. Here is a partial list of artists and examples. I welcome any information Polonus members might have to add to this list. As a point of reference, most of these hand painted first day covers can be had between \$10.00 and \$40.00.

Ben Kraft is known for his overall designs. Figures 7 and 8 are two that he made for the Poland stamp. Figure 9 is a design by Melissa Fox picturing three gentlemen whose identity is unknown. Figure 10 is part of a series painted by D. Thompson for Micco Enterprises. Last, Figure 11 is a gold water color Polish Eagle painted by an unknown artist.

In Part 4 (2 of 2), I will discuss Poland FDCs with other types of cachets.

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Figure 9, Fox "Three gentlemen and flag"



Figure 7, Kraft "Warsaw" in ruins



Figure 8, Kraft "Poland will be free Again"



Figure 10, Thompson "Flag"



Figure 11, Unknown artist (Golden Eagle)

1938 Poznań Balloon Race Cover Bears Scarce Mixed Franking

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

Balloon races in Poland have taken place for many years. Balloons involved in postal service go back as far as 1871 [1]. This article describes a cover carried on a pre-World War II balloon race.

The event was the 10th National Free Balloon Race held May 8, 1938, with entrants competing for the Col. M. Wankowicz Trophy from Mościce, Poland. There were 12 balloons participating. Each was named for the city in Poland it represented [2,3].

The cover shown is one of the 240 letters carried aboard *Balloon Poznań*. This balloon was unable to navigate the designated course and landed in Romania, 300 meters from the Polish border; it was disqualified [Ref. 1, p.472]. It is interesting to note that two other balloons (from Mościce and Pomorze) also were disqualified for landing in the wrong location.

This cover is franked with a 15 gr. "Port Gdańsk" overprint stamp (Scott 1K32) [4] and a block of four 15 gr. Poland Scott #317.

Letters posted from cities other than Port Gdańsk and franked with Port Gdańsk issues are very scarce. Examples bearing mixed franking are even more elusive [4].

This cover also bears several interesting markings which were earlier reported by Dunki [3]. Some of these covers are shown in Ref. #2, pp. 470-471 but do not have a "Port Gdańsk" overprinted stamp on them.

The markings are:

1. A black double circular date cancellation of "8 V 38 12" and within the circular mark stamped "X KRAJOWE ZAWODY BALONÓW WOLNYCH." In the very inner circle is the city name, "MOŚCICE."
2. A four-line violet marking:
X KRAJOWE ZAWODY
BALONÓW WOLNYCH
OPUCHAR im.plk. WAŃKOWICZA
MOŚCICE 8. MAJA 1938.
3. A black post office circular date cancel "Zalucze, 10 V 38 18."
4. A two-line cancel with the balloon name in red:
"BALON POZNAŃ."
5. Backstamped circular three-line post office receiving mark in black: "WARSZAWA 11 5 38, 13 20."

In addition, the letter has a two-line label for airmail postage. "PAR AVION / LOTNICZA."



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General Duty Revenue Fee Stamps of Poland, 1920-1924

The Nine Issues and Examples of Use (Part 1 of 2)

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

Purpose

I have long been a student of fiscal philately and am always fascinated with the use of revenue stamps. These are often colorful and beautifully engraved stamps which lend themselves to several areas of collecting. Documents bearing revenue stamps also provide a window to the history and economics of a given period. The real challenge is finding revenues on documents ascertaining the appropriateness of their denomination value against the, then current, revenue service rates. In many countries rate information is sparse to non-existent.

Rates are published it can open many avenues for research, collecting and exhibiting. As an example, Michael Mahler's monumental research on the tax rates of First Federal issue United States Revenues provided a boon for collectors of this area [1]. The importance of understanding revenue tax rates is equal to its postal history counterpart, correct postal rate use for various mail services.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the General Duty Revenue stamps of Poland that were in use during the hyperinflation period of the early 1920's. Selected uses, both legal and illegal, will be shown and discussed.

Background

When Poland emerged from the tripartite occupation of Imperial Russia, Germany (Imperial Prussia) and Austria (Austro-Hungarian Empire) in 1918, they were in dire economic straights. The average working wage was some 40 percent of pre-war 1914 [2]. Additionally, the country faced reconstruction costs from the war and was waging a series of border wars against its neighbors, most importantly, Soviet Russia.

To fund these efforts the government of Poland's Second Republic took out loans, resulting in the printing of additional Polish Marks (MkP). The MkP had been introduced earlier by Germany in the 1916 Regency Kingdom of Poland period, and was tied to the value of the German mark. In 1919 the exchange rate of 1 U.S. dollar was 100.08 MkP, and by January 1924 the dollar equaled 9,241,975 MkP [3]. Of course these figures were not much different from

what was happening in Germany during the same period of hyperinflation [4].

Most services as well as products had marked increase in prices, and wage inflation created a new class of indigent people. Postage was not exempt from the hyperinflation with Polish (and German) postal service fees rising dramatically during this period [5]. Hyperinflation also required that revenue stamps of suitable denominations be available to satisfy transaction fees.

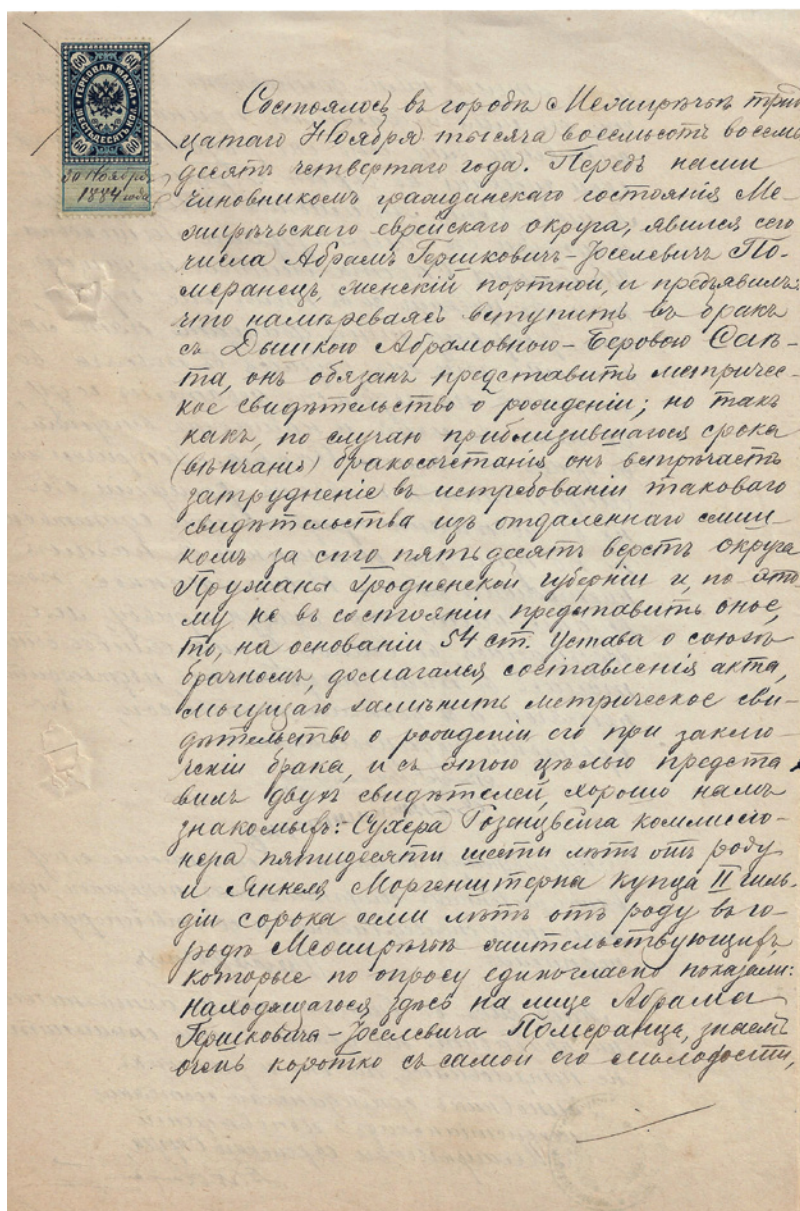


Figure 1

The General Duty Revenue Stamps

Poland long had revenue fees associated with various administrative or court related services. Under occupation by the tripartite governments revenue taxes followed those of the occupying government. As an example, Figure 1 shows an 1884 document, written in Russian, from the Jewish Ghetto community of Międzyrzec Podlaski, in Biała Podlaska County, Lublin Voivodeship (today near Belarus). The document relates to the birth of a boy, whose birth date was not properly recorded as required by law. For this document the father, Abram Gershovich, and his wife were present, with two witnesses attesting to the correct birth date (one witness was the local rabbi). The Russian 60-kopek revenue stamp pays the recording (certificate) fee.

In the following sections, reference will be made to Barefoot numbers as found in the J. Barefoot Ltd. Catalog of Poland Revenues [6]. Identification would normally be "POLAND/GENERAL DUTY/Barefoot #x". For this article I simply refer

to the Barefoot number for that particular section of the catalog as referenced. The catalog is a valuable reference for those interested in this area of collecting.

1920 Issue

With the creation of Poland's Second Republic, it was necessary for the country to have its own revenue stamps. On February 1, 1920, the first General Duty revenue stamps were issued (Figure 2). The "General Duty" category of revenue stamps were used for collection of fees owed on any transaction where a specifically designated revenue stamp category was not provided. These stamps were primarily used for invoices relating to the sale of taxable goods or commodities, receipts for financial transactions, and certificates of various types including copies of official records, passports, and affidavits.

The design of these stamps mimicked aspects of the Russian revenue design shown in Figure 1; specific elements such as the use and placement of an eagle, a bottom tablet (cartouche), similarities in colors used, and the tall vertical shape. The stamps were printed by typography from raised etchings on nickel plates. A blue color was used for the 10, 20, 40, and 50 Fenigów (fen) denominations [Barefoot 1-4] and brown for the 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20 and 50 MkP denominations [Barefoot 5-11].

The stamps also had a wavy line under-print for security. In Figure 2 the under-print can easily be seen in the margins and gutters. The paper used varied from a yellow-tinge to bluish-white. The stamps had yellow gum. The first issue was imperforate but within months the same stamps were reissued, Comb perforated 14½ [Barefoot 12-22].

Barefoot does not mention any varieties or errors for the issue but I have discovered a 4 MkP stamp with a clearly broken "E" of STEMPLOWA (Figure 3-a & 3-b). This might be a printing defect or true plate variety. Another example is needed to validate it as a plate error.



Figure 2



Figure 3-a



Figure 3-b



Figures 4 & 5

The revenue tax was applied on the total transaction of 282,000 MkP at the receipt rate of 0.5 percent totaling 1,411.20 MkP of revenue fees due. This document only has sufficient revenue stamps for the down payment portion, equating to a revenue stamp fee of 1,192 MkP which was satisfied with mixed denominations of the 1920 issue. The remaining balance due, as detailed on the document, was 219.20 MkP.

Figure 6 shows another example of use. This is a temporary passport (valid for six months) issued at the Polish Consulate in New York City, April 17, 1920. The passport holder was traveling to Poland leaving New York on the ship *Moscow*, and arriving at Nowy Port in Gdańsk June 28, 1920. The two MkP visa fee was paid on arrival with a pair of perforated 1 MkP stamps [Barefoot 16].

A rather extraordinary and illegal use is shown in Figure 7. The cover was mailed from Warsaw to Rome on March 9, 1921, toward the end of the Polish-Soviet War, and was received in Rome March 17. It is addressed to Fernando Bertozzi, Institute of Aeronautics. An encircled "Wr. (Warsaw) 46" military censor mark ties the censor tape on the face and back of the cover (extended flap to show back). The sender is anonymous suggesting a military communication. The addressee, Fernando Bertozzi (Olmerda), was a major general in the Italian Air Force. In WWI and through the Border Wars, Polish forces used Italian made Ansaldo A.1 Balilla fighter planes, a possible subject of the communication.

The franking is an illegal use of an imperforate 20 fen stamp of the 1920 issue [Barefoot 2]. The denomination was mistaken for a 20 MkP stamp, as the foreign letter (10 MkP) + registry service (10 MkP) fees would have equaled 20 MkP per the December 15, 1920 foreign letter rates [5]. In the heat of war it seems the illegal franking and incorrect denomination



Figure 6

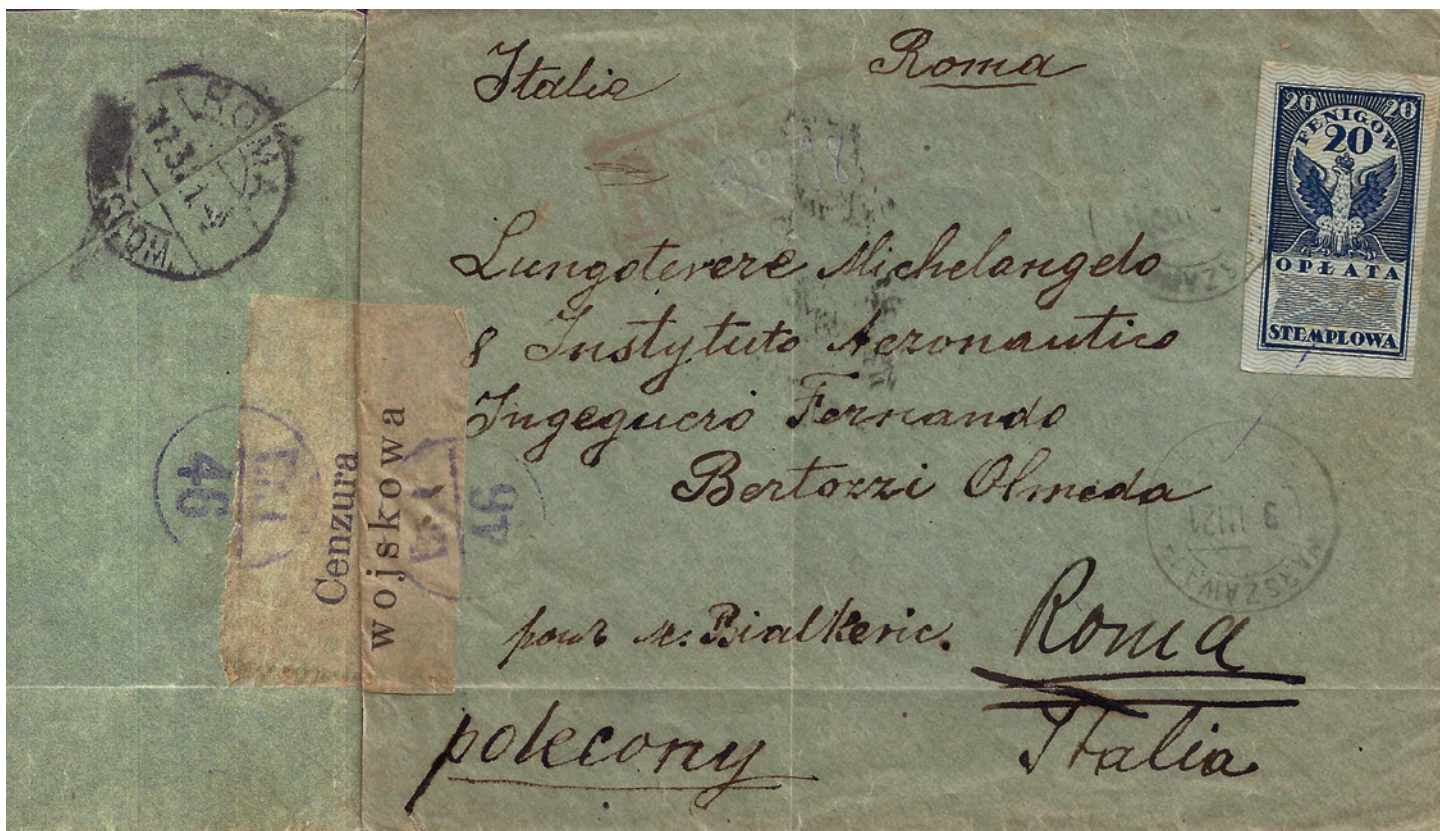


Figure 7



Figure 8

were not noticed, or were ignored, as there is no evidence of collection for postage due or penalty.

Another example of an illegal postal franking is shown in Figure 8. This small cover was mailed from Łódź Station A March 1, 1921. The eight bar Łódź duplex cancel was in use from 1920-1921. The cover was mailed to Gniezno (central-west Poland). The illegal franking is a perforated 10 MkP of the 1920 issue [Barefoot 20], vastly overpaying the 3 MkP internal letter rate of January 1, 1921 [5]. It is possible that the 10 MkP stamp was considered adequate, given its value, as there is no evidence of collection for a penalty and postage due.



Figure 9

Both these examples of illegal postal use of 1920 General Duty revenue stamps are new discoveries.

1921 Issue

By 1921 it was necessary to issue stamps with higher denominations to satisfy increasing revenue fees for services. The 1921 issue had only MkP denominations, specifically, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 MkP [Barefoot 23-33].

The issue was perforated in a wide variety of sizes, likely the result of using older line perforating machines from Austria [7]. The stamps are categorized by Barefoot as Type A, having perforation sizes 10 to 12½, scarcer Type B stamps, perforated 13 to 14½, and the scarcest variety, Type C, which had compound perforations and commands 10 times the catalog value. Figure 9 is a 1 MkP block of Type A stamps being perforated 11½ [Barefoot 23].

Figure 10 shows a block of 5 MkP stamps of Type B, being perforated 13½ [Barefoot 27].

Figure 11 shows a Type C bottom sheet block of 16 of the 4 MkP stamps with compound perforations, 14½ x 13½ [Barefoot 26].

As an example of use, Figure 12 shows a large Certificate of Record (official extraction from a record) dated April 4, 1922, from the Nowo-Karolkowa District of Warsaw. The document attests to names of a husband and wife, their birth dates, names of their parents and their religion. The document is signed by the Magistrate at the (State) Police Commissariat. The magistrate fee of 50 MkP is paid with the 1922 revalued Warsaw Magistrate issue [50 over 10 MkP, Barefoot Warsaw 32] showing the early signs of inflation.



Figure 10



Figure 11

Kopia poświadczona wyjątkowo przez
Wydział 1922 r. 4/5 - 20/22

Pozycja nr	Imię i nazwisko	Imiona rodziców i nazwisko matki do zamę- żpójścia	Data urodzenia			Skąd pochodzi	Żonaty, zamężna lub nie	Stan	Wyznanie	Środki utrzymania	Uwaga.
			Data	miesiąc	rok						
126	Bucharek Aleksander	A. K. Katarzyna			1885	z domu z gm. Nowo- karolkowa z gromady	Polonia		R. katol.	sobst.	Długość m. 10 lat
128	Bucharek Maryja	Aleksander Wiktoria			1913	z domu z gm. Nowo- karolkowa z gromady	Polonia		R. katol.	prze- miesz.	

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1922 r. 4/5 - 20/22

Figure 12

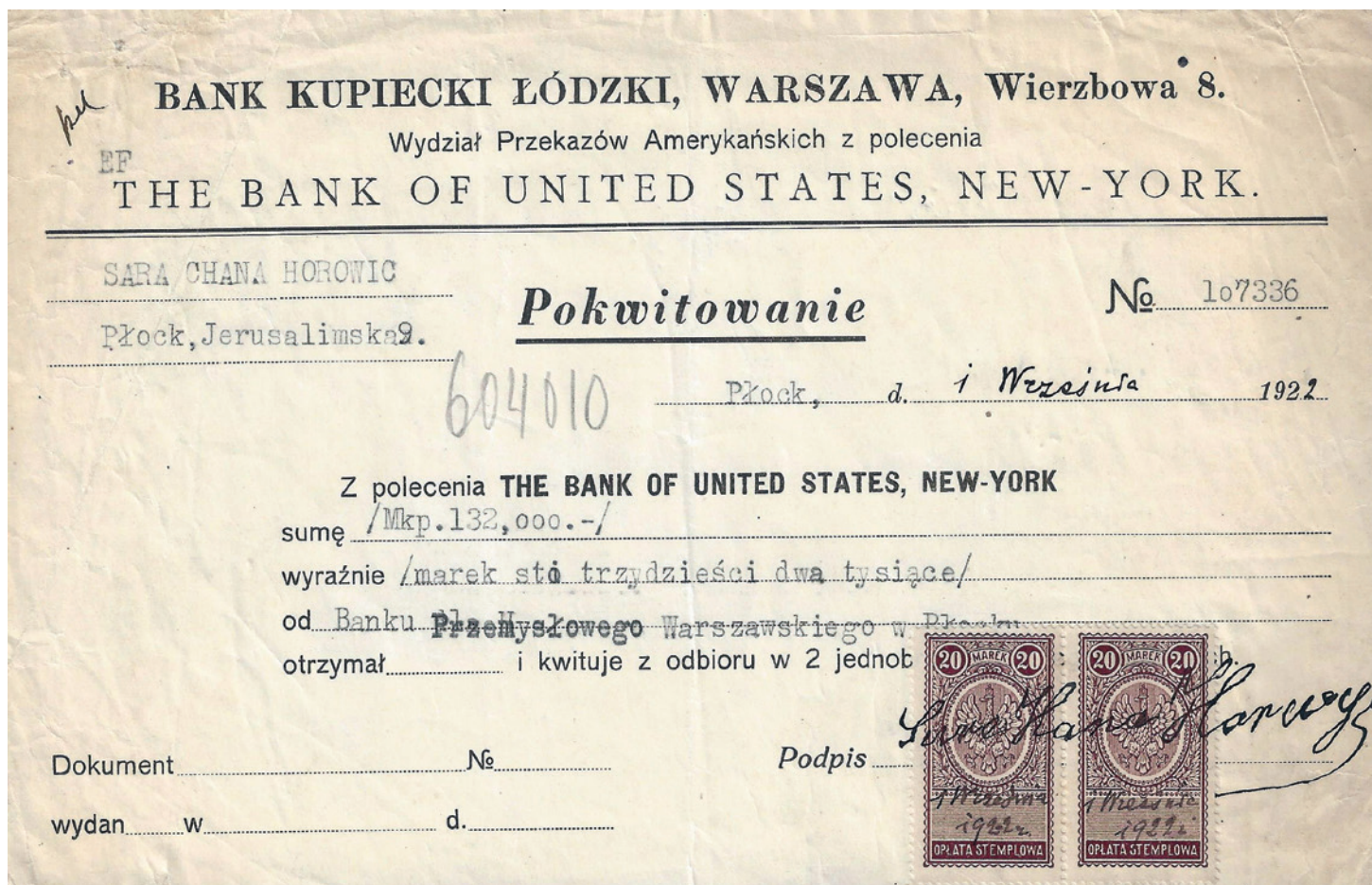


Figure 13

The notary fee of 10 Mkp is paid with a pair of 5 Mkp from the 1921 issue [Barefoot 27], these being the scarcer compound perforate Type C (14½ x 14).

Another example of the 1921 Type C compound perforated stamp is shown in Figure 13. This document is a bank receipt for a deposit transfer of 132,000 Mkp on September 1, 1922, from the Merchant Bank of Łódź branch office in Warsaw (affiliated with the Bank of the United States in New York). The deposit of

funds occurred in Płock, a city on the Vistula River in central Poland. The pair of 20 Mkp stamps [Barefoot 29] overpaid the 0.02 percent receipt fee on the transaction, amounting to a tax payment of 0.03 percent. The stamps are the scarcer compound perforation Type C, being 14½ x 14, and are cancelled with the date in the tablet and signature of the depositor, Sara Hana Horwic.

1921 High Value Redesigns

Later in 1921, the high value stamps were redesigned to add security. The stamps had similar designs to the earlier issue but with somewhat different coloration, and most importantly, a faint yellow under-print to deter forgery. The three



Figure 14

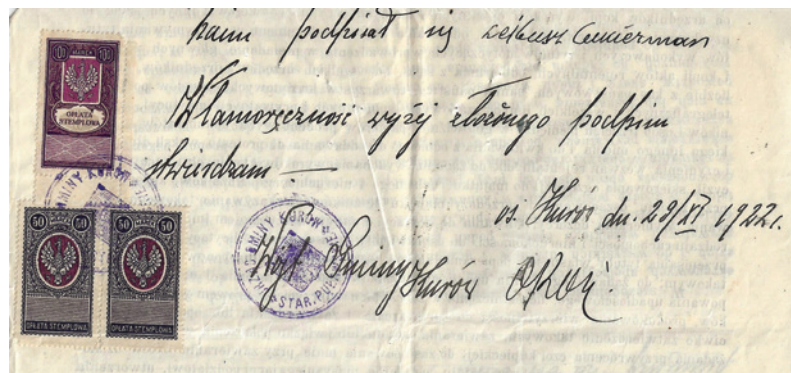


Figure 15

denominations, 100, 200 and 500 MkP, were variously perforated 10½ to 14½ [Barefoot 34-36]. Figure 14 shows an enlarged example of the under-print seen in the design margins and gutter between stamps.

Use of the High Value Redesign issue is shown in Figure 15. It shows the signature portion of a Power of Attorney document executed in Kurów (Lesser Poland) in 1922. A pair of 50 MkP [Barefoot 30] and a single 100 MkP [Barefoot 34] pay the certificate tax of 200 MkP.

Another example of paying the 200 MkP certificate fee is shown in Figure 16. This is a Polish passport issued to a woman from Sanok (Subcarpathian Poland) on October 21, 1922. The 200MkP stamp [Barefoot 35] of the 1921 redesign issue is perforated 14½ x 14. As



Figure 16

is usually seen on passports, the stamp is affixed to the photo of the passport holder. Special stamps designated for passports were not issued by Poland until 1960.

Acknowledgement

I thank Andrew Katz of the Polonus Translation Services Committee for his invaluable translations of Russian and Polish documents. My ability to define appropriate revenue rates for the period could not have been accomplished without accurate translations of many legal, business and financial documents.

Part 2 of this article will be in the September *Bulletin*.

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Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1929 – 1939)

Part 14 (2 of 2): LOT Polish Airlines: Joint Flights with Foreign Carriers to Australia

Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński

To provide a through service from Amsterdam to Australia, in 1931, the Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) added an experimental flight from Batavia in Dutch East Indies (present day Jakarta, Indonesia) to Melbourne. The service left Amsterdam on April 30, arriving in Batavia on May 9, 1931. The Batavia to Melbourne leg took place May 11–19, 1931.

The Polish “*Ilustrowany Kurjer Filatelistyczny*” (Nr. 84) reported that the Warsaw 1 P.O. accepted a single cover to be flown by KLM first through service from Amsterdam to Melbourne on April 30, 1931. This unique philatelic item, prepared by Tadeusz Gryżewski, is shown in Figure 1.

Posted on April 27, 1931 in Warsaw as a registered letter (R#268), it was dispatched first by CIDNA to Amsterdam, and then by KLM to Batavia where it received a diamond-shaped cachet (11 Mei 1931 / ABEL TASMAN – BATAVIA – CENTRUM) on arrival. The entire trip from Amsterdam took 10 days, including 81 hours of flying time. It was the longest (14,300 km) regularly scheduled weekly (Thursday departure) flight offered by any airline in the world.

From Batavia, the mail was flown on May 11 via Sydney to Melbourne (May 19, 1931 arrival). Addressed “*poste-restante*” and unclaimed, it was transferred on June 19, 1931 to “Dead Letter Office”, as shown by Melbourne’s marking on reverse and returned to Warsaw. The postage on this unique Poland acceptance for carriage by the first KLM air service to Australia of 4 zł 30 gr paid a special air surcharge – 3.20 zł (per 5 grams); registration – 0.60 zł; and basic foreign letter rate – 0.50 zł (per 20 grams).

By early 1930s, the principle of a regular multi-stage transcontinental routes served by a number of aircraft was well established. The British Imperial Airways gained considerable experience on the Indian route and, faced with strong competition from the Dutch KLM, decided to extend the Indian service to Australia. After several more or less successful experimental flights in 1931–1933, the opening of the Singapore - Brisbane stage of the Empire Air Service on December 8, 1934 provided the long awaited regular weekly service between England and Australia.

Figure 2 shows an unusual Poland acceptance for the inaugural Imperial Airways flight from England to Australia. Dated December 1, 1934 in Warsaw, with routing instructions for the service, it was flown by LOT to Athens (December 4 transit endorsement) where it was off-loaded. Picked up by IA flight (IE 298) on December 8, this cover arrived in Sydney on December 21. From Sydney, it was carried by rail to Melbourne where it was postmarked December 22, 1934. Transit time from Athens was 13 days. The 2.15-*zł* franking is equal



Figure 1



Figure 2

to the foreign letter rate (0.55 zł per 20 grams) plus airmail surcharge via Athens to and through Australia (1.60 zł per 5 grams; effective March 28, 1934).

The cover in Figure 3, addressed to Melbourne, Australia, was posted November 25, 1933 in the city of Bielsko and flown by LOT from Warsaw to Athens where it was transit cancelled (November 29). On December 5, 1933, it was put on the Imperial Airways flight IE 245 from London-Croydon (December 2 departure) to Rangoon, which after stopovers at Cairo (December 5; aircraft Satyrus), Gaza (December 6, aircraft Hadrian), and Sharjah (December 7), arrived at Karachi on December 8, 1933. At that point, it was quicker to offload mail at Karachi, and go by surface (train) to Colombo via Bombay (December 10, 1933 marking), followed by fast P/O steamer to Fremantle, and foreign section for onward transmission (OAT) to Melbourne. Consistent with the route, the Polish "PAR AVION / LOTNICZA" etiquette was marked with a rubber-stamped rectangular boxed cachet, reading "KARACHI CANCELLED" in block letters. The postage was paid at the correct rate for a letter weighing up to 10 grams (0.60 zł surface rate plus 1 zł 30 gr airmail fee to Australia via Athens) making 1 zł 90 gr.

The Royal Dutch Indies Airways (KNILM; Koninklijke Nederlandsch-Indische Luchtvaart Maatschappij) was the airline of the former Dutch East Indies (present day Indonesia). With headquarters in Amsterdam and an office in Batavia (current Jakarta), KNILM was not a subsidiary of the better-known KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), despite a similar name. The airline started its operation in 1928 in the Dutch East Indies and later in Southeast Asia and Australia. KNILM did not fly to the Netherlands, as the London – Amsterdam – Batavia twice weekly service (Monday and Wednesday) was operated by KLM (Douglas DC3 aircraft rearranged to carry 11 passengers). On July 3, 1938, KNILM began regular service (Monday and Wednesday) from Batavia to Sydney (Lockhead 14 airliner fitted for 8 passengers).

On June 11, 1938, a directive issued by the Polish Ministry of Post and Telegraphs (Nr. Pz. 230/38) authorized mail acceptance for the first direct flight from Holland via Batavia to Sydney, Australia. Each piece, marked "voie Amsterdam – Batawia pour premier vol direct Hollande – Australie" should be accompanied by two international reply coupons in a larger envelope, addressed in French "Chef du Bureau d'Expedition a Amsterdam CS".



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Figure 4 illustrates a commercial Polish dispatch for carriage to Australia on the first Batavia – Sydney service by KNILM. Posted on June 25, 1938, it was flown by LOT from Warsaw via Lwów to Bucharest, and continued via Sofia and Salonika to Athens (Flight No. 1570) where the foreign currency inspection marking was applied. The cover was transferred in Athens to KLM's service from London to the Dutch East Indies.

After overnight stops in Alexandria, Basra, Jodhpur, Rangoon and Singapore, it arrived in Batavia where a triangular cachet commemorating the first flight by KNILM from Java to Australia was applied (OPENINGS – KNILM – VLUCHT / JAVA - AUSTRALIË 3 JULI 1938). The flight left Batavia on Monday, July 3, 1938 (13:00) and after overnight stops in Den Pasar (Bali) and Cloncurry, it arrived in Sydney on Wednesday, July 5, 1938 (14:00). The Amsterdam – Sydney route, a distance of 20,962 km (13,020 miles), was covered by KLM and KNILM in 9 days. Transit time from Warsaw to Sydney was 11 days. The cover bears stamps to the value of

1.50 zł, as against 55 gr foreign letter rate (per 20 grams) plus 0.95 zł air surcharge to Australia (per 5 grams; effective May 25–December 31, 1938).

Figure 5 is of a registered overweight letter addressed to Canberra, Australia. Posted August 13, 1938 at Łódź 1 P.O., it received the foreign currency inspection label before being flown by LOT from Warsaw (August 14) to Athens (foreign currency inspection Greek cachet and August 15 transit marking). Carried by IA from Athens via Sydney (August 23), it arrived in Canberra on August 24, 1938, a transit time of 10 days from Warsaw. The postage of 4.80 zł is the foreign letter rate of 0.55 zł (per 20 grams), 0.45 zł registration fee and 3.80 zł airmail surcharge to Australia (4th weight step at 4 x 0.95 zł per 5-gram).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Andrzej Klosinski (Sopot, Poland); Zygmunt Kopel (London, UK) and Jacek Kosmala (Warsaw, Poland) for sharing philatelic items from their collections (Figure 1, 2 and 5, respectively).



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Obituary

Chester "Chet" Schafer (1922-2018)

Long-time *Polonus* member, Chet Schafer passed away on April 11, 2018, at the age of 95. Chet joined *Polonus* in March 1942 and became its editor in 1946, a position he held until the end of 1999. In addition to the editor assignment, Chet served as librarian, historian, POLPEX chairman, secretary, president and member of the board of directors.

In recognition of his contributions to *Polonus*, Chet received an Honorary Membership to *Polonus* in March 1978, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2004. Among his noted collections were the Poland Lublin Overprints of 1919 with full sheet platings and the Postal History of the Kingdom of Poland 1815-1870. Chet was distinguished in 1977 with a diploma from the Club Polonica of the Poznań Philatelic Society in Poland, for his outstanding contributions to Polish philately.

Many who knew Chet in the philatelic world did not know of his passion for polka music. He was a polka radio disc jockey and music producer with one of the longest-running radio careers in the Chicago area and one of the longest-running polka shows in the country. He was known as the "Dean of

Chicagoland's Polka Broadcasters" and released over 100 albums. One of his last recordings was an album of music composed by and for Tadeusz Kościuszko. This album was introduced during a special event at the Polish Museum of America in October 2017 commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Kościuszko's death.

Born Chester Aloysius Szafraniec in 1922 in Chicago to Polish immigrants, he grew up in Wicker Park and studied journalism and broadcasting at Northwestern University. He spent many years working a day job as part owner of Hollywood Press, a Wicker Park printing firm, with his brothers Tony and Frank. This resource served *Polonus* well as the printer of the early *Polonus Bulletins* and the POLPEX souvenir sheets, show cards, covers, etc.

A champion of Polish culture, Chet was active in several Polish culture organizations. He was for example, involved with the Polish Museum of America, to which he donated a 1794 handwritten document by the Polish and American Revolutionary War hero, Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Chet was a "pillar" of the *Polonus* organization. He was dedicated to the successful transition of a Chicago "club," now the last remaining Polish philatelic organization in America and the world's leading organization promoting Polish philately in the English language.

Classified

Polish town cancel collector seeking to contact other such collectors to exchange information, stamp cancellations, etc. Please reply to cbarna@hotmail.com

Can any of you offer advice on how I can obtain a list of Polish towns extant between 1900 - 1940?

Thank you,
Carl Barna
Emmaus, PA



POLONUS Society News

Congratulations

Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński, MD, PhD

We are pleased to announce Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński, MD, PhD, has been selected by The Transplantation Society (TTS) as the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Achievements (Basic Science). This award is given every two years in recognition of exceptional contribution to the field of organ transplantation worldwide. It will be presented at the upcoming TTS meeting in Madrid, Spain on July 4, 2018.

Dr. Kupiec-Węgliński, the inaugural Paul I. Terasaki Endowed Chair in Surgery, has been leading basic and transplantational research at the Dumont-UCLA Transplantation Center since 1997. He currently serves as director on the NIH-funded program project grant. He is principal investigator on three RO1 grants, which address the urgent need to increase the supply and quality of donor organs available for transplantation.

In a career spanning 40 years, Jerzy epitomizes a transplant researcher, scholar and teacher of the very highest caliber, with outstanding national and international renown.

Please join us as we congratulate Dr. Kupiec-Węgliński on the honor and recognition bestowed upon him through this prestigious TTS Award.



New Editor

Amanda L. Morgenstern



Amanda is a graduate of Cambridge School of Art, UK, living for 14 years in the United Kingdom. She holds a BA Honors in graphic design and a MA in typographic design from the respective school. A graphic designer by trade, she has been a philatelist for 27 years.

Philately has long played a part in her career. Amanda was graphic designer for the

American Topical Association for about nine years, which included layout of handbooks, and redesigning of their website. The ATA website is the only site to receive five consecutive gold medals in the American Philatelic Society website competition.

She was editor of *Philateli-Graphics* (publication of the Graphics Philately Association, an ATA study unit) from 2014 to 2016, giving the publication a new look. In 2015 *Philateli-Graphics* won the NTSS Grand Award from the ATA, and a Gold Award in the category of units with 50 to 200 members.

Her proudest philatelic award is the Nicholas G. Carter Award, won in 2017 from the APS for Volunteer Recognition in Young Adult Promotion and Service to philately. Design wise, her greatest award came in 2009 from MarCom, winning the Platinum International Award for a year-long marketing and promotion campaign.

She currently enjoys her role as Executive Director of the National Stamp Dealers Association, which gives additional insight to the hobby most don't have the opportunity to experience. The rest of her work time is filled with graphic design projects or editing.

Hobby wise, she doesn't have much time for collecting but enjoys adding to her private dye medicine stamps whenever she can. Her secondary collections are Firsts, Penny Reds of Great Britain, and a random passion for leather postcards.

Amanda is currently a member of: APS, ATA, GPA, Webster Groves Stamp Club, Greater Mounds City Stamp Club, The Perfins Club, Women's Exhibitors and most recently, Polonus. As editor of the *Bulletin*, may this endeavor be full of great working relationships to produce a positive future for Polonus and its publications.

Frank Karwoski

24 • June 2018 - New Issues

the plane, including the two flight recorders, from the Russians, but Russia has refused.

The remains of many of the victims have recently been exhumed for analysis and in many instances the coffins were found to contain body parts of other people, thus indicating to some that the Russian post-crash effort was grossly deficient.

Date of Issue	April 10, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in numbered SS
Printing Method	Offset and dry printing
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

Europa

One more in a series of annual issues devoted to the designated Europa theme, this year's 5 zł stamp depicts a fictional castle (*zamek*) complex rising from the clouds.



Europa stamps are joint stamp issues sharing a common design theme of member states of the European Community from 1956-1959, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications (CEPT) from 1960-92, and the PostEurop Association since 1993.

Europa stamps are intended to encourage cooperation among the various European postal administrations and promote thematic or topical stamp collecting. Each year's EUROPA theme aims to build awareness of the common roots, culture, and history of Europe.

Next year's theme is bridges.

Date of Issue	May 5, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 6
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Karol Tabaka

150th Anniversary of Birth of Władysław Reymont

This 2.60-zł stamp honors the Polish novelist Władysław Stanisław Reymont (born Rejmont). Born in 1867 in the village of Kobile Wielkie, near Radomsko, the young Reymont had an unsettled early life, wandering to explore many different places in Poland and abroad.

Lacking much formal education, he nevertheless found his calling in writing. He published *Correspondence from Rogów, Koluszki, and Skierniewice* in *The Voice (Głos)* in Warsaw in 1892. Three years later he published his experiences traveling to Częstochowa, entitled *Pilgrimage to the Mountain of Light*. Thereafter, he began writing novels, including *The Deceiver*



(*Komendantka*), *The Promised Land (Ziemia Obiecana)*, *The Peasants (Chłopi)*, and *Revolt (Bunt)*.

In 1924 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature over such rivals as George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Hardy, Thomas Mann and his fellow Pole, Stefan Żeromski. It was his knowledge of grounded reality, not literary theory, that was his great strength in writing.

His novel *The Deceiver* tells the story of a rebellious young girl who joins a theatre group to escape from her ordinary life, only to find no fulfillment in her journey. *The Promised Land* describes the social panorama of the city of Łódź during the industrial revolution, where the struggle for survival destroys all who accept the rules of the rat race, as well as those who don't. It presents a dark vision of cynicism and a denunciation of both industrialization and urbanization.

In *The Peasants* he created a vivid picture of country life, describing the material reality, customs, behavior and spiritual culture of the people, written in the local dialect. The action takes place in Lipce, a real village, over a 10-month period, or one farming cycle, which regulates the eternal and repeatable rhythm of village life.

His last novel, *Revolt*, describes a revolt of farm animals as a metaphor for the Bolshevik Revolution and was later banned in communist Poland (along with George Orwell's similar later work, *Animal Farm*). He died in 1925 and is buried at Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw.

Date of Issue	May 7, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Ewa Szydłowska

The Magical World of Disney

Two stamps, denominated 5 zł and 3.20 zł, celebrate the popular 3-D, computer-animated, comedy-adventure film *Cars 3*, created by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures in June 2017.



The film highlights the adventures of Lightning McQueen, a red race car. The film, a sequel to two earlier releases, has grossed over \$380 million worldwide.

Other video versions of the film have also been released, as well as remote-controlled toys.

The official first day cover includes an attractive yellow race car in the margin.

Date of Issue	May 30, 2017
Sheet Format	2 stamps in numbered SS
Printing Method	Offset & screen printing
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

100th Anniversary of the Blue Army

This 2.60-zł stamp recognizes the Polish Blue Army (Błękitnej Armii) organized by Gen. Józef Haller von Hallenburg in France during the later stages of World War I. The formation of the Blue Army was closely associated with America's entry into the war in April 1917.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski submitted a proposal to the U.S. House of Representatives to accept Polish-American volunteers for service in the war in the name of Polish independence. About 24,000 Polish-Americans, including many women volunteers, were sent to France to join Haller. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson formally promised in January 1918 to recreate a sovereign Polish state as a result.

The remainder of the army later transferred to Poland to join in the fighting for an independent Poland after fighting on the Western Front during the war.

The Blue Army played a pivotal role in the Polish victory in the Polish-Ukrainian War and later in the defeat of the Bolshevik forces during the Polish-Soviet War. Blue Army forces regrettably have been documented to have carried out anti-Semitic operations during the Polish-Ukrainian War, based on alleged Jewish collaboration against Poland.



Date of Issue	May 31, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 20
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Ewa Szydłowska

Astana EXPO 2017

This 2.60 zł stamp recognizes the international energy exposition held from June 10 to September 10, 2017, in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan. The expo's theme was Future Energy.

The aim of the gathering was to create a global debate between nations, non-government organizations, companies and the general public on the critical question: How do we ensure safe and sustainable energy for all, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions? More than 100 countries participated.

The expo showcased future energy solutions, tackling social, economic and environmental challenges. Renewable energy sources were emphasized.

As shown on the stamp, the center of the 62-acre expo site was Nur Alem, an eight-story sphere with a diameter of nearly 250 feet; it is powered by a photovoltaic system and two wind turbines.



Date of Issue	June 6, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12 w/tabs
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Andrzej Gosik

Polish Credit Unions — Common Good

This 2.60-zł stamp recognizes the value of Poland's credit and savings unions, an important source of funds for millions of poor and working class people, mainly in the country's rural areas and smaller cities.

Poland's savings and credit unions (known as SKOKs) (Spółdzielczych Kas Oszczędnościowo – Kredytowych) contain an estimated 3.7 billion euros in savings and 4.1 billion euros in total assets.

The stamp portrays Franciszek Stefczyk (1861-1924), founder of the credit cooperative movement in Poland. He promoted saving and thrift among low-income families. In 1890 he founded the first savings and credit union in Czernichów, near Kraków.

Many of Poland's credit and savings unions recently experienced financial problems; two have declared bankruptcy, two have been acquired by banks at deep discounts and two have been forced to merge with other credit and savings unions.

The Polish regulatory agency, the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (known as KNF) (Komisja Nadzoru Finansowego) is investigating credit unions it considers to be bankruptcy risks and has initiated appropriate reform actions.



Date of Issue	June 8, 2017
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Karol Tabaka



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SCARCE KZ NAME ERROR M/S



The first name of **Joseph Wladyslaw Wolski** (2.10 zł stamp) was omitted in the initial printing of the MS issued in 2009 to commemorate four Polish KZ survivors. Error quickly discovered. Majority of printing not distributed. MS sent to post offices before discovery were recalled. Post reprinted this emission with corrected name on 2.10 zł stamp. (Not Listed in Scott.)

KZ ERROR MS OF 16 STAMPS

(All 4 examples of 2.10 zł stamps in MS are missing first name)

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